

Weavers, potters passing hard days

From Our Correspondent

KUSHITIA, Feb 13: Weavers have been passing hard days due to higher prices of yarn, dyes, chemicals and other raw materials.

A total of 21,000 handlooms have so far been lying idle in six thanas of the district. As a result, about 80 thousand people who were engaged in this profession have become jobless, it is learnt.

According to Handloom Board, there are 38,000 handlooms in the district out of which 28,000 are Pitloom and 1000 Chittaranjan loom. In Kumarkhali alone there are 14,000 handlooms where 1,14,000 people are engaged in these factories. About 76,000 people are also connected with this trade.

The weavers have been passing hard days for the abnormal prices of raw materials, free trade of Indian sarees smuggled into the country and imported old garments.

As a result, a large number of people engaged in this profession have changed their

profession and the remaining are passing very bad days.

Local people have urged the government to adopt policies congenial favourable for the development of handloom industries and stop smuggling of Indian sarees and import of old garments.

Acute shortage of bullock is causing serious problems to the cultivators in six thanas of the district.

It is learnt that different diseases claim a good number of bullock every year.

The cultivators alleged that some greedy and dishonest butchers are found poisoning cattle in different rural areas of the district to collect the skin.

Besides, slaughtering of bullock has increased following the scarcity of fish in different markets.

According to a survey, about 60 per cent families having no bullock of their own are unable to till their land.

Many farmers carry on their agricultural works on share basis as they can not afford to

purchase cattle due to sharp rise in prices. At present, a pair of bullock costs Tk 10,000 to 15,000. Some cultivators also said that they even use milch cows to cultivate their land, resulting in gradual decrease of the milk production.

Taking advantages of the poverty of cultivators, a section of cow traders are purchasing cattle at nominal prices.

A UNB report adds: With the gradual extinction of pottery middle class people have chosen stainless steel and malamine products for their daily household use.

A survey conducted by some local volunteers revealed that 70 per cent middle class people are using stainless steel plates, glass, jug and other utensils while 15 per cent use malamine products and the rest are using china clay or ceramic products.

Most of the housewives said stainless steel products last long in spite of its rough use and its glaze remains intact if

it is washed regularly, whereas malamine products give rise to various disadvantages which is light in weight and do not last long.

Even some upper class housewives give their opinion against use of Bangladesh malamine products when they were interviewed by the survey team.

The survey also revealed that the poor class people are using cheap tin made plates instead of using earthen products. About 100 per cent people use aluminium containers for cooking purpose and these save them from recurring expenditures.

Thus potters of this region are being rendered jobless and engaged in other occupations including daily wage earners leaving their ancestral jobs to maintain their livelihood.

The housewives, according to the survey, also alleged that prices of indigenous malamine products are very high and they prefer stainless steel wares for its comparative low prices.



MYMENSINGH: Minister for Fisheries and Livestock Abdullah Al-Noman presenting a crest as a mark of respect to former VC of BAU Prof Dr A K M Aminul Haque on the occasion of silver jubilee of Faculty of Fisheries held at BAU auditorium recently. — Star photo

2 check posts earn Tk 161cr revenue in six months

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Feb 13: Revenue worth Taka 161.6 crore was earned from Benapole and Darsana stations under Jessore Collectorate of Customs, Excise and VAT in first six months of current fiscal year, said a source.

The earning exceeded the target and the excess earnings amounted to Taka 25,47,000.000.

It is learnt that the collection was an increase of 44.50 per cent over the same period of last fiscal.

According to sources, goods worth Taka 847 lakh were imported through these stations during the period under review.

Seminar on development of moral approach

Teachers' Council and Students' Union of Mymensingh Teachers' Training College organised a seminar on "A proposal to the United Nations on moral development approach: a new world order for peace" at the college auditorium on February 10, says a press release.

The teachers, students of the college and elite of Mymensingh attended the seminar.

Professor Sara Taifur Rahman, former Principal of Mymensingh Teachers' Training College for Women, attended the seminar as chief guest.

The key note paper was presented by Dr Abu Obaidul Huque, Professor and Director of the Bangladesh Institute for Advancement of Science and Technology Teaching (IASTT).

Prof A M A Shakoore, and Prof Ayesha Aktar Khatun of Mymensingh Teachers' Training College took part at the discussion.

The speakers at the seminar expressed that this proposal to UN on moral development was very timely and they appealed to the UN and its all member countries to come forward to consider it in the greater interest and welfare of mankind for promoting the causes to establish durable peace, discipline and justice at individual, social and global levels.

Sylhet medical students for no politics on campus

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Feb 13: The students of Sylhet M A G Osmany Medical College expressed their support to ban politics on the college campus through a referendum held recently.

