

Water level fall, siltation

Fifteen rivers become dry during dry season in N region

From Our Correspondent

KURIGRAM, Jan 26: At least fifteen rivers in the northern region of the country have dried up following siltation and continued fall in the water level during this dry season hampering irrigation and navigation. Innumerable chars and shoals have emerged on the river beds.

The Brahmaputra, Dharla, Sankosh, Dudkumar, in Kurigram district, Teesta, Jamuneswari in Rangpur district, Ghagot, in Gaibandha, Mahananda and Korotoa in Panchagarh, Punarbhaba in Dinajpur, Atrai in Natore, Teesta, Dharla in Lalmonirhat, Katrowa and Bangali in Bogra, Fulbore in Sirajgonj, Ichamati and Baral in Pabna, Mahananda and Padma in Rajshahi district are being dried up gradually due to withdrawal of water in the upper stream by India.

The entire northern region is becoming desert. Irrigational facilities in the region are shrinking following closure of large number of pumps due to abnormal fall in the surface and underground water level.

Navigation in different rivers

is being affected. At present small boats and engine-driven boats are only means of river transport. Everyday, hundreds of people travel by these boats.

Beels, ponds and other water bodies have already dried up all over the northern region resulting in acute crisis of water.

Innumerable chars and shoals emerged on the rivers bed hampering navigation greatly.

Cold wave claims
21 lives so far

Severe cold wave that sweeping over the northern region reportedly claimed 21 lives including three children and three women in seven districts during the last fortnight.

The worst-hit districts are: Lalmonirhat, Nilphamari, Kurigram, Gaibandha, Rangpur, Thakurgaon and Panchagarh.

The victims were from the poor class including beggars and floating people.

At least three lakh poor people who cannot afford to buy winter cloths are the worst sufferers in these districts, social welfare activists said.

The poor are compelled to keep themselves indoors till 10 am due to dense fog and biting cold. River transportations is also facing set back due to this natural calamity.

More fees collected

The guardians of the SSC examinees of Kurigram district had to pay coaching fee along with board examinations and tuition fees.

It is learnt that all schools except government ones of Kurigram district are collecting coaching fee for three months ranging from Taka 600 to Taka 1000 with the board examination fees of Taka 500 and Taka 400 from students of science and Humanities groups respectively and tuition fees upto June 1994. The total amount of fees for a student ranges from Taka 1,100 to Taka 2,000.

Most of the guardians are serviceholders with limited income cannot pay the exorbitant amount of examinations fees last month.

They argued that why they will pay more money in the name of coaching fee when they

are paying tuitions fees upto June 1994.

The freshers of Bhurungamari Degree College were accorded a hearty reception by the old students of the college.

