

No nation can prosper without education: Salam

SARISHABARI (Jamalpur), May 27: LGED and Cooperatives Minister Barister Abdus Salam Talukdar has said that no nation could prosper without education, reports BSS.

Addressing the foundation laying ceremony of a three-storied building of Sarishabari Mahmuda Girls College on Tuesday as the chief guest, he said the present democratic government had allocated maximum fund for education sector.

The college building is being constructed at a cost of Taka 55 lakh under higher education development project of the Ministry of Education.

He said the women constitute 50 per cent of the total population and the national development and progress could not be ensured keeping them unlettered.

The LGED minister said as such the government had taken up a massive plan for expansion of female education. He said education for girls upto class eight in the rural areas had been made free and the government was contemplating its extension upto class ten.

Presided over by Principal of the college, the function was also addressed by Abdur Rashid Talukdar, president of Jamalpur District Association in Dhaka, Faridul Kabir Talukdar, Chairman of Sarishabari Municipality, Jalaluddin Ahmed, Deputy Commissioner, Abdul Mannan, Director of Facilities Department, Fayezul Kabir Talukdar Shahin, Jamalpur District Student Welfare Samity, Dhaka and Masum Ansari, Organising Secretary of Jamalpur District BNP.

Over 1 lac hectare of land brought under aus cultivation

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, May 27: About 1,22,900 hectares of land have been brought under aus cultivation in seven districts under Dhaka Agriculture Zone (DAZ) during the current summer season, official sources here said.

The districts are: Dhaka, Narayanganj, Narsingdi, Gazipur, Manikganj, Munshiganj and Tangail.

According to Agriculture Extension Department, of the total land, 20,900 hectares are under different high yielding varieties (HYV) aus and the 1,02,000 hectares under different varieties of local aus.

District-wise breakup is as follows: Dhaka 10800 hectares, Narayanganj-4000 hectares, Narsingdi-6200 hectares, Gazipur-11000 hectares, Manikganj-35300 hectares, Munshiganj-9300 hectares and Tangail-4600 hectares.

Bangladesh Agriculture De-

velopment Corporation (BADC) will supply seeds, fertilizer, insecticides and other necessary agri-inputs to the growers to make the scheme a success.

Bangladesh Krishi Bank and other commercial banks will also supply necessary loans for the successful implementation of the programme, it is learnt.

Additional Director of Agriculture Extension Department, Mymensingh zone, Paresh Chandra Das said under the programme, the target of aus paddy production has been fixed at 1,43,800 metric tons.

It includes 41800 tons from the different high yielding varieties and 1,02,000 metric tons from the different local varieties.

He also said that several demonstration plots have been set up in these districts to acquaint the farmers with the modern methods of aus paddy cultivation.



JHENIDAH: Deep frozen semen system was introduced recently at the Sailkupa Thana Livestock Department. Abdul Wahab, MP, is seen formally opening the programme.

Hundreds of boatmen in Madaripur in extreme hardship

From Our Correspondent

MADARIPUR, May 27: Hundreds of traditional boatmen have been passing their days in extreme hardships as a large number of mechanised boats are plying on different routes of the district.

The engine boats are ferrying passengers from Cargoni, Rajoir, Kalkini Shitbar and Sadar thanas as a result the traditional boatmen of these areas have been facing hardships for not being able to earn their livelihood.

It may be noted that the number of engine boats has steadily increased over the years while journey by these boats are often hazardous and risky due to lack of proper system.

In most boats there is no system for controlling the speed. A boat cannot be halted in case of emergency. The light engine boats can go forward but cannot go backward in times of necessity.

Instead of search-light the boat owners use low powered torch light which can endanger the lives of passengers any time. The drivers are also not trained and most of them have no licence.

According to government rules survey and registration of these boats are must but no body abides by the rules. The law enforcing agencies are not taking any action against the illegal plying of boats for the reasons best known to them.

Chilli growers of the district have been facing much difficulties due to scarcity of high yielding seeds and price hike of inputs.

According to informed sources the district is famous for chilli cultivation every year for about 5,000 acres of land are brought under chilli cultivation in the district. The surplus production of chilli is supplied to different parts of the country.

