

Prices of essentials up in Jhenaidah

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, May 20: Prices of different essential commodities have been rising in all parts of the district abnormally.

As a result the poor and low income people have been suffering badly.

Now in all the six thanas Sallakupa, Jhenidah, Harinakundu, Kaligonj, Kotchandpur and Mohespur of the district rice is selling at Taka 12 to 13 per kg Taka 11. Potato is selling at Taka 7 per kg. One kilogram brinjal is selling at Taka 10 prices of all vegetables like bacal, karolla, sweet pumpkin etc. have gone up during last one month.

Any type of fish is dear. Now-a-days fish is being sold as an unit of one quarter (one fourth of a kg) as against kilogram. One quarter of puti, small shrimp, tengra, bele, nola, chapilla and other small size is selling at Taka 25 to 30 as against Taka 10 to Taka 15.

Prices of eggs also rises in the markets per four eggs is now selling at Taka 12. It has Taka 8 a few days back, price of all types of pulses has gone up. One kilogram of musur, chhola, motor, mug and maskalai is selling at Taka 28, 26, 26, 30 and Taka 28 respectively. But these were selling at a lesser price of Taka 5 a few weeks back.

Price of poultry birds also risen in the markets. A kg of hen is selling at Taka 80 instead of Taka 60. One kg of meat is selling at Taka 100 to 120 as against Taka 85 to 90. Price of beef has also gone up at Taka 55 to 60 as against Taka 40 to 45 per kg.

Prices of all types of edible oil have risen sharply. One kilogram of soyabean is selling at Taka 52 to 54 as against Taka 46. Palm oil at Taka 44 as against Taka 38 and mustard oil at Taka 65 as against Taka 55 to 56 per kg.

Crisis of phone card

Phone card crisis has become acute in Jhenidah district causing much inconvenience to the subscribers.

Card phones were installed at Jhenidah, Sallakupa and Kaliangonj a few months back. But the subscribers are suffering badly as sufficient cards are not being supplied to con-

Various problems grip Kushtia General Hospital

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, May 20: The Kushtia General Hospital has been operating with inadequate number of doctors, beds, equipment, staff greatly hindering the normal process of medical treatment facilities, according to the hospital sources.

The 100-bed hospital cannot cope with the rising number of patients due to inadequate number of beds. The existing number of beds can meet only 25 per cent requirement of the patients seeking admission.

Most beds and bedsheet have worn-out and are rarely replaced. It is alleged. A large number of patients both, male and female who come from remote areas of the district return without proper treatment for want of accommodation and medicines.

There is no ambulance for the hospital for quite a long time. Patients with serious ailments cannot be shifted to Rajshahi or Dhaka due to absence of ambulance. In emergency the people can live the ambulance belonging to Pourashava and other private clinics on payment of Taka 2500. It is learnt.

The only X-ray machine in the hospital remains out of order most of the time. Patients are advised to carry out X-ray operations from private clinics.

The water supply is very irregular. Most of the time the patients and staff of the hospital are to drink water from the hand tubewell. The drains by the hospital floor and other places are not kept clean which can cause infection to the urinals are hardly cleaned.

There is no separate ward for patients suffering from infectious diseases.

Office timings are not maintained it is observed. Doctors are allegedly available after 1.30 pm.

Some doctors of the hospital informed that medicines in the hospital is very scarce. Both the indoor and outdoor patients are provided with only prescriptions. The poor indoor patients have been suffering much as they are to purchase medicines from outside. Even the patients who are to undergo operation are to buy requisite materials from outside.

Surprisingly, there is no blood bank in the hospital and the patients are to arrange

National

Number of TB patients on rise in Kishoreganj

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ May 20: The number of TB patients is increasing alarmingly in thirteen thanas of Kishoreganj district. The only TB clinic in the district is beset with enormous problems causing much suffering which has aggravated the situation.

The clinic established in 1964 is extending treatment facilities to the patients. Over 23 lakh people of the district depend on the clinic for their medical treatment but the TB patients are deprived of proper treatment as the clinic lacks life saving drugs, blood bank, necessary instruments, ambulance, etc.

The subscribers appealed to the authorities concerned to supply adequate number of phone cards to remove their sufferings at an early date.

Two commit suicide

Rezaul Islam (25) of village Adarshapara in the town committed suicide by taking pesticides recently.

Family dispute was the cause of his suicide, it was learnt. According to another report, Armeena Khatun (17) of village Aibapur in Sallakupa thana of the district committed suicide by taking pesticides on the same day.

Separate unnatural death (UD) cases were filed with respective thanas.