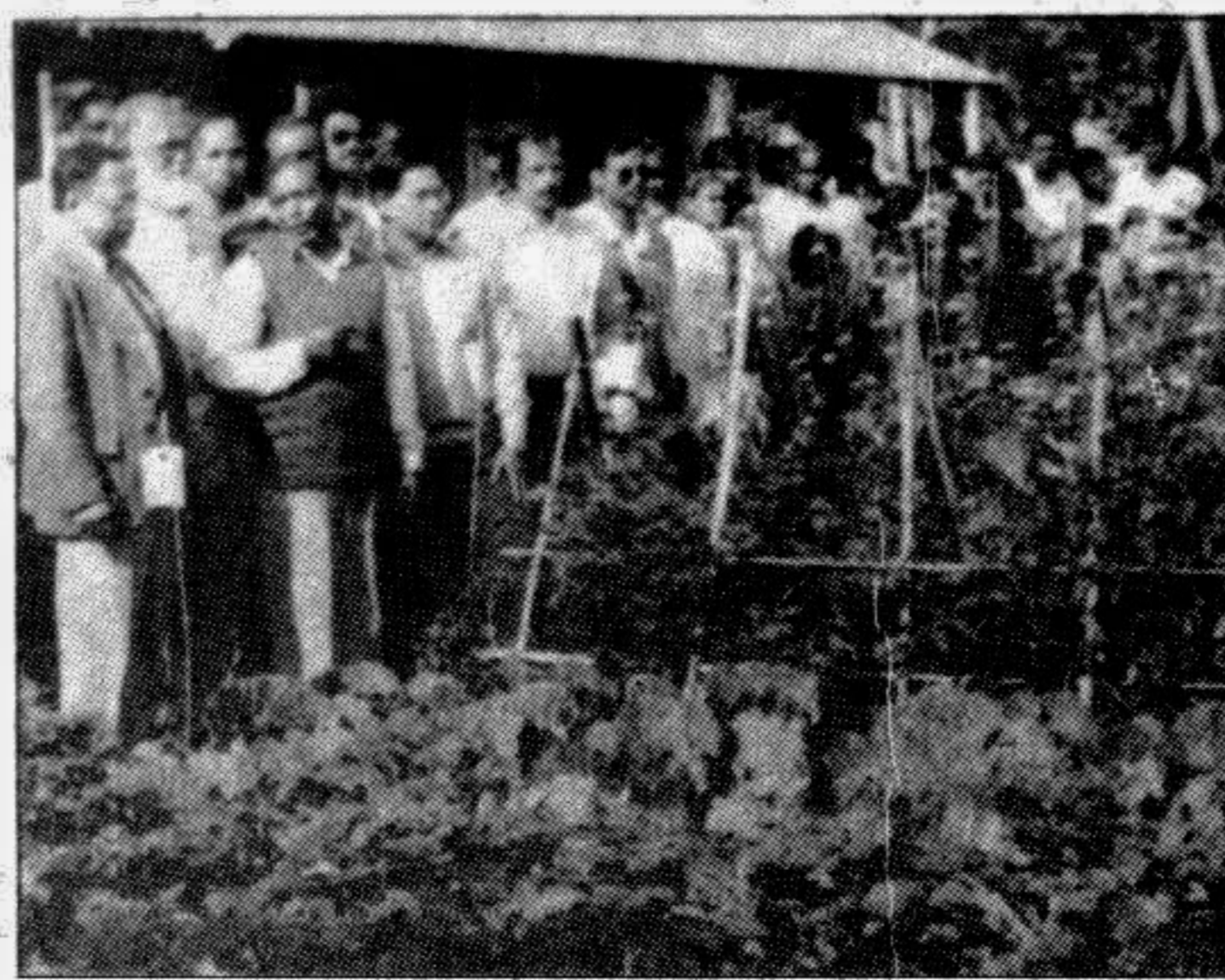
In this connection a discussion meeting was arranged at the hall room of the college which was chaired by Principal Abdul Jalil Sarker. Azizur Rahman Basunia, Thana Nirbahi Officer, was present as the chief guest.

Shamsul Haque Chowdhury, Anowar Hussain Chowdhury, Muhammad Korom Uddin, Rokon, Ershad, Ariful, Badrul, Nizam Uddin, among others, took part in the discussion.

It was rounded off with a musical soiree.

All the medicine shops of Kurigram district remained closed for 48 hours in support of their 5-point demand.

Habibur Rahman President of Kurigram district unit of Bangladesh Chemist and Druggist Samity told this correspondent that they have been forced to go on strike as the government did not pay heed to their 5-point charter of demand.



MYMENSINGH: Prof Dr S M Farouk, VC, BAU visiting a vegetable garden developed by the students of a local primary school recently. — Star photo

Tk 30.88 cr given as agri-loan

BARISAL, Jan 26: Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB), Barisal region, has disbursed a sum of Taka 30.88 crore as agriculture loan among the farmers of eleven southern districts under the region till January 13, reports BSS.

The district covered by this programme are: Barisal, Jhalakati, Bhola, Pirojpur, Patuakhali, Barguna, Faridpur, Gopalganj, Madaripur, Shariatpur and Rajbari.

According to an official source, the loan was disbursed for the cultivation of boro, aman, planting potato, wheat, beef fattening, pisciculture, poultry farm, dairy farm, drought animals, self-reliance, women entrepreneur development programme (WEPDP), etc.

Meanwhile, the bank has recovered a sum of Taka 27.91 crore from the farmers of the districts till January 13 through 191 branches of the bank the source added. About two lakh farmers will be benefited under the programme.

About 13,62,167 kilograms of wheat were distributed among the students of 482 primary schools under 39 unions of Barisal division under Food-for-Education Programme in the last academic session.

The districts are: Barisal, Jhalakati, Bhola, Pirojpur, Patuakhali, and Barguna.

According to an official source, a total of 1,01,560 students from 39,901 families was benefitted under the programme. A total of 31,453 students in Barisal district, 17,280 students in Bhola, 18,659 students in Patuakhali, 13,972 students in Pirojpur, 12,327 students in Barguna and 7,869 students in Jhalakati districts were given the wheat the source said.

