

Super market soon in Barisal town

BARISAL, Mar 9: Barisal paurashava has taken up a programme for the construction of a super-market at a cost of Taka 3.5 crore during the current fiscal year, says BSS.

According to an official source, the market will be built on about 30,000 square feet of land near 'Bibir Pukur' area.

The super market will consist of a rest house, shopping space, under-ground parking lot and other modern facilities, the source added.

Notes from Chuadanga

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, Mar 9: Police have recovered huge quantities of illegal arms and ammunition from three thanas of Chuadanga district during the month of February.

According to official source, police have recovered two country made pipe-guns, one Indian six chambered revolver, one Indian shutter gun, one country made shutter pistol, one country made shutter gun, two rounds of rifle ammunition, two rounds of gun ammunition, four rounds of SLR ammunition, two rounds of used rifle ammunition.

Police has also arrested six extremists who are, alleged members of the out-lawed Purba Bangla Communist Party and Sharmahara Party. Four cases under arms act and three general diaries have been registered in the respective police stations.

Influx of child labourers

Influx of child labourers has alarmingly increased in Chuadanga district. The children, from rural areas are compelled to engaged themselves in hotels and restaurants as waiters, rickshaw pullers and in various small scale factories as day labourers.

Besides, many of them work as servant in residential houses, co-boys and work in different shops.

Most of the child labourers are between 10 to 15 years of age get minimum wages. According to an unofficial survey there are thousands of child labourers belonging to destitute families.

Press Club Office bearers

The election to the executive Committee of Chuadanga Press Club was held at the Press Club auditorium peacefully on February 18.

The elected members of the executive committee for the year 1994-95 are president Wasir Rahman Joarder, Vice President Iqbal Atahar Taj, Secretary Sharifuddin Hashu, Asstt secretary Akbar Ali, finance secretary Munshi Abdur Razzak, office secretary Ali Kadar Palash, cultural and publication secretary Begum Maleka Haque Makhan, sports secretary Firoz Khan, members Belal Hossain, M Rabul Hoque, Enamul Hoque, Sardar Ali Hossain and Habibur Rahman Labu.

Re-construction of school buildings

The re-construction work of four registered non-government primary schools in Chuadanga sadar thana is now going on in full swing at a cost of Taka 16,80,000.

In the meantime 50 per cent of the work has been completed and the rest of the work is expected to be completed by the current financial year.

