

## Attendance of prying school students falls in remote villages

From Our Correspondent

MADARIPUR, July 25: The number of primary school going children is decreasing in remote areas of the district as they are compelled to take up jobs to give financial support to their families.

According to a survey, a large number of children, between age 8 and 12 groups are engaged in different odd jobs to earn their livelihood instead of going to schools.

As a result of this, primary schools of these areas are facing acute shortage of students and the problems are intensifying everyday.

The survey report also said

the parents of these children are marginal and landless farmers and in general have large family members. Most of them cannot afford to meet the expenses of their family needs.

Finding no other alternative, the poverty stricken farmers prefer to engage their children in various petty jobs like cattle grazing, rickshaw pulling etc.

Besides, during the harvesting seasons, a good number of labourers doing with their kids migrate to other places in search of work.

## People won't accept budget for current fiscal: Samad

MOULVIBAZAR, July 25:

Awami League president member and Deputy leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad has said the people will not accept the budget for the current fiscal year, passed in parliament in the absence of the opposition, reports UNB.

"It's a BNP budget, not people's budget," he told a public meeting organised by district Awami League at the local Shaheed Minar recently.

Opposition Chief whip Mohammad Nasim MP, Abdul Awal Miah MP, Sultan Md Mansur and Syed Mansur Ali also spoke at the meeting presided over by Azizur Rahman MP.

"The budget with neither be accepted nationally nor internationally," said Azad.

The deputy opposition leader alleged that the present government had failed to run the government while the law and order situation had become alarming and corruption had infiltrated in every sphere. But, he said, discussion on corruption by a minister was

not allowed in parliament.

The AL leader also accused the government of failing to run the parliament effectively. "Even the ruling party MPs are not attending parliament regularly."

He said pointed out that the students were now going abroad for study due to uncertainty in completing education at home. Eighty thousand students are now studying in India alone, he said.

He blamed the government for creating the Taslima Nasreen issue to divert people's attention from the opposition movement.

Opposition chief whip Mohammad Nasim said, impartial election was not possible under the present government and asserted that opposition parties will not return to the parliament if the government did not introduce a bill for caretaker government.

He said, the opposition will not participate in any polls unless the government accepts the demand for caretaker government.

## MOU signed in Rajshahi Special credit programme to raise crop production

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, July 25: The National Bank Limited (NBL) Rajshahi branch has undertaken an extensive credit disbursement programme involving Taka one crore for increasing crop production in the Barind project area in Rajshahi and Naogaon districts.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to this effect was signed for the second time recently between National Bank Limited, and the Barind Multipurpose Development Authority (BMDA) in the Barind area in Rajshahi. The Managing Director of the National Bank Limited K A Majid and the BMDA Executive Director M Asaduzzaman signed the MOU on behalf of their respective organisations.

A function was organised on this occasion which was presided over by the Chairman of BMDA and Rajshahi Divisional Commissioner M Aminul Islam and addressed by the Executive Director of Bangladesh Bank M A Raqib, General Manager of Bangladesh Bank, Rajshahi branch Didarul Islam, Executive Engineer of BMDA Md Abdul Momen, Assistant Vice President of National Bank Limited Rajshahi branch S M Shamsul Islam and Rural Credit Officer of NBL, Rajshahi branch Ariful Haq.

The three years term Memorandum of Understanding states that NBL in cooperation with the BMDA will provide production loans to the farmers of the area for different sectors of agriculture in the command areas of the deep tubewells set up by BMDA. A total of 1043 acres of land will come under this programme during 1994-95 fiscal year. The credit will be pro-

vided in the form of inputs when ever it will be necessary under strict supervision.

The National Bank Limited (NBL) started a "Rural Credit Project" of Taka 25 lakh in 1992 under the first MOU with the BMDA in the Barind area in Tanore and Godagari thanas of Rajshahi district. The bank distributed Taka 49.21200 lakh in form of kinds among 863 farmers in the command area of 21 deep tubewells in the first phase

## Procurement targets of paddy, rice may fail in 16 N dists

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, July 25: Procurement targets of paddy, rice and wheat may not be achieved this year in 16 northern districts of the country, it is apprehended.

According to sources, 1.47 lakh metric tons of rice against the target of 2 lakh metric tons, 5 thousand metric tons of paddy against the target of 32 thousand metric tons and 17 thousand metric tons of wheat against the target of 1.5 lakh metric tons have been procured till now. The procurement programme began April this year.

Rice, paddy and wheat are being bought at the rates of Tk 370, Tk 230 and Tk 230 per maund respectively.

Sources said that the procurement programme started late this time and that was why the procurement target would not be achieved. Despite that the procurement this year is more than that of last year, official sources said.