The annual sports and cultural function of the Begum Tofazzal Hossain Manik Mian Mahila College, Barisal, was held in the college premises on Monday.

Mamta Uddin, Deputy Commissioner Barisal presided over the function. It was attended among others by M A Rashid, Divisional Commissioner, Barisal and Ziauddin Ahmed, DIG of police, Barisal range.

A total of 86 female students took part in 17 events. Mrs Rashid and Ms Ziauddin Ahmed gave away prizes among the winners.

A cultural function was held in the evening.

District roundup

CNAWABGANJ
Educational atmosphere deteriorates

Jan 26: Standard of secondary education in the district has deteriorated due to some irregularities in the educational institutions, reports UNB.

There are 136 high schools, primary schools and madrasas in the district — almost all of them are beset with manifold problems, said a survey report conducted by some social welfare activists.

Persons having strong academic background and teaching ability, do not take up teaching as a profession, because school authorities can not afford to offer handsome salary to them.

On the other hand, private schools of the district also have failed to render proper service due to similar reasons. Moreover, many schools established with the initiative of local people, have not been recognised by the government. Yet, the report revealed.

As a result, some of these schools with requisite number of students and excellent academic performances can not disburse respectable amount of money for the salary of teachers.

JAMALPUR
Two arrested for assaulting firm director

Jan 26: Police arrested two people Tuesday night for their alleged involvement in assaulting a director of a fisheries firm, reports UNB.

The arrested were identified as Nabil Hossain and Omlal of Fookkutchha village in Melandaha thana.

According to the complaint, the two men with their supporters looted valuable assets and assaulted the Director of Gudadanga Fisheries Firm Kamruzzaman of January 14.

Kamruzzaman is now under treatment at Orthopaedic Hospital in the capital.

Project sources said, some influential people were trying to grab the ownership of the firm for the last few months.

COX'S BAZAR
Course on Red Crescent movement concludes

Jan 26: The course-cum-workshop on International Red Cross and Red Crescent movement concluded here Sunday under the joint auspices of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS), reports BSS.

About fifty persons representing various government departments, United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and Non-Government Organisations (NGOs), and working in the Rohingya refugee camps took part in the course. The participants were divided into two groups and were placed in the class on Sunday.

DINAJPUR
32 injured in road mishap

Jan 26: At least 32 passengers sustained injuries, two seriously, in a minibus accident at Ghoraghat on Raniganj road on Sunday, reports UNB.

Witnesses said, the driver of the Dinajpur bound minibus coming from Gobindaganj suddenly lost its control and it skidded off the road injuring most of the passengers.

US General visits Ansar Academy

GAZIPUR, Jan 26: Commanding General of US Army, Pacific Lt. Gen Robert L. Ord paid a good-will visit to Ansar Academy at Shafipur on Monday, reports UNB.

The Lt Gen was accompanied by Chief of General Staff of Bangladesh Army Maj Gen Muhammad Abdus Salam and 150 high military officials of 35 countries participating in the 10-day 18th Pacific Armies Management began here on January 15. It was co-hosted by Bangladesh Army and US Army, Pacific.

Maj Gen Sayd Bodruzzaman, Director General of Ansar and VDP along with Brig Muhammad Abed Miah IDG of Ansar and VDP, and M Solaiman, Commandant, Ansar Academy accorded them warm ovation.

The state-guests went round various sections of the academy, including the plastic cane, embroidery, sewing training and fancy wood projects.

Ansar and VDP members presented a musical function in honour of the guests.



SHLHET: Shamsuzzaman Chowdhury, DG of Radio Bangladesh was accorded a reception by the local 'Sangbad Pathak Sangsad' and 'Anubadak Forum' during his recent visit here recently. — Star photo

Shamsernagar Airport reopens soon

by Rajat K Goswami

MOULVI BAZAR, Jan 26: Shamsernagar Airport in Moulvibazar district will be reopened for air-service within few months, a source disclosed.

A private aviation firm has got the licence from the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) to operate Short Take-off and Landing (STOL) Service at Shamsernagar Airport.

The repairing and renovation work of 2700 feet long existing 'runway' has been started with an estimated cost of Taka 18 lakh and expected to be completed by six months.

A source disclosed that Dhaka-Shamsernagar STOL Service would be a profitable one as many people of Moulvibazar district, a land of 'two leaves and a bud' living abroad will travel. They used to travel through the 'Osmany Airport', Sylhet, which is far from Moulvibazar.

