

Govt implementing massive education programme: Huda

DOHAR (Dhaka), Aug 9: Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda said here yesterday that the government of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia was implementing a massive education programme to turn 12 crore people of the

country into human resources, reports BSS.

In this regard the information minister mentioned that the government had made primary education compulsory. He said programmes like food for education, eradication of illiteracy, adult education, free education for girls upto class ten, development of madrasa education had been taken for expansion of the higher education.

The Information Minister was speaking as the chief guest at the second founding anniversary of the Padma College and inauguration function of the administrative building of the college. The minister also inaugurated the 518th branch of Rupali Bank.

The function was addressed among other by State Minister for Finance Mujibur Rahman, Managing Director of the Rupali Bank S M Nazamuddin and Dr A R Khan, president of administrative body of the college.

Barrister Huda accused that some of the past governments had kept people away from education because those governments were afraid of people being educated and conscious of their rights.

The Information Minister said that the country was established as a sovereign state through the War of Liberation in 1971 but economic emancipation of the people was still a far cry.

He called for united efforts of all to make the country self-reliant and to place it in a prestigious position in the world.

Notes From Dinajpur

From Our Correspondent

DINAJPUR, Aug 9: Buses plying on Panchagarh-Dinajpur, Panchagarh-Nagarbarhat, Dinajpur-Rangpur, Rangpur-Bogra, Bogra-Pabna, Rajshahi-Bogra, Chapalnawabganj-Pabna, Palashbari-Gaibandha, Dinajpur-Gobindaganj and Rangpur-Kurigram routes are of deplorable condition and often face engine troubles on their way.

Journey by bus on those routes of northern region of the country have become hazardous due to deplorable condition of the buses. Over-loading of buses often causes accident on these routes. The law enforcing agencies cannot make the drivers responsible for the accidents as they use fake name and addresses without having any valid licences, it is reported.

The condition of roads is also dilapidated. Besides, the bus conductors realise excessive fare and often misbehave with the passengers. They do not maintain any time table. Absence of waiting shed at the bus stand in the region causes much inconveniences to the waiting passengers. There is no toilet or urinals at most of bus stands in the region. Passengers have to remain standing for buses under the open sky.

Obscene films

Blue films are being exhibited throughout the district of Dinajpur hurting seriously the moral values of the young boys and girls.

Video clubs which have sprung over the years in different places of the district have been screening obscene films on commercial basis. The dishonest video owners in collusion with local influential persons are engaged in this heinous trade.

Besides, anti-social activities have increased alarmingly jeopardising the social security in the town. Residents of the areas complained that moral decadence caused by these films are the main factors for the increase in anti-social activities in the town.

Markets in pitiable condition

The markets of Dinajpur sadar thana are in a very pitiable condition due to alleged negligence of concerned authority and lack of proper renovation work.

The markets are NA Market, Raibazar, Chowkbazar, Pulhat Bazar, Ramnagar Bazar, Gopalganj Hat, Sikder Hat and Rajbati Bazar. Every hat days thousands of consumers and sellers gathered in these markets from distant places. Huge jute, paddy, seasonal crops and cattleheads are assembled in the markets for buying and selling twice a week.

Renovation of these markets is yet to be introduced despite collection of huge revenue. The space of market place has been reducing day by day due to the emergence of unlicensed shops which creates problem for the vendors of essential commodities as well as general people.

During the rainy season, the market places become muddy. Moreover, there is no public shed in the markets. Scarcity of pure drinking water in the markets is another problem. Authority of the markets or the pourashava authority are yet to take any step for sinking tubewells. Hotel and restaurants of the markets use contaminated water from nearby ponds and canals.

On the other hand, metric weighing system has not yet been introduced in most of the markets.

Call for strong commitment on uplift of women

RAJBARI, Aug 9: State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahan-Ara Begum called for a strong commitment on the question of uplift of women and said this issue should be kept free from all political controversies, reports BSS.

The state minister said this while visiting a mass education centre at Ballakandi here. The centre is being run under the agency for women rights implementation in Bangladesh.

Prof Jahan-Ara Begum said education is one of the main prerequisites to make the womenfolk conscious about their rights. She said the government of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has taken epoch-making programmes for spreading female education. In this context, she referred to the government's programmes including stipend for girl students and food-for-education programme.

Addressing a rally organised by BNP at Sultanpur here Prof Jahan-Ara Begum said coordinated efforts of the treasury and opposition benches in the Jatiya Sangsad was essential to give the hard earned democracy an institutional share. She also inaugurated a local hat.