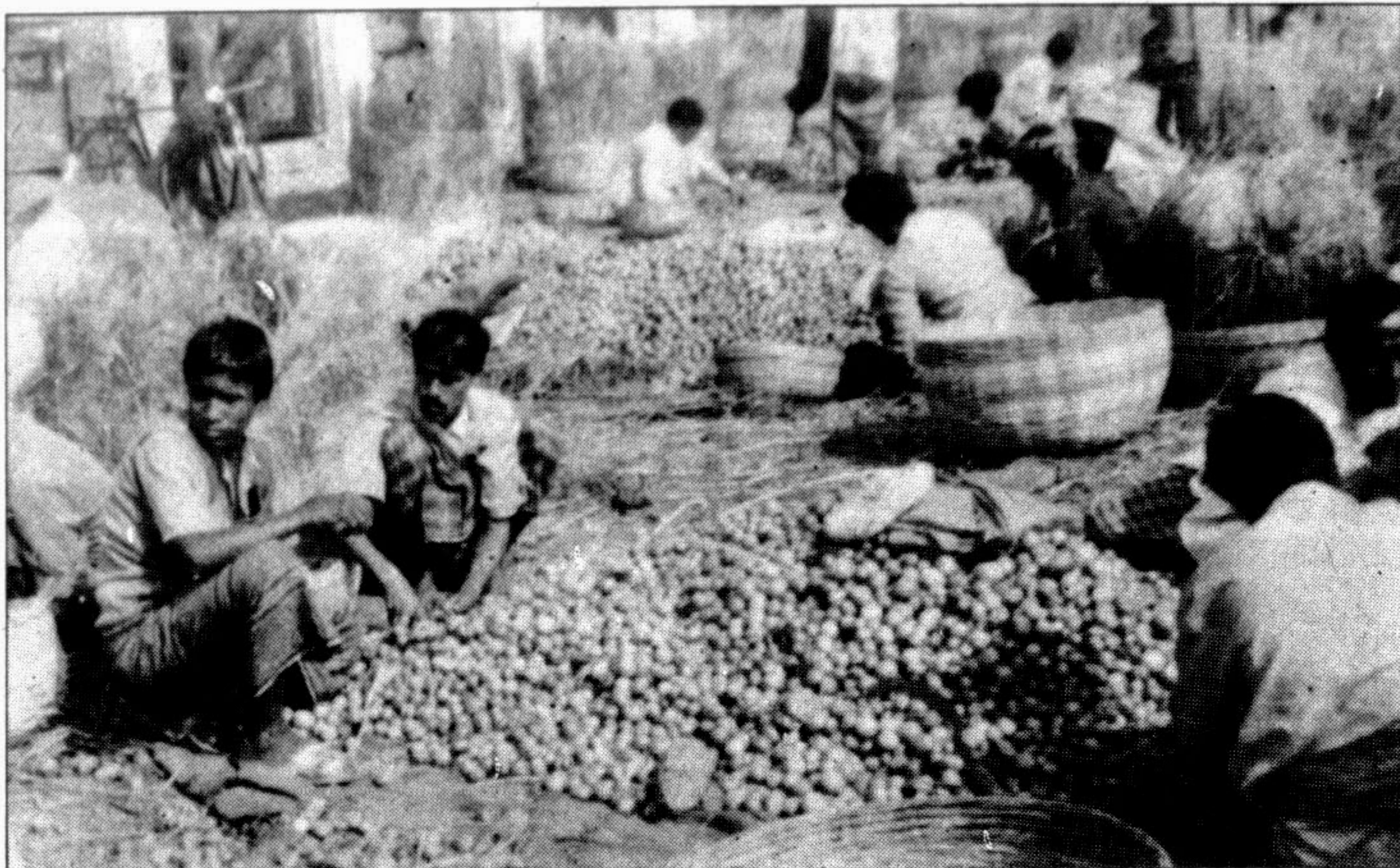
The schools under reconstruction are, Jalsuka registered Non-Government Primary School under Sankarchandra Union, Chhoto Sholua registered non-government primary school under Titudah union, Nilmonyganj registered non-government primary school under Moninpur union and Kundipur registered non-government primary school under Begum-pur union.

35,000 mt of wheat expected

A total of 35,000 metric tons of wheat are expected to be produced from four thanas of Chuadanga district during the current rabi-crop cultivation season. Of the total, 8000 metric tons of wheat will be produced in Chuadanga sadar thana, 15000 metric tons in Alamdanga thana, 8000 metric tons in Damurhuda thana and 4000 metric tons in Jibannagar thana.

According to an official source, during the current rabi-crop season 18,000 hectares of land have been brought under wheat cultivation in four thanas of Chuadanga district.

Of the total land 4000 hectares have been brought under cultivation in Chuadanga sadar thana, 8000 hectares in Alamdanga thana, 4000 hectares in Damurhuda thana and 2000 hectares in Jibannagar thana.



JHENIDAH: The tomatoes are being graded according to size by the farmers here. Huge quantities of tomatoes and other vegetables are damaged every year for want of storage facilities. — Star photo

8000 colleges, schools to be developed this yr

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Mar 9: The government has undertaken a development programme to construct and reconstruct about 8000 educational institutions during the current fiscal year.

About 250 crore taka will be spent for the implementation of the projects.

According to an Education Ministry source, this development programme include 525 colleges, 137 girls high schools, 1510 secondary schools, 1040 government primary schools and 500 madrasahs of the country.

