

National

6,000 suffer from goitre in Jessore

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Aug 29: About some 6,000 people particularly children and women have been badly affected by iodine deficiency disorder causing goitre and reducing IQs.

According to reports, people of Chowgachha, Sharsa, Navaron, Kesabpur, Manirampur, Jhikargachha, Mohammadpur, Sripur, Salikha and sadar thana of Jessore district, Lohagara, Kalla and sadar thana of Narail district, Saitkupa, Harinakundu, Kaligonj, Kotchandpur, Mothespur and sadar thana of Jhenidah district have been affected by iodine deficiency.

Reports say, the soil and ground water of these areas contain very little quantity of iodine as it is required for human bodies. As result, the agricultural products, particularly vegetables contain very little iodine. The drinking wa-

ter also contains very little iodine.

A good number of people have been affected by goitre—the swelling of the thyroid gland. Absence of iodine in food and water hampers formation of thyroid hormone in the body.

A good number of pregnant women who have been suffering from iodine deficiency disorder (IDