

Farakka effect
Crops worth Tk 1000 crore not produced

KUSHITIA, May 31 : Crops worth about Tk 1000 crore could not be produced in the last two Kharif seasons in the Ganges-Kobadak project area due to adverse effect of Farakka, reports UNB.

This was revealed at a workshop on "Water Problems of Ganges-Kobadak Project" organised by Gano Unnayan Granthagar, a leading NGO of the country, here on May 28.

The Deputy Commissioner of the district Nazrul Islam attended the workshop as chief guest and the key note paper was presented by Prof Nazrul Islam Chowdhury with Muhiddin Ahmad, secretary of the organisation, in the chair.

It was informed at the workshop that due to the unilateral withdrawal of Ganges water through Farakka barrage by India, the Padma, the only source of water of G-K project has been dried up. As a result during the last two Kharif seasons there was no cultivation in the vast tract of land in the project area and the loss in terms of crops in each season was estimated at Tk 500 crore.

The workshop emphasised the need for evolving alternate measures for sustenance of the project and protection of ecological balance. They suggested better management of water during the lean period and sinking of deep tubewells for cultivation of crops.

Local officials, NGO representatives, journalists and elites of the town attended the workshop.

Tk 1.5 lakh looted, five injured

MAGURA, May 31 : Five local traders were injured and cash Tk 1.50 lakh was looted by some miscreants in a highway robbery near Durannagar of Sreepur thana of WAPDA-Lagobond road, reports UNB.

Witnesses said a gang of armed miscreants robbed the cash from the 10 traders by blocking the road while they were returning from Ramnagar cattle market at night by two auto-rickshaws last week.

The muggers also beat the traders mercilessly injuring five of them. The three seriously injured were rushed to the Dariapur Hospital.

Highway robbery is on rise day by day in certain areas of the district creating panic among the people.

Local people urged the authorities to take immediate steps to prevent road dacoity.

Another report says: At least 41,000 metric tons of cotton seeds worth about Tk 85.69 crore have been produced in Jessor region during the current fiscal.

Bangladesh Cotton Development Board (BCDB), Jessor zone sources said 40,864 hectares of land in Magura, Jhenidah, Jessor, Kushitia, Chuadanga, Meherpur and Satkhira districts had been brought under cotton cultivation programme.

High yielding variety seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and cash as loan were disbursed by the BCDB among the farmers for the successful implementation of the programme.

The schools do not have their own syllabus. Besides

Sirajganj Quami Jute Mills incurs Tk 1cr loss a month

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, May 31 : The Sirajganj Quami Jute Mills, the biggest industrial enterprise of the northern region incurs loss amounting to Tk one crore every month. In last 10 years the loss have amounted to Tk 120 crores.

It is gathered that the Quami Jute Mills was established in mid 60s at Raipur, about four kilometer away from Sirajganj town. The products of the mills have great demand in the foreign markets but due to higher cost of production, the goods can not compete with the products of other exporting countries.

A source of the mills told that production cost of one ton Hessian amounts to Tk 38,766 and sold at Tk 21 thousand. Seeking of Tk 27,330 in sold at Tk 15 thousand and CBC of

The Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) paid Tk seven crore to the mills to purchase raw jute. But unusual

and mysterious delay in purchasing jute adds new amount to loss. Purchasing of jute from distant points including Bhangura, Domar and Jamalpur agencies, carrying cost have increased to Tk 40/50 per ton.

Besides, a considerable amount have been spent for the employees and workers illegally. Some CBA leaders have taken abnormal and unusual TA and DA even 50/60 times in a year. While contacted, a source, unwilling to be disclosed, told this correspondent that all such irregularities were done under heavy pressure.

The knowledgeable sources have opined thorough investigation into the matters to make the prospective jute mills a profitting concern.



COMILLA: Parts of animal abdomen are being dried up in front of Comilla slaughter house polluting the environment.

National

Tk 4 cr telephone bills unpaid in Barisal

BARISAL, May 31: More than Tk 4 crore telephone bills have been lying outstanding in eleven southern districts under Barisal telecommunication zone, reports UNB.

According to Barisal T&T and Revenue office sources, of the total bills, about Tk 1.75 crore remained outstanding with the semi-government offices while Tk 2.50 crore with the private sector consumers.

Besides, Tk 1.20 crore remained outstanding against about one thousand closed telephones in the zone.

There are about 11,000 telephone consumers in the zone, the Revenue office sources said.

Another reports say: The operation of the private sector short take-off and landing (STOL) service is likely to be delayed by more than two months due to rain and other problems.

Meanwhile, civil aviation authority has constructed 2,600 ft long and 100 ft wide runway. This runway is expected to be extended upto 3,000 ft within this year.

Trees uprooted in recent cyclone

Govt can fetch Tk 200 crore selling Segun, Mehgani timber

SRIPUR (Gazipur), May 31: The government will be able to earn Taka 200 crore by selling the timber of Segun and Mehgani trees uprooted by the recent cyclone in Cox's Bazar district. Forest and Environment Minister Akbar Hossain said here, reports BSS.

He said Taka 30 crore would be required to collect these trees from the difficult hilly terrain by manual labour and the money spent would be earned by the people living there. He said, in Teknaf alone 2600 people were working daily in collecting and carrying these trees to the nearest transport point.

The minister was speaking at a grass root level workshop as the chief guest organised jointly by the ministry of environment, UNDP and ADAB at Prashika Manbik Unnayan Kendra at Sreepur in finalisation of the National Environment Management Action Plan (NEMAP).

He said, the government had already taken steps to involve the people in tree plantation as tree gives high economic benefit to the people while protecting the environment.

The workshop was the last of 23 such workshops held at different places of the country where local people representing different strata, professions and sex participated.