About 4000 low-cost schools will be constructed in such places in the country where there is no educational institution at present. Frequent load shedding in Patuakhali and Borguna districts including divisional headquarters and its adjoining areas almost paralysed the normal life. Loadshedding also hampered Eid shopping both for the traders and customers.

Area-wise loadshedding in Barisal and its adjoining areas is not less than three to four hours a day while in Patuakhali and Borguna about ten hours in 24 hours — local sources said. The PDB sources, when contacted said, short supply is continuing in the national

gridline.

Our Correspondent from Gaibandha says: Local Government Engineering Department has under taken an uplift programme for developing 141 primary school buildings in the district during this current fiscal year.

Government sanctioned Taka 5 crore 81 lakh 70 thousand for the implementation of the programme. This is first time, a largest fund was sanctioned for the uplift of school building in the district. Out of the total programme 35 government primary school buildings and 106 non-government registered schools will be constructed in the district.

The schools scheduled to be developed are: 15 registered at Gaibandha sadar, 5 government and 16 registered at Shaghata, 7 government and 18 registered at Gobindganj, 4 government and 5 registered at Fulchhari, 6 government at Sunderganj, 5 government and 17 registered at Sadullapur thana.

The work is expected to be completed by August this year. On completion of the programme about 28,000 children will get better environment in the district.

Meanwhile, the UNB Cha-

ndpur Correspondent says: Distribution of the books among the 785 government primary schools in all the seven thanas of the district has been completed last week.

According to district Primary Education Officer, a total of 3,52,500 sets of books have been distributed among the same number of students through the Thana Education Offices.

Of the total books, 58,200 sets were distributed free of cost in Sadar, 80,200 in Matlab, 50,000 sets at Hajiganj, 39,000 sets at Shahrasti, 43,200 sets at Kochna, 61,800 sets at Faridganj and 20,100 sets at Haimchar thana.

It is learnt that the number of dropout students of government primary schools in the district is 8.37 per cent on an average.

Meanwhile, under Non-formal Primary Education Programme, BRAC, a non-government organisation, has set up 723 primary schools in five thanas of the district. BRAC claims that they are simply inviting the dropouts and those who never go to schools, to their school.

The organisation has started its activities in Chandpur since 1992.

Academic atmosphere absent in most primary schools

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Mar 9: Most of the government and non-government primary schools in 13 thanas of Kishoreganj district have been facing manifold problems.

These problems include shortage of teachers and accommodation, lack of necessary appliances like black boards, chalk, dusters etc, paucity of pure drinking water, shortage of funds, furniture and irregular payment of salary.

According to district primary education department, there are 808 government and 310 non-government primary schools in the district.

The total number of students in government schools is 2,31,090 while the non-government schools have 59,997 students. As many as 122 posts of primary teachers have been lying vacant for a long time.

Most of the non-government primary schools established under local initiatives have not yet received government recognition although these institutions have a good number of students and other requisite facilities. Some of these schools were setup before the liberation period and have been running in deplorable condition. Due to fund constraints payment of salary of the teachers remain irregular over the years. As a result, many teachers have already left their respective institutions in utter disappointment.

On the other hand, the government schools have also been plagued with innumerable problems hampering the very purpose of the universal primary education programme to a great extent.

Most of the schools have been lacking requisite number of furniture. As a result, students are to sit on floor or mats. In some schools it was found there was no chair. The supply of necessary appliances including black boards, chalk, duster are too inadequate.

Ninety per cent of the schools do not have playgrounds. Besides, most institutions, have no laboratory and urinal except a few.

Most of these institutions do not have sufficient accommodation and classes of those schools are being held under the open sky, that too becomes impossible during the rainy season.

On the other hand, a good number of schools are running in dilapidated buildings and may collapse at any moment. The roofs of the school buildings soak water even after a slight rainfall which forces the teachers to suspend classes frequently.

Shortage of teachers is another hindrance to proper education. Besides, dearth of trained teachers has aggravated the problem further.

Some of the teachers complained that they were not receiving their salaries for months together.

Social leaders expressed that many of the existing schools will face closure shortly if remedial measures are not taken. Moreover, some of the teachers are not discharging their duties regularly as alleged by the guardians.

The primary schools, which had been damaged by floods, storms, cyclones and other natural calamities during the last few years, have not yet been repaired in rural areas.

The guardians have appealed to the authority concerned to take effective steps so that the long standing problems of the primary schools are removed.

Another report says: Frequent power failure and load-shedding have become a regular feature in Bajitpur poura town and its adjoining areas causing much inconvenience to the residents and heavy loss to the businessmen.

Town dwellers complained that the areas plunge into darkness almost every day giving rise to anti-social activities. Many electric and electronic

household gadgets have been damaged due to voltage fluctuations.

Production in the local mills and workshops, including irrigation in the IRR-Boro blocks have also been affected. The price hike of food stuffs in the markets is largely attributed to the frequent power failure as people cannot crush their paddy and wheat due to power disruptions. Owners of these factories and mills alleged that frequent power failure has decreased production causing huge economic losses.

Local people said despite repeated appeals Power Development Board has shown a deaf ear in the matter.

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Farmers in hardship

From Our Correspondent

KURIGRAM, Mar 9: Due to economic hardship, the farmers of the district are being compelled to sell their crops to the money lenders in advance at a nominal price.

The farmers alleged that even after harvesting crops they do not get fair price of their produce owing to faulty marketing system.

Taking full advantage of the situation the local money lenders are doing brisk business by granting loans at high rates of interest against the security of the crops in fields.

Moreover, a large number of landless people who do not find employment as agricultural labourers have been passing their days in extreme hardships. They are compelled to sell their utensils and domestic animals to maintain their livelihood.

Prices of bullock have also recorded a sharp fall as a large number of farmers in the district are forced to sell their draft animals due to acute shortage of fodder.

Tk 20 cr RU budget for 5-year submitted

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, March 9: Planning and Development Department of Rajshahi University (RU) submitted a budget of Taka 20 crore for materializing its various development works in the Fifth Five-year Plan (1995-2000) to the University Grants Commission (UGC) Dhaka varsity was submitted a budget of Tk 100 crore for this year, it is reliably learnt.

Administrator of Planning and Development of RU, Prof. Solaiman Mondol said that they have drafted budget of Taka 58 crore but following the recommendation of UGC they were to make a budget of Taka 20 crore.

He added, UGC threatened them they could not allocate over Taka 20 crore.

In the proposed budget of the five year plan no grant was fixed up in the field of research and only Taka four crore were kept for buying books, journals and scientific apparatus. The major amount of Taka will be spent in the field of construction and transport.

Experts at RU feel the trend of allocation would hamper the academic activities at RU.

The amount of Taka fixed-up in various fields under the proposed budget are Taka 291

lakh for the completion of residential construction work of Freedom Fighter Ziaur Rahman Hall, Tk 20 lakh for the construction work of 1st floor in multipurpose block in Tapasi Rabeya Hall Taka 70 lakh for construction work of 2nd floor of 1st science building, 328 lakh for completion of 3rd arts building, 400 lakh for the central library Biological Science, 25 lakh for expansion of administrative building, 300 lakh for buying scientific apparatus and chemical abstracts, 100 lakh for buying books and journals, three lakh for establishing Zemitic Science Department, 10 lakh establishing a institute of environmental science, 10 lakh for establishing the institute of Business Administration, 3 lakh in land development field, 15 lakh in the field of water supply and sanitation, 5 lakh in the development of roads and culverts, 16 lakh in electrification and buying of electric transducer, 40 lakh for by buying official goods, 75 lakh for buying 4 buses and a microbus and taka 270 lakh have been fixed in cost collection field.

Another report says: 5-day long basic training workshop on journalism for the newsmen of Rajshahi Varsity Press Club was completed at RU on March 7.

Betel leaf growers need financial assistance

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Mar 9: The betel leaf growers of district have been facing manifold problems due to price hike of necessary inputs like bamboo, fertilizer, oil cake and pesticides.

The growers informed that in the absence of marketing facilities and bank loan they are on the brink of giving up their age old occupation.

There are about 4,500 betel leaf growers in this district and most of them are poor. They are to take loans from greedy money lenders at higher rate of interest to continue their occupation.

Meanwhile, many growers have given up the betel leaf cultivation due to non-availability of bank loan on easy terms.

The growers urged the concerned authority to extend financial assistance to them to boost betel leaf cultivation in the district.

Another report says: Land fertility is decreasing gradually

because cow-dung is used as fertilizer in the land rarely.

According to the farmers, application of cowdung develops fertility of land without any adverse effects. It makes huge nitrogen in the soil and help plants grow rapidly.

Local people said, the cowdung is being used as fuel due to shortage of fire wood. Almost all the families in rural areas make cakes of cowdung for use as fuel.

Fertilizer experts said that people are destroying the natural manure due to ignorance. They stressed the need for mass awareness about the useful natural manure.

Cow dung to boost agricultural output. They also said, rampant use of chemical fertilizer has been decreasing soil fertility in the country for a long time. Only the safe use of natural manures can regain the soil fertility which also can help restore ecological balance.

Another report says: Land fertility is decreasing gradually

District roundup

MAGURA

Massive plan to remove poverty

Mar 9: Agriculture and Irrigation Water Development and Flood Control Minister Major General M Majid-ul-Haq (Retd) Tuesday said the present government had taken massive programmes to alleviate poverty from rural areas of the country, reports BSS.

He said this while addressing the regional conference of "Swanirvar Bangladesh" an NGO, here.

Field workers and officials of the organisation attended the day-long conference.

The minister said only the government support is not enough for the total development of the rural people and added that non government organisations could play important and exemplary roles in overall socio-economic uplift of the country.

The function was also addressed, among others, by president of Swanirvar Bangladesh, A S M al-Hussaini, former ambassador and president of Palli Sahayak Foundation Nazrul Islam, former diplomat Rezaul Karim and educationist Ruth Calvin from America.

Earlier, the minister visited Alipur village to see for himself the activities of Swanirvar Bangladesh.

TANGAIL

Tk 53.10 lakh for school development

Mar 9: Under Universal Primary Education Programme eight non-government primary schools and five government primary schools are being developed at a cost of Taka 53.10 lakh in Tangail sadar thana in this fiscal year, reports BSS.

Official sources said that Taka 4.20 lakh has been sanctioned for each of the eight non government primary schools. Taka 3.98 lakh will be used for construction of 60 feet X 27 feet pukka school building.

Each of the five government primary school building is being constructed at a cost of Taka 3.90 lakh.

In the last financial year, schemes for eight non government primary schools with provision for pukka building, tubewell and sanitary latrine facilities were implemented at a total cost of Taka 33.60 lakh in this sadar thana.

DINAJPUR

Smuggled Indian goods flood local market

Mar 9: Rampant smuggling of Indian goods into the country through the bordering Birol thana of the district is on according to local people, reports.

Indian goods are flooding the different markets of the district on the eve of the Eid-ul-Fitr through Enayetpur, Dharmajan, east of Karlapara, Nonakhil and Binnabari points under Birol thana.

The smuggled items included cows, buffaloes, bicycles, sugar, salt, saree, nylon net, jarda, motor, bi-cycle spares, shaving blade, cosmetics, spices and utensils.

On the other hand, smugglers here are sending raw skins of cattle, gold, VCP, copper, tyre of motor bikes to India.

Moreover, smuggled goods are also coming through other areas including Dundungi, Kishoreganj and Bhandara. People of the bordering areas are smuggling Indian goods depending on the local requirements.

Meanwhile, Indian sugar and sarees, in particular, have captured the local markets due to its low prices.

