

9 school buildings built at a cost of Tk 1.44 cr

BARISAL, Jan 3: Facilities Department of the Ministry of Education implemented nine projects in four southern districts at a cost of Taka 1,44,64,584 — with the financial assistance from the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), reports BSS.

The districts covered by this programme are: Barisal, Jhalakati, Pirojpur and Bhola. According to an official source, the projects included the construction of two-storyed town primary schools with modern facilities.

Of the total, three schools were constructed in Barisal sadar, two each in Jhalakati sadar, Pirojpur sadar and Bhola sadar, the source said.

A total of 4,500 students have been receiving education facilities in these schools under compulsory education programme of the government.

Besides, the department has constructed three education offices, one each in Pirojpur, Bhola and Jhalakati districts, at a cost of Taka 55,43,949 with IDB grant, the source added.

The government has selected the site for constructing the Shahid Ziaur Rahman Foundation, at the Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) office premises in Pirojpur district.

The foundation will comprise general hospital and diabetic centre, a madrasa and orphanage, a cold storage plant, a shilpi pally and handicraft centre, a community shopping

centre and hotel, and a coconut oil refining centre and a factory.

A 15-member working committee of Barisal Shilpakala Academy was formed in the office premises of the academy recently.

Mamta Uddin, Deputy Commissioner, Barisal, was elected president and Syed Dulal general secretary.

The other office bearers are: Syed Golam Mahub (vice-president), Khondokar Anwar Huq Kanchan (vice-president), Kudrat Elahi Tutul (joint secretary), Zillur Rahman (joint secretary), A B M Nurul Huq (treasurer), Rafikul Alam Farook (office secretary), Md Ahsan Habib Kamal (member), Nurul Islam Chowdhury (member), Basirul Haq Badal (member).

A three-day workshop on 'Sakkharata Sangbadik Unnyan' concluded at the Barisal Development Society (BDS) premises recently.

Organised by the Compulsory Popular Education Programme, the workshop was inaugurated by State Minister for Education Principal Md Eunus Khan in the Aswin Kumar, town hall.

A total of 20 sangbadiks from the districts of Barisal, Patuakhali and Barguna participated in this workshop.

Khan Shahab Uddin, Additional Divisional Commissioner, Barisal, gave away certificates among the participants.

Improved variety of pangus fish developed

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, Jan 2: The Chandpur Fisheries Research Institute has achieved remarkable success in artificial breeding of pangus fry.

This species of fish was brought to the country in 1989 from Thailand for research work and after four years of extensive laboratory research at the institute, biologists gained positive test results.

Called by its generic name, pangasius suchi, or commonly known as pangus, the fish has a high quantity of protein compared to the local variety. An officer of the institute said, "this is the first such instance in artificial breeding of pangus species in the sub-continent."

The production of this type of cat fish — pangus, has declined to a great extent. Chandpur Fisheries Research Institute had taken up artificial insemination programme to boost output of the species.

At present total catching of pangus from different areas of the country is about 20 crore annually which has shown a short-fall in the markets. However, with the new technique in hand mass production is now possible. A scheme is already underway to develop pangus fish breeding and rearing in different water bodies.

A huge amount of foreign

exchange can be earned once large-scale production goes into operation, expressed one official.



CHANDPUR: The local fishery institute has developed a new variety of 'pangus' fish from a variety imported from Thailand. — Star photo

Teachers can play vital role in building students as worthy citizens

JESSORE, Jan 3: Telecommunications Minister Tariqul Islam said here Sunday that the teachers could play a pioneering role in building the elegant character of the students for making them worthy citizens alongside their academic performances, reports BSS.

The minister was speaking at a function held at the Jessore circuit house arranged in connection with the distribution of government's grants for educational institutions of Jessore, a PID handout said.

Rawshan Ali, MP was present on the occasion. The minister distributed Taka three lakh fifty-five thousand to nineteen educational institutions of Jessore. Earlier about twelve lakh fifty thousand Taka was distributed to seventy-six institutions of the district as government's grant during the current year.

