

Pulse output exceeds target in Khulna div

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, May 28: Cultivation of khesari dal (a kind of pulse) in ten districts of Khulna Division has exceeded target following mounting demand in the markets, said a reliable source.

The pulse has been cultivated on more than 22,100 hectares of land.

The detailed report indicates that it has been cultivated on ninety five thousand six hundred thirtyone hectares of land against the target of seventythree thousand five hundred thirtyfour hectares.

According to statistical report, in 1991-92, khesari dal was cultivated on twenty-nine thousand four hundred eighty-two hectares while the target was twenty thousand nine hundred thirtyeight hectares of land.

Similarly, in 1992-93 it was cultivated on thirty thousand sixtythree hectares of

land widely exceeding the target which was twentyone thousand nine hundred forty-six hectares.

Besides, the cultivation of their dal, has exceeded the target by more than eighty-six hectares of land while the target was twenty nine thousand two hundred hectares.

According to another report, Kustia district presents a steady record of increase in khesari cultivation.

During the current year, a total of ten thousand nine hundred hectares of land has been brought under cultivation of khesari dal.

Increase in cultivation of this dal, has also been reported from Narail district this year. It has been cultivated on six thousand four hundred ninetyseven hectares of land against the target of only four thousand hectares.

Kutchia latrines posing threat to public health

MOULVIBAZAR, May 28: Kutchia latrines are posing a threat to public health throughout the district town and its six thanas, reports UNB.

The people in general are using Kutchia latrines out of their ignorance about primary health care and hygiene.

Thousands of kutchia latrines have been set up on the banks of the rivers, canals and ponds in the rural areas of the district causing outbreak of water-borne diseases like diarrhoea, cholera and dysentery.

Local leaders alleged that District Health Department is not taking any initiative to make the rural people aware about the importance of maintaining health, hygiene and the hazards caused by using kutchia latrines. They also stressed the need for setting up of sanitary latrines by the government and non-government agencies.

They urged the concerned authorities to start motivation campaign to create awareness among the people for the usefulness of the sanitary latrines.

Another message adds: The biennial conference of Uddichi Shilpi Goshthi, Kulaura thana was held here last week at Jonomilon Kendra.

Presided over by Rajat Kanti

Vanu, the conference was formally inaugurated by singer Timir Nandi.

The conference elected a committee with Rajat Kanti Vanu and Abul Fattah Fazul as the president and secretary respectively.

Among others, it was addressed by Alok Das Gupta, Lutfur Rahman, Mohtuddin Chowdhury, Hafiz Ahmed, Sushil Sen and Sirajuddin Ahmed.

Indian goods seized

Another report says, Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) seized Indian goods worth about Tk 53 lakh in the district in the last year.

The contrabands included Indian cows, clothes, sugar, spare parts, bidi etc. At least 52 alleged smugglers were arrested during the same period.

Another message adds: A teen-age girl allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself from a tree at Prabati village in Kulaura thana, police said.

The reason behind the suicide of Khajura Begum (16), daughter of Yunus Mia could not be known.

The body was sent to morgue for autopsy and a case was filed with the local police.



MADARIPUR: The condition of Mawa Ferry ghat on the Madaripur-Mawa-Dhaka Road. It is being devoured by the erosion of the Padma. —Star photo

Jessore Jute Industries Mill faces closure

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, May 28: Jessore Jute Industries Mill, at Rajghat in the district, is facing closure following mismanagement, corruption, financial losses and labour unrest, said a source.

Run by BJMC, the mill incurred a loss of Taka forty two crore during the last seven years.

During last nine months of the current fiscal, loss amounted to Taka nine crore nine lakh being the monthly break-up — Taka one crore one lakh on average, according to a statistical report.

During 1983-84, '84-'85, '86-'87, '87-'88, '88-'89 and '89-'90 losses were Taka fifty five lakh thirteen thousand, six crore, eighty three lakh seventy nine thousand, two crore two lakh twenty-eight thousand, six crore sixty one lakh ninety four thousand, eight crore twenty four lakh seventy eight thousand, and ten crore seventy two lakh eighty four thousand respectively, the report said.

