

Nor'wester lashes Sirajganj

One thousand thatched houses damaged

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, May 30: Nor'wester lashed different thanas in Sirajganj district on May 18 last damaging more than one thousand thatched houses. Hundreds of trees were uprooted and the electric poles collapsed.

It is gathered that on May 18 evening, storm at the speed of 80 to 100 kilometers per hour which lasted for about twentyfive minutes lashed the thanas of Belkuchi, Kamarkhanda, Chowhali and Sirajganj sadar.

Gusty wind followed by heavy down pour and hail damaged standing IRRI crop of about three thousand acres of land. The flood shelter of Belkuchi collapsed rendering the inmate police constables homeless. None however was injured. The Muktiyoddha Sangshad, Retired Sainik Club and veranda of Alhaj Siddique High School was also blown away.

Power supply is Kazipur, Kamarkhanda and Belkuchi disrupted as at least twenty electrical poles were collapsed. Three telephone poles were also damaged.

Vehicular traffic in Sirajganj — Enayetpur route remained suspended for about fourteen hours as the roads near Khidir and Kadda were blocked by uprooted trees. According to information received at late, at least one thousand thatched houses mainly in the charlands of Sirajganj sadar and Belkuchi thanas were badly damaged. Sufferings of cattle sellers in Shohagpur hat was extreme.

Loss of valuables and property was primarily estimated to Taka fifty crores. Shahidullah Khan MP of Sirajganj-5 constituency visited the storm affected areas of Belkuchi and Kamarkhanda thanas.

Blank stamp paper forcefully and sold them to woman trafficker Sohrab Ali of Ten-grakhali village in Bakerganj thana of Barisal district for Tk 70,000 Sohrab again sold them to another woman trafficker of India.

After keeping them in different places of India for about one and a half months along with 15 other young women, they were sold to Pakistani woman trafficker, Babu Miah. They used to reside in a room there under lock and key.

On January 1, this year Kahinor found that Babu Miah forgot to lock the door of their house. She along with her sister managed to flee and reached home with the help of Haji Shahidul Islam and his wife of Musa Colony, Karachi.

Kahinor filed a case with the Ullapara Magistrate Court narrating the incident. She also alleged that the accused were threatening her to withdraw the case.

Later she was married to Sirajul according to the arbitration by village elders on July 13, 1992 and the case was withdrawn. But after the marriage she was being tortured by the inmates of her husband.

On July 17, 1993, Sirajul and his elder brother Fazul on the plea to enjoy a cinema show took her along with her sister Selina to Dhaka and rented a house at Bashabo and took a signature from her in

card phones in ten district. According to an official source, card phones were introduced in the districts of Barisal, Jhalakati, Bhola, Pirojpur, Patuakhali, Barguna, Faridpur, Madaripur, Gopalganj and Shariatpur under Barisal Telephone and Telegraph Board in April, 1993.

Two card phones are in operation in each of Barisal, Patuakhali and Faridpur districts while one card phone is in service in each of the districts of Jhalakati, Pirojpur, Barguna, Madaripur, Gopalganj and Shariatpur.

Meanwhile, T and T Board has taken up a decision to install four ISD card phones, two each in Barisal and Patuakhali districts.

BSS adds: Telephone and Telegraph Board, Barisal Division, earned a revenue of about Taka 6.0 lakh in eleven months till March through 13

The schemes included construction of bridges, repair of roads, development of educational institutions and other works, the sources added. Hundreds of jobless people were engaged in the uplift schemes.

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Two people were killed in two separate road accidents Saturday near Mithapukur thana on Rangpur-Bogra highway.

Card phone at Benapole check post introduced

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, May 30: Card phone has been introduced in Benapole immigration check-post, customs house but the facility of nation-wide dialling (NWD) is yet to be provided to its telephone exchange at Sharsha, nor it has been provided with the facility of International Telephone Exchange (ITE) sources say that necessary equipments and machinery for this works are in store.

Only initiative to start the work by the department is lacking.

Establishment of a full-fledged Land Port Authority at Benapole will ensure solution of all problems fetching more revenue earnings through export and imports.