BARISAL

Tk 3.56 lakh for town development project

Mar 9: Construction work on 143 projects at a cost of Taka 3,56,92,676 in Barisal paurashava areas is going on in full swing, reports BSS.

They are expected to be completed within this fiscal year, according to an official source.

The projects have been undertaken for modernization of the Barisal Divisional town under the town development scheme.

The projects include the repair, re-construction and construction of roads, culverts, bridges, latrines, drains, stalls, two-storied buildings for markets, residential quarters etc.

Meanwhile, on an average about 70 per cent work has already been completed, the source added.

CHITTAGONG

Int'l Women's Day observed

Mar 9: The International Women's Day was observed here Tuesday with a call to uphold dignity and rights of women in the society for overall progress of the nation, reports BSS.

Various women's organisations and a number of non-governmental organisations observed the day through discussions, seminars, procession and rally.

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, Chittagong chapter held a discussion on "decadence of women in the society: a survey" in the zila parishad auditorium here with Begum Mustari Saffi in the chair.

Shipra Dasister, Associate Professor of Chittagong University, presented the main paper while Prof Ferdous Ara Alim and other leaders of the women organisations participated in the discussion.

Jatiya Mahila Sangstha held a discussion meeting at the shilpakala academy in which Deputy Commissioner of Chittagong A H M Abul Akshemr attended as the chief guest.

Bangladesh Chhatra Union (women branch, Chittagong) held a discussion meeting at its office with branch president and vice-president of Government Girl's College Udittee Das in the Chair Prof Alex Alim, Prof Sutapa Barua and students Parveen Lina and Iqbal Sarwar were among others who participated in the discussion.

Biswa Nagarik Sangstha Aswanntia, Cordak, Concern, World Vision, Samajtantrik Mahila Parishad, Young Women Christian Association and Girls Guides, also observed the day.

MAJDE COURT

Project to dig two canals for irrigation

Mar 9: A scheme has been undertaken for diggings two canals in two thanas by the district Relief and Rehabilitation Department under Annual Development Prog-ramme, reports UNB.

According to official sources, 479 metric tons of wheat will be utilised to implement the 75 per cent work of the scheme.

The canals are — Katabunia Khan of sadar thana and Thanarhat-Ullapara-Nadana connecting Khal in between Begumganj and Chathkil thanas.

With the completion of the programme irrigation facilities for cultivation of lands and pisciculture of a vast areas of the thanas will be increased to a great extent.

The remaining 25 per cent work will be done by voluntary services of the local workers.

The excavation work is progressing fast and is expected to be completed by April next.

NARSINGDI

One killed, 4 injured in rival groups clash

Mar 9: A youth was killed and four other members of his family were injured in an attack by the rival groups at Nehabi village of sadar thana on Friday, reports UNB.

The dead was identified as Monir Hossain and the injured were his mother Marjam Begum, brothers Nazrul Islam and Abul Kalam and his father Wasuiddin.

According to witnesses, Nazruddin of the village while cutting a tree was resisted by Wasuiddin who claimed the ownership of the tree.

After the incident, Alam, son of Nazruddin along with a group of supporters attacked the house injuring Wasuiddin and his family members.

The injured were sent to sadar thana hospital. Later Abul Kalam and Munir Hossain were shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where Munir Hossain succumbed to his injuries.

CHITTAGOG

Pry scholarship exam results announced

Mar 9: The results of primary scholarship examination held in December 1993 under the directorate of Primary Education, Chittagong were announced here Monday, reports BSS.

According to directorate sources a total of 43,753 students appeared at the examination in 137 centres of 15 districts of Chittagong Division.

Among them, 608 students have received talentpool scholarship while 2660 received general scholarship, the sources said.



SYLHET: Suranjit Sengupta MP inaugurating the re-excavation work of a canal in Darai thana of Sunamganj district recently. The DC Kamaluddin is also seen in the picture. — Star photo