

Kushtia border will soon be sealed off

KUSHTIA, July 12: The Kushtia border will be sealed off soon after the construction of a 160-mile metalled road along the frontier to facilitate patrols of the area by BDR personnel.

This was disclosed by Director General of BDR, Major General Md Anwar Hossain before visiting the border areas here recently to see the progress of the anti-smuggling drive.

He told UNB that 50 thousand metric tons of wheat had been allocated for the construction of the 16-foot wide road and work on it had already begun. On completion of the road, much of the smuggling through this border could be checked, he added.

Although it is difficult to control such a porous border with a small contingent of BDR, the jawans are very active in reducing smuggling with the assistance of the locals, the DG observed.

Stressing the need for speedy trail of smuggling cases, he said that a proposal was submitted to the government to amend the existing laws removing flaws and loopholes through which many culprits get acquitted of the charges.

He sought the cooperation of all, particularly from the railway authorities, to combat smuggling. Most of the smuggled goods like sarees, sugar and salt are pouring into the country from India by train.

Twin meets tragic end

SIRAJGANJ, July 12: A twin brother and sister met the tragic end of their life on Saturday while they were on a visit to their grandfather's residence, reports UNB.

According to family sources, they came to the residence of their grandfather at Moyadhangora poura area a few days back from Tangail district along with their parents.

But on the fateful day the twin—Ratan, 7, and Bithi, 7, went for bath at a nearby Khanbari pond and suddenly slipped into the pond and drowned. Later their bodies recovered by the local people.

The bodies were buried at Raipur graveyard on the same day.

Three new colleges set up in Jhenidah

From Our Correspondent
Three new colleges were inaugurated in Jhenidah district this year.

According to reports, Alhaj Mashur Rahman MP inaugurated Bogutia Jarip Biswas college in Saikupa thana on May 12.

Abdul Wahab MP and his brother Chand Ali have donated land to establish the college after the name of their late father.

Another college was inaugurated namely Mian Jinnal Alam college at Garogin under the same thana by Alhaj Abdul Wahab MP.

The widow and son donated land to establish this college. The college authority in the meantime has constructed a semi pucca building to meet the accommodation needs.

Another college was inaugurated namely Raicharan Tarinicharan College near Hatgopalpur recently.

Tk 19 crore development projects underway in Moulvibazar

From Our Correspondent

MOULVIBAZAR, July 12: Different departments and agencies of the government are implementing 10 major projects at a total cost of Taka 18 crore 54 lakh and 87 thousand. These projects were taken up during the financial 1993-94 fiscal. These projects are being implemented in Moulvibazar Sadar, Rajnagar, Kulaura, Baralekha, Kamalgonj and Sreemongal thanas of Moulvibazar district.

According to the sources of concerned departments and agencies, some of the projects have been financed by USAID, UNICEF, Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Islamic Development Bank.

The projects included construction of Judge Court building and police line building, expansion programme of rural power distribution, installation of tubewells, construction of flood protection embankments, development of rural growth centres and construction of growth centre connecting roads.

Source of Public Works Department (PWD) at Moulvibazar office said, they have taken up a project to construct a new Judge Court building at Moulvibazar district town with an estimated expenditure of Taka 2 crore 30 lakh. Water and electricity supply and construction of connecting roads are also included in the project. It is expected to be completed by June 1995.

The PWD source added that they have also taken up another scheme to construct the infrastructure of Moulvibazar district police line. The scheme included construction of motor transport building, medical investigation building, ration store building, Administrative (Reserve) office building, parade ground and digging of a pond in the police line campus. Taka 2 crore 50 lakh has been sanctioned to implement the scheme.

Besides, another scheme of construction of police barrack in district police line with an expenditure of Taka 3 crore 50 lakh has already been completed under supervision of PWD. The implemented

scheme included construction of 300 men police barrack, magazine building, staff quarter, modern electricity sub-station, approach road and facilities of gas connections.