A grower has to spend Taka 5,000 for cultivating chilli on one acre of land but the production is decreasing day by day due to shortage of capital and their necessary ingredients.

Moreover every year the chilli cultivation is badly affected by natural calamities including flood, drought and heavy downpour.

On the other hand the farmers are not getting fair price of their produce due to absence of market mechanism and government patronisation.

Kidnapped college girl rescued

NARSINGDI, May 27: Police rescued a kidnapped college girl from village Jhawgara of Aratthar thana of Narayanganj and arrested three people in this connection, reports UNB.

Zamuna Rani Dhar, an HSC student of Madhabdi Degree College was kidnapped from her village Algi of Narsingdi sadar thana on May 13 by a gang of 10-12 armed miscreants allegedly led by Idris Ali of Bibirkandi village of the same thana.



COMILLA: A colourful rally was brought out in the town to mark the 95th anniversary of birth of the national poet Kazi Nazrul Islam.

Number of drug addicts on increase in Kushtia

For Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, May 26: The number of addicted youths is growing alarmingly in Kushtia town. Even rural youths are being addicted to different items of intoxication like foreign made wine, opium, country made wine and drugs like morphine, sedative tablets, Mrita Sanjibani Sura, and other types of liquid containing alcohol.

According to a non-official survey Kushtia town and its suburbs have turned into an open market of drugs. All kinds of drugs and wine are available in medicine shops, grocery and vendors shops.

The survey reveals that the number of addicted teenagers is only five per cent, it is alarmingly growing day by day.

It is alleged that a well-organised crime circle has been smuggling these items of intoxication from India to sell those at Kushtia.

It is observed that, drug addicted old and young people visit the medicine shops mostly after sunset with a view to buying sedative tablets, liquid and injections. Even minor boys are found looking for drugs in medicine shops.

Although sale of drugs without prescription is strictly prohibited, some dishonest medicine shop-owners are allegedly carrying on this to make money.

It is also alleged that the drug addict young men are being involved in various crimes to have money for buying drugs.

Crop areas turn into arid land within G K Project command area as no water was released through Farakka barrage by India and with this phenomenon the second successive aus crop failure has become certain.

As a result, experts apprehend, a vast tract of cultivable area in as many as 21 south western and northern districts of the country may turn into a desolate arid land.

Excessive withdrawal of water in the upper reaches of the Ganges has been increasingly lowering the moisture content of the soil.

It has squeezed land and the volume of Rabi crop production in greater Rajshahi, Pabna, Kushtia, Faridpur, Jessore, Khulna and Barisal districts will be greatly reduced, experts said.

Rise of surface water salinity and soil intrusion salinity in the districts on the bank of Padma will force a change in the usual cropping pattern in those districts, experts added.

The areas in the Sundarbans also fell a victim to the process of desertification due to increasing rate of salinity and frequent drought, which hampered regeneration process of the flora, the soil experts said.

Trees in these areas have been dying, an expert pointed out, as a result of increasing salinity and less discharge of fresh water from the upper reaches of the Ganges.

An official source said that a representative from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) visited Bangladesh in September 1986, prepared a draft study report and submitted it to an International Conference on Ecology held in Geneva in March 1987. But nothing so far was done in this regard.

Meanwhile India's unilateral withdrawal of water has made the situation worse than ever, said Engr Shofuiddin Ahmed, Project Director, G K Project while giving data since 1988 that showed downward trend in flows.

The last Bangladesh-India memorandum of understanding on Ganges water sharing expired on May 31, 1988. Since then parts of Bangladesh have had difficult dry seasons as India has unilaterally diverted water to keep Calcutta port navigable.

It was learnt that the G K Pump House can not be put into operation when water level is below 4.27 metre at the pump house point. For the two successive years water level dropped below the point and as such G K Project has become inoperative and the position could not be improved.

Thus the G K Project au-

thority could not irrigate 48,500 hectares of dry crop land for high yielding Aus crop thus incurring a loss of an estimated Taka 100 crore.

As Kushtia farmers have been using irrigation facilities provided through the G K project since long and have made themselves rich by producing high yielding varieties of crops, sudden stopping of water facilities have made them perplexed. They have no alternative arrangements and use of low lift pumps are not prevalent. Price of fuel oil has gone up in rural areas.

