

Urs Mubarak of Hajrat Shahjalal concludes

From Our Correspondent
SYLHET: May 7: The 674th Urs of great saint Hajrat Shahjalal (RA) was concluded at the Shrine in Sylhet town on Monday last.

The two-day programme included, placing of Gilat at the 'Raoja Sharif', Quran Khwani, Fateha Khwani, Milad Mahfil, distribution of Alms and Akheri Munajat.

Thousands of devotees from different areas of the country attended the two day programme commemorating the death anniversary of the great saint.



SYLHET: Thousands of people from different areas of country gather here at the Hajrat Shahjalal mazar every year. The 674th Urs was concluded here last Monday. — Star photo

Ditch dug on land acquired by JMBA

SIRAJGANJ, May 7: District Fisheries Department has cut a ditch on the land acquired by Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Authority (JMBA) at Sayedabad area in sadar thana of the district, reports UNB.

The Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Authority (JMBA) has selected the land for construction of flood control embankment and road. But the local Fisheries Department without taking permission from the JBA has dug a 1,000 feet long, 250 feet wide and 16 feet deep ditch for fish cultivation at a cost of 212 metric tons of wheat.

Meanwhile, the JBA has issued an order to the Live Stock and Fisheries Ministry to fill up the ditch immediately.

Six awarded life-term

RANGPUR, May 7: Six people were awarded life-term imprisonment on charge of double murder at the court of Additional District and Session Judge on Thursday, reports UNB.

The court found the accused Mahabul, Azi, Kabir, Noor Alam, Rustom, Kuddus guilty and fined them Taka 5,000 each and in default to suffer five month more RI.

According to the prosecution story the convicts stabbed two women, Asma Khatun and Nurjahan when they tried to resist them from kidnapping Ambia, wife of Omar Ali at village Rajukha in Sadar thana, on November 15, 1990.

Asma Khatun, mother of Ambia, died instantaneously after being stabbed by the kidnappers.

Advocate Abdur Rashid Chowdhury was the public prosecutor while Advocate Nazul Islam Mondol, Advocate Motiyar Rahman and Advocate Azizul Islam defended the accused.

Problems of Mongla Port discussed

KHULNA, May 7: Members of the Mongla Port Users Co-ordination Committee held a meeting with the Mayor of Khulna City Corporation Shaikh Tayebur Rahman on Tuesday, reports BSS.

The meeting discussed the problems facing the Mongla port including the problem of siltation of Pussur river, establishment of export promotion zone near the port, construction of Rupsha Bridge and Dhaka-Mawa road. The delegation urged the mayor to take immediate steps to solve these problems.

Speaking on the occasion the mayor assured the delegation of doing everything to solve the problems of the port.

In this connection he asserted that this port had been playing a vital role in the socio-economic development of the entire southern and northern region of the country.

Foundation of students' hall in Netrakona College laid

NETRAKONA, May 7: The Whip of Treasury Bench Advocate M A Karim said here Thursday that the present government gave utmost importance to bringing about qualitative improvement in education sector along with expanding its infrastructural facilities, reports BSS.

The Whip was addressing the foundation laying ceremony of Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Residential Hall of Netrakona Government College here.

He sharply criticised the agitational programmes of the opposition and said these were hampering the development activities of the present government.

Production from Rajshahi region Mango output will decline by 90 pc

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, May 7: Mango production from greater Rajshahi region will drop by ninety per cent this year.

According to sources, adverse effects of weather, traditional system of cultivation and pest attack are the main causes behind it. The production will fall by about 90 per cent as 90 per cent of the mango trees did not bud this season.

It was learnt that only 1198 mango gardens out of the total 23,973, had blossomed in greater Rajshahi region, the main mango producing area in the country. A total of 1,367 metric tons of mango is expected to be produced this

year from the area against the average annual production of 27,345 metric tons.

A scientific officer of Chhapinawabganj-based Mango Research Institute said to this correspondent that a mixture of cold and dry weather is suitable for mango budding. However, the budding season from February to March was characterised this year by abnormal fluctuations of temperature and frequent dense fog. On average 15°Celsius is the optimum temperature for mango bud growth. Unfortunately, the temperature ranged between 13°C to 30°Celsius and humidity was recorded at as high as 96 per cent.

According to the different mango garden sources, the mango trees of this area have alternate bearing habit. That is why they usually grow less each alternate year. Mango production was very good during the last three consecutive years. This might be the cause of appearance of fewer buds this year, it is informed.