It is learnt that Taka five crore was allegedly misappropriated in buying raw-jute dur-

ing last four years while the total quantity, bought during the period was five lakh twelve thousand four hundred forty three maunds, major portion of which was sub-standard and unusable causing mounting loss in production.

Retrenchment of two hundred labourers from the mill recently has adversely affected the situation inside creating massive violence and agitation among labourers against the authority leading to suspension in production of the mill.

Formally opened by Prince Karim Aga Khan on January 27 in 1970 JJI Mill went into production with daily output of thirty five tons.

Political appointments of unskilled labourers in additional numbers during subsequent years, under corrupt and inefficient management turned it into liability and generated problems for the mill to survive.

A strong and efficient management with dynamic outlook is needed to keep it going and regain the lost position remarked detractors.

Two people died on the spot and thirty others injured seven of them seriously in road accident at Fatepur of Kotwali thana in the district Saturday morning.

The victims have been identified as Noor Mohammad (45) and Shamim (13).

Noor Mohammad was Head Master of Vaina Primary School of local thanas and Shamim was from local town. Injured seven were removed to Jessore General Hospital in precarious condition.

According to witnesses the Head Master with his motor cycle bearing No. Jessore-A-2574 was smashed on his way to Jessore when a bus No Dhaka-Chaah-3097 turned upside down and fell on him.

Another victim Shamim who was travelling in the ill-fated bus, perished in terrible turn-down.

Posts and Telecommunications Minister Tarikul Islam visited the injured at the hospital on receiving information, local union chairman, has lodged a case with the thanas.

Gopalganj poura area beset with problems

From Our Correspondent

GOPALGANJ, May 28: Gopalganj poura area is beset with manifold problems causing inconvenience to the residents of the municipal area.

The residents said the dilapidated condition of the roads, lack of proper drainage system and inadequate water supply have made the civil life miserable.

Most of the roads in the pourashava are kutchia having numerous cracks and potholes at many points due to lack of proper maintenance and repair works. During the rainy season the roads become muddy hindering the movement of pedestrians and vehicles.

Almost all the kutchia drains are filled with garbage and stagnant water which creates scope for mosquito breeding. Lack of dustbins in the poura area compels residents to dump their waste by the side of the road blocking the water outlets.

Street lights at the town are insufficient. Many electric poles are lying without bulbs for a long time hampering the movement of vehicles after sunset.

Besides, water supply is irregular in the area causing suffering to the residents. The pedestrians are also facing much trouble due to mushroom growth of unauthorised shops on the roads, and foot-paths.

Meanwhile, the number of pye-dogs has increased alarmingly in the poura area posing threat to the town residents.

Local people urged the concerned authorities to solve the problems of the residents without further delay.

Lack of proper treatment facilities

From Our Correspondent

MADARIPUR, May 28: The health complexes in Madaripur and Shariatpur districts have been facing manifold problems for a long time.

According to informed sources paucity of drinking water, lack of proper drainage system in the premises of hospitals, absence of ambulances, blood banks, dental and ophthalmic instruments have aggravated the situation.

Besides most of the health complexes do not have x-ray machines causing much inconvenience in diagnosis and treatment of diseases.

Hundreds of patients who were coming from remote areas are going back disappointed due to absence of proper treatment facilities.

Emergency patients cannot be shifted to the hospitals in the district headquarters for lack of ambulance.

Cultivation in the district has been affected by acute shortage of bullock.

According to sources a vast area of arable land remains unused every year. About 60 to 70 per cent farmers of the district have no bullock to till their lands.

The farmers sometimes are seen ploughing their land on share basis, sources said.

Officials of the Livestock Department have attributed the reason of the shortage to mass destruction of cattle by the natural calamities.

Foundation of new building of college laid

JESSORE, May 28: Post and Telecommunications Minister

Tarikul Islam said all sorts of assistance are being provided by the government for the development of educational institutions in the country for ensuring successful implementation of the programme to spread education, reports UNB.