Meanwhile, the Rural Electrification Board (REB) has implemented Taka 1 crore 1 lakh massive rural electrification programme under 3 thanas of the district in two separate schemes.

The REB and Moulvibazar Pally Biddyt Samity at Sreemongal office sources said, first scheme, financed by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is being implemented by REB. When contacted the General Manager, Moulvibazar Pally Biddyt Samity told this correspondent that a total of 40 kilo-meter new power distribution line under their third phase programme has constructed in 3 thanas of the district. The thanas are Moulvibazar, Sreemongal and Kamalgonj.

Besides, under 'density programme of REB' they have constructed another 6 kilo-meter power distribution lines at the villages of above mentioned 3 thanas.

With the implementation of the schemes of REB, a total of 3500 family of rural areas will be benefitted.

Another report says, work on installation of 1227 tubewells at rural areas of the district are going on in full swing under supervision of Public Health Engineering Department (PHED), Moulvibazar.

The PHED source said, the scheme is being funded by the government of the total, 1146 are shallow and 81 are Tara tubewells. According to source, in the mean time 926 shallow and 69 Tara tubewells have already been installed and the rest are expected to be sunk by this month.

The PHED source added that, with the financial assistance of United Nation's International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), the PHED have also taken up another programme to sink 101 shallow and 159 Tara tubewells in 6 thanas of

Moulvibazar district. The work is going on full swing which is expected to be completed by July this year.

On the other hand, the work in Moulvibazar town flood protection scheme is on progress and expected to be completed by this month.

With the financial assistance of Asian Development Bank (ADB), the government sanctioned about Taka 5 crore 66 lakh 13 thousand for the scheme under 'Secondary Town Integrated Flood Protection Project'.

According to Moulvibazar Circle office of Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB), the scheme included construction of 5 kilometer long flood protection embankment at the right bank of 'Monu River' and preservation of 1.30 kilometer long river-bank of Monu river at Moulvibazar town portion.

It is expected that with the implementation of the scheme, Moulvibazar district town will be protected from floods.

The WDB source also added that, they have taken up another scheme for construction of a secondary-embankment under food for works programme. A total of 1800 metric-tons of wheat has already been sanctioned for the scheme. According to them, the scheme included construction of 14 kilometer long secondary embankment from village Haripasa to village Palpur at the south embankment of the Monu river. Work of implementation of the scheme is expected to be completed by this month with the implementation of the scheme, crop-land and human habitation within the 'Monu River Irrigation Project' will be protected from floods.

The work on development of Growth Centres and its connecting roads under 'Rural Development Project No-3' in Moulvibazar district is on satisfactory progress and expected to be completed soon.

Total expenditure for the project is estimated Taka 3 crore 57 lakh 83 thousand. Of the total, Taka 3 crore 34 lakh

5 thousand has been financed by the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and the government has sanctioned the rest amount 23 lakh 78 thousand from its own fund.

According to the source, of the total expenditure, Taka 3 lakh 34 thousand which is allocated from IDB will be spent for construction of connecting roads. Taka 16 lakh 32 thousand will be spent for development of growth centres and Taka 7 lakh 46 thousand will be spent for construction of a culvert on connecting road.

Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) has been supervising the project. Executive Engineer of the LGED told this correspondent that the 'Rural Development Project No-3' included construction of 21.50 kilometre long growth centre connecting 6 roads, and a 10 metre long culvert and development of 2 growth centres.

The roads of the project are Rajnagar-Fatehpur-Munshibazar road, Sampashi-Bairabgonj bazar road, Helalpur-Jagatshishamsergonj bazar road, Sirearabazar-Gurara bazar road, Kamalgonj-Adampur road and Srimongal-Sindurkhan road.

The growth centres of the project includes Azimgonj bazar under Baralekha thana and Adampur bazar under Kamalgonj thana.

Meanwhile, A total of 120 projects were completed in 6 thanas of Moulvibazar district under 'Food for Works Programme' taken up by the district Relief and Rehabilitation Department during the financial year of 1993-94.