## Scheme for massive aman cultivation in Moulvibazar

From Our Correspondent

MOULVI BAZAR, July 25: A massive scheme has been taken up to bring 1 lakh 9 thousand 640 hectares of land under transplanted aman cultivation in six thanas of Moulvibazar district this season.

According to district Agriculture Extension Department (AED) source, of the total land 70 thousand 640 hectares will be brought under high yielding variety and 39 thousand hectares under local variety.

The thana-wise breakup is — Moulvibazar sadar 18,470 hectares, Srimongal thana — 13,955 hectares, Rajnagar thana — 13,415 hectares, Kamalganj thana — 24,415 hectares, Kulaura thana — 25,865 hectares and Baralekha thana 13,665 hectares of land.

About 6132 hectares of seedbeds have already been prepared for successful implementation of the scheme.

With the implementation of the scheme, it is expected that about 1,76,600 metric tons of high yielding variety and 58,500 metric tons of local variety of rice will be produced in the district.

Besides, the government has allocated Taka 21 lakh 93 thousand 900 for agriculture rehabilitation scheme in the district.

According to AED source, under this scheme seeds and fertilizer on this amount will be distributed among the flood affected poor farmers free of cost for ensuring transplanted aman and rabi-crops season. It is mentioned here that floods had damaged boro-crops in last boro season.

## Two killed in road accident

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, July 25: Two persons were killed in a road accident on Sylhet-Tamabil highway recently.

A truck (Sylhet Ta-5164) while on its way to Jafllong from Sylhet turned turtle when the driver lost control over the steering at a place near Haripur, about 14 kilometers from Sylhet town. Two unknown persons died on the spot while two others were seriously injured. Nibaron, 31 and Abdul Rahim, 20, have been admitted to the Sylhet MAG Osmany Medical College Hospital in a critical condition. The driver managed to escape after accident. A case has been registered with the Jaintapur PS.

## More customs corridor soon

RAJSHAHI, July 25: The

government has decided to open customs corridor at different points of the frontier for legal passage of Indian cattle and stopping unnecessary harassment of the people, reports UNB.

This was stated by Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury while opening two corridors (land customs outposts) at Rajbari and Sultanganj Tuesday, said an official handout.

He asked the local people to provide the statistics of their domestic cattle to their thana and also inform police before selling them to help stop harassment.

The government has introduced such customs system within three years of its assuming power with a view to improving socio-economic condition of the people, the minister told the inaugural function.

State Minister for Establishment, Barrister Aminul Haque, Farida Rahman, MP and Begum Lutfun Nesa Hossain, MP also spoke on the occasion.

## Two strangled in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, July 25: Two

people were strangled in sadar and Kazipur thanas of the district recently, reports UNB.

Teen-age Sanwar, Hossain, son of Javed Ali of village Naodashaliabari in sadar thana, was found dead on a road near their house.

Police said the 18-year-old Hossain might have been strangled following rivalry with the neighbours.

Santosh (28) of Chhalbari in Kazipur thana was also strangled over land dispute, police said. His body was recovered from a field this morning.

Two cases were filed with police in connection with the murders.

In another incident, 17 people were injured, four seriously, in a clash between two groups over the possession of a football ground in village Pangashi in Rayganj thana recently.

Police said the clash ensued when a group of youths tried to recover the ground, occupied by an influential person of the village by sowing vegetable.

## District roundup

BARISAL

### Govt poultry farm earns Tk 21 lakh

July 25: Government poultry farm of Amanatganj of Barisal district earned a sum of Tk 21,10,886 in eleven months this year, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the farm produced 1,35,178 eggs (hens and ducks) in the period and reared about 42,000 chicken and ducklings. There are 7,639 ducks, hens, ducklings and chicken in this farm now, the source added.

The farm stands over an area of 18 acres of land including a lake of 12 acres around three sides of this farm. Pisciculture may be introduced in the farm lake.

Another UNB report says: Police recovered a pipegun and arrested Masum (18) during an operation in the town Saturday, reports UNB.

In a separate drive, police seized 26 bottles of Phensydil from Amtali area and arrested Sohel (25).

SIRAJGANJ

### Week-long eye camp

From Our Correspondent

July 25: The week-long eye camp in Belkuchi was concluded recently. A total of 48 patients here operated upon and 400 patients were extended outdoor treatment. The Sirajganj base Eye Hospital of Bangladesh National Society for the Blinds (BNSB) in co-operation with Sirajganj Lions Club conducted the camp.

The eye camp at Belkuchi Shishu Academy was locally sponsored by the enthusiastic people by raising subscription.

NARAIL

### Prices of house building materials go up

July 25: The prices of house building materials have shot up abnormally hampering the development works in three thanas of the district, reports UNB.

Local people said prices of CI sheet, brick, rod, cement and clumps have shot up in the district. Bricks are being sold between Tk 2,400 and 2,500 per thousand as against Tk 1,900.

The price of cement has increased to Tk 225 per bag which was Tk 180 and MS rod is being sold between Tk 25,000 and 27,000 per ton as against Tk 15,000 only. Accordingly, prices of CI sheet and clumps have also shot up.

Earlier, the government has started development programme and sanctioned huge amount of money for the construction works in the thana areas.

Besides, the work of ADP is also being implemented by the LGED which is being hampered due to the same reason.

SYLHET

### Trader commits suicide

From Our Correspondent

July 25: A 48-year old trader Mansur Miah committed suicide by taking poison yesterday.

The victim, a coconut trader, had an altercation of words with his son early hours yesterday. He took poison at about 8 am and was immediately taken to the Sylhet MAG Osmany Medical College Hospital where the physicians declared him dead.

He hails from Noakhali and had been staying at Tophkana area in Sylhet for the last few years.

NETRAKONA

### Construction work of bridge going on

July 25: The construction work of 360 feet long bally bridge on the river Kongro at Takurakona in Netrakona district headquarters is going on the full swing, reports BSS.

Communication Ministry sanctioned about Taka one crore and fifty lakh for the construction of the bridge. Netrakona Roads and Highways Department office source said.

Finance Minister Saifur Rahman laid the foundation stone of the bridge recently. With completion of the bridge a long felt demand of the people, Barhatta, Mahonganj and Kalkamanda thanas, would be fulfilled.

SATKHIRA

### One killed, 3 hurt in road mishap

July 25: A passenger was killed and three others injured when a bus hit roadblocks and tumbled into a ditch near Alipur in sadar thana Friday evening, reports UNB.

Police said the Kaliganj-bound bus from Satkhira hit a barricade raised on the road by villagers and skidded into a roadside ditch, killing Abdul Khaleq.

The injured were admitted to sadar hospital.

A case was filed in this connection.

MAJDEE COURT

### Passing out parade of constables

July 25: The passing out parade of 6th batch of newly recruited constables of Noakhali Police Training Centre (PTC) held at the local Shahid Bhul Stadium through a brief ceremony recently.

Deputy Inspector General of Police, Chittagong Range, Mohammad Salam took the salute as chief guest where a total of 418 recruited constables took part after completion of their six months training.

Best recruits were also awarded with medals.

## Fruit bearing trees face extinction

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, July 25: Fruit bearing trees in all the seven thanas of the Cox's Bazar district are on the verge of extinction, due to large-scale cutting.

According to a report, Cox's Bazar sadar, Chokoria, Ramu, Ukha, Teknaf, Kutubdia and Moheshkhali thanas of the district were famous for different kinds of fruits such as jack fruit, lichi, mango, palm, guava, amloki and pineapple.

These fruits grew abundantly in those areas. The people of the district never face the scarcity of various kinds of fruits which were available in all the hats and bazars.

People used to eat huge fruits to meet the requirements of nutrition. Now fruits are not available. There are reasons for their non-availability.

The economic conditions of the people of Cox's Bazar district is rapidly deteriorating due to inflation, cyclone and other natural disasters, withdrawal of subsidies on many agricultural inputs and high

birth rate. Many poverty stricken people are compelled to sell their fruit bearing trees to a sections of traders. These trees are being used as firewood and house building materials. Due to the indiscriminate felling of the fruit-bearing trees, an acute crisis of fruit has been prevailing everywhere.

Besides, the ecological balance is being hampered day by day.

The scarcity of amloki has hit the old people who need it most because they generally eat rice and other food after mixing it with them when they lose taste for food.

It is learnt that, if the present trend of felling of fruit-bearing trees continues, no fruit will be available in the district in the near future.

The authority concerned should take necessary steps to save the fruit-bearing trees of Cox's Bazar from total destruction for the greater interest of public health as well as the country.



RAJSHAHI: The Managing Director of National Bank Ltd, K A Majid and Executive Director of the Barind Multipurpose Development Authority (BMDA), M Asaduzzaman signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Rural Credit Programme in Barind area recently.

## Inhabitants of Cox's Bazar poura area pass miserable life

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, July 25: About 35,000 inhabitants of the Cox's Bazar pourasava have been passing miserable life due to absence of civic amenities in the area.

There is no proper drainage system in the poura area. The authority without any plan constructed eight drains in the area during the last five years which do not serve the purpose properly.