Azizul Haq of Shibganj said he never experienced such extreme low rate of budding in his lifetime. At best 30 per cent of the trees had grown buds even in most unfavourable condition, said another, Zabdul Mandal of Charchat. A teacher of Rajshahi University said,

unilateral withdrawal of the Ganges water by India at Farakka and the upperstream had great contribution towards such drastic fall in mango production. Pest attack like, "leafgal" and ignorance of the mango farmers in adopting modern methods also added to smaller quantity of budding.

Mango is the main economic crop in some areas of greater Rajshahi. About five lakh people are directly involved in production and marketing of mango during the season from February to June.

Meanwhile, huge amounts of Indian mango have begun to flood the local markets.

Shishu Academy in all dist hqs within next fiscal

JHENIDAH, May 7: State Minister for Women and Children's Affairs Sarwari Rahman Thursday said the present government has attached importance to the development of children for building good and worthy citizens, reports BSS.

She was inaugurating a district Shishu Academy office Bhaban here.

The State Minister said the government will complete the setting up of Shishu Academy branches in all district headquarters within the next fiscal year to provide equal opportunities to the children of all areas.

She said Shishu Academy has provided our children with best opportunities for flourishing their latent talents in the fields of education, art, craft, music, sports and culture.

The State Minister said our children have already earned international reputation in the fields of painting and cultural activities.

The inaugural function was also addressed by Shamsunna-ahmed MP, Moshir Rahman MP, Abdul Wahab MP, Chairman of Jhenidah Municipality Anisur Rahman and Director of Bangladesh Shishu Academy Golam Kibria.

The State Minister later addressed a women's gathering at the premises of Jhenidah Jatiya Mohila Sangstha office.

Describing the various development programmes and projects taken for womenfolk by the present government, Sarwari Rahman said destitute women of the country have been provided with small loans as well as necessary training for self-employment.

She also urged women to send their wards to schools as education is the key to progress and prosperity.

The women's gathering was also addressed by Chairman of Jhenidah District unit of Jatiya Mohila Sangstha Salma Begum.

"Create social resistance against drug traffickers"

JESSORE, May 7: Post and Telecommunications Minister Tariqul Islam underscored the need for creating social awareness of the adverse effects of drug addiction and its abuse, reports BSS.

The minister was addressing a function as the chief guest arranged by Bangladesh Inter-Religious Brotherhood Association (BIRBA) on the 'role of working class to curb drug use and protection of interest of working class' at the Jessore BD Hall here recently.

Presided over by Khairuddin Ahmed, Deputy Director of Narcotics Control Department, Jessore, Iqbal Hossain Khan, Director Department of Narcotics Control, Deputy Commissioner of Jessore, Bhuiyan Rafiuddin Ahmed, Police Super Md Sajjad Hossain, and Deputy Director of Department of Narcotics Control Abu Taleb took part in the discussion.

Tariqul Islam said, drug addiction is a heinous social crime which results in losing money, decreases vital power of a man and above all, creates social indiscipline.

Disappointment and deprivation from society and family leads a man to drug addiction, he observed.

The minister said, drug addiction could be controlled through proper exercise of law framed for the control of drug abuse along with motivating the working class.

School area threatened by river erosion

NAOGAON, May 7: Bandal-gara High School in Atrai thana of the district has been threatened by the Atrai river erosion, reports UNB.

Established in 1947, the school is also facing multifarious problems, including lack of class rooms and scientific apparatus and sports facilities.

He urged the people of all walks of life to create social resistance against drug traffickers for building a drug free peaceful and healthy society.

Local Government Engineering Department has constructed 117 non-government registered primary school buildings in eight thanas of Jessore district at a cost of Taka 4.91 crore.

These school buildings were 27 in Monirampur, 19 in Jessore sadar, 16 in Abhoyanagar, 14 in Chougacha, 12 in Keshabpur, 13 in Jhikargacha, 10 in Sarsa and six in Bagharpara thanas.

Besides, the department is also constructing 23 government primary school buildings in the district at a cost of Taka 93 lakh. These are, six in Jessore sadar, four in Jhikargacha, three each in Bagharpara and Abhoyanagar and two each in Sarsa and Keshabpur thanas.

About 5,65,138 metric tons of boro paddy are expected to

be produced in 10 districts of Khulna Division during the current season.

According to Jessore regional office of Agriculture Extension Department, boro was cultivated in 2,03,461 hectares of land in these districts during the season. These areas included 1,92,915 hectares under High Yielding Varieties and 10,546 hectares under local varieties.

However, 68,885 hectares of land were brought under cultivation in Jessore, 39,922 hectares in Jhenidah, 12,860 hectares in Magura, 8,95 hectares in Narail, 4,950 hectares in Bagerhat, 33,200 hectares in Khulna, 12,284 hectares in Kushtia, 14,435 hectares in Chuadanga and 7,660 hectares in Meherpur districts.