Of the total of 1000 students, 669 including 228 girls, took part in the referendum arranged by the college authority. Two hundred sixty-three students voted 'yes' while answering the question "whether the campus politics would continue?" and 395 students voted "no".

92 Rohingyas go home

COX'S BAZAR, Feb 13: Another batch of 92 Rohingyas today voluntarily returned to their homes in Myanmar raising the total number of repatriated refugees to 52,782.

Official sources told BSS here tonight that this 131st batch of refugees was seen off by the local UNHCR representatives along with Bangladesh officials at Rongkhali and Noyapara-2 transit camps of Teknaf.

Sustainable agri development should be given priority

From Our Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, Feb 13: The sustainable development of agriculture should get priority as the national goal fails to achieve target for the conventional measures taken up for the purpose.

This was observed by the speakers at a national seminar on the "Role of Bio-Chemistry and Biotechnology in the Development of the Bangladesh Agriculture" jointly organised by the Department of Bio-Chemistry and the Bangladesh Biochemical Society held at the auditorium of the Bangladesh Agricultural University recently.

Presided over by Professor Dr Rafiqur Rahman, President, Bangladesh Biochemical Society, the seminar was attended by the Vice-Chancellor of the Bangladesh Agricultural University Professor Dr Shah Mohammad Farouk as chief guest.

The keynote paper was presented by the renowned scientist of the country Professor Dr Mohammad Hossain. Professor Dr Md Rafiqul Haque Bhuiyan and Professor Dr Md Afzal Hossain also spoke at the seminar.

In all 20 papers were pre-

presented at the seminar in two separate technical sessions. Teachers, scientists and researchers, students took part at the seminar.

BAUTA executives

Professor Dr Md Monsurul Amin and Professor Dr A M Farouk were elected President and General Secretary respectively of the Bangladesh Agricultural University Teachers Association (BAUTA) for 1994 in the election held at the BAU Club.

The other office-bearers are: Vice-President — Dr M Abdul Haque, Treasurer — Dr Md Mostafizur Rahman and Joint Secretary — Dr Mirza Abdul Hashim. Executive members are: Dr Md Aminul Islam, Dr Md Iqbal Hossain, Dr Md Mahbubul Karim, Dr Shafiuddin Ahmed, Dr Md Sahidul Haque and Dr K M Hasanuzzaman.

Professor Dr Md Idris conducted the election.

Seminar on Statistics in Agri-Development

A seminar on "Statistics in Agricultural Development" was held at the gallery of Faculty of

Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) under the auspices of the Bangladesh Statistical Association (BSA).

Presided over by Professor Dr Kazi Saif Ahmed, former Vice-Chancellor of the Jahangirnagar University and BSA Chairman, the seminar was attended by the teachers, researchers, students, government and non-government high officials of the different parts of the country.

Mukhlesur Rahman, Secretary, Statistics Division and Walihul Islam, Secretary, Ministry of Shipping presided over the second and third sessions of the seminar respectively.

Speakers at the seminar stressed the need for another seminar before the inception of agricultural census during 1995. In all, five papers were presented in the seminar including two keynote papers. Hamidul Haque Bhuiyan, BSA Secretary conducted the seminar function.

Take part in uplift activities: Salam

NARAIL, Feb 13: The LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder said here on Saturday that the government was committed to develop the standard of living of the people, reports BSS.

He was speaking as the chief guest a huge public meet-

ing held at the premises of Maipara High School on Saturday.

Presided over by the BNP leader Golam Rasul, the meeting was addressed, among others, by the President of the District BNP Advocate Makbul Hossain, President of local Chhatradal Golam Morshed and DUCSU's Transport Secretary and Assistant General Secretary of Chhatradal Khandakar Jahangir Alam.

The minister urged the people to actively participate in the development activities rising above narrow political interests.

The minister said, that independence was achieved with great hopes and aspirations, but those hopes and aspirations had not yet been fulfilled. He added that the BNP government had been making all-out efforts to fulfill those hopes and aspirations of the people.

The minister said that the government had taken massive programmes for rural development and poverty alleviation of the rural people. He called upon the people to actively participate in these development programmes to consolidate democracy and to develop the socio-economic condition of the people.

Training on vegetable farming ends

From Our Correspondent

MAULVI BAZAR, Feb 13: A training programme on the production technique of vegetables in the summer was held here for the peasants of six thanas of the district recently.

The training was arranged by the district Agriculture Extension Department where 180 peasants took training on vegetable farming in batches.

Ninety peasants in three batches have already been imparted training and another about 90 peasants would be given training in three batches.

The training programme aims at creating awareness among the farmers for vegetable farming. The Maulvibazar district has been marked the region of backwardness in vegetable farming.

RARC programme

Meanwhile, the Regional Agriculture Research Centre

(RARC) at Akbarpur of Maulvibazar district organised another training programme on "The vegetable farming in the summer".