BKB to disburse Tk 1.46 cr loan

UNB adds: Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) has undertaken a scheme to disburse Tk 1.46 crore loan among the farmers of the district for buying cattlehead in the current fiscal.

Of the total loan, Tk 42 lakh has been allotted for sadar, Tk 35 lakh for Shallakupa, Tk 23 lakh for Harinakunda, Tk 21 lakh for Kaligonj, Tk 6 lakh for Kotchandpur and Tk 16 lakh for Mohestpur thanas.

The disbursement of the loan has already been started and will continue till June next.

Another message adds: Development work of 10 non-government colleges of Khulna Division at a cost of Tk 2.5 crore is progressing fast.

The Facilities Department of Education Ministry is implementing the programme. Of the colleges, two are in Jhenidah, 5 in Jessor, 2 in Magura and 1 in Narail districts.



SIRAJGANJ: Grower Rehana Parveen.

Tk 11.66 cr spent for pry schools in Maijdee Court

MAIJDEE COURT (Noakhali): May 20: Local Government and Engineering Department (LGED) has spent more than Tk 11.66 crore for reconstruction and repair works of 278 primary schools in six thanas of the district in the current fiscal year, reports UNB.

Of the total, 71 are non-government registered primary schools and 13 rural primary schools and the rest 194 are government primary schools.

The LGED has also supplied furniture to 167 primary schools of the six thanas costing Tk 1,52,26,760.

The programme has been implemented under the scheme of Post-Cyclone Rehabilitation Programme, General Education Programme, Reconstruction of Non Government Registered Primary School, Reconstruction of Rural Primary Schools at Low Cost through thana offices.

About 80 per cent of the work has already been completed and the rest is expected to be completed by the end of June next, officials added.

Workshop held

A two-day workshop on National Education Office out of the total 206 schools registered and 104 unregistered. About 85,000 students have been studying in these schools. The thana wise breakup of the non-government schools are: 26 registered and 16 unregistered schools in Kishoreganj thana, 13 registered and 10 unregistered schools in Karimganj, 20 registered and 17 unregistered schools in Pakundia, 17 registered and 10 unregistered schools in Hossainpur, 16 registered and 2 unregistered schools in Katiadi, 15 registered and 10 unregistered schools in Bajitpur, 10 registered and 6 unregistered schools in Kuliarchar, 10 registered and 4 unregistered schools in Bhairab, 20 registered and 7 unregistered schools in Astagram, 18 registered and 14 unregistered schools in Nikli, 24 registered in Mitamain, 11 registered and 2 unregistered schools in Itna and 6 register and 4 unregistered schools in Tarail thana.

At least 51 participants belonging to different strata of the society including UP Chairmen, members, local government officials, teachers, journalists, farmers and handicraft workers took part in the workshop. They discussed the problems and suggestions about different environmental problems facing by them.

Sponsored by the Ministry of Environment and Forest, United Nations Development Programme and Association of Development Activities the workshop was organised by Coalition of Environmental NGO's (CEN).

It was attended by ATM Salahuddin of Ministry of Forest and Environment, UNDP representative Dr Babar Kabir, Deputy Director of the Directorate of Environment Anwarul Islam.

Some resolutions were adopted to help preserve the environment and promote sustainable development in the area.

Record potato output!

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, May 20: Rehana Parveen wife of Abdul Latif of village Bairabari in Belkuchi thana has grown 575 maunds of cardinal variety of potato in one acre of land.

It is gathered from a source of thana Agricultural Extension Department (AED) that the grower has produced record quantity of potato in her farm. Each potato of cardinal variety weighs roughly 400 to 500 grams, it was learnt.

The same farm produced a bumper potato output for the third consecutive period.

10 dists of Khatia Div

People face acute shortage of water

KHULNA, May 20: About one crore people of ten districts under Khulna Division have been facing acute shortage of drinking water during the current dry season, reports UNB.

Most of the hand driven tubewells have been rendered inoperative due to sudden fall in ground water level.

Moreover, about 200 deep tubewells out of 2406 and 4,324 shallow tubewells out of 1,14,666 have gone out of order due to the same reason.

According to officials, the existing tubewells are not working properly due to adverse effect of Farakka barrage. As a result the people are suffering badly due to shortage of drinking water.

Most of the people are using contaminated pond and river water resulting in the outbreak of various intestinal and skin diseases.

According to the sources, the target of the government for sinking one STW for every 75 people and one DTW for every 150 people could not be achieved as yet.

7 held with arms

Police arrested seven people with arms from a passenger launch on Friday night.