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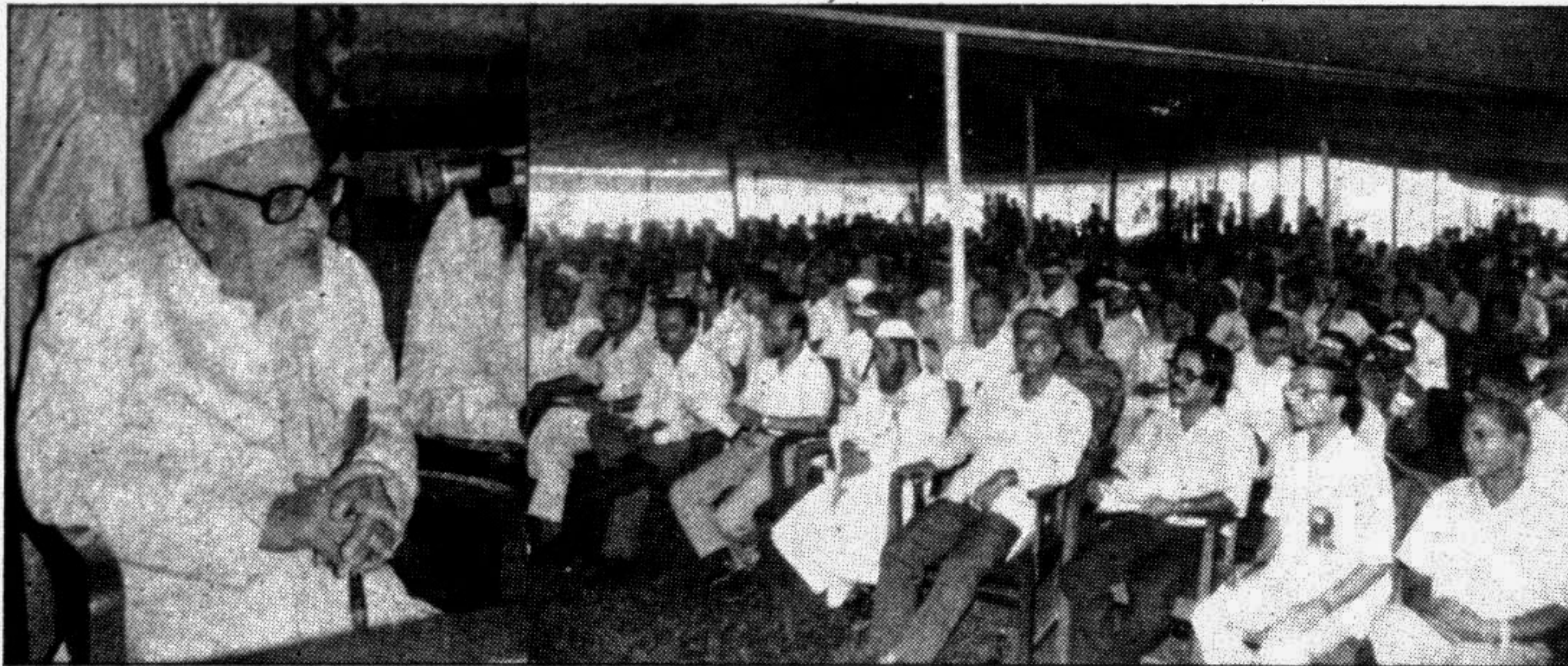
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SYLHET: National Professor Dewan Mohammad Azraf speaking as chief guest at the inaugural function of re-union of the Sylhet Government Boys' High School held recently.

Moulvibazar Zila Parishad to develop Madhav Kunda waterfall

From Our Correspondent

MOULVI BAZAR, May 30: Zila Parishad of Moulvibazar has taken up a scheme to develop 'Madhav-Kunda Waterfall' — as a tourist and picnic spot.

According to the Zila Parishad source — the scheme included construction of a rest house, a canteen for tourists, a picnic spot and a parking centre for vehicles of tourists.

The Zila Parishad has allocated Taka twelve lakh to implement the scheme.

It is mentioned here that, Madhav-Kunda waterfall is noted for its scenic beauty. It is situated at Patharia Hills within Baralekha thana under Moulvibazar district.

It is about seven kilometers away from Dakshinbhag railway station of Kulaura-Shahbazpur railway section with some land routes.

Madhav-Kunda waterfall and its scenic beauty attract a large number of tourists and picnic parties. Every year hundreds of people come here to have a glimpse and for picnic purposes and they are to face a lot of problems.

