

Sugar worth Tk 55.52 cr lying unsold

NATORE, Mar 1: A total of 21,354 metric tons of sugar worth Taka 55.52 crore are lying unsold in the two sugar mills of the district, reports UNB.

According to local people, the markets are being manipulated by the blackmarketeers of Indian sugar which is being sold at lower prices.

Besides, production of molasses by illegally crushing of sugarcanes within the mill areas is another reason of less demand of local sugar. Producers said, the production cost of local sugar is higher than that of Indian sugar. So the Indian sugar captured the entire market.

Natore Sugar Mill has produced 15,343 metric tons of sugar by crushing 1,81,745 metric tons of sugarcanes during the last crushing season. The production target was 18,450 metric tons by crushing 2,10,850 metric tons of sugarcanes.

During the period the mill sold 3,945 mt of sugar and the rest 11,394 mts of sugar remained unsold in the godown.

Same situation is prevailing in the North-Bengal Sugar Mill. This mill produced 15,135 mts of sugar by crushing 1,87,440 mts sugarcanes. The production target was 19,150 mts. The mills sold 5,176 mts of sugar till February 19.

One shot at another poisoned to death in JESSORE

JESSORE, Mar 1: A youth was shot dead by his rivals and a minor girl was killed allegedly by her step mother in separate incidents in the district early Monday, police said.

They said, a gang of seven youths attacked the house of one, Hedayet Ullah Ol Bakbar in the town and shot at his one Dula, 28 at noon. The left side of his skull was blown apart.

Police suspected that Dula was killed following dispute over sharing of Taka 1.5 lakh which was looted from a Khulna bound minibus on Sunday evening.

In another incident, a minor girl was poisoned to death allegedly by her step mother in Choto Kholshi village in Jhikorgacha thana.

Police said Feroza's step mother got furious as she Feroza was insisting his father to take her own mother back.

12 feared drowned in trawler capsiz

CHITTAGONG, Mar 1: Three people were feared drowned after a fishing trawler with a dozen fishermen on board capsized in the Bay of Bengal near Mohipur area of the district on Saturday, reports UNB.

The trawler, FV Shaheda, sailed out on February 18 to fish in the bay and overturned in mid sea Saturday evening after it was caught by storm, police said here Monday.

The three missing people were identified as Mohammad Rafiq of Doulatkhan in Bhola, district, Faiez Ahmed of sadar thana of Noakhali district and Mohammad Siddiq of Maibhang in Swandee of the Chittagong district.

One killed, 25 hurt in road accident

From Our Correspondent

GOPALGANJ, Mar 1: One person was killed and 25 others were injured in a road accident on Gopalganj-Teknaf road recently.

The incident occurred when a Khulna-bound passenger bus (Dhaka Metro-Cha-8119) from Dhaka was trying to give way to a private car coming from the opposite direction and fell into a ditch near Arpara. One of the bus passengers Chunnu Mia, 40, died on the spot while four others among the 25 injured were seriously hurt who were admitted to Gopalganj sadar hospital.

2.66 lakh children immunized in Barisal

BARISAL, Mar 1: Over two lakh and sixty six thousand children were brought under Expanded Programme of Immunization (EPI) in Barisal district during the year 1993, reports BSS.

These children were given vaccines against diphtheria, polio, whooping cough, tetanus and measles.

During the same year 60,735 pregnant women were immunized the source said.



KHULNA: The members of the divisional task force Major Shams Battalion Commander, Satkhira (from L to R), Abdul Quayum, Collector of Customs, Abdul Muktadir Chowdhury, Divisional Commissioner and Col Mustaq Ahmed, BDR Sector Commander, Khulna are at a meeting with the cattle traders at Satani Corridor of Satkhira sadar held recently. — Star photo

Medicine scarcity acute

KUSHTIA, Mar 1: Scarcity of medicines in the health complexes has reached its peak intensifying the sufferings of the patients, reports UNB.

Local people alleged simple medicines like dettol, paracetamol tablets are rarely available in the health complexes barring the life saving drugs.

A large number of patients coming from far flung areas of the district are to go back disappointed every day due to lack of medicines, proper treatment and admission facilities.

They alleged that some health complexes are running without the doctors and in the absence of physicians the compounders give prescriptions to the patients.

The doctors posted in the rural areas are reluctant to discharge their duties as they are found busy to get transfer to elsewhere in town or urban areas.