According to an official source, the projects included repair of roads, reconstruction of flood protection embankments, canal digging, earth-work in different mosque's, schools and bus stands.

Of the total, 26 projects were completed in sadar thana, 14 in Rajnagar thana, 32 in Kulaura, 18 in Baralekha, 15 in Sreemongal and 15 in Kamalgonj thana.

The government has sanctioned 3267 metric tons of wheat for the implementation of the projects, the source added.



SYLHET—Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman speaking at a public meeting at Ilashpur recently. He inaugurated a bridge on Sylhet-Fenchuganj highway built at cost of Taka 90 lakh. — Star photo

Housewife rapped

MAGURA, July 12: A young housewife was rapped by two miscreants at Horindi village of Sreepur thana, police said recently, reports UNB.

According to police, Nurul Islam, 18, son of Abdul Karim and Saleem, 30, son of Abu Taher of the same village entered her house forcibly at dead of night on June 21 and violated her at gun point.

Police arrested the miscreants and produced them before the court. The court rejecting their bail prayers sent them to jail.

Valuables worth Tk 2 lakh looted

PATUAKHALI, July 12: Two dacoities were committed in village Awliapur under Patuakhalhi sadar thana recently in which six persons were injured and property worth about Taka two lakh looted, reports BSS.

A gang of dacoits numbering about thirty to thirty five armed with lethal weapons entered the house of Abdus Sobhan Mirza at dead of night, beat the inmates of the house and fled with cash, gold ornament and other valuables worth about Taka two lakh. Six inmates of the house were injured, one of them seriously.

District roundup

JHENIDAH

Three sub-post offices set up

July 12: Three sub-post offices have been set up in three thanas of the district to facilitate postal services, reports UNB.

Official sources said Kullagacha sub-post office in Kotchandpur thana and Tikanibazar post office in Sadar thana were inaugurated by the district Inspector of Post Office Shariful Islam on June 23 and June 20 respectively while Adarsha Andulia post office was installed in Harinakunda thana.

Some 40,000 people of 378 villages will be able to avail the postal services under the newly installed sub-post offices, the officials added.

Local leaders expressed satisfaction over the fulfilling of the long felt demand of the people and urged the concerned authorities to equip the sub-post offices with modern amenities.

KUSHTIA

Training course on credit management

July 12: A two-day training course on Credit Management in Small and Cottage Industries (SCI) and Working Capital Implementation began here recently, reports UNB.

Deputy Commissioner Nazrul Islam inaugurated the workshop at the National Association of Small and Cottage Industries of Bangladesh (NASCIB) office.

Addressing on the occasion the Deputy Commissioner underlined the need for rapid development of small industries to ensure a sustainable economy for the country.

He called on the local NASCIB members to utilise the facilities offered by the government in its efforts to lead the country towards industrialisation.

District NASCIB President Mohammad Hossain stressed the need for such workshops to acquire knowledge about credit management.

SIRAJGANJ

Two fishermen missing

July 12: Two fishermen were missing after their boat capsized in river Jamuna near Chargirish in Kazipur thana of the district Saturday, reports UNB.

They were identified as Anil (40) and Ajit (32). Another fisherman swam ashore.

Local UP chairman said the fishing boat was overturned in the river by gusty wind Saturday morning.

JAMALPUR

Indian phensidyl syrup seized

July 12: Police seized 33 bottles of Indian phensidyl syrup and arrested a young man in this connection from Rajapur area recently, reports UNB.

The arrested was identified as Jamal (32) of Doulatpur village in Sarishabari thana. It is alleged that a gang of black marketers are active in the district who are selling contraband items with impunity before the nose of the law enforcing agencies.

Meanwhile, police arrested an absconding woman prisoner named Asia Begum from Bagerhat district.

SATKHIRA

Two bodies recovered

July 12: Two more bodies were recovered from the river Isamat Thursday, related to last week's trawler capsized in Kaliganj thana along the Indian frontier, reports UNB.