The minister was addressing as chief guest at a public meeting on Friday held in connection with the laying of the foundation stone of new building of Rajgonj College of Monirampur thana.

The college building is being constructed at a cost of Tk 40 lakh by the Facilities Department with the financial assistance from Asian Development Bank.

Presided over by Alhaj Abdus Sattar, the meeting was also addressed by Advocate Nurul Alam, Abdur Faruk, Nur Jalal Rana.

Referring to the present political situation of the country, the minister said all the political parties should extend full cooperation to make the parliament more active for greater national interest as the parliament is the focal point of discussion to solve any problem in a democratic country.

Tarikul Islam later formally laid the foundation stone and offered munajit. Earlier he inaugurated a private hospital in the town, said an official handout.

District roundup

SIRAJGANJ

Probe body formed

May 28: A five-member probe body headed by Poursabha Chairman was formed Friday to investigate into the Thursday's clash between two rival groups over gambling in the town, reports UNB.

The decision was taken at a meeting at the Sirajganj Sadar Thana with Poursabha Chairman TRM Nur-e-Alam in the chair this evening.

Two groups of villagers of Ziadhangara and Sayagobinda, infamous for heroin trading, clashed each other Thursday which left 50 people injured.

Police arrested 27 people in this connection.

BRAHMANBARIA

2 killed, 41 hurt in road mishaps

May 28: Two people were killed and about 41 people were injured in two road mishaps in sadar thana during the last week, reports UNB.

Witnesses said one Feroz Miah (48) and another unidentified man (57) were killed and 20 other passengers injured when a night coach collided on Dhaka-Sylhet highway on May 21 with another vehicle near Rampura bridge in Sadar thana. The injured were released after first aid in Sadar hospital.

Meanwhile, 21 passengers were injured, six seriously, when a Dhaka bound coaster plunged into a roadside ditch when the driver lost control over the bus near Bailishar village in Sadar thana.

The seriously injured were admitted to Sadar hospital while others were released after first aid.

Separate cases were lodged with the police.

NARAIL

Nat'l Jubo Kabadi competition

May 28: The final competition of the Fifth National Jubo Kabadi Tournament was held here at Narail Stadium on Friday, reports UNB.

In the two-day competition, Dinajpur district team became champion defeating four teams and obtained eight points. On the other hand, Narail district team became runners up defeating three teams and obtained six points.

The tournament was participated by Dinajpur, Narail, Satkhira, Moulavi Bazar and Kurigram district youth Kabadi teams which was held under league system.

The final match was witnessed, among others, by President of Bangladesh Kabadi Federation and Secretary Ministry of Youth and Sports M Azizul Haque who formally distributed the prizes and handed over the trophy to the winners, said an official handout.

Renowned artist S M Sultan was also present on the occasion.

BARISAL

45 multi-purpose buildings to be built

May 28: Facilities department of the Ministry of Education will construct 45 multi-purpose buildings at a cost of Tk 19,79,86,000 with the financial assistance of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) in Bhola district, reports BSS.

According to an official source, preliminary and engineering works have been completed.

Chafferson, Monpara, Tazumuddin, Daulatkhana and Lalmonir thanas of the district will fall under the projects.

Each project will cost Tk 43,99,189, the sources added.

The multipurpose buildings will be used as government primary schools. They will be used as shelters during natural disasters.

JHENIDAH

One commits suicide on Eid day

May 28: A poverty stricken young man of Sadar allegedly committed suicide on the Eid Day as he failed to purchase a saree for his beloved wife, reports UNB.

According to family sources, Ali Box's (30) wife Shahana urged for a saree as Eid-gift and Ali tried his best to fulfil her demand but failed as no one came forward to lend him some money.

Ali Box went to say Eid prayers with a heavy heart at a local Eidgah in the morning and after returning home he allegedly committed suicide by taking pesticides.

A case has been filed with the local police.

