

National

No nation can prosper without education: Salam

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

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

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.

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.

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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 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, Jessor, 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.

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 Arathazar 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 thana on May 13 by a gang of 10-12 armed miscreants allegedly led by Idris Ali of Bibirkandi village of the same thana.

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.

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.

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

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

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