The Khikkhal bound trawler from Kaliganj ferry with nearly 60 passengers sank while taking a steep turn at Uksha on June 24.

The victims are identified as Uday (45), and Selina (13). Details of their identity could not be known.

The ill fated trawler was moving without valid documents.

Five dead bodies were recovered earlier soon after the accident.

NAOGAON

Bridge over river Atrai opens

July 12: Railways and Communications Minister Oli Ahmed inaugurated the newly constructed Manda Ferry Ghat bridge over Atrai river at Manda thana in the district last week, reports UNB.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony, the Minister said government was keenly interested to develop rural communication network to boost economic activities to change the lot of common people.

The bridge was constructed at a cost of about Tk 6 crore which connected the 85 km long road from Naogaon to Rajshahi.

Oli Ahmed said by constructing the bridge in scheduled time government has fulfilled a long standing demand of the people.

State Minister Barrister Aminul Huq, Al-Haj Shamsuddin Ahmed MP, Alamgir Kabir MP, Maulana Nasiruddin Zihadi MP also addressed on the occasion.

Nursery fair begins in Kushtia

KUSHTIA, July 12: A 10-day nursery fair began here at the Deputy Commissioner's office premises on Sunday to gear up the tree plantation campaign in the district, reports UNB. K M Abdul Khaleque Chantu MP, inaugurated the fair which was organised by the district administration in collaboration with the Forest Department.

The fair was organised to sell saplings at reduced rate among the people who are being motivated to plant tree and make the environment fit for living, official sources said.

Deputy Commissioner Md Nazrul Islam, District Forest Officer Ali Akbar Haider were present on the inaugural ceremony.

About 5,000 saplings were sold on the first day of the fair which will be concluded on July 13 and prizes will be awarded to the best sellers. — Star photo

Plan to boost groundnut output

KISHOREGANJ, July 12: A total of 1,100 hectares of land will be brought under groundnut cultivation in seven districts under Dhaka Agriculture Zone (DAZ) in the current season.

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

According to Agriculture Extension Department, of the total land, 100 hectares each have been brought under groundnut farming in Dhaka, Narayanganj, Narsingdi, Manikganj, Munshiganj and Tangail and 500 hectares in Gazipur districts.

About 2200 metric tons of groundnut is expected to be produced during the season.

For the success of the programme Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) will supply high yielding variety seeds, fertilizer, pesticides and other necessary inputs to the growers of these districts.

Bangladesh Krishi Bank

From Our Correspondent

(BKB) and other commercial banks will also supply necessary loans for the successful implementation of the programme, it is learnt.

Besides, Agricultural Extension Department has arranged 37 demonstration plots for teaching modern methods of groundnut cultivation. Of them 6 demonstration plots have been arranged in Dhaka district, 5 plots each in Narayanganj, Narsingdi and Manikganj, 4 plots in Gazipur, 3 plots in Munshiganj and 9 plots in Tangail districts, the sources added.

Jamuna erosion 1260 people homeless

SIRAJGANJ, July 12: About 1260 people were rendered homeless in 11 villages of two thanas of the district recently due to erosion and continued rise in water level of river, Jamuna, says UNB.

UNB adds: Besides, a scheme has also been taken up to bring about 1,500 hectares of land under chilli cultivation in the same zone during the current season.

According to AED, of the total land, 500 hectares each will be cultivated in Mymensingh and Jamalpur districts, 200 hectares each in Sherpur and Netrakona districts and 100 hectares in Kishoreganj district.

With the successful implementation of the programme, it is expected that 2,250 MT of chilli will be produced in the zone.