Local elite have urged the concerned authorities to probe

into the allegations and take necessary steps to improve the condition of health complexes to ensure better medicare facilities to the rural people.

Local people alleged that a large number of tubewells in the district went out of order resulting in scarcity of drinking water.

Meanwhile, a young man was stabbed to death and one other critically injured in separate incidents by unknown miscreants at Iqbal road in the town on Wednesday.

Witnesses said Abdul Hannan (22) of East Majampur came under attack when he was walking past the area in the evening. He was rushed to Kushtia General Hospital by the pedestrians where doctors declared him dead.

One Sanwar (18) was repeatedly stabbed by the miscreants at the Housing Estate area on the day. He was admitted to the hospital in a critical condition.

Separate cases were filed with the local police in this connection.

Doctors attributed the out-

break of the intestinal diseases to the paucity of pure water and consumption of adulterated food.

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Edn hampered for want of teachers in college

MAULVIBAZAR, Mar 1: Maulvibazar Government College has been facing various problems hampering smooth education for a long time, reports UNB.

The vexing problems include shortage of teachers, inadequate furniture and science appliances, poor library and recreational facilities, acute accommodation crisis and lack of electric fans causing untold suffering to the students.

Established in 1956, the college was nationalised in 1980. At present only 31 teachers are working in the college against 62 posts. There are even no demonstrator and physical teacher in the college.

The teachers said a good

number of them are forced to live in the hostel with much inconvenience in the absence of family quarters.

Students said the common room, both for girls and boys, is so small and the recreational facilities including indoor games are also quite insufficient.

There is no librarian and the books kept in a small classroom cannot meet the requirements of the students at all. Moreover, science students said they have been facing problems due to lack of adequate equipment of science classes.

The guardians have urged the concerned authorities to look into the matter and take immediate steps to solve the burning problems.

2 lakh youths imparted training last year

HOMNA (Comilla), Mar 1: Shipping Minister M K Anwar said here on Sunday that the present government had been implementing a series of development programmes including poverty alleviation, communication development, eradication of illiteracy and family planning for upgrading the socio-economic status of the people, reports BSS.

He was addressing the inaugural function of Thana Resource Development and Employment Programme (Tradeup) under the Department of Youth Development as the chief guest here.

Youth and Sports Secretary M Azizul Haque, Director General, Department of Youth Development, Joinul Abedin, eminent social workers Sirajul Islam, Amjad Hossain, Abdul Matin, Mahfuzul Islam, Motaleb Sarkar, officials of the Department of Youth Development and some members from the beneficiary group also spoke on the occasion.

The meeting was informed that the Department of Youth Development had imparted training facilities to about two lakh in youths in different trades during the last year.

The department had distributed Taka two lakh 64 thousand among 4000 persons in the last financial year. Besides this, 7773 couples had been brought under family planning programme and 6000 persons had been taught to read and write in Comilla area last year.

The minister said that



RAJSHAHI: A painting contest for the children was arranged by the Shaheed Smriti Sangsta of RU on the occasion of Amar Ekushey. — Star photo

Potters compelled to give up profession

MAJDEE' COURT (Noakhali), Mar 1: Potters of various thanas of the district are compelled to give up their age-old occupation as the people are preferring stainless and maimaine products for their house-hold use for its durability, reports UNB.

On the other hand, about 500 families of sadar, Benodpur, Begumganj and Datterhat thanas of the district have been facing difficulties to run their livelihood due to non-availability and high prices of clay and other inputs.

According to potters, only 10 per cent middle class families of the rural areas are now using their earthenwares and the rest 90 per cent are using either stainless steel or maimaine products like plates, jugs, glass etc. Many of them are also using China clay and other ceramic products.

The potters said non-availability of clay and the price hike and other inputs have affected their occupation badly. Only a few of them are engaged in making earthenwares to meet the demand of the rural poor class people and sometimes maintaining their livelihood, they added.

Besides, in the absence of transport facilities the potters have to sell their products carrying on their shoulder and

ferrying door to door in rural areas from morning to evening. The earthenwares are usually sold in melas and in hat days.

Another report says: The civic life here has become miserable due to mosquito menace as the Pourasava authorities failed to keep it under effective control.

It has become difficult to work and continue studies after sunset for mosquito bite. The mosquitoes are even seen at the day time, town residents alleged.