Later, the minister laid the foundation stone of Shaheed Zia Hostel building of Keshabpur College of Jessore district.

Speaking at the function at the college campus the minister called upon the student community to develop human values to check erosion of moral values to leave examples to their posterity so that the future generation could follow their ideals in shaping their life.

During the visit to the college Islam also went round the examination hall of the college where degree examination was being held. During the visit the minister found three of the examinees were adopting unfair means. He caught them red handed. These examinees were expelled from appearing at the examination.

The T and T Minister Tariqul Islam inaugurated the commercial production of Jessore plastic industry at a simple function

here Saturday.

The factory, set up at the estimated cost of Taka 2.70 crore, has an annual production capacity of 480 metric ton plastic sheet. It is expected to meet the country's entire requirement of plastic sheet.

Addressing a brief function on the occasion the minister stressed the need for improvement of management-employees relations to boost production in mills and factories. He also pleaded for change in attitude of both the management and the CBA and trade unions for increasing production.

He said, the government had allocated over Taka 323 crore including a foreign exchange component of Taka 300 crore to achieve the target. Besides, the government also allocated, for the first time, an additional amount of Taka 100 crore from its own resources to implement projects in rural electrification programme during the current year.

The minister was speaking at the inauguration of a 33/11 kv sub-station under Cox's Bazar Pali Bidyut Samity (PBS) recently.

The inauguration function was addressed, among others,



CHANDPUR: The erosion of the mighty river Meghna at Satnal area under Matlab thana of the district. — Star photo

"Jasim Uddin in our hearts through his writings"

FARIDPUR, Jan 3: Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf has said Pali Kabi Jasim Uddin had made his place in the hearts of people through his writings and literary pursuits, reports BSS.

He said, the true picture of the rural people had been clearly depicted in Kabi Jasimuddin's writings.

The minister was inaugurating a 15-day long 'Jasim Pali Mela '94' at the poet's residence at Ambikapur Sunday connection with the observance of the 91st birth anniversary of the Pali Kabi.

Presided over by Deputy Commissioner of Faridpur A K M Nurul Huda, the function was also addressed by Dr Ashraf Siddiqui and BSCIC Chairman Moniruzzaman Chowdhury.

The health minister said, poet Jasimuddin is our national pride. He said, the works of the late poet could be a source of inspiration to our posterity.

The minister later went round different stalls set up on the occasion.

Minor girls recovered from brothel

RAJBARI, Jan 3: Police recovered three minor girls from the Daulatdia brothels on December 30, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip, Officer in-charge of Goalanda Ghat thana raided the area and recovered Alo (12) of Rajbari, Hamida (12) of Pabna and Nargis (13) of Rangpur.

The women trafficker brought them to the brothel after luring them of giving lucrative jobs.

The recovered girls were sent to police custody for sending them to their guardians.

Indian insecticides use affecting crops, land

BARGUNA, Jan 3: Widespread use of smuggled Indian insecticides has been affecting the crops and land in the district adversely, reports UNB.

These smuggled insecticides are abundantly available in the markets of south-western belts of the district and are being sold with impunity at cheap rates before the nose of the law enforcing agencies.

According to farmers, one variety of these insecticides is so harmful that it kills insects including those are useful for fertility even.

Agriculture experts said extensive use of Indian insecticides has been lowering per acre yield of paddy and destroying soil fertility too. They said local insecticides should be made abundantly available at reasonable prices.

Prices of pesticides have registered a sharp rise in the frontier thanas adversely affecting the cultivation, local farmers said.

The farmers urged the government to take necessary steps to check the price hike of fertilizers and pesticides to help

boost agri production in the district.

Another report says: The guardians of the young girls are in great distress due to widespread demand of dowry in the district.

The poor guardians are not in a position to meet the demand due to poverty. According to a report, more than 25,000 young girls in the district, most of them belonging to poor farmer families, are facing obstacles because of the excessive demand of dowry.

The financial condition of the guardians of the unfortunate girls has deteriorated to a large extent since the independence due to recurrent floodings, cyclones, drought and other natural calamities and increasing of various taxes by the successive governments.

The government has also increased the prices of agricultural inputs which have now gone almost beyond the purchasing capacity of the poor farmers.

On the other hand, the price of paddy and other agricultural products has gone down ab-

normally. The price of chemical fertilizer has shot up 40 times during the period.

A shallow tubewell is being sold now at Taka 50,000 as against Taka 10,000, a few years back. The economic backbone of the farmers has been shattered.

Moreover, Anti-dowry Act remains confined within law books as its effectiveness is not seen anywhere in the district.

As a result, thousands of guardians are unable to arrange marriage for their daughters due to excessive demand of dowry.

Nasiruddin of village Charpara in Amtali thana told UNB that he could not arrange marriage of his three daughters because of bridegrooms' high dowry demand.

He regretted that the government is doing nothing to strictly implement the Anti-dowry Act.

Local elite have urged the authorities concerned to take necessary steps to enforce the act so that the guardians of young girls can get rid of this social evil.

Electricity for shrimp projects soon

CHOKORIA, (Cox's Bazar), Jan 3: Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khandker Mosharraf Hossain Saturday said that shrimp projects in the area would receive power connection on a priority basis, reports BSS.

The minister was speaking at the inauguration of a 33/11 kv power substation here which falls under the jurisdiction of Cox's Bazar Pali Bidyut Samity.

The minister said, since shrimp cultivation has the potential to earn huge amount of foreign exchange, the project should be given all out support. The country earned over Taka

350 crore last year by exporting shrimp.

The minister said Taka 2000 crore has been fixed as the target for shrimp export by 1995. He said, to achieve the target production of shrimp has to be increased. Electric power is a necessary input to augment production of shrimp.

Dwelling on the performances of the rural electrification programme, the minister said, electric power has now become an essential input for spreading education, removing poverty, containing population and developing economy. The present democratic government

has strengthened the rural electrification programme for achieving the desired objectives of rural people in socio economic field.

REB Chairman in his address gave a brief outline of the achievement made by the board during the last 15 years. He said, both the board and the samities are striving hard to achieve the target of covering the entire rural areas by 2000.

Constructed at a cost of Taka two crore, the sub-station envisages to give connections to over 7000 consumers, including 254 shrimp projects and 175 industries.



Prof Fazlul Halim Choudhury, former VC of Dhaka University, is seen addressing the inaugural session of the Silver Jubilee and reunion '93 of the Chemistry Department, Chittagong University held recently at the premises of Science Faculty Building. — CU photo

1200 more villages to come under electrification

COX'S BAZAR, Jan 3: More than 1200 new villages of the country will be brought under rural electrification programme by installing 12 sub-stations and constructing about 6000 kilometres of distribution line during the current fiscal year. Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khandker Mosharraf Hossain said here recently, reports BSS.

He said, the government had allocated over Taka 323 crore including a foreign exchange component of Taka 300 crore to achieve the target. Besides, the government also allocated, for the first time, an additional amount of Taka 100 crore from its own resources to implement projects in rural electrification programme during the current year.

The minister was speaking at the inauguration of a 33/11 kv sub-station under Cox's Bazar Pali Bidyut Samity (PBS) recently.

by local MP, Shahjahan Chowdhury, Chairman of Rural Electrification Board (REB) Brig Mohammad Enamul Haq and Deputy Commissioner of Cox's Bazar, Enamul Karim. President of Cox's Bazar PBS Balaluddin Chowdhury was in the chair.

Speaking briefly about the success of rural electrification programme, the Energy Minister said, over one crore people or nearly 18 per cent of rural population are now enjoying the benefit of electricity. He said, nearly 12 thousand villages have now been covered under this programme through the installation of 121 sub-stations and construction of nearly 50 thousand kilometres long distribution line.

Dr Mosharraf Hossain said the present democratic government was fully convinced that there could be no real development of the country without electrification of the entire rural areas. Electrification is an important step to development, he said adding that the government was working so that this

necessary tool of science reached all the households at the earliest possible time.