The BADC supplied adequate quantities of HYV seeds, fertilisers and pesticides to make the programme a success.

Another report adds: Feni thana police arrested an alleged murderer from Aftab Bebe village on Saturday.

Acting on tip, police rushed to the village and nabbed Faez Ahmed on charge of killing his co-villager, Moulana Yousuf.

Moulana Yousuf, Principal of Lokheara Madrasa was murdered on May 25, 1993.

This was disclosed by Jute Minister ASM Hannan Shah while addressing a gathering of fishermen and pisciculturists at Ghosaboo primary school ground in Kapasia on Thursday.

The minister urged the pisciculturists to apply modern technique of fish breeding and nursing their ponds to meet the country's fish demand.

Presided over by advocate Bazul Haque, the function was also addressed by former parliament member Dr Sanaulah and local fisherman Narayan Chandra.

The minister also released some fish fry in the beal.

Goods worth Tk 43 lakh recovered in Jhenidah

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, May 7: Twenty-two Rifles battalion personnel arrested 13 smugglers and recovered smuggled goods worth about Taka 43,39,717 from different border areas of Jhenidah and Jessore districts last month.

According to reports, special patrol team of sadar battalion and other BDR personnel of border areas recovered 1110 pieces of Indian sharee, 2170 pieces crockeries, 5165 pieces of imitation ornaments, 300 pieces of cosmetics items, 70 pieces of readymade garments, 18 sets of two-or three-pieces, 1620 pieces of blouse, 660 kilograms fruits, 659 packets jute seeds, 30 cows, seven bicycles, 495 spare parts of rifles, 780

pieces of machinery parts, 4670 kilograms salt, 867 pieces of bearing, five sets VCP, 241 bottles phenisidyl syrup, 1144 metres of polyester clothings, 270 pieces of TV spares, cash Tk 6886 and Indian currency worth Rs 102.

Cases were lodged with respective police stations in these connections during the month.

Reception to Hajj pilgrims

Another report says, a farewell reception was accorded to the Hajj pilgrims by the local musallis of Jhenidah.

Abdul Khaleque, the Additional District Magistrate, presided over the receptions held at Jhenidah public library.

Jute worth Tk 29.74 crore expected to be produced

JHENIDAH, May 7: Some 15,300 hectares of land in six thanas of the district have been brought under jute cultivation during the current season, reports UNB.

Nearly 1.48 lakh bales of jute worth about Tk 29.74 crore are expected to be produced on the land, official sources said here Friday.

The thanas are Shalakkupa, Harinakunda, Kaliganj, Kotchandpur, Moheshpur and Sadar.

Meanwhile, district Agriculture Extension Department has decided to set up 500 exhibition plots with a view to creating awareness about the scientific methods of jute cultivation among the farmers.

District roundup

C'NAWABGANJ

Demand for veterinary checkup centres

May 7: Local Dairy Farm Owners' Association has demanded setting up of veterinary checkup centres at all entry points of the border areas to check the entry of cattle-heads afflicted with different animal diseases, says UNB.

The association alleged that thousands of cattleheads, affected by different deadly diseases, are freely crossing into the country from neighbouring India affecting the local ones.

According to international law, the incoming animals should be thoroughly examined by the experts before crossing the border. Unfortunately, there is no arrangement on part of the government in the border areas to check the incoming cattleheads.

A large number of sick cattleheads were reported dying everyday in the district without treatment and most of them are also being sold in different local markets threatening public health.

RAJSHAHI

Top priority given for violence free society

May 7: State Minister for Establishment Barrister Aminul Haque said the government has attached top priority for establishing corruption and violence free democratic society, reports UNB.

He was addressing the inaugural function of the construction work of a new academic bhaban of Taherpur Degree College in Baghmara thana of the district as chief guest on Friday.

Barrister Aminul Haque said, the idealism of the BNP government is the idealism of honesty and dedication.

Later he laid the foundation stone of the academic bhaban which will be constructed at a cost of Taka 25 lakh by the Facilities Department during the current fiscal year.

Chaired by Principal Jalil Miah of the college, the function was also addressed by Md Azizur Rahman MP as special guest, said an official handout.

He also laid the foundation stone of new building of Dhopapara High School in Puthia thana and addressed a public meeting there.

SATKHIRA

Valuables worth Tk 1.1 lakh looted

May 7: A man was killed and valuables worth about Taka 10,000 were looted in dacoity at a shop in Bamakhali Bazar in Kolaroa thana, says UNB.

