

National

Handloom industry in Gopalganj faces various problems

From Our Correspondent

GOPALGANJ, Aug 12: The handloom industry in Gopalganj Sadar thana, Kastiani thana, Muksudpur thana and Kotali-para thana of the district is gripped with different problems.

High prices of yarn, weaving materials non availability of capital and lack of marketing facilities are the major problems.

According to informed sources about 40 thousand people are dependent on weaving to earn their livelihood but for want of capital and exorbitant price of yarn they are unable to cope with the present situation.

Availability of foreign clothes at cheaper rates has reduced the demand of the products of handloom factories in the local markets.

The products like bedsheet, napkins, sarees, lungis and wrappers are in great demand outside the district and these products are comparatively cheap. A group of weavers told that unless some positive steps were taken by the authorities

to supply adequate yarn and other materials to the weavers directly, the present condition of the weavers would not improve. As a result they would have no alternative but to close down their business and lead a miserable life.

Carry forward development activities'

PAIKHAGACHA (Khulna), Aug 12: Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad Shaikh Razzak Ali has called upon the people to carry forward the development activities saying that all sensible and patriotic people should place the interest of the nation above all, reports BSS.

He was addressing a gathering at the local thana headquarters recently.

Speaking on the occasion, Communications Minister Oli Ahmad said the politics of BNP, the trend-setter of the positive politics in the country, was very straight. He said 'we do not do the politics of confusion and clumsiness.'

Aman cultivation being hampered in Habiganj

From Our Correspondent

HABIGANJ, Aug 12: Aman cultivation in the entire areas of Habiganj district is being hampered for want of rain and water.

Aman plants require sufficient quantity of water in the fields. The rain in the district failed to meet requirement of water for the cultivation.

As a result, 70 per cent land targeted for paddy cultivation are lying uncultivated.

On the other hand, aman plants on the vast areas grew yellowish and have been reduced to straws for want of water.

Moreover, seedlings of early variety of paddy are growing old on the seed-beds.

Paucity of pure drinking water in Madaripur

From Our Correspondent

MADRIPUR, Aug 12: Paucity of pure drinking water all over the district due to drought has caused immense hardship to the people. Different intestinal diseases have broken out in an epidemic form in different thanas in the district.

About 70 to 80 per cent of the tubewells which are the only source of pure drinking water in the rural areas have become inoperative following the abnormal fall in the sub soil water level due to mechanised irrigation, through deep and shallow tubewells in IRRI-boro fields.

The tubewells which are still operative pump out very little water. People fetch drinking water from far-flung areas where deep or shallow tubewells are available.

The scarcity of pure drinking water has caused spread of different intestinal diseases in the affected areas.

According to the health department sources 1200 people were attacked with diarrhoea and dysentery during the last three and a half months since January.

The affected thanas were Fulbari, Utpur, Bhurungam, Chilmari, Rowmari, Rajibpur, Nageswari and Rajirhat.

Erosion of Jamuna devours vast land in Sirajganj dist

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Aug 12: Situation have worsened in the villages Sajabaid, Chatiantali and Mesra under Sadar thana and Nakfata, Raodhunbari and Dehua under Belkuchi thanas.

Besides, the existence of newly constructed WDB embankment at Makra in Shahzaibpur thana is threatened due to alleged faulty construction.

It is gathered that with rise in the water level of the Jamuna, erosion turned furious. In last one week, water level in the Jamuna and the tributaries have recorded sharp rise intensifying erosion in five riverbank thanas including Kazipur, Sirajganj sadar, Belkuchi, Chowhali and Shah-

Lucky purchase of green jute begins in Kishoreganj

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Aug 12: The 'lucky purchase' of green jute began in Kishoreganj recently.

A discussion meeting was held at the Kishoreganj Jute Research Institute with Khanadar Md Muzibul Islam, senior scientific officer in the chair.

A K M Ishaque, managing director of Karnaphuli Paper Mills attended the inaugural function as chief guest.

Among other, Abdul Bari Khan, additional deputy commissioner (general), Mubarok Hossain, deputy general manager of Bangladesh chemical industries corporation and Md Suwardi, deputy general manager of Karnaphuli Paper Mills took part in the discussion.

SYLHET: Principal Golam Rasul speaking at a discussion meeting arranged in observance of the death anniversary of ex-minister and Navy Chief Rear Admiral M A Khan recently.

—Star Photo



SYLHET: Principal Golam Rasul speaking at a discussion meeting arranged in observance of the death anniversary of ex-minister and Navy Chief Rear Admiral M A Khan recently.

From Our Correspondent

SAVAR: Aug 12: The indiscriminate use of chemical fertilizers and uninterrupted cultivation of same crop on same plot of land are steadily lessening the fertility of soil in Dhaka and Manikganj districts.

Cultivators with a little knowledge about soil components use chemical fertilizers indiscriminately to get maximum production from the land and thus destroying the production capability of soil. They are also in the habit of cultivating same crops on the same plots of land without interval. They have almost given up the use of organic fertilizers which possess some ingredients to retain the production capabil-

ity and protect decay of the same of the soil.

Most of the cultivable lands of Dhaka and Manikganj districts are used twice or thrice producing crops every year with heavy application of chemical fertilizers. A total 60 to 80 kg seers of chemical fertilizers including urea, TSP and potash is used per bigha of land.

The farmers rarely use organic fertilizers including cow dung. The production capability of land rapidly decreases. Production capability of soil is also being destroyed with the heavy iron or underground water extracted by shallow and deep tubewells used for irrigation and siltation of sand on

soil due to flood in river.

It is suggested that chemical fertilizers should be used after proper test of soil in consultation with the agriculture experts and application of organic fertilizer to retain the production capability of soil. Otherwise the yielding rate will further come down and there will be a time when the produce will fail to meet even the production cost.

Besides Agriculture of Bangladesh largely depends on the mercy of nature. Crops sometimes are seriously affected by natural calamities like flood and drought. From 1971 yield of paddy in per bigha was 28 to 30 maunds in Dhaka and

Manikganj district while in 1993 the yield was only 12 to 15 maunds per bigha with the application of same quantity of chemical fertilizers.

The decrease occurred in production was due to decaying of particular components of soil due to indiscriminate and unnecessary use of chemical fertilizers.

The cultivators directly involved in agriculture should properly be trained on the agricultural method by arranging training camps temporarily if possible in every union so that they can avail the opportunity to equip themselves with the necessary knowledge on agriculture.

Survey by non-govt agency

Cases of divorce on rise in greater Faridpur dist

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, Aug 12: Cases of divorce have been increasing alarmingly in greater Faridpur district, affecting the social stability to a great extent. In a recent survey conducted by some non-government agencies it is revealed that matrimonial ties of 14 thousand couples in twenty seven thanas of the districts of Gopalganj, Madaripur, Rajbari, Sharariatpur and Faridpur have been snatched through divorces mainly to the male partners.

The survey also reveals that sixty nine thousand two hundred and forty two couples entered into wed-lock during the last three years in the area through registration done in thirty seven marriage registrars office.

Of these seventeen thousand one hundred and ninety six couples got married in 1991, nineteen thousand five hundred and eight couples in 1993, fifty nine thousand two hundred and forty two mar-

riages are held without registration. Besides five thousand nine hundred weddings were solemnised in courts.

Out of forty nine thousand two hundred and forty two unregistered marriages, thirteen thousand eight hundred and forty six marriages were nullified through divorces.

It is further revealed that eight thousand four hundred and ninety three housewives committed suicide during the period owing to repression

and torture of their in laws for non-fulfilment of the promised dowry.

About three thousand cases relating to divorces and suicide are under investigation and trial in different courts of greater Faridpur district.

It may be mentioned here that owing to financial insolvency a good number of marriageable girls in lower middle class families cannot go into wed-lock. As a result peace of the society breaks into pieces.

Workshop for LGED engineers begin

FARIDPUR, Aug 12: A two-day workshop on socio-economic aspects for the executives and thana engineers of Local Government Engineering Department began here Saturday.

According to reports, some 7 to 8 dacoits called the houseowner outside of the house identifying them as partymen and tied him. Then the miscreants entered into the house and looted a television, a radio set, fan and gold ornaments worth about Taka 50 thousand and fled away.

No case was filed.

2 smugglers arrested

Mohespur thana police arrested two smugglers and recovered two hundred one kilogram of jira from their possession recently.

According to reports, police personnel challenged two bicycle riders near Mohespur food godown and recovered the same worth Taka thirty thousand.

Arrested smugglers were Hasan Ali and Abdul Malek of village Samonta in the same thana.

Another report says, an anti-smuggling meeting was held in the office of Thana Nirbahi Officer with the TNO in the chair.

Among other Shahidul Islam MP and police representative attended the meeting.

Besides, agri-loans amount-

cultivation is being ignored.

Only a few cultivators of the areas cultivate ground nuts with their own initiatives.

It may be mentioned that a vast areas of river belt of Gopalganj district possess char land where ground nuts may be grown abundantly.