Shamsernagar Airport was once one of the largest airport of the South-East Asia. During the second World War in 1942, 'United State-Russia' allies established an airport at Shamsernagar on 622 acres of land within tea plantation area to resist the attack of 'Japan-German Axis Power' as the then Assam area of undivided India was a possible target of war.

There are four runways at the airport. At its early stage, there was a hanger for taking care of air-crafts. But after 1947, there was no arrangement to supervise the Shamsernagar Airport. During the period from 1947 to 1968, and 1970 to 1975, the airport was without security and goods worth Taka several crore were stolen.

In 1968, the then government of Pakistan had started plane service from Shamsernagar. But the service was closed in 1970 following an accident at the airport.

After the independence of Bangladesh, an unit of Bangladesh Air Force (BAF) took the charge of Shamsernagar Air port for supervision and the BAF unit established an agricultural farm at the airport compound and earning crores of Taka every year.

After the Liberation War, political leaders even some



MOULVIBAZAR: A view of Shamsernagar Airport now under construction — Star photo

Best teacher

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Jan 26: Fakhru Islam, Headmaster, Rashomy High School of Sylhet town has been adjudged the best teacher of the district this year. He was honoured with a trophy at a function held at Sylhet auditorium recently.

Fakhru Islam has been working as a teacher for the last 36 years. He has been serving as the Headmaster of Rashomy High School for the last 26 years.

President of the Sylhet district unit of Secondary Teachers' Association Fakhru Islam hails from village Deulgram of Beanibazar thana.

Picnic party robbed of

DINAJPUR, Jan 26: Some armed miscreants swooped on a picnic party near Phulbari bus stand in Phulbari thana and looted valuables on Saturday, says UNB.

According to local people, the party while returning to Panchagrah from the picnic spot Shapnapuri, met the masked miscreants who attacked them at the point with revolver, ramdao and Chinese axe after sundown.

Member of the picnic party said, the robbers snatched away their wrist watches, gold rings, cash, camera and spares of the bus.

However, with the help of some local young men the picnic party later returned home safely.

Local people alleged that the miscreants are active in the area for a long time and in spite of repeated appeal to the concerned authorities no step has yet been taken in this regard.

Huda dismisses chances of polls rigging

SAVAR, Jan 26: Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda said, here Tuesday that BNP was thrice voted to power as it believes in free and fair polls, reports BSS.

Barrister Huda was addressing a big public rally organised by local unit of BNP, at Badda primary school premises as the chief guest.

Dismissing the apprehension of polls rigging by some political parties on the eve of city corporation election, the information minister referred to the charges and counter charges of 'ballot dacoity' by Awami League and Jatiya Party following 198 polls under Ershad government.

Presided over by Niamatullah Sabu, MP, the meeting was addressed among others, by Savar Poura Unit Chief of BNP Jinnat Ali, Omar Ali Master, Jubo Dal leader Moksed Ali, former vice president of Savar College students union M Jahangir and Dr Shamsul Huq.

The information minister described the integrity of BNP leadership as its best capital which his paid dividends. He said, the government attaches top priority to education as it would help turn the country's vast manpower into human resources.

Deep respect paid to Michael Madhusudhan

SAGARDARI (Jessore), Jan 26: The literary work of Michael Madhusudhan Dutta is our national treasure as the great epic poet had inspired us all through his unique progressive outlook, patriotism, love for mother tongue and fight against orthodoxy, reports BSS.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas said this which inaugurating Tuesday the three-day 'Madhu Janmajayantee and Madhu Mela' at Madhusudhan's village home here in Keshabpur thana, Jessore.

The Madhu Janmajayantee Ujjapan Committee-94 organised the auspicious occasion to mark the 170th birth anniversary of the epoch making poet who first introduced blank verses in Bangla literature.

The president paid his deep respect to the memory of Madhusudhan and said preservation of his memory and extensive study and research on his literary work were national responsibility to carry his message to the posterity.

Referring to the colourful Madhumela being held at Sagardari, the president said it was a part of the present government's special step to protect and preserve the national heritage, culture, language and literature.

The real way of paying respect to the great men of Bangla literature is to study his work side by side taking all possible measures to preserve his memory, the president said.

Minister for Post and Telecommunications Tariqul Islam, State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahanara Begum and Moulana Mohammad Sakhawat Hossain, MP, among others also spoke at the function as special guests.

