

Handloom industry in Gopalganj faces various problems

From Our Correspondent

GOPALGANJ, Aug 12: The handloom industry in Gopalganj Sadar thana, Kasiani thana, Maksudpur thana and Kotilipara 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 bedsheets, 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 Razzaque 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

MADARIPUR, 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 IRRIBORO 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, Ullupur, Bhurungamar, Chilmari, Rowmari, Rajibpur, Nageswari and Rajirhat.

Erosion of Jamuna devours vast land in Sirajganj dist

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Aug 12: Erosion of the Jamuna again devours crop land and homesteads in five riverine thanas in Sirajganj district. During last one week, with sharp rise in the water level of the Jamuna, about 800 people of Sirajganj Sadar, and Belkuchi thanas were rendered homeless.

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 riverine thanas including Kaziur, Sirajganj Sadar, Belkuchi, Chowdhali and Shah-

zadpur. Situation have worsened in the villages Saidabad, Chaitantali and Mesra under Sadar thana and Nakfata, Raudhanibari and Dehua under Belkuchi thana.

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

It may be mentioned that every year during the rainy season, vast tracts of land and homesteads are devoured by the erosion of Jamuna in the riverine areas rendering thousands of families homeless.

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 Khondaker 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), Mubarak Hossain, deputy general manager of Bangladesh chemical industries corporation and Md Suhrawardi, 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.

Indiscriminate use of chemical fertilizer reduces fertility of land

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 capability

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, Shariatpur and Faridpur have been snapped through divorces mainly from 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 registrar's 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 marriages are held without registration. Besides five thousand nine hundred weddings were solemnised in courts.

Out of forty nine thousand two hundred and forty two registered 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.

Five thanas of Gopalganj dist

10,000 acres of land in char areas remain uncultivated

From Our Correspondent

GOPALGANJ, Aug 12: About 10,000 acres of land in different char areas under five thanas, of Gopalganj district remain uncultivated every year. These chars are suitable for ground nut cultivation.

A source of Agriculture Department disclosed that ground nuts are cultivated on a few acres of land in the char areas. More lands are used to grow sesame (teel) kann and dhoyencha.

In some parts of char tall grass (locally known as kashal) 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 maunds of ground nuts may be grown here per acre. But due to lack of proper motivations such a prospective

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.

The best areas of ground nut farming at Khatlagar, Durgapur, Kongshur, Hariduspur, Nilakhi, Gobra, Sonakair, Manikdha, Modhupur, Sukhtail, Baria and Arpara under Gopalganj Sadar thana, Gonapara, Ratal under Kasiani thana and Ramchandrapur, Nilfa, Kusli and Pathgati under Tungipara thana.

Tk 8.52 cr loan unrealised

6,174 certificate cases filed against defaulters

From Our Correspondent

ing to Taka 3,02,66,000 has so far been lying out standing in Agram Bank. Taka 9,91,29,000 in Sonali Bank, Taka 18,53,12,000 in Krishi Bank, Taka 3,70,86,000 in Janata Bank and Taka 3,47,10,000 in Rupali Bank.

The peasants, who took agriculture loan from Krishi 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

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.

The farmers are passing their days in extreme agony following indebtedness to the local banks. Natural calamities and low price of agricultural products made the farmers unable to repay loan they had taken from different banks of the district.

Besides, agri-loans amount-

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 Rustum 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.

SIRAJGANJ

Two dacoities committed

Aug 12: At least 29 people, including some women, were wounded in two dacoities in Chowdhali and Shahjadpur thanas recently police said, reports UNB.

A gang of armed dacoits swooped on a ferry boat near Dhitpur char in Chowdhali thana, beat up all the passengers, snatched Tk 10,000 and left the scene taking the boat away at about 7 pm.

In Shahjadpur, the same group attacked seven houses at Bantiar char at about 8 pm. They beat up some villagers, leaving seven of them wounded.

The robbers looted valuables, including clothes, GI sheet and two boats worth about Tk 1 lakh.

A case was filed with Chowdhali police station.

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 Kalliganj 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 Khaleda 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.

The minister was speaking as the chief guest at a largely attended public meeting at Balmara High School premises under Muradnagar thana of the district.

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 Bhoomik.

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.

JAMALPUR

Bridge to be constructed over Old Brahmaputra

Aug 12: A bridge, at a cost of Tk 25 crore, will be constructed over the Old Brahmaputra river to directly link the Sherpur and Jamalpur districts, reports UNB.

The work on the project of the half-kilometre long bridge will begin soon after approval, official sources said.

Earlier, in 1980, late President Ziaur Rahman while visiting the area had promised to construct a bridge over the river, they said.

HOMNA

Cooperation of people sought

HOMNA (Comilla) Aug 12: Shipping Minister M K Anwar sought the active cooperation of the people to implement the government's development programmes for meeting the basic needs of the people, reports BSS.

The minister was addressing two separate rallies at Karir Kandi and Madhya Kandi in Neokuchi union under Homna thana.

The minister said massive programmes undertaken by the present government for development of communication network, education, agriculture, health and power sector are underway to fulfil the commitment of BNP.

BNP believes in deeds not in hollow words, he said, adding BNP will fulfil the hopes and aspirations of the masses as it (BNP) is entrusted by the people to do so.

Earlier, the Shipping Minister inaugurated the tree plantation programme of Homna thana administration by planting saplings at Homna Adarsha High School and Homna by pass road.

The minister also had a meeting with Homna thana level officials and union parishad chairmen where he urged them to ensure proper execution of the development projects.

BARISAL

Huge quantities of wheat given for food for edn programme

Aug 12: A total of 52,41,600 kilograms of wheat were distributed among the students of 482 primary schools in Barisal Division till July 31 under Food-For-Education Programme, reports BSS.

The districts covered by this programme include: Barisal, Patuakhali, Bhola, Pirajpur, Barguna and Jhalakati. According to an official source, government has sanctioned 89,85,600 kilograms of wheat for the students of these districts this year under the programmes.

A total of 51,733 students of 40,440 families have been benefited.

Of the total 15,465 families have been benefited in Barisal district, 9,110 families in Patuakhali, 11,555 families in Bhola, 6,580 families in Pirajpur, 4,888 families in Barguna and 4,140 families in Jhalakati districts.

Each family of one student gets 15 kilograms of wheat per month while a family of two or more students gets 30 kilograms of wheat per month, the sources said.

FARIDPUR

Conference on development on insurance

From Our Correspondent Aug 12: A conference on the development of insurance was held in Faridpur sale office of life insurance corporation recently.

Branch Managers and development officers of the corporation from Gopalganj and Rajbari branches attended the conference.

Chaired by Asisur Rahman Lasker, Deputy Manager the conference was attended by AKM Mustafizur Rahman, Managing Director of the corporation as chief guest while M A Majid, General Manager, Finance, Khulna Zone and Mohammad Ali Hossain AGM, law were the special guests.

The Managing Director in his speech conspicuously explained the objective and utility of insurance and gave a valuable sense of direction how to motivate people to accept life insurance policy.