SYLHET: Professor Syed Mohibuddin Ahmed, Vice-chancellor, Shahjalal University of Science and Technology inaugurating the tree plantation campaign on the university campus recently. — Star photo

Health complexes of Savar, Dhamrai beset with problems

From Our Correspondent

SAVAR, Aug 9: The health complexes of Savar and Dhamrai thana of Dhaka district have been facing multiple problems including shortage of staff, physicians, inadequate water and power supply.

Unhygienic atmosphere, absence of blood bank and overall shortage of medicine, apparatus have added the miseries of the patients coming from the town and far flung areas for better treatment.

It is alleged that every day a large number of patients are to go back without having needed treatment.

There is no blood bank dental or ophthalmic and infectious disease treatment facilities.

Besides shortage of physicians and their irregular services and indifference of other staff member have aggravated the situation.

Patients and local leaders alleged that most of the doctors of these complexes including sub-centre are found busy with their own private practice.

Sufferers alleged that a few senior doctors practising outside the hospital and some technicians working in private clinics have formed a vicious circle with the help of the local mastans and owners of private clinics. They force the patients to go to the private clinics instead of health complexes.

The patients are compelled to buy the medicines from the market at exorbitant prices. Many doctors of different health and sub centre of two thanas are found absent most of time.

As a result the poor patients coming from remote villages to the health complexes go back without treatment.

On the other hand scarcity of drinking water lack of proper conservancy services inadequate beds, supply of sub-standard food to the patient have multiplied the sufferings of the admitted patients in those health complexes.

The patients alleged that nurses, technicians and fourth class employees misbehave with them frequently.

Local elite have urged the concerned authorities to take steps to mitigate the sufferings of the patients ensuring better medicare facilities immediately.

It is learnt that important and life saving drugs, supplied to the health complexes are being sold in nearby markets by some dishonest staff of the health complexes and sub-centre.

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Scheme to plant 7500 saplings in Barisal

BARISAL, Aug 9: Khulna Forest Extension Division at Barisal has undertaken a scheme to plant more than 7500 saplings of different trees in the current season for beautification of the town, reports UNB.

The programme will be implemented at a cost of Tk 1.15 lakh. More than 4000 saplings will be planted on both sides of 8 km roads from Rupatali of Barisal to Jhalakathi town.

Three hectares of land of Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College playground, campus and doctors quarters. Sadar thana parisad complex, Shisu Sadan office will also be brought under the programme.

Number of drug addicts on rise in Brahmanbaria

BRAHMANBARIA, Aug 9: The number of drug addicts in the district is rising alarmingly causing concern among the peace-loving people, reports UNB.

Most of the addicts are unemployed youths, students, rickshawpullers, sweepers and transport workers.

Drug addicts are mainly use Indian Phenidyl syrup and rectified spirit which are available in ordinary grocery shops, local people alleged.

To meet the cost of the drugs, the addicts are engaged in various anti-social activities, including smuggling, illegal trade, stealing and hijacking, they added.

Social workers said lack of awareness, frustration, family trouble are the main causes for increasing drug addiction.

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Govt deprived of crores of Taka revenue every yr

SIRAJGANJ, Aug 9: The government is being deprived of crores of Taka revenue every year due to transportation of Indian salt and other goods without booking in trains in northern districts, reports UNB.

About 400 rail compartments and wagons worth about Tk 50 crores were also damaged due to illegal salt transportation in last three years. The government also lost about Tk 50 crores in revenue during the period.

According to a survey conducted by some social welfare workers, hundreds of tons of Indian salt have been entering Bangladesh illegally through different border points including Rajshahi, Lalmonirhat and Hill areas.

Transportation of salt by railway is banned as it is a corrosive material. A source in the railway said transportation of salt was a major cause of damage of rail wagons and compartments.

Witnesses said, most of smuggled Indian salt is delivered at Chalmohor, Jamtail, Ullahpara, Salop and Sirajganj bazar in Sirajganj-Ishurdi railway route and at Natore, Santahar, Bonarpura, Kaunia, Tista, Lalmonirhat and Parbatipur rail stations in Ishurdi-Santahar railway route.

Passengers suffer much as it takes time to unload salt by stopping rails in those stations every day. A section of dishonest rail employees are involved in transporting the smuggled salt without booking, the sources said.

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District roundup

KESHOREGANJ

Govt attaches top priority to edn: Zahid

Aug 9: Deputy Minister for Shipping ABM Zahidul Haq said, the BNP government has attached top priority to education sector with a view to eradicating the curse of illiteracy from the country, reports BSS.

Participation of illiterate masses is needed to generate momentum in our on-going development programmes, he said while visiting development work of different educational institutions under Chandipasha union of Pakundia thana of the district recently.

The Deputy Minister said the government is implementing massive programme of constructing and renovating a large number of educational institutions along with launching different educational programmes.