The Energy Minister said that so far 53 Pali Bidyut Samities covering 330 thanas had been approved by the government, of which 45 Samities have already been formed, forty PBSs are now providing service to people in 203 thanas. Implementation of rural electrification programme has helped provide employment opportunity to ten lakh additional people, he said. Electricity now helps irrigate about eight lakh acres of land.

Lauding the role of the programme, the Energy Minister said, initiated by Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman 15 years ago, it has proved to be the most effective instrument to bring about socio-economic development in rural areas. Citing a study conducted by BIDS, the minister said production had increased by over 27 per cent in an electrified area compared to one where there is no power.

Besides, electricity also brought about salutary effects in other fields, he added.

REB Chairman Brig Enamul Haq said, the entire country would be brought under rural electrification programme by the year 2000 in five phases for which 200 sub-stations and 1,44,000 kilometres of distribution line had to be built. He said, if the fund was available in time, construction of the infrastructure for implementation of the programme would be ready.

The REB chairman mentioned some of the problems faced by the Samities which included paucity of power supply to meet power demand, and the general fund constraints to expand and intensify the services of functional PBSs. He urged the authorities to see that the Samities receive adequate power supply and that the agreement releasing the area from power board to REB were implemented at the earliest possible time.

Brig Haq also sought coop-

eration of law enforcing agencies and the active vigilance of the consumers to arrest theft of electrical accessories like transformer and wire. He told the gathering that since the programme began, goods worth Taka five crore had been pilfered.

Cox's Bazar PBS, covering all the six thanas of the district, started functioning in early 1992. The PBS is being set up at a cost of Taka 60 crore with financial assistance from up, World Bank. The PBS originally covered five thanas. Later it included offshore island of Maheshkhali.

The Samity which covers 596 villages, envisages to construct a total of 2200 km of distribution lines to provide power to about 18 thousand consumers which included over three thousand commercial and industrial connections.

The project is expected to be completed by 1997-98.

Later, the minister formally inaugurated the sub-station.

Pro-liberation forces urged to resist communal groups

PIROJPUR, Jan 3: Freedom Fighter Kader Siddiqui urged all pro-liberation forces and Freedom Fighters to make greater unity to resist the anti-liberation and communal forces, reports UNB.

He was speaking as chief guest at the inaugural function of a three-day Victory Festival '93 that began here at Parerhat High School premises Wednesday.

Organised by Parerhat unit of Awami League, the inaugural ceremony was presided over by president of local Awami League leader Nurul Islam Khan.

The real history of our Liberation War and struggle for independence should be projected to our posterity, Kader Siddiqui said.

He demanded trial of collaborators of Pakistani Army during the Liberation War and ban the politics of Jamaat-Shibir axis.

Siddiqui alleged that BNP government is maintaining relation with Jamaat and Shibir only to remain in power.

Addressed among others by Dr Khitish Chandra Mondal, A K M Awal, Advocate M A Hakim, Shahjahan Khan Talukder, Halima Khatun, Abu Saleh Babul, Ruhul Amin Mobin and others.

Another report says: Bangladesh Chhatra League (M-I) swept the Kaulkhal College Students' Union election with Shahidul Islam Liton and Aminur Rashid as vice president and general secretary respectively.

District roundup

RAJBARI

Press Club office bearers

Jan 3: The biennial general meeting and election of Rajbari Press Club was held at the Press club premises with much enthusiasm, says UNB.

In the election, ATM Rafiquddin was elected as president and Delwar Hossain as secretary.

The other office bearers are: Sirajul Islam Bhuiyan and Abu Musa Biswas Vice-Presidents, Md Maniruzzaman Assistant Secretary and Mominul Islam Manu Treasurer.

President of the district Journalists Association conducted the election held on December 24.

NETRAKONA

Paddy sold below output cost

Jan 3: The harvesting of transplanted aman paddy has been going on in full swing during the current season in the district, reports UNB.

However, the paddy and rice, boro and aus in particular, are being sold at throw away prices at different parts of the district. It may be mentioned here that, the minimum price of paddy has been fixed at Taka 210 from Taka 200 while the price of rice at Taka 325 from Taka 310 by the government.