Police following tip off raided the M L Munni launch in Pankhali river under Dacope thana, rounded them up and recovered two pistols, some bullets, knife, binocular and torch lights from their possession.

The arrested people are the inhabitants of Bardsia and Jhalakathi districts. A case was lodged with the police.

District roundup

PABNA

Flood in 30 villages

May 20: Flood waters have entered the 30 villages of char areas in Bera thana of the district inundating low lying areas, reports UNB.

According to district administration, continuous heavy downpour for the last three days and onrush of hillywaters the water level of Jamuna is on steady rise resulting in overflowing of its banks.

Weather office recorded 53 millimetre rainfall Wednesday.

The Deputy Commissioner's office sources said paddy on about 4000 acres of land went under the flood water in Dhalarchar, Khanpara, Raghunathpur, Puran Ghatengor, Bilegonj and Nayanpur area of the Bera thana.

About 100 kutcha houses were damaged and several hundred people remained stranded in the stagnant water, local people said.

CHUADANGA

Activist of outlawed party arrested

May 20: An activist of outlawed Purbabanga Communist Party was arrested by Damurhara police from Ramnagar village of the district, reports UNB.

The arrested Balto alias Abul Kalam Azad alias Mukul (31) of Kalabari village in Damurhara thana was wanted in connection with various criminal cases.

Police also recovered one shotgun and four rounds of 303 rifle bullets from his possession.

FARIDPUR

Young woman electrocuted

May 20: A young woman lost her life when she took an attempt to save her only son from being electrocuted in the town on Monday, police said.

According to family sources, a fencing grill of the house of the victim Shamsun Nahar (24), a resident of Habell Gopalpur, became electrified as a live wire fell upon it during the Sunday's storm.

Suddenly her five-year-old son came in contact with the electrified grill and cried out for help. His mother rushed to the spot and saved him. But the ill-fated mother who jumped on the grill to save her son could not save herself from electrocution.

Her husband A K M Fazlur Rahman, officer of a local bank was residing in the rented house for some months.

A case has been filed with the police.

HABIGANJ

Police recovers body

May 20: Police recovered a body from a beel at a village in Baniachong thana of the district last week, reports UNB.

The victim was identified as Ziaul Haque (15) of Asua village in the thana.

Being informed Baniachong thana police rushed to the spot and recovered the dead body from Pacha Singa Beel at Asua village on Sunday.

Some unknown miscreants called Ziaul out from his home on Friday night and killed him with deadly weapons. Later they threw the dead body into the beel, police added.

The cause behind the murderer is yet to be ascertained.

A case was filed with Baniachong police in this connection.

JAMALPUR

Taka 5,200 snatched

May 20: A gang of armed hoodlums swooped on village headmen and snatched Tk 5,200 when they were arbitrating an incident of robbery at Raghunathpur village in Sadar thana on Thursday, reports UNB.

Witnesses said an old man Alhaj Abed Ali (60) was injured in the attack and rushed to Sadar Hospital in a critical condition.

Villagers said the arbitration was called after some robbers were caught redhanded while fleeing from a residence at the village with cash and valuables.

During the arbitration some associates of the miscreants armed with lethal weapons raided the gathering and snatched the cash from Abed Ali who collected the amount to purchase cattle for the upcoming Eid-ul-Azha.

A case has been filed with the Jamalpur court.

RAJSHAHI

BRDB disburses Tk 2.65 crore loan

May 20: Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) under its rural cooperative project disbursed Tk 2.65 crore loan to the landless people during the last fiscal year, reports UNB.

The loan was disbursed among 12,722 members of different landless cooperative societies to help them run their self-employment projects like cattle and poultry farming and handicrafts.

This was disclosed at a meeting held at rural poor cooperative society office here on Wednesday.

Divisional Commissioner M Aminul Islam attended the meeting as chief guest.

The meeting underlined the need for formation of cooperative societies to involve the male and female landless people in the country's development process.

Meanwhile, 1,429 new and 3,219 old cooperative societies have been brought under BRDB raising its total members to 1,09,715.

RANGAMATI Wild elephant kills two

May 20: A wild elephant trampled two people, including a minor, to death at Sibera village in Gagachar union of Langadu thana on Tuesday night.

Local people said the elephant entered the house of Atar Ali at about 7:30 pm and trampled to death his middle-aged wife and eight-month-old grandson while they were taking meals.

People of Gagachar, Gulshakhi and Kala Pakujia unions of Langadu thana of the district are in constant fear due to frequent trouble caused by wild elephants