KUSTIA

15 hurt as rival groups clash

May 28: At least 15 people, including three women, were injured in a clash between two rival groups at a village in Khoksa thana of the district on Wednesday, reports UNB.

The clash ensued between the rivals following a dispute over falling a tree on Bhabanpur village graveyard, police said.

Witnesses said both the groups in their hour-long fight used lethal weapons.

The injured Hossain (22), Nurul Islam (35), Iman Ali (45), Akram Uddin (35), Abdus Sattar (45), Mozammel (55), Zonab Ali (30), Sanauddin (20), Atiar (15), Tayeb Ali (22), Altaf Hossain (35), Hasina Khatun (30), Anwar Begum (40) and Samirunnessa (40) were admitted to Khoksa Thana Health Complex.

Another report says a young housewife at a village in Daulatpur thana was allegedly beaten to death on Sunday by her husband for dowry.

Akkas Ali of Adbaria village beaten to death his wife Masu-ufa, 20, as she failed to bring Tk 20,000 as dowry from her father, police said.

PATUAKHALI

BPC to build tourist spot at Kuakata

May 28: Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation (BPC) will construct a tourists spot at Kuakata, under Patuakhali district, reports BSS.

Major (Retd). Abul Bashar, Director (Commercial), Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation, said recently a total of 530 acres of land will be acquired for construction of the spot.

The tourists spot will comprise hotels, motels, modern rest houses, auditorium, business centres, cinema halls, etc.

MYMENSINGH

Four killed in road mishap

May 28: Four persons were killed and two others were injured following a collision between a micro bus and a bus on Mymensingh-Haluaghat road at Bagundia under Phulpur thana Wednesday. The victims are Sharif, Swapan, Manir and Ashik, reports BSS.

The microbus with six persons on board was going to Nakhla via Phulpur. It collided with the passenger bus which was coming from opposite direction. Two persons died on the spot. Two others died in Mymensingh Medical College Hospital.

COMILLA

Three killed in road mishap

May 28: Three people were killed when a speeding truck crashed a rickshaw at Keronkhola in Chandina thana on Dhaka-Chittagong highway last week, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the truck knocked the rickshaw down from behind killing its puller and two passengers on the spot on May 20.

The driver of the truck, however, fled the scene with his vehicle.

A case was filed with the local police.

GOPALGANJ

150 bottles of phensidyl recovered

May 28: Police recovered 150 bottles of Indian phensidyl syrup from old launch ghat of the town last week, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip, special branch police raided the area and recovered the contraband item which was kept in a van.

Police, however, could not arrest any body in this connection. A case was registered with the police.

Local people alleged that phensidyl syrup is available in different medicine shops of the district. And some anti-social elements are selling the contraband in some particular area of the town.

Youths are the main customers of the spurious drug who collect money by illegal means.

Scholarship

Sweeti Saha, daughter of Shyamal Kumar Saha has obtained primary talent pool scholarship from Harihar Nagar

Govt Primary School in Boud-mari thana in the year 1993, says a press release.

She seeks blessings from all.



SYLHET: Clothes were distributed among the poor students of a madrasah in Habiganj district recently. —Star photo

Quacks, fakirs cheating people in Rangpur

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, May 28: The age-old method of treatment by exorcise is still popular among the rural illiterate masses all over the greater Rangpur district.

A section of quacks and the 'Fakirs' have been cheating the villagers in the name of treatment of different diseases through the outdated method of charms and incantation taking the advantages of their innocence and poverty as they cannot afford to go to the highly paid physicians.

The cheats apply this method in marriage-making, creating love among couples and also to promote business.

A section of fanatic 'mollas' also allure the villagers to take tabji for recovery of their ailments and solution of other difficulties.

A new kind of killer disease locally known as 'vebri-cholera-0139' has now started infiltrating into Bangladesh.

According to news received here from the bordering areas, a large number of Indians in West Bengal and its adjoining areas have been suffering from this new disease which has broken out almost in an epidemic form leaving many dead everyday.