In fact, farmers are compelled to sell their paddy at a cheaper rate which is lower than the production cost due to shortage of purchasing centres.

The paddy is being sold in different hats and bazars of the district between Taka 150 and Tk 200.

The local farmers are apprehending a further fall in the price of paddy during the current aman season.

FENI

Electricity worth Tk 4.72 crore sold in '93

Jan 3: Feni Pali Biddut Samity earned over Taka 4.72 crore during the last year by selling electricity among the consumers, reports UNB.

This was revealed at the 8th annual general meeting of the Feni Pali Biddut Samity on Thursday.

Presided over by president of the samity Abdul Motaleb, it was also addressed, by General Manager of the samity Rezaul Karim, District Manager Mojibul Haq and Director Kamaluddin Anwar.

In his report the president said, some 48,241 connections were given to the consumers in 389 villages of 59 unions in six thanas of Feni and Chittagong districts.

The thanas are Sadar, Chhagalnaiya, Daganbhuiyan, PARSURAM and Sonagazi of Feni and Mirersharai thana of Chittagong.

The report said of the total connections, 26,109 were given to household, 4,953 to commercial, 32 to deep tubewells, 145 to shallow tubewells and 269 to low lift pumps.

SIRAJGANJ

Bus route suspended following clash

Jan 3: Bus communication in all the routes from the district town snapped early Saturday following a clash between passenger and bus worker, says UNB.

Bus workers sources said, the clash over bus fare, erupted when a group of passenger beat up a bus worker on Belkuchi-Sirajganj road Friday evening.

Protesting the incident the owners and workers suspended the route from the district town early Saturday morning.

MAJDEE COURT

Absence of bus terminal

Jan 3: Indiscriminate stoppage of inter-district and local buses at Sonapur have been creating traffic jam causing untold suffering to the pedestrians for long, reports UNB.

These buses are parked haphazardly hindering the movement of other vehicles leading to frequent accidents. The matter has been brought to the notice of the concerned authorities but no step has yet been taken.

The long route buses of Noakhali-Chittagong, Sonapur-Kabirhat, Sonapur-Ramgati, Sonapur-Steamerghat, Sonapur-Charjabbar have been using the cross-dam site creating traffic hazards.

Local people said, Sonapur old market area, college road and both sides of the main road also remain packed with buses in the absence of bus stand or terminal.

Local people urged the authorities concerned to select a site and construct a bus terminal immediately to solve the longstanding problem.

RAJSHAHI

Tk 21,000 fined for illegal use of weights

Jan 3: Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institution (BSTI) realised fine worth Taka 21 thousand from the users of illegal weights and measures at different markets of the division during the last month, says BSS.

At market places of 16 thanas of Naogaon, Chapainawabganj, Pabna, Bogra, Nilphamary and Gaibandha district 174 cases were filed, of which 153 were settled realising the fines by 10 mobile court as well as during raids by police.

Some illegal weights and measures including 14 maunds old weights, 305 gallon measures and 230 faulty scales were also seized during the raids, said an official handout.

TANGAIL

7 injured in tiger attack

Jan 3: Seven persons of village Belua under Gopalpur thana were allegedly injured by a tiger stated to be a run-away animal of a circus party recently, reports BSS.

The injured persons included Harun (22), Uzzal (26), Mati (23) and Mayeen (30). All the injured persons were admitted to the Gopalpur thana health complex.

A Police contingent visited the village but could not trace the tiger which escaped the cage of the party now displaying shows at Sirajganj.

BARISAL

Rally in support of education programme

Jan 3: Barisal Division primary education department held a colourful rally in support of education for all by 2000 in the divisional town Friday, reports BSS.

The function was presided over by AKM Md Shahidul Islam, Deputy Director, Primary Education, Barisal Division, it was inaugurated by MA Rashid, Divisional Commissioner, Barisal.

A total of 39 government and registered primary schools participated in this rally. The students paraded the main thoroughfares of the town starting from police line maidan.

Rashid in his inaugural speech called upon all concerned to come forward to help implement the compulsory primary education programme.