The communication system of the district town in very bad. Only 50 per cent of the roads of the town is pucca. The existing roads are becoming unfit for use for want of proper maintenance and repair. These become muddy after a slight rainfall. The roads are narrow for which traffic jams occur very often.

There is no bus terminal in the town though a large number of buses, trucks and other transports ply on the Cox's Bazar-Chittagong, Cox's Bazar-Teknaf routes. Passengers, particularly the women and children, suffer much for want of a bus terminal. They are to wait under the open sky for hours together for buses for different routes. Lack of any toilet increases the sufferings of the passengers. The drivers of buses park their vehicles here and there for which traffic jam is created every now and then.

The inhabitants of the town do not get adequate water for their daily use. Only 25 per cent are provided with water supply.

Most of the lamp posts have no bulbs. Some of the sodium

lights are inoperational. The local people including the tourists feel it insecure to go outside at night.

The only one market of the

## BKB introduces lending programme

PATUAKHALI, July 25:

Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) has introduced a lending programme on poverty alleviation during current fiscal year, reports UNB.

BKB will distribute short term credit to the distressed people through its branches in Barisal, Khulna, Dhaka and Comilla divisions.

Official sources said the main objective of the programme is to create self-employment and income-generating activities in rural areas.

The bank officials will identify and select the borrowers. The bank officials of disbursement section will further ensure proper utilisation and timely recovery of the loan.

Under the programme the loanes will be given necessary training in bee-fattening line in cooperation with the district/thana livestock department and the training shall be completed at least one month before the disbursement of the loan.

Under the scheme a loanee may be given Tk 25,000 as credit for purchase of five cow calves at the maximum rate of Tk 5,000. The loan will be recovered after one week of the next Eid-ul-Azha occasion.

town is in the grip of manifold problems. The buyers and sellers have been suffering much for want of space and drainage system. Garbage are found stockpiled here and there from which bad odour emits.

The number of public toilets is too inadequate to meet the increasing demand of the people. Moreover, the toilets are kept very dirty.

Recreation facility in the town is absent. People, especially the young people, have no means to pass their leisure time. Some people think that the young boys are found involved in anti-social activities for want recreational facilities. The children have no other alternative to pass their time.

The concerned authorities have been urged to take immediate steps to extend requisite civic amenities to the residents of the pourasava and mitigate the sufferings.

Mosquito menace

Mosquito menace has become a serious threat to public health in Cox's Bazar district town.

There are a number of ponds and ditches which are full of waterhyacinths and garbage. These are the main mosquito breeding centres. The pourasava authority does not take any initiative to clear these ponds and ditches.

The students, who prepare their lessons at night are the worst victims of mosquito biting.

## Construction of Ganges Barrage not yet started

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, July 25: The proposed Ganges Barrage project at cost of Taka 1131 crore scheduled to be constructed at four kilometre downstream of Hardings Bridge near Talbaria is yet to be taken up for implementation. The foundation of project was laid in 1981. The proposal for the project was accepted by the then government. The unilateral withdrawal of water of the Ganges river in the upper reaches by India through Farakka Barrage constructed on the other side of the border serious hit the agriculture sector resulting in losses of crores of taka every year.

The scheme was aimed to remove water scarcity problem for irrigation, flood protection and improvement of irrigation facilities in 25 south western districts of the country. The districts are Pabna, Rajshahi, Chuadanga, Kushtia, Natore, Nawabganj, Noagaon, Sirajganj, Meherpur, Narail, Magura, Jhenidah, Jessore, Satkhira, Jhalokati, Khulna, Bagerhat, Bhola, Pirojpur, Sariatpur, Faridpur, Gopalganj, Rajbari and Madaripur.

In 1980-81 fiscal year project implementation cell was formed under the supervision of Water Development Board and later in 1984 a separate office was established called "Ganges Barrage Project" for its implementation.

However, the progress of work was too poor. Until today about four crore taka have been

used for the survey work. To complete first phase of the work of the project an amount of Taka six crore will be required, according to an official source.

It is surprising to note that during the current financial year no fund has been allocated for the proposed Ganges Barrage project in the Annual Development Programme (ADP).

The project work included the construction of three pump houses having lifting capacity of 16000 cuces of water each having three regulators with 715 kilometres long flood control embankment.

## 2 trucks collide, one killed, eight injured

DINAJPUR, July 25: A man was killed and eight others were injured when two trucks collided at Chandipur on Dinaipur-Birampur road Saturday, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, Dudu Miah, 59 died on the spot when a truck, carrying cattle bound for Birampur from Dinaipur, collided with another stone loaded truck coming from opposite direction at the point.

The seriously injured Abdur Rahman, 35, Bacchu Miah and Abdur Rahman were admitted to the hospital while five others were released after first aid.