It is felt that planned scheme and assistance to the growers may encourage in ground nut farming.

In some parts of char tall grass (locally known as kashia) grows. This is used as fodder and in dwelling houses.

Agricultural experts opine that sandy char land is suitable for ground nut production. About 30 mounds of ground nuts may be grown here per acre. But due to lack of proper motivations such a prospective

The best areas of ground grass farming at Khatia, Durgapur, Kongshur, Haridupur, Nilakhali, Gobra, Sonakair, Manikdha, Modhupur, Suktala, Barfa and Arpara under Gopalganj sadar thana, Gonapara, Ratala under Kastiani and Ramchandrapur, Nilfa, Kusli and Pathgati under Tungipara thana.

The meeting was addressed, among others, by the local BNP leaders Alhaj Golam Kibria, Sayed Anwarul Hoq, Nurul Islam, Harun-ur-Rashid and Shanker Chandra Bhoumik.

Refuting the allegations made by the opposition leaders that BNP government had failed to fulfil the election pledges, the minister said that thousands of bridges, culverts, roads, schools, health centres, hospitals were constructed and massive development works were being implemented by the government.

that due to heavy rain fall and drought the farmers could not grow crops. Moreover, due to high prices of essentials and agriculture inputs the cultivators in general are not in a position to repay bank loans at this stage. Taking advantages of the bad economic condition the local money lenders are doing brisk business by giving loan at high rate of interest.

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Tk 8.52 cr loan unrealised

6,174 certificate cases filed against defaulters

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Aug 12: A total of 6174 certificate cases have been filed against the defaulters for realising loans of Taka 8.52 crore in Kishoreganj district.

According to an official source, of the total certificate cases, the Agrani Bank filed 431 cases for realising Taka 26.71,000, Janata Bank filed 211 cases for realising Taka 25.40,000, Sonali Bank filed 311 cases for realising Taka 29.85,000, Rupali Bank filed 72 cases for realising Taka 4.07,000 and Krishibank filed 5083 cases for realising Taka 7.65,98,000.

Besides, agri-loans amount-

ing to Taka 30.22,66,000 has so far been lying put standing in Agrani Bank, Taka 9.91,29,000 in Sonali Bank, Taka 18.53,12,000 in Krishibank, Taka 3.70,86,000 in Janata Bank and Taka 3.47,10,000 in Rupali Bank.

The peasants, who took agriculture loan from Krishibank and other commercial banks at Kishoreganj district are receiving notices issued by the bank authorities to repay the loan.

The peasants, who are deprived of fair price of their produce during the last few years are not able to repay the loan.

It may be mentioned here

District roundup

PATUAKHALI

Election of Land Mortgage bank held

Aug 12: The election of the executive committee of the Patuakhali Land Mortgage Bank was held here last week, reports UNB.

Abul Kalam Azad and Md Zafarullah were elected president and vice president respectively. Abdul Halim Biswas, Md Ismail Mia and Md Rustam Ali Mia were also elected directors.

The annual general meeting was also held after the election of the EC.

Another report says that a 51-member committee of the Abdul Karim Mridha College unit of Jatiya Chhatra Samaj was formed last week with Md Nasiruddin and A N M Firoj Alam as president and secretary respectively.

JHENIDAH

Robbery on Jhenidah-Jessore highway

Aug 12: Robbery on Jhenidah-Jessore highway is going on unabated, passengers and local people said, reports UNB.

On Tuesday night, robbers swooped on a night coach at Dulalmundia in Kaliganj thana, looted cash and valuables worth about Taka one lakh from the passengers.

The miscreants boarded the bus in the guise of passengers at Magura and when it reached at Dulalmundia overpowered the driver at gun point.

Passengers alleged that in the absence of security forces at the night coaches the dacoits storm the buses and take away belongings of the passengers whenever they get chances.

BRAHMANBARIA

Fire station project remains unimplemented

Aug 12: A fire station project, which had been undertaken some 22 years ago in Akhaura thana, still remained unimplemented due to fund constraint, reports UNB.

The authorities concerned approved the project in 1968, official sources said.

Meanwhile, some primary works on the plot, which has been purchased for the proposed fire station, have also been done, they said.

Local people alleged that fire incidents in the industrial area of Akhaura, which also has a busy railway junction, often cause substantial damages every year.

COMILLA

'Govt firm to implement 19-point programme'

Aug 12: Housing and Public Works Minister Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mia said the democratic government of Begum Kheda Zia was committed to materialise the dreams of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman through implementing the 19 point programme for the socio-economic development of the country, reports BSS.