'Madhav-Kunda waterfall' is not only a tourist or picnic spot but also a place of the Hindu pilgrimage. Hindu community takes holy-bath here.

BRDB has also disbursed a sum of Taka 58 lakh among 4,914 women members in the period under population control and gender development projects in Barisal Sadar, Bakerganj, Agailjhara, Gournadi

and Babuganj thanas of the district for their conscious and social development.

BRDB has enrolled so far 36,827 marginal farmers through 1,358 village based Krishi Samabaya Samitees in ten thanas of Barisal district to ensure rural development through cooperatives here.

This Krishi Samabaya Samitees have undertaken a programme to cultivate paddy over 24,240 acres of land through the use of 607 power pumps.

Besides, BRDB disbursed a loan amounting to Tk 7.17 lakh under village child development project among 1,836 members under 150 groups in Guthia union of Wazirpur thana till December 31, last to develop the socio-economic conditions of the rural distressed women and children, the source added.

BRDB, Barisal region planted 2,62,526 saplings of various plants under social development activities in this period. BRDB also provided

training to 3,474 members to use developed chullis (oven) in the rural areas. Besides, BRDB brought 77 per cent of rural people under coverage of pure drinking water, 41 per cent sanitary latrines, 93 per cent literacy programme.

A total of 3,02,400 hectares of land will be brought under transplanted aman cultivation in ten southern districts under Barisal Agriculture Zone (BAZ) during the current summer season.

The districts are: Barisal, Pirojpur, Jhalakati Patuakhali, Faridpur, Madaripur, Gopalganj, Rajbari and Shariatpur.

According to an official source, the production target of aman paddy has been fixed at 17,93,812 metric tons.

Barisal Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) has undertaken a programme to distribute seeds, fertilizers, insecticides and other inputs among the farmers of the districts to make the programme a success.

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10 southern districts Target of IRRI, Boro output may not be achieved

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, May 30: For want of fair price of paddy the farmers of ten southern districts have been losing inspiration to cultivate IRRI and boro this season.

As a result the target of IRRI-boro may not be achieved.

According to a source related to agriculture department, in ten southern districts such as Jessore, Jhenidah, Magura, Narail, Khulna, Bagerhat, Satkhira, Kushtia, Meherpur and Chuadanga a target of ten lakh thirty-nine thousand hectares but it was cultivated in 2 lakh 3 thousand 4 hundred 61 hectares.

The source said, in last year the target was achieved to two lakh thirty three thousand four hundred forty one hectares out of targeted two lakh fortyseven

thousand six hundred hectares.

Last year nine lakh forty-six thousand eight hundred thirty-three metric tons of paddy was produced in ten southern districts.

In this season the production may be achieved at eight lakh sixtyfour thousand four hundred forty metric tons which is seventyeight thousand three hundred ninetythree metric tons lesser than last year. Some experts of agriculture department and farmers opined that the production rate of irrigation depended crops is higher than selling rate.

The farmers have to sale their paddy at a low rate after harvesting.

Further, mainly government is not at all interested to pur-

chase paddy or rice through procurement programme. To meet the requirement the farmers are compelled to sell paddy earlier.

Further uncontrolled price of fertilizers, pesticides and agricultural equipments throw the farmers in trouble, farmers said. They also said, irrigation has become an acute problem to them.

The Ganges Kabadak (G-K) Project failed to supply water for irrigation. Due to load shading of power farmers were deprived of irrigation water for more than a month, it was reported.

As a result, the farmers are not keenly interested to cultivate IRRI and boro as previous.

BRDB gives Tk 11 cr loan for rural development in Barisal

BARISAL, May 29: Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) Barisal, disbursed loans amounting to Taka eleven crore one lakh twenty eight thousand under rural cooperative scheme in ten thanas of the district till December 31, last, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the loan was disbursed among 33,405 members of 1,280 different landless cooperative societies in the project areas to support self-employment programme like cattle and poultry farming, paddy husking, pisciculture, handicrafts, and small trade.

Meanwhile, BRDB has provided training to 8,365 members of the district under the programme in the above trades for skill development.

BRDB has also disbursed a sum of Taka 58 lakh among 4,914 women members in the period under population control and gender development projects in Barisal Sadar, Bakerganj, Agailjhara, Gournadi

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Besides, BRDB disbursed a loan amounting to Tk 7.17 lakh under village child development project among 1,836 members under 150 groups in Guthia union of Wazirpur thana till December 31, last to develop the socio-economic conditions of the rural distressed women and children, the source added.