The 5-day-long course started in a meeting which was held at RACT office premises at Akbarpur recently.

The meeting was presided over by Scientific Officer of RARC Gourahari Ghose and Deputy Director of District Agriculture Extension Department Haripada Majumder attended as chief guest.

At the first phase of the programme, 23 Agriculture Block Supervisors and two workers from NGOs took part in the training. In the second phase another 25 peasants got such training.

The RARC source said, after the training, these 50 trainees will go to the villages and would conduct training programme at field level.

Local elite have urged the concerned authorities to take up a massive scheme to make the district self-sufficient in fish production.

Another report says: Kushtia

B Chowdhury for more technical education

MUNSHIGANJ, Feb 13: Deputy Leader in Parliament Prof A Q M Badurddoza Chowdhury has emphasised on spreading technical education to generate more self-employment opportunities in the country, reports UNB.

He was addressing as chief guest the inaugural function of Basal Technical Education Centre here on Friday.

The London-based "Friends Society of Bangladesh" has provided financial assistance for establishing the centre which will initially impart training in some vocational and technical trades.

Most of the courses have been designed for girl students will facilities to train 40-50 students annually.

Prof B Chowdhury said technical and vocational education would help ease unemployment problems to a great extent, thereby developing the national economy.

On the imperatives of women education, he said that without the development of women all-out development of

the nation cannot be thought of.

The Deputy Leader also called on the guardians not to consider their girl child as the burden of society but help to groom them as assets of the country by providing proper education.

He urged private sector entrepreneurs to supplement the government efforts to ensure success of the programmes taken up by the government for the development and expansion of the education sector.

Presided over by Siddiquillah, President of the Friends Society of Bangladesh, Dhaka unit, the function was also addressed by Basal UP chairman Moazzam Hossain Babul and Dr Mir Azmal Ali, an executive member of the Friends Society of Bangladesh, London.

Later, Prof B Chowdhury opened the Kafliuddin Chowdhury Free Medical camp at Baraikhal and offered free treatment and medicine to the patients.

Dr Mahfuzul Hoque, Prof of Economics, Chittagong University distributing prize to one of the winners of the annual sports of the varsity college branch, held here recently. — CU photo



Dr Mahfuzul Hoque, Prof of Economics, Chittagong University distributing prize to one of the winners of the annual sports of the varsity college branch, held here recently. — CU photo

Fish scarcity prevails in greater Kushtia

From Our Correspondent

KUSHITIA, Feb 13: Fish production in the haor areas of the district has fallen alarmingly causing suffering to the people.

Local people said fish in rivers, canals and other water-bodies is very scarce here as hundreds of ponds in the district have been lying uncultivated for years together.

In every season, some fishermen are found engaged in catching fish fry indiscriminately violating government ban and selling those in the local markets.

It is also informed that the matter had been brought to the notice of Fisheries Department on several occasions but no measures have yet been taken.

Fish was once available abundantly in the haor and beel areas of Bheramara, Kumarkhali, Mirpur and sadar thanas but due to lack of initiative and maintenance fish production has decreased in the district alarmingly.

Local elite have urged the concerned authorities to take up a massive scheme to make the district self-sufficient in fish production.

Another report says: Kushtia

potrashava is beset with manifold problems causing inconvenience to the residents.

The residents said the dilapidated condition of the roads, lack of proper drainage system and inadequate water supply have made the civic life miserable.

Most of the roads in the pourashava are kutchas having numerous cracks and potholes at many points due to lack of proper maintenance and repair works. During the rainy season, the roads become muddy and slippery hindering the movement of pedestrians and vehicles.

Almost all the kutchas drains are filled with garbage and stagnant water which encourage mosquito breeding. Lack of dustbin in the poura area compel the town dwellers to dump garbage in the drains blocking the water outlets.

Street lights at the town are insufficient. Many electric poles are lying without bulbs for a long hampering the movement of vehicles after sun set.

Besides, water supply is irregular in the area causing suffering to the residents.

The pedestrians are also facing much trouble due to mushroom growth of unauthorised shops on the roads and footpaths.

Meanwhile, the number of pye dogs has increased in the poura area posing threat to the town residents.

Local people have urged the concerned authorities to solve the problems of the residents without further delay.

District roundup

MAGURA

Plan to attain self-sufficiency in pulse, oil production

Feb 13: Agriculture and Irrigation Water Development and Flood Control Minister M Majid-Ul-Haque on Saturday said extensive programmes were being taken by the present government under crops diversification programme to produce more varieties of crops including pulse and oil seeds so that the country could attain self-sufficiency in pulse and edible oil also within the next five years, reports BSS.

Rural based development programmes were being strengthened with a view to improving the condition of the rural people through increasing agricultural production, he added.