Later, Haq addressing a public meeting at Kodalia High School premises said, some opposition parties are trying to disrupt the political situation in the name of hartal and movement. He called upon the people to remain alert about ill motive of the evil forces.

SATKHIRA

Moazzin electrocuted

Aug 9: A man was electrocuted while giving connection to a microphone on Sunday at Basdoha village of Sadar thana, reports UNB.

The dead was identified as Hamdul Haque, 'Moazzin' of Basdoha mosque.

Hamdul Haque was caught by a live electric wire and died on the spot while he was repairing the microphone of the mosque before Asr prayers.

A case has been filed.

Another report adds: The body of a housewife was found in a shallow machine house at Satani village of Sadar thana on Sunday.

The dead was identified as Hasina (32), wife of Harachad Gazal.

Villagers said Hasina was kidnapped and violated by a gang of miscreants. Later the miscreants killed her and left the body in the shallow machine house.

A case has been filed with the police.

BARISAL

Over 6 lakh bales of jute expected to be produced

Aug 9: A total of 6,73,495 bales of jute is expected to be produced in eleven districts under Barisal region of the agricultural extension department during the current season, reports BSS.

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

According to an official source, 60,499 hectares of land were brought under jute cultivation in these districts this year.

Of the total, 55,331 hectares have been brought under 'tosh variety' and 5,168 hectares under 'local variety' of jute, the source said.

Of the total 1,793 hectares were cultivated in Barisal district, 90 hectares in Pirojpur, 85 hectares in Jhalakati, 78 hectares in Patuakhali, 88 hectares in Barguna, 169 hectares in Bholha, 18,800 hectares in Faridpur, 13,912 hectares in Madaripur, 7685 hectares in Gopalganj, 11,446 hectares in Rajbari and 6,335 hectares in Shariatpur districts.

MALDIVE COURT

Training course on nutrition

From Our Correspondent

Aug 9: A training course on "Integrated Nutrition Development Programme" ended recently in DANIDA Training Centre here. It was organised by Bangladesh Institute of Research and Training for Nutrition (BARTAN) regional office Noakhali.

747 persons participated in the training course in eleven groups.

They were government official, high and primary school teacher, family planning worker, NGO staff and social workers from different areas.

Mostafizur Rahman, Deputy Director BRBD attended it as the chief guest and Ali Azam Khan, District Fishery officer and Muhammad Shamsul Faruque, News Editor of weekly Upakul Barta and Daily Star Correspondent attended.

AILM Jalaluddin Akbar, Scientific officer BARTAN presided.

NETRAKONA

Tree plantation programme inaugurated

Aug 9: The Whip of the ruling party in the Jatiya Sangsad Advocate M A Karim inaugurated the tree plantation programme of the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) at a function held here recently, reports BSS.

Karim planted a sapling of the fruit-bearing tree at the premises of the LGED office here.

The function was presided over by Tuzammel Haque, executive engineer of the LGED, Netrakona. It was addressed among others by additional deputy commissioner (general) Netrakona, Mojbibur Rahman Mia.

The LGED Netrakona has undertaken the programme to plant fifteen hundred saplings of different varieties of trees around its office during the current season.

PATUAKHALI

Rival workers' groups clash: 25 injured

From Our Correspondent

Aug 9: 25 people were wounded, 11 of them seriously in a clash between two rival groups of bidi workers of two workers union of Panza Bidi Factory of Patuakhali town recently.

Bidi manufacturing equipments, furniture and 5 lacs Bidi were damaged during the clash the estimated loss was about taka 1 lac. The Bidi factory owners closed the factory for next seven days following the clash.

A contingent of police arrived at the Panza Bidi Factory and brought the situation under control.

Among the wounded bidi workers 11 were admitted to Patuakhali sadar hospital for treatment and the rest have taken first aid.

MADARIPUR

English language course to be introduced

From Our Correspondent

Aug 9: A six month certificate course for English Language will be introduced in the government university colleges under greater Faridpur from this academic year.

According to official sources, government Razendara University College will introduce this course.

The source added that twenty seven colleges will introduce such course throughout the country.

Students having SSC certificates or higher diplomas will be eligible to get themselves admitted into this course.

SATKHIRA

15 Indian cows seized

Aug 9: Law enforcing agency personnel seized fifteen Indian cows from Hijaldi and Kakdanga border area of Satkhira district recently. According to a report they also seized bicycle, potatoes, sugar, salt and radio, film etc valued at about Tk one lac 13 thousands, reports BSS.

On secret information they laid a trap and seized smuggled goods. The smugglers however managed to escape.

The goods have been deposited with Satkhira Customs.