The foodstuff like sugar, sweetmeat, chocolates, biscuits and the food grains smuggled into Bangladesh from across the Indian territory, particularly from West Bengal naturally become contaminated and easily spread the disease along the bordering areas of the country, according to the health experts

here. Stern measures are needed to help check smuggling of these foodstuff and foodgrains immediately to save the innocent villagers of the country.

The establishment of a press museum in the country is being felt for a long time for preservation of the life sketches of the journalists and their writings, the newspapers, periodicals, printing materials, etc.

In many countries of the world, press museums have been established yielding good results, the elite of the area feel.

A new method of adulterating the milk to escape detection by lactometer has been gaining popularity in the district, a large section of consumers complain.

If in one maund of milk, at least five seers of water and half seer of sugar and some powder milk is mixed, the lactometer can easily be deflected, according to the traders concerned.

Misappropriation of at least 45 metric tonnes of wheat worth taka one lakh has been reported from Ranachandi union under Kishoreganj thana recently.

According to the allegation, the project secretary submitting false muster-rolls had lifted about 21 metric tonnes of wheat sanctioned under food for works scheme towards execution of a road development programme of the union of which he sold 15 mt on black market.

Number of wild animals on decrease in Jhenidah

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, May 28: The number of wild animals is decreasing day by day in the district due to various reasons for quite a long time, it is reported.

Sailkupa, Jhenidah sadar, Harinakundu, Kaligonj, Kotchandpur and Mohepur thanas of the district were once famous for different kinds of wild animals like fox, jackal, wild cat, khatash, neulay sajara and other wild animals. But these are now rarely found in the localities.

These wild animals mainly kill rats and other harmful insects and these save the crops of the farmers all over the district and even the surrounding areas. The farmers were really benefited much and the ecological balance was maintained to a large extent due to presence of these animals.

But during last 23 to 25 years the number of these wild animals have decreased in an alarming proportion in the district.

The population of the district has been increasing at an alarming rate and every year new human settlements are sprung up by cleaning old jungles.

Indiscriminate cleaning of jungles and cutting of trees to use as firewood have badly affected the wild animals habitat.

On the contrary, these wild

animals mainly live on fish frogs. Indiscriminate catching of fish and fry and siltation of different water bodies like river, ponds, ditches, canals, bill and haors cause the scarcity of fish which has affected the very existence of the wild animals.

Besides the frog population has become almost extinct due to rampant killing by a group of unscrupulous traders and rampant use of insecticides and pesticides in the croplands.

Local people urged the concerned authorities to take proper steps to save the wild animals from further extinction to maintain ecological and environmental balances.

Programme to train farmers

District Agriculture Extension Department has taken a programme to train 720 farmer on various agriculture affairs.

According to a source, in all six thanas as Jhenidah, Sailkupa, Harinakundu, Kaligonj, Kotchandpur, and Mohepur have been selected to train the farmers on farming of vegetables, fruits, tree plantation and management, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and control of pest under Agriculture Support Service Programme (ASSP).

Out of 120 from each six

thanas minimum 30 female farmers would be trained which will commence from May 28.

The source said, farmers, specially the female farmer might play vital role in farming agricultural products whether they are trained properly.

Crop procurement day observed

Crop procurement and fieldday was observed in Jhenidah in befitting manner.

District Agriculture Extension Department arranged the programme which was attended among others by subject matter scientific (crop) Shakawat Hossain, Sukanta Kumar Podder, SM Sayeed Hassan, Tofazzel Hossain and Mrs. Neyamatunnessa.

Maize promotion programme

A maize promotion programme was arranged by the District Agriculture Extension Department at Royerah Football ground with Mirza Ali Amjad, deputy director, Jhenidah in the chair.

Among others, Alhaj Mas-hiar Rahman, Abdul Wahab MP, Mohammed Ali Akhand, deputy commissioner, Jhenidah, Khalilur Rahman, chairman Sailkupa municipality, Zahidul Kabir Feroj spoke on the occasion.



SYLHET: The District Social Welfare Department organised a discussion meeting in observance of the Family Day. —Star photo