He was addressing a spontaneous gathering while visiting the re-excavation work of four and a half kilometer long Muchikhali Canal under Kusundhi union of Magura sadar.

The proposed re-excavation project is being implemented at a cost of Taka six lakh and is expected to be completed by next month. Twentyfive per cent of the work is also being implemented on voluntary basis with the participation of local people.

On completion of the project a total of two thousand hectares of cultivable land will come under irrigation facilities for which more than two thousand tons of additional crops will be produced a year.

The minister also visited a number of sunflower demonstration plots there.

Earlier, the minister formally handed over the grant-in-aid cheques to fourteen non-government secondary schools of Magura district at the Deputy Commissioner's conference hall.

TANGAIL

One killed in road accident

Feb 13: Zarina Begum, 24, mother of three children was killed in a road accident on Sunday near Narinda Bridge on Bhuyapur-Tangail road, reports BSS.

The accident occurred while Zarina Begum slipped off a minibus bound for Dhaka from Bhuyapur. She died on the spot.

A case was registered with Ghatail thana.

Another report adds: The annual sports of Binjubashini government girls' school was held Tuesday at its play ground.

A total of 95 students under "A", "B" and "C" groups took part in 27 events.

The main events were sprints jumps, cock-fight, pillow fight etc. Besides, a good number of students took part in dress-as-you-like event. Azizur Rahman, Additional District Magistrate, inaugurated the meet and distributed prizes among the winners.

NATORE

Inadequate fire services

Feb 13: Property worth several lakh taka is being destroyed by fire every year due to lack of fire service equipment and inadequate fire stations in the district, reports UNB.

Fire office said, the only fire station at the district headquarters is capable of services to Natore Pourashava area only. But the fire station is now facing problems in the absence of modern equipment like ambulance, water tanker etc.

At present there are only two vehicles including a very old water tanker which cannot meet the emergency need of the district, the sources added.

It is learnt that the automatic fire bell of the old water tanker is in deplorable condition.

Meanwhile, the only ambulance of the fire station which was sent to Rajshahi for repair in 1992 is yet to return.

According to the fire office, at least 50 fire incidents occurred and property worth Taka one crore was gutted during the last year in six thanas of the district.

Of all fire accident, about 50 per cent occurred due to fire originating from kitchens, 30 per cent from bidi, 5 per cent from electric short circuit, 5 per cent from gas cooker and the rest 10 per cent by other means.

LALMONIRHAT

Gangman killed by villagers

Feb 13: A gangman was lynched after he was captured in a gunfight with villagers at Chaparhat in Kalganj thana Friday night, reports UNB.

The dead was identified as Saidur Alias Azizur, 30, an alleged dacoit of Tulshighat village in Sadullahpur thana of Gaibandha district.

Police and villagers said, eleven people, including another alleged dacoit, were also injured in the clash that started after a gang of 12 to 15 stormed the house of a businessman.

Three of the injured — Nur Alam, Nasim Uddin and Mongla Barman — were admitted to Rangpur Medical College Hospital with bullet injuries.

Two others, identified as Rabi Kanta and Fazhur Rashid, alleged dacoits, were admitted to Kalganj Health Complex. Rest of the injured were released after first aid.

Police said the armed miscreants swooped on the house of Dulal Chandra of Chaparhat late night. They looted cash and kind worth more than one lakh taka.

MAULVIBAZAR

Body of youngman recovered

Feb 13: Police recovered the body of a youngman from a canal near Jangichara bridge at Sreemangal Railway Station recently, reports UNB.

The victim was identified as Nazrul Islam (28), an employee of Additional District Magistrate Court.

Police suspect that Islam was strangled to death. But the motive behind the murder could not be known.

The body was sent to hospital for autopsy and a case was filed with local police in this connection.

Another report adds: Scarcity of Prize Bond in the district town is causing inconveniences to the people.

While talking to UNB, Assistant Director of National Savings Department of Maulvibazar, admitted the fact and said that there is no scarcity of Prize Bonds in the district. But the bank officials in the town are not showing interest to sell Prize Bond to the people.

KUSHITIA

Indian currency recovered

Feb 13: Police recovered Indian currency worth 10,000 rupees from one Nabiruddin 30 of Mahammadpur village under Daulatpur thana recently, reports BSS.

On secret information, police raided the house of Nabiruddin, recovered the currency and arrested him.

In this connection a case has been registered in Daulatpur thana.



CHANDPUR: Three fishermen have been arrested with huge jatka (small hilsa fish) which they caught from the river Meghna defying the government ban. — Star photo

IU Ban on student politics extended

JHENIDAH, Feb 13: The Islamic University has extended further the ban on political activities of its student organisations till July 11, reports UNB.