BRAHMANBARIA

Passengers suffer due to shortage of vessels

Aug 9: Passengers in different water routes from the district headquarters to Nabnagar, Nasirnagar, Bancharanpur and Singherbhadu have been suffering much due to shortage of vessels, reports UNB.

The passengers have to travel with life risk in overloaded water vessels. The cause of frequent launch accidents is also attributed to overloading of passengers.

Besides, the vessels are more interested in carrying goods rather than the passengers causing further suffering to the passengers.

Sufferers said about 50 per cent of the space meant for the passengers on the deck of a launch is occupied by goods.

Most of the launches take excessive time to reach its destination due to out-dated engine and unscheduled delay at different stoppages.

Launch terminals at many places do not have sheds and some are in dilapidated conditions compounding the suffering of the passengers during rains and sunny days.

Catching of fish fry going on unabated

BRAHMANBARIA, Aug 9: Catching of fish fry is going on unabated all over the district shattering the prospect of fish production, reports UNB.

According to a report, a section of unscrupulous fishermen are catching fish fry of ruhi, katla and other varieties from rivers, canals, beels, haors and ponds.

A huge quantity of fish fry is being sold every day in almost all the markets of the district.

While visiting Gokarnaghat, Sarail, Kalishiva, Aoustagram, Suhllpur, Shahbazpur, Annadabazar, Faruki, Medda and Madhyapara markets this correspondent found that fish fry were openly being sold violating the government ban.

When contacted the District Fisheries Department told that if indiscriminate catching of fish fry goes on unchecked it would jeopardise the government's open water fish cultivation programme throughout the country.

The law enforcing agencies are not taking any measure against illegal catching of fish fry, local leaders alleged.

Participation of commonman in formulating plan stressed

NOGAON, Aug 9: State Minister for Planning Dr A Moyeen Khan had a meeting with grass-root level representatives of different professions at the conference room of collectorate building here recently, reports BSS.

Awami League parliament member Shahiduzzaman Sarkeer presided over the inaugural session of the day-long meeting, which was addressed, among others, by Jammatal-Islami parliament member Nasiruddin Dewan and BNP parliament members Akhtar Hamid Siddique and Shamsuddin Ahmed.

Dr Khan in his speech as the chief guest said the future national plans will be formulated reflecting the views and opinions of the local level people. He stressed the need for participation of the commonman in formulating the national plans. He said the government is interested in preparing plans on the basis of the suggestions of the people.

Dr Khan sought cooperation of people to consolidate the democratic process so that welfare of the people could be ensured.

Earlier, the State Minister for Planning visited the historic Kushumba Masjid, known for its archaeological importance. The mosque was established in 1558 during the time of Sultan Ghias Uddin Bahadur Shah. This is a 'dighi' (water body) covering an area of 26 acres in front of the mosque.

Massive cotton cultivation programme taken up

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Aug 9: A massive programme has been taken up by the Cotton Development Board for cultivation of cotton in seven districts under the Jessore zone during current season, it is learnt.

According to a source, a total of forty thousand hectares of land will be brought under cotton cultivation in current season.

3 get 28 years RI for abducting, violating girl

FENI, Aug 9: Three people were awarded 28 years rigorous imprisonment (RI) for abducting and violating a girl student, court sources said here today, reports UNB.

The court also fined them Tk 10,000 each, in default, to suffer two years rigorous imprisonment more.

The case, in brief, was that the accused Abdul Rauf, Abul Kalam and Obaidul Haq of Chhagalnaiya thana abducted Gita Rani Dhar alias Babita, a class eight student of Laxmipur village in Parsuram thana of the district on June 21, 1987, while she was going to school. She was kept captive for 6 days and raped.

RDB disburses over Tk 14 cr in Barisal dist

BARISAL, Aug 9: Rural Development Board (RDB) Barisal, has disbursed Tk 14,80,54,000 among 28,112 members of 1,047 bittahin samabaya samitees in ten thanas of Barisal district for poverty alleviation and self-employment programmes since its inception in January 1989, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the members of ten thana central samabaya samitees created a fund of Tk 2,02,33,000 from their own sources in the period.

Of the total loan, Tk 11,12,94,000 was realised out of matured loan from members of these samabaya samitees. The percentage of realisation was 97, the source added.

The loan was disbursed on 32 trades and self-employment programmes like paddy husking, cattle rearing, poultry farming, small trade, agriculture, vegetables cultivations, etc.

On an average each members of the samitees has earned a fixed deposit of Taka 5,690.23 in the period, the source said.

RDB has taken up a programme to increase 4,581 members with the creation of 162 thana bittahin samabaya samitees during the current 1994-95 fiscal year.

The target of loan disbursement has been fixed at Tk 6.87 crore in this district in this period, the source added.