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District roundup

BARISAL

Workshop on production of food-grains

May, 30: A two-day workshop on "Influence of soil and salinity on the production of food-grains" concluded at the Barisal Development Society (BDS) Auditorium premises on Monday, reports BSS.

Organised by the Barisal Agriculture Extension Department, the workshop was inaugurated by S B Sarkar, Director, southern Region Agriculture Development Programme.

Dr GM Sanaullah, Chief Scientific Officer, Regional Rice Research Institute, Barisal, SC Dam, Senior Scientific Officer, Bangladesh Agriculture Research Institute, Patuakhali and Mr A Aziz Senior Scientific Officer, Soil Development Institute, Barisal, conducted the workshop.

A total of 38 officials and two assistant agriculture officials took part in the workshop from seven southern districts.

SB Sarkar gave away the certificates among the participants on the concluding day.

Another report says, a three day training course for field-workers of the agriculture extension department on Health and Family Planning concluded at the thana parishad auditorium premises on Monday.

Organised by the Bangladesh Applied Nutrition, Research and Training Institute, the concluding function was attended by Nawshaba Nasrin, General Secretary, Central Co-Operative Society, as chief guest.

A total of 43 field-workers participated in this training programme from eleven southern districts of Barisal agriculture zone.

The chief guest gave away the certificates among the participants.

KUSHTIA

3 of an outlawed party held

May 30: Three members of an outlawed political party were arrested and some arms and ammunition were recovered from their possession on Saturday, police said, reports UNB.

The arrested are: Hedayatul Islam, Atiar Rahman and Bulbul Karim. Arms and ammunition recovered included one Indian pistol, one shutter gun and four rounds of bullets.

Police arrested them when they were holding a secret meeting of the party at a garden in village Matpara in Bheramara thana of the district.

Another report adds: A youth was stabbed mercilessly near Kushtia Court Railway Station on Saturday by a gang of miscreants.

The victim Khandaker Mahbubul Huq Ripon, 18, was rushed to Kushtia General Hospital where his condition was stated to be critical.

A case has been filed with the police.

MAGURA

One to die for killing

May 30: A young man was sentenced to death and his younger brother given life term imprisonment Sunday on charges of killing a man, reports UNB.

According to the prosecution story, seven people including Mofiz Ali (35) and his brother Aminuddin (28) of village Satakhali in Salikha thana brutally murdered Jharu Biswas at village Bahramlik of the same thana of October 15, 1992 following a previous enmity.

A case was filed and police after investigation submitted charge-sheet against the accused.

After examining the records and evidences Additional Sessions Judge Altaf Hossain Mollah awarded death penalty to Mofiz Ali and life term to his brother Amin and acquitted others.

JAMALPUR

Cases lodged for violation of injunction order

May 30: Two separate cases were lodged with Senior Assistant Judge Court against the Additional Deputy Commissioner (Rev) of the district for violation of injunction order, reports UNB.

Noyemuddin Ahmed of local Bania bazar who filed the cases alleged that despite standing injunction order ADC Shahjahan Kabir took several steps to evict him from his land where he has been residing since long.

Noyemuddin further alleged that the ADC intentionally listed the land as vested property and leased out the same in the name of some persons of Sherpur district.

Senior Assistant Judge issued show cause notice on Saturday on the basis of the cases.

When contacted over telephone the ADC (Revenue) Shahjahan Kabir said that unauthorised occupation from the land was evicted, according to government rules.

SATKHIRA

One eaten by man-eater tiger

May 30: A young man of Munshiganj in Shyamnagar thana of the district was eaten by a man-eater tiger at Oragachhi in the Sundarbans on May 21, fishermen said, reports UNB.

Haran Sarker (35), while catching fish along with others in a canal suddenly the tiger appeared before him, dragged him to a deep forest and killed him.

Later, two days after the incident the co-villagers recovered the remains of the victim.

Dr. Mosharraf tells Rangamati JCD confce

Demand for caretaker govt unconstitutional

RANGAMATI, May 29: Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain has called upon all democratic forces to forge strong national unity for institutionalising and consolidating democracy, independence and sovereignty of the country, reports B