

WB mission team visits water management project

TANGAIL, Mar 5 : Ann Hamilton, Director, World Bank Washington visited the compartmentalisation pilot project programme at Tangail and expressed her satisfaction over its progress, reports BSS.

She was accompanied by Christopher Willoughby head of World Bank mission in Bangladesh, Saeed Ahmed Rana, head of Agriculture Department of World Bank, Ross Wallace Coordinator of World Bank, Ton Scutte Counsellor, Bert Diphorn First Secretary (Development) of Netherland Embassy, Kamal Siddiqui Chief Engineer Flood Plan Coordination Organisation, Engineer M Obaidur Rahman Project Director and Hans Visser team leader of compartmentalisation pilot project explained the objectives and status of the project. In Tangail under this pilot project water management system is being developed in consultation with and involving the people of the project area.

One killed in road mishap

By Staff Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, Mar 5 : One person was killed in a road accident on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway near Maskanda.

The victim, identified as Quamruzzaman, 37 died on the spot when his bicycle, he was riding, was hit by a Mymensingh bound minibus (No. JA-04-0012).

Police seized the minibus. The driver fled the scene. The body was sent to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

Application of modern tech in agri sector urged

KHULNA, Mar 4 : The newly elected mayor of Khulna City Corporation Shaikh Tayebur Rahman stressed the need for application of modern technology to boost agricultural production in the country, reports BSS.

The mayor was inaugurating the agricultural exhibition arranged by the Agricultural Extension Department at Phultala on Monday.

President over Phultala Thana Nirbahi Officer (TNO) Samima Sultana the function was attended by Additional Director of Agricultural Extension Department, Nasir Uddin Phuyan and Deputy Director of Agricultural Extension Department, Khulna Division M A Aziz.

The Mayor said that revolutionary success could be achieved in the field of agriculture by using modern technology and improved agricultural inputs.

They said that the present government was working relentlessly to improve the socio-economic conditions of the people.

At least twenty stalls were put up in the exhibition displaying improved varieties of agricultural products including vegetables, fruits, paddy, maize, wheat, poultry birds and live-stock.

Discussion on hygiene, basic health

KUSHTIA, Mar 5 : A discussion meeting was held at the Diabetic Society unit office here on Monday to mark the Diabetes Awareness Day, reports BSS.

Speakers at the meeting emphasized the need for awareness about hygiene and basic health care of the people to check the rise of diabetic patients.

Presided by the Deputy Commissioner, it was also addressed by Ahsan Ullah Unit Vice President Advocate Shirajul Islam, SM Kawser, Tewhidul Karim, Dr Ashrafuzzaman and acting secretary Mizanur Rahman.

It may be mentioned here that at present there are about 1200 registered diabetic patients in the district and 400 others are in observation.

One arrested with arms, ammunition

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Mar 5 : Acting on a secret information Barisal Kotwali police arrested one Humayun Talukder 30 on Wednesday with a revolver and six rounds of bullets from Raipasha Karapur village under Kotwali police station about four kilometres off Barisal town.

Other five associates of Humayun managed to flee.

According to Kotwali police, Humayun, allegedly a leader of Kamrul group is a faction of the outlawed Sarbahara Party.

Ground water level fall abnormal

Over 10,000 tubewells not working properly

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Mar 5 : More than 10,000 tubewells in the northern districts are not working properly due to abnormal fall in underground water level and lack of maintenance.

Thousands of people have been suffering for non-availability of drinking water in the areas, according to reports.

As many as 6,000 tubewells out of 96,547 tubewells and 4,050 tubewells out of 47,090 tubewells in Rangpur and Rajshahi zones respectively are not in operation. This shortfall has contributed to rise in various diseases already noticed in some parts of the area.

Experts say, sudden fall in underground water level has severely affected the situation. In addition, theft of a large number of the installed tubewells has also contributed to the shortage of drinking water in some areas.

Another report says: Electric bills amounting to Taka 100 crore remain unrealised in 16 northern districts during the last nine years.

Out of the total, Taka 65

crore in government sector and Taka 35 crore in private sector remain unrealised.

If the embankment is not repaired before next flood, the total area of the district will be inundated during the next rainy season.

It is gathered that Sirajganj Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Division of Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) has taken up a project at the estimated cost of Taka 2.30 crore to reconstruct 4.916 kilometre long embankment which include Taka .95 lakh for earthwork and Taka 1.35 crore for land and compensation of crops.

The primary works for tender are completed but failing to acquire the land, work orders are not issued to the contractors. A total of 38 hectares of land is required for the project. But non-availability of funds has created hindrance in occupying the land.

Meanwhile, reconstruction of flood ravaged flood control embankment at Makra in Shahzadpur thana has become

uncertain following complexity in acquiring land and non-availability of sanctioned fund.

While contacted, a source of Sirajganj WDB said that despite repeated demands money was not made available causing delay in the work.

Due to non-availability of the consumers of government offices and quarters the notices for realising the bills are not implemented. In private sector, most of the bills are unrealised in small and large scale industries.

Due to unrealisation of electric bills the PDB has been facing problem.

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