

National

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-storeyed 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 shishu pally and handicraft centre, a community shopping

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

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

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

The other office bearers are: Syed Golam Mahbub (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), Brig Haq Badal (member).

A three-day workshop on 'Sakharate Sangbadit 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 Aswini Kumar town hall.

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

Khun 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 official 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 sharp 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

"Jasim Uddin in our hearts through his writings"

FARIDPUR, Jan 3 : Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf has said Palli 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 Palli Mela '94" at the poet's residence at Ambikapur Sunday connection with the observance of the 91st birth anniversary of the Palli 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 BSS.

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 giving them lucrative jobs.

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

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

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 Amtala thana told UNB that he could not arrange marriage of his three daughters because of bridegroom's 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 Mosharrif Hossain Saturday said that shrimp projects in the area would receive power connection on 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 Palli 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 elec-

trification programme for

achieving the desired objectives

of rural people in socio eco-

nomic field.

REB Chairman in his ad-

dress 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 Mosharrif Hossain said here recently.

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 Palli Bidyut Samity (PBS) recently.

The inauguration function

was addressed among others

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 Mosharrif Hossain said the present democratic government had been 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 reaching all the households at the earliest possible time.

The Energy Minister said that so far 53 Palli 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 Sheikh 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.

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 Ma-

leskhali.

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

establishments.

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

Later, the minister formally inaugurated the sub-station.

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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. Another report says: Bangladesh Chhatra League (M-I) swept the Kaukhali 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

Jah 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 Man Treasurer.