Secretary of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs Islamuddin Malik was in the chair while Deputy Commissioner, of Jessore Bhuiyan Rafiuddin Ahmad gave the welcome address.

President Biswas said, Michael Madhusudhan was the father of modern Bengali literature who made outstanding contribution in this field by introducing blank verses making it more colourful and enriched.

"He is still living in our memory because he was a symbol of patriotism", he said adding that the versatile genius had brought about a revolutionary change in the Bangla literature through a new style.

President Biswas referred to Madhusudhan's early disinterest in Bangla literature for his conversion into Christianity under the influence of western literature and culture but said he had never forgotten his country, culture and its heritage.

Afterwards, he said, as the sense of self-realisation dawned upon him, Madhusudhan came back and used his creative talent to write some outstanding poems like "Bangla bhandare taba bibidha ratan".

President Biswas said, his epic work like 'meghanad badi', 'brajangana', 'birangana', were written with imagines received from Homer and Virgil but he infused the spirit of his country into these epoch making books.

He also referred to Madhusudhan's other literary creating and said his mastery of the language had led Bangla literature never to ways onward.

A revolutionary in spirit, Madhusudhan had been inspired by western literatures to write epic poems in the human angle and in the latest trends of the time, the president said.

President Biswas, later enjoyed the cultural function staged after the inaugural function by Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

Tender Notice

1. Tender No.	06/1993-94.
2. Name of work	Repair and maintenance work of different projects under Chittagong O&M Division-I, WDB, Chittagong in the budget provision of 163-IND during the year 1993-94.
	1. Repair & Maintenance of Fatikchhari chara WRS at Fatikchhari, Dist. Chittagong.
	2. Re-Excavation of Dhureng Irrigation Canal from Ch. 0.00 m to 500.00 m in P.S. Fatikchhari, Dist. Chittagong.
	3. Repair, & Maintenance of Dhureng weir in P.S. Fatikchhari, Dist. Chittagong.
	4. Repair & Maintenance of Harwalchari chara WRS in P.S. Fatikchhari, Dist. Chittagong.
	5. Repair & Maintenance of 8 Nos. spurs in front of Ramgarh Thana on the left bank of Feni River in P.S. Ramgarh, Dist. Khagrachhari.
	6. Brick metressing work in front of Ramgarh Thana in between Ch.27.00 and Ch. 37.00 in PS. Ramgarh, Dist. Khagrachhari.
	7. Bank Protective work by brick metressing and bullah pilling on the left bank of Feni River near Mehamuni in P.S. Ramgarh, Dist. Khagrachhari.
	8. Repair & Maintenance of Sonaichari WRS in P.S. Ramgarh, Dist. Khagrachhari.
	9. Repair & Maintenance of Bank protective work on the left Bank of Feni River at Lacharipara in P.S. Ramgarh, Dist. Khagrachhari.
3. Estimated cost	Sl. No. 1) : 2,73,031/00 Sl.No. 2) : 1,50,846/00 Sl.No. 3) : 4,39,114/00 Sl.No. 4) : 89,209/00 Sl.No. 5) : 4,45,324/00 Sl.No. 6) : 2,54,135/00 Sl.No. 7) : 1,79,970/00 Sl.No. 8) : 1,81,852/00 Sl.No. 9) : 4,51,670/00
4. Earnest money	2-½% (Two and half per cent) of the estimated cost.
5. Name & address of office where the tender document will be available	1) Sonali Bank, Bahaddorhat branch, Chittagong. 2) Sonali Bank, WAPDA Branch, Motijheel, Dhaka. 3) Executive Engineer, Feni O&M Division, BWDB, Feni.
6. Name & address of office where the tender will be received	1. Executive Engineer, Chittagong O&M Division-I BWDB, Chittagong. 2. Executive Engineer, Dhaka O&M Division-II, BWDB, Dhaka. 3. Executive Engineer, Feni O&M Division BWDB, Feni.
7. Date and time of receiving tender	07-02-94 to 09-02-94 upto 12.30 P.M.
8. Date and time of opening tender	09-02-94 at 1.00 P.M.
9. Nature of Contractor	Enlisted 'C' & 'D' class contractor of BWDB during 1993-94.
10. Binding day to finish the work	30(thirty) to 45(Forty five) days as per work.
11. Name and address of advertiser	Md. Saifullah Talukder Executive Engineer Chittagong O&M Division-I BWDB, Bahaddorhat Chittagong