According to witnesses, a gang of dacoits swooped on the shop of Tauhidul Islam on Sunday. When fleeing with the booty the dacoits were chased by the chased by the neighbouring people. The dacoits started hurling bombs at the chasers in which Ruhul Amin, a local businessman, was wounded seriously.

He was rushed to the Kolaroa health complex where he succumbed the following day. A case has been filed.

Another report from Moulvibazar adds: Valuables worth Taka one lakh and a gun were looted in a dacoity at a house at Radhakantapur village in sadar thana last week.

According to police, a gang of dacoits numbering 10 to 12 raided the house of Abdul Awal of the village and decamped with the belongings including gold ornaments, a gun and cash.

KISHOREGANJ

One awarded life-term

May 7: A man was sentenced to life-term imprisonment for killing his wife for dowry, court sources said Tuesday, reports UNB.

According to prosecution story, the convict, identified as Nurul Islam of Gajaria village in Karimganj thana, married Palisha Akhtar Khatun, daughter of Abdul Aziz of Molamkhar-char village of the same thana a few years back.

Nurul Islam used to torture his wife to bring dowry money from her poor father who expressed inability to meet the demand time and again.

On the fateful night of December 12, 1990, Palisha was taken out from her house to the bank of Kaimerkona beel of the plea of sending her to her father's home where she was slaughtered with a sharp weapon.

A case was filed with the Karimganj thana. Police submitted charge-sheet against seven people including the husband and father-in-law of the victim.

BARGUNA

Bamboo output declines

May 7: Bamboo production has decreased to a great extent in five thanas of the district due to lack of proper maintenance and systematic plantation, reports UNB.

The bamboo clusters are decaying in Amtali, Banna, Patharghata, Betagi and sadar thanas as the ignorant growers use the clusters as firewood, local sources said.

According to an estimate, there were 20,000 bamboo clusters throughout the district. But due to reckless uprooting, the very existence of bamboo is threatened in the district. People of other parts of the country used to come here for buying bamboo but now-a-days nobody comes here for that purpose, the sources added.

At present there are about 8,000 bamboo clusters in the district which is quite inadequate in respect of people's demands.

This situation has led to increase in bamboo prices. A medium size bamboo is now being sold at Taka 150 in the market. Farmers are unaware of the modern methods of bamboo cultivation and following the age-old system.

An agri expert informed that under natural process a bamboo plant yields only 2 to 3 new sprouts while proper care and rearing will enable a plant to yield 15 to 20 new sprouts a year.

MOULVIBAZAR

Complex bank loan system, farmers suffer

May 7: Money lending business is on rise in the rural areas of the district due to increasing poverty of the villagers, says UNB.

According to social workers, marginal farmers and poor villagers are forced to borrow money for cultivation and to meet the emergency needs against the mortgage of their properties.

In most of cases, it is found that loanees failed to repay the loans and the money lenders eventually confiscate their properties making them destitute.

The sources alleged that a section of greedy money lenders usually charge interest at the high rate as Taka 18 per month or one and a half maunds of paddy against a loan of Taka 100 only.

The marginal farmers alleged that due to complex procedures they cannot avail the loan facilities from the banks and finding no other way out they are compelled to borrow money from the greedy money lenders at a high rate of interest.

The poor villagers urged the concerned authorities to look into the matter and impose restriction on the demand of the exorbitant interest rate of the greedy money lenders.

PATUAKHALI

'Good network of communication related to rural development'

May 7: Minister for Religious Affairs Muhammad Keramat Ali recently said that the present government had been working in a planned way to build up a good communication network throughout the country to change the socio-economic condition of the rural people, says BSS.

The minister was addressing a cross section of people at Dumki in the district of Patuakhali, while visiting the construction work of Khurmatala-Pathabunia road.

The minister said, a good communication network could help accelerate the development work in the remote areas of the country. The pre-condition of development is good communication network, he said, adding considering the fact the government had been doing the utmost to build up rural infrastructure through good communication network.

Giving a detailed outline of the development programmes of the present government for the welfare of the common people, the minister said, only a stable and undisturbed government could bring meaningful development of the country.

Cautioning about the anti-people elements who were always active in thwarting the process of development by creating disturbances and chaos in the society, the minister said they were active in fishing in troubled water.



MAJDEE COURT (Noakhali): A truck load of wheat for the Food for Works Programme in the district was smuggled out recently. The photos show local people who had stopped the truck (No. Dhaka-N-3247) protesting. However, police escorted the truck out on its way. The Deputy Commissioner and the Police Super were informed about the matter. Sudharam police reportedly took no action. — Star photo