The students, particularly SSC candidates, are among the worst sufferers of the menace.

They attributed the rapid breeding of mosquitoes to the uncleaned drains and ditches full of garbage, filth and water hyacinth.

The Pourasava authorities did little to check the breeding of the mosquitoes and the spraying of DDT and mosquito oils in the poura areas "have completely been stopped" they further alleged.

They urged the authorities to take immediate measures to combat their menace.

Another report says: The election to the Noakhali Apex Club was held at its office here last week.

Club sources said an 11 member new committee was elected to run the club.

SATKHIRA

Notorious dacoit held

Mar 1: Police arrested a man from his house at Haringar village in Tala thana on Saturday night for his alleged involvement in a dacoity, reports UNB.

Police said Khorshed Ali, 22 was arrested in connection with a series of dacoity in nine houses including an UP member's house on February 19. The dacoits decamped with cash and other valuables worth about Taka five lakh. They also beat the inmates of the houses mercilessly.

Police also said Khorshed

was wanted in connection with several hijacking, dacoity and other criminal cases.

Another report adds: Four people including a girl allegedly committed suicide by taking poison on Saturday.

The victims are: Abdul Aziz 40 of Bhamra village in sadar thana, Abul Hossain 30 of Khetra village, Marzina Khatun 11 of Harina and Golam Rasul 18 of Sinanal in Kolaroa thana of the district.

Family feuds were the main reasons behind the suicides, it is learnt.

Woman traffickers' bail prayer refused

KUSHTIA, Mar 1: Sadar thana Magistrate refused bail of accused trafficker Abdur Rahim and his accomplice Islam on Saturday when they surrendered with a girl named Sharifa Khatun, a student of Adarsha College, reports UNB.

Police said Magistrate also ordered to keep Sharifa in judicial custody while the accused were sent to jail. It is gathered that accused Abdur Rahim is connected with woman trafficking.

It may be mentioned that Sharifa was abducted forcibly by them on December 7, 1993 and a case was filed in this connection by her father.

Another report adds: Police recovered the body of a girl in a hanging condition from her

house at Alinagar village in Daulatpur thana on Saturday.

The girl was identified as Nadera Khatun, 18, daughter of Moslem Mahadhar.

Police later sent the body to Kushtia General Hospital for autopsy. A case has been registered with the police.

Vice Chancellor of the Islamic University Prof Abdul Hamid said 'Islam' (fasting) in the month of Ramadan teaches not only self-purification, but also helps restore peace and prosperity of the nation.

The seminar, organised by Engineers Institution of Kushtia branch, was presided over by Abul Kalam, Chairman of the Islamic Studies and Dawa Department of the university.

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District roundup

BEHLA

Planned irrigation to raise agri output

Mar 1: State Minister for Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Mosharaf Hossain Shahjahan said the objective of canal digging programme was to increase agricultural production through providing planned irrigation facilities in the dry season, reports BSS.

The minister was inaugurating the canal digging work of 6.2 km long "Barirkhal" at Boranuddin thana of the district on Friday, said an official handout.

He urged the people to come forward to achieve the goal through excavation and re-excavation of canals throughout the country.

After the completion of the digging work by utilising 254 metric tons of wheat, about 3,000 acres of land will get irrigation facilities during the dry season.

The government has achieved self-sufficiency in food, the state minister said, and urged the people to sustain this process with concerted efforts.

The minister also laid the foundation stone of under-construction Bhola T and T Bhaban at a cost of Taka 47 lakh and two primary schools at Daulatkhana thana at a cost of Taka 18 lakh.

BARISAL

Canal digging work in progress

Mar 1: Government has sanctioned about 316 metric tons of wheat for re-excavation of two canals in two thanas of Barisal district under canal digging programme during the current dry season, reports BSS.

According to relief and rehabilitation office sources, a total of 16 kilometres of the canals will be re-excavated in an allocation of about 153 metric tons of wheat and six kilometers of Dhopar canal under Mehdiganj thana at an allocation of 163 metric tons of wheat.

Twenty five per cent work will be done under voluntary basis and 75 per cent under Food-for-Work Programme (FWD).

The function was attended by the officials, elite and cross section of people. The officials called upon the supervisors and field workers to expedite their activities to help achieve the cherished goal.

NOAKHALI

Tk 80 lakh sanctioned to construct classrooms

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