The growers in rural areas told this correspondent that they can no longer produce three crops in a year as they failed to plant Aus seedlings in time for want of irrigation water. Besides, the number of jobless people who earlier depended on agriculture, have increased causing serious social unrest.

Diversification of crops was given thought of and G K project authorities are now in a fix how to tackle the situation.

A silent ecological catastrophe is taking shape in this area of Bangladesh as a result of unilateral withdrawal of the Ganges water by India through Farakka on the other side of the border.

Hilsha: beyond purchasing capacity of common man

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, May 27: Hilsha, the king fish has now gone beyond the purchasing capacity of the common man owing to high price as the supply is very short in different markets of the district.

During the rainy season the local markets are usually flooded with hilsha fish which are sold at a very low price, when ordinary people can buy and consume the fish in big quantity.

Now the common people are unable to purchase hilsha fish from the markets. The consumption of hilsha fish has become a luxury for them.

A big size hilsha now sells at Tk 100 to Tk 130 while a small size fish is sold between Tk 50 and Tk 80.

It is reported that a large scale catching of undersized hilsha is mainly responsible for the low supply of hilsha fish in the markets.

The Chandpur riverine fish research institute informed that catching of hilsha fish (jatka) caused low production in the rivers. Hilsha fish lay eggs at Chandpur, Barisal, Sandwip, Hatia, Manpara, Faridpur areas in the river Meghna, Padma and Jamuna. During breeding time in between September and October a large quantity of jatka has been caught by the fishermen.

The jatka is caught in the river Meghna at Chandpur, Nilkamal, Haimchar and Mo-

hanpur. It is further informed that the production of hilsha fish may be doubled if the netting of hilsha fish fry by 'current' nets is prevented during the breeding times.

The fish experts reported that cross barricade by bamboos and nets seriously hamper the hilsha fish production between September and December in the rivers Meghna and Padma.

Usually hilsha fish enters into the sweet waters from the sea during the breeding time. The fish fry then starts growing up in the sweet waters.

Fish experts opined that female hilsha grows faster than the male one.

According to fishery research institute about eighty per cent of the total hilsha are produced in the rivers Meghna, Padma and Jamuna. The total hilsha production in 1992-93 financial year was over three lakh tons.

Hilsha fish meets about forty per cent requirement of our total fish consumption.

It is alleged that about three thousand tons of fish fry are caught annually. As a result hilsha fish production is decreasing day by day in our country.

On the other hand sharp fall of the water level in the rivers Meghna, Padma and Jamuna are hampering the easy breeding of hilsha fish.



MADARIPUR. The Mohisher Char Darul Ulum Madrasa of the district was badly damaged in the recent storm.

One axed to death in Kushtia

KUSHTIA, May 27: A middle-aged man was axed to death and another youngman critically hit by bullet in separate armed attacks in Mirpur thana on the Eid-day, police said, reports UNB.

Witnesses said local mastans killed Torab Ali (40) at Azimpur village eidgah following a hot exchange of words.

A case was filed with the local police in this connection.

Police said armed miscreants shot and seriously injured on Anisuddin (35) of the Mirpur thana while he was returning home after Eid prayers.

He was admitted to Kushtia General Hospital in a critical condition.

Another report adds: a gang of miscreants armed with sophisticated weapons stormed 10 houses of Kushtia Housing Estate in the district headquarters and decamped with cash valuables on Wednesday.

On information, police rushed to the spot, but failed to nab the looters.

50 hurt as rival groups clash in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, May 27: Some 50 people were injured, seven seriously, in a series of clash between the two groups of rival people over gambling in the town, on Thursday, reports UNB.

Witnesses said a gang of youngmen of Ziadhanga area went to join a gambling party at Sayagobinda on Wednesday. But their proposal was turned down by the local gamblers.

Following the refusal the youngsters went berserk and attacked the gamblers with lethal weapons leaving 20 people injured.

Local elite rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control through negotiation. But the situation deteriorated further on Thursday when a group of youngmen of Ziadhanga area set five houses at Sayagobinda area on fire at 9.00 am and beat up two youngmen.

With the spread of the news, the people of Sayagobinda launched a counter attack on the youngmen of Ziadhanga area leaving 50 people injured.