Pointing to the failure of the Environment Ministry in effecting the ban on use of polythene bags the minister said plastic was the worst waste in the world affecting the environment.

He said to serve the interest of 1000 to 1500 businessmen lakhs of poor farmer who cultivate jute has to bear the cost as polythene bags were being used as substitute to jute bags.

The minister was addressing the closing session of the Workshop on 'Communicating Environmental Risks: Environmental Education as a tool for Environmental Disaster Management'.

The workshop was organised by the Overseas Development Administration (ODA) at the Senate hall of Jahangir Nagar University on Monday.

Akbar Hossain underscored the need for dissemination of technical knowledge to combat the environmental risks.

He urged upon the developed states to help materialise the expectations of the developing world in matters of technical and financial assistance.

The minister said, environment is a global matter and urged all concerned to put united efforts for protecting the environment.

Presided over by Prof Amir Hossain Khan of JU the workshop was addressed, among others, by Abdul Hossain, Vice-Chancellor of JU, Dr Walter L Filho of Bradford University of UK and Dr HL Potter, Representative of ODA in Bangladesh.

The minister said, environment is a global matter and urged all concerned to put united efforts for protecting the environment.

Besides, 61845 hectares of land have been brought under wheat cultivation in the greater Mymensingh district in the current season.

SATKHIRA

Rice worth Tk one crore damaged

May 31 : About 600 metric tons of rice worth about Tk one crore stored at ten food godowns of the district were totally damaged, reports UNB.

The rice stored for a long time in the government godowns was destroyed allegedly due to lack of maintenance and proper care. And it could not be sold in the open market as the price in the market was less than the government fixed price.

Local officials said, they had informed the matter to the higher authority time to time about the open market price structure but they did not get any suggestion regarding the matter.

They are now trying to sell the damaged rice in the market but it is learnt that the people are not willing to buy the same.

District roundup

BARISAL

4 card phone cells to be installed

May 31 : Bangladesh Telephone and Telegraph Board will install 4 ISD card phone booths in Barisal and Patuakhali districts soon, reports UNB.

Official sources said the Japanese government is providing financial assistance for installation of the booths.

Necessary equipment have already reached the sites for installation of the card phones, the sources said.

Meanwhile, work on installation of a new relay station of Radio Bangladesh here is going on in full swing.

The 10 kw medium wave relay station is being set up at Rupatala, three kilometre off the town, with a cost of Tk 18.65 crore including Tk 6.5 crore foreign exchange components.

Officials said, Taka one crore has already been sanctioned for acquisition and compensation of land in the site including earth filling works during the current fiscal year.

The project is expected to be completed by 1995-96 fiscal.

SAVAR

Minister seeks western nations' help to solve Farakka issue

May 31 : Environment and Forest Minister Akbar Hossain said the unilateral withdrawal of the Ganges water at Farakka and the industrial pollution are largely threatening the environment of the country, says UNB.

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MYMENSINGH

Massive boro cultivation scheme

May 31 : A total of 4,92,243 hectares of land have been brought under boro cultivation in five districts of greater Mymensingh during the current season, reports BSS.

Police sent the body to a sadar hospital for autopsy. A case has been filed with Iswardi thana.

The alleged Belal was kidnapped at 7 am on way to their shop and stabbed indiscriminately.

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Glorious roles of Shaheed Zia recalled

MOINUDDIN AHMED MANIK, former MP and Dr Anwar Hossain among others spoke.

JATIYABADI SARMIK DAL also held a discussion on the day at the party office the same day.

Speakers at the discussions said that Shaheed president Ziaur Rahman worked for the welfare of the people and he (President Zia) was a firm believer of democracy. They said that President Zia had enhanced the country's prestige and image in the country of nations through hard work. They also urged all to extend their support and cooperation to the present government.

KHULNA

The 13th death anniversary of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman and founder of BNP was observed here Monday with a call for renewed pledge to implement his ideals and 19-point programme.

The day-long programmes were taken up by various social, political and cultural organisations in observance of the day in a befitting manner.

To mark the day, BNP and its front organisations had taken elaborate programmes which included hoisting of national flags at half-mast atop BNP offices, Quran Khwani, milad mahfil and doa mahfil.

BARISAL

The 13th death anniversary of the founding chairman of

party rule in the country. They also lauded Shaheed Zia for practising the politics of production for the welfare of the toiling masses.

NARAYANGANJ

Shaheed president Ziaur Rahman showed the nation the right path during the hours of crisis and had a dream of establishing Bangladesh as a prestigious and prosperous nation in the world. Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury said Monday.

With this objective in view, he created a trend of development oriented activities in the country, but the anti-development forces conspired against him and assassinated him, Chowdhury observed.

The home minister was speaking at a public meeting arranged at Tarabo, Kayetpara, Murapara, Daupur, Bholajabo, Kanchan, Golakandia, Bhulta and Rupganj unions under Narayanganj district.

The minister said, to materialise the dreams of Shaheed Zia the present government has been carrying out development activities for the betterment of the common people.

FENI

The local Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) arranged a discussion meeting, milad mahfil and rally at its office Monday in observance of the 13th death anniversary of

Shahid president Ziaur Rahman.

The rally paraded the main thoroughfares of the town.

The discussion meeting was addressed by Mahbubul Alam Tara, whip of parliament as the chief guest. He recalled with gratitude the contributions made by Shaheed president Ziaur Rahman towards the socio-economic development of the country and his bold steps to establish multi-party democracy and the freedom of press.

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He was speaking as chief guest at a function in observance of the 13th death anniversary of the shaheed President Ziaur Rahman organised by the district unit of BNP on Monday. Prof Badruddoza said President Zia introduced multi-party politics in Bangladesh, said an official handout.