AED has selected 67 demonstration plots in five districts to train the farmers with the modern and scientific methods of chilli cultivation.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation will supply seeds, fertilizer, pesticides and other necessary inputs to the farmers at a fair price for the successful implementation of the programme.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

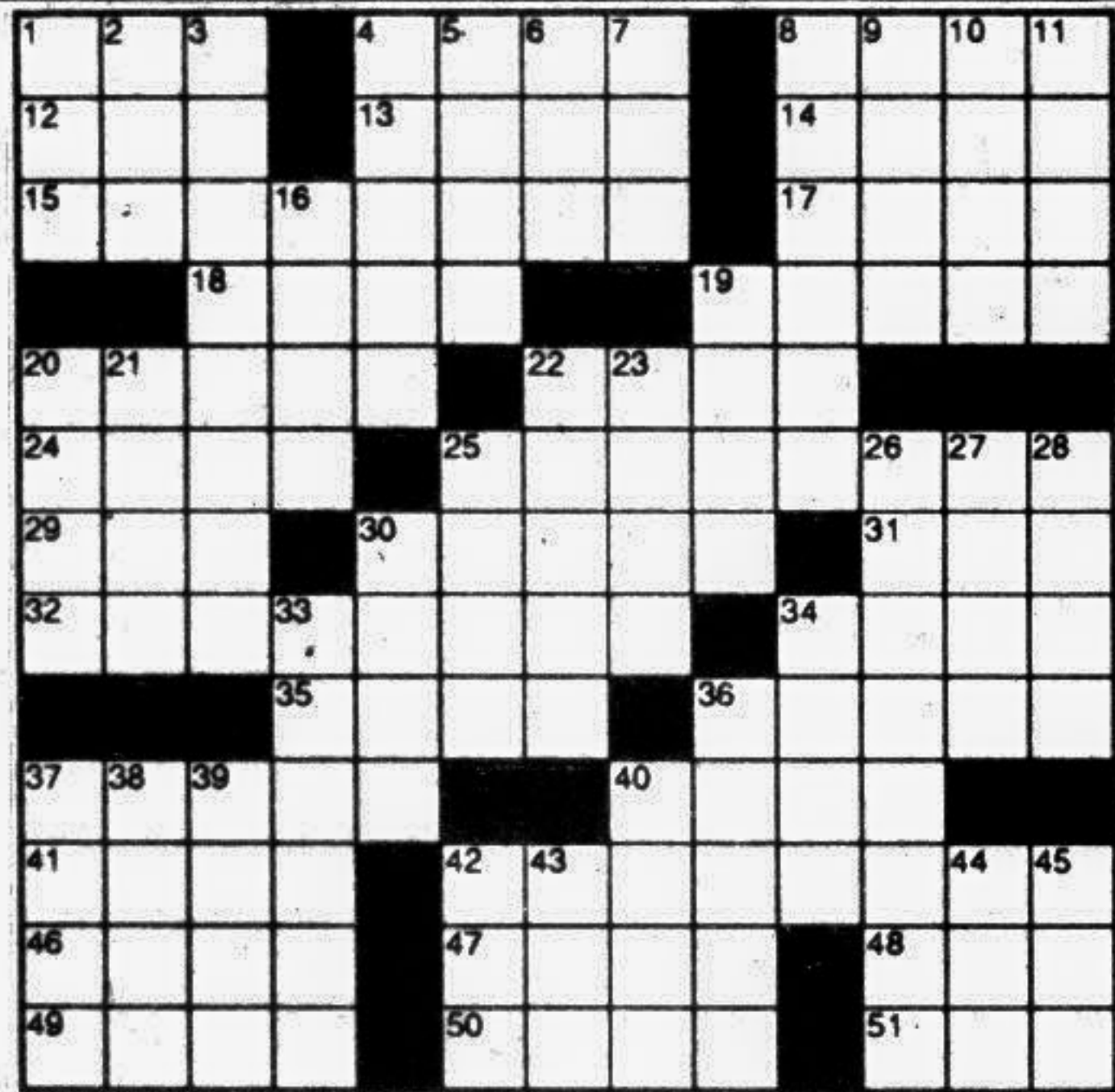
1 Foundation
4 Suitcase
8 Liniment's target
12 Eventual
13 Kent coworker
14 Some people search for it
15 "Diana" singer
17 Tra trailer
18 Nut
19 Ross Perot, e.g.
20 Phoenix, at times
22 Ms. Dunaway
24 "Dami"
25 "I Kid" author
29 Census datum
30 Free of frost
31 Gun lobby org.
32 "Entertainment Tonight" cohost