Seriously injured Pintu (16), Belal (20), Shafiqul (25), Rashid (26), Al-Amin (26), Al-Amin (18) and Jobeda Khatun (54) were admitted to Sirajganj General Hospital.

On information, police rushed to the spot and picked up 12 people from the scene.

Two separate cases were filed with the local police in this connection.

One killed, 2 hurt in road mishap in Maizdee Court

From Our Correspondent

MAIZDEE COURT (Noakhali), May 27: A man was killed and two were injured in a road mishap at Ockhali on Hatia-Ockhali road under Hatia thana of Noakhali district recently.

Witnesses said the victims were employers of Prashika, Human Development Centre, of Ockhali under Hatia thana while riding a motor cycle suddenly a speeding truck hit them from behind. As a result they were hurt.

The injured were sent to Thana Health Complex and Nurul Alam (35) died at health complex. Others were sent to Dhaka for better treatment.

The truck driver, however, managed to escape with the vehicle, a case was filed with the local police.

Tk 968 lakh allocated for uplift of edn institutions

CHANDPUR, May 27: Government has allocated Tk 967.36 lakh for the development and construction of different educational institutions of the district, reports UNB.

According to official sources, Asian Development Bank will provide the fund for development of nine non-government and two government colleges, 56 non-government secondary high schools and madrasas and construction of eight new primary school buildings.

Each of the five Non-government Intermediate Colleges of Sadar, Haimchar, Shahrasti, Matlab and Hajiganj thanas has been allocated Tk 41 lakh, while Tk one crore sanctioned for the four non-government degree colleges and Tk 43 lakh for Chandpur Government College and Tk 10 lakh for Government Women's College, the sources added.

A total of Tk 152 lakh has been sanctioned for construction of eight primary school buildings in Chandpur and Hajiganj pourashava areas.

District roundup

BARISAL

Ansar, VDP confce held

May 27: The district conference of the Ansars and VDP members was held at the conference room of the Ansars and VDP on Monday, reports BSS.

It was presided over by Major Sheikh Md Badrul Huda, Deputy Director, Ansars and VDP, Barisal Range, Md Harunur-Rashid, Director (Administration), Ansars and VDP, was present as chief guest and Md Ruhul Amin, Deputy Director, Ansar and VDP, Khulna, as special guest.

Altogether 800 Ansars and VDP members attended the conference.

The 133rd birth anniversary of poet Rabindranath Tagore was observed in the district with due respect.

Different socio-cultural organisations took up elaborate programmes to mark the day.

Barisal district unit of Shilpakala Academy held a three-day programme in the Aswini Kumar Town Hall. It included discussions on life and activities of the poet.

Kheyali Group Theatre observed the day through discussions and cultural functions. Barisal Natak and Udichi held discussions and cultural functions.

GOPALGANJ

Paucity of water

May 27: Paucity of drinking water is prevailing here in the rural areas of the district as most of the tubewells remained out of order for a long time, reports UNB.

According to official sources, a large number of tubewells went out of order in current dry season due to abrupt fall in ground water level. Besides, many disordered tubewells are lying un-repaired aggravating the pure water crisis.

Finding no other way out, the villagers are compelled to drink contaminated pond water and many of them are suffering from intestinal diseases including diarrhoea and blood dysentery.

A survey revealed that about 40 per cent of the total villagers have been suffering from nutrition deficiency resulting in attack of various diseases.

Local leaders have urged the government to take immediate steps to repair the disordered tubewells and install deep and shallow tubewells to solve the drinking water problem.

KUSHTIA

Two killed in road mishap

May 27: Two people of a single family were killed in an accident near Halsa Railway Station of the district on Sunday, police said here Friday, reports UNB.

Shamsur, 27, and his sister Jamila, 12, of Chaitan Union in Mirpur thana of the district, were run over by a Sayedpur bound train.

Jamila and Shamsur, who was deaf and had a poor eyesight, met the tragic end of their lives as they could not hear the whistle of the oncoming train, local people said.

JHENIDAH

Number of drug addicts on rise

May 27: The number of drug addicts has been increasing alarmingly in the district in recent days, reports UNB.

Most of the addicts are unemployed people, rickshaw-pullers, sweepers, transport workers and students. They use rectified spirit and Phenidyl syrup indiscriminately which are available in medical stores, informed sources said.

The addicts are engaged in various anti-social activities including illegal trade, smuggling, theft, hijacking etc. Lack of social awareness, family control, shortage of unemployment opportunities and frustration are the main reasons for increasing addiction, doctors and social workers said.

Local leaders complained that the addicts use drugs freely as nobody dares to protest them. The law enforcing agencies are also found reluctant to take action, against the drunkards due to reasons best known to them, they added.

Meanwhile, five drug addicts died in Kaliganj thana a few days back. They were identified as Sukur Ali (32), Indrajit (45), Ledu (42), driver Atul and driver Nasir (35).

Local elite have urged the district administration to take immediate action to stop drug addiction and combat the increasing crimes.

CHANDPUR

Seminar on three national leaders

May 27: A seminar was held at Chandpur Press Club on Friday on the contributions of the three great national leaders Sher-e-Bangla A K Fazlul Haque, Hossain Shahid Suhrawardy and Moulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani, reports BSS.

The seminar was organised by Islamic Foundation, Chandpur in co-operation with Chandpur Press Club. The seminar was presided over by Md Quamruzzaman Chowdhury, president Chandpur Press Club.

Md Abdullah MP attended the seminar as chief guest. It was addressed among others by Md Mosarraf Hossain, Md Ayub Ali, Shafuiddin Ahmed, Sheikh Mattur Rahman and Akram Hossain.

FENI

25 hurt in clash over collection of tolls

May 27: At least 25 people were injured, seven seriously, in a clash between two rival groups of people over collection of toll at a cattle market in Fulgazi thana on Saturday, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the clash between members of the bazar committee and residents of Sonapur village erupted on Saturday night over collection of toll on the sale of sacrificial animals at GM Hat.

The rival groups blasted at least 50 home-made bombs during the hour-long clash, injuring the public and damaging at 10 shops and a jeep, police said.

Of the injured, Kamaluddin, Jamaluddin, Mizan, Nurul Alam, Jainal Abedin, Bachchu and Shamim were admitted to Porshuram Health Complex.

SIRAJGANJ

Young lady commits suicide

May 27: A young lady allegedly committed suicide under a running train at Jamtali railway station in the district on Thursday, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the unidentified lady jumped under the Sirajganj bound train at about 8.30 am and died on the spot.

Railway police, however, recovered the body and sent it to Sirajganj General Hospital for autopsy.

Another report adds: A young an identified as Iman Ali (35) of Sherpur village in Bogra district died at Sirajganj bus-stand while he was waiting for a bus on the day.

Earlier a month ago, Ali was admitted to Mirzapur Hospital in Tangail for the treatment of his cut leg. But he could not avail proper treatment due to lack of money, according to a letter found in his pocket.

Ali was released from the hospital on Thursday and died at the bus stand in the afternoon.

C'NAWABGANJ

Six get life term for murder

May 27: Six people have recently been sentenced to life in jail and five others awarded two years rigorous imprisonment in a murder case, reports UNB.

Court sources said the District and Sessions Judge Abu Bakar Siddique also fined the six accused, Faizur Rahman, Rafiqul Islam, Mozammel Hossain, Shahalal, Israil and Alauddin Tk 1,000 each, in default to suffer three months more RI.

The five accused who are to serve two years RI have also been fined Tk 500 each, in default to suffer another month RI. They are Nazrul, Mostafiz, Abdus Sattar, Korban Ali and Golam Mostafa.

According to prosecution, the accused killed one Saiful Islam (35) of Shihalagabula village in Sadar thana while he was returning home from the paddy field on May 29, 1990.

The Judge after examining the witnesses and evidences delivered the judgement on May 15.

UNB adds: The Hatbakul High School in Nachal thana of the district have been facing myriad problems extensively hindering education.

Local elite alleged that the teachers of the school sometimes have to take classes under open sky due to accommodation crisis.

The other problems of the school include shortage of teachers and furniture, lack of drinking water and sport facilities.

The teachers urged the concerned authorities to look into the matter and mitigate the sufferings of 309 students of the schools.