DOWN

1 Conk
2 One of the Gabors
3 Baby in pink
4 Tumbler keeper: abbr.
5 Carry on
6 Squid
7 Cause of princely insomnia
8 Dormant
9 Wheedle
10 Shake in the grass
11 Vivacity
16 Campaign promises?
19 Youngster
20 Composer Kha-chaturian
21 It's a long story
22 Carnivals
23 Ledger
25 Harlow
26 At whatever location
27 English opera composer
28 McNally's partner
30 Arab sailing vessel
33 Gives in
34 Missing
36 Inclinations
37 One's performance
38 Stomach
39 Exceptional
40 Dickens: abbr.
42 Poke
43 Mined (Fr.)
44 On (Fr.)
45 Yon maiden

SOLUTION TIME: 26 mins.

CHIC MUM MUSS
RARA ASA INEE
ATOP DEN SCAT
GENEVA AIDA
CAMPGROUND
BACON LEE GOO
EGAD CAR THUD
EAT HAT GETNO
PLAYGROUND
RATE PUISNE
IMAN FOE UNIT
RACK URN MALT
ANTS LED SPEE



CRYPTOQUIP

INEAA APUAE QNVDDAEQ,
WAAIBGU XH PSSBLAGI
PI INA WPCC, SNPIAL
PGL QPBL, "XRH XRH."
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: HEAD OF ART EXPOSITION, FOUND AT THE THEATER DURING WORKING HOURS, NOW HAS AN EX-POSITION.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: X equals B

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Farmers, blacksmiths in Sherpur face problems

SHERPUR, July 12: Cultivator and blacksmiths of the district have been facing various difficulties due to price hikes of fertilisers, seeds and other necessary inputs and lack of marketing facilities and absence of patronisation, reports UNB.

According to source, of the total 12 lakh population of the district, more than 85 per cent depend on agriculture of which more than 60 per cent are landless. 30 per cent are marginal and remaining have land to earn their livelihood.

But with the rise in population per head cultivable land is decreasing here day by day and shortfall in agri output has become a regular feature.

The cultivator having small quantity of land cannot cope with the increasing prices of agri inputs. They cannot afford to buy fertilisers, seeds, pesticides and even bullocks to till their land. This class of cultivators is deprived of irrigation facilities as they are unable to pay irrigation cost timely.

On the other hand, they do not get the fair price of their product like jute, sugarcane, potato etc in the market. Moreover, they are forced to sell their products at nominal prices.

The situation has further aggravated by the continuous natural calamities like flood, cyclone which damage the crops and dwelling houses of these poor class farmers. Besides, most of the farmers

do not get the bank loan due to its difficult procedures. As a result, the poor farmers have to borrow money from the greedy money lenders at a high rate of interest.

Local leaders and social workers have urged the government to mitigate the suffering of the cultivators and take immediate steps to boost production in the district.

Another report says Blacksmiths of the district have been facing multifarious problems due to lack of marketing facilities, high prices of inputs and absence of patronisation.

According to a report, about 2,000 families mainly of the rural areas of Jhenigati, Sreebordi, Nalitabari, Noka and Sadar thanas are engaged in this vocation.

Without getting loan facilities and lack of government patronisation, the blacksmiths have been facing acute financial problems to carry on their ancestral occupation. Meanwhile, many of them have deserted their occupation to find out other sources of income to maintain their livelihood.

They also said they were not getting fair prices of their products as the cost of production was increasing day by day.

Some blacksmiths said if financial supports were available, they could make high quality agricultural implements and household tools at comparatively low prices.



KUSHTIA: A 10-day long tree sapling nursery fair began here at the Kushtia Collectorate premises recently. Various types of saplings are being sold at the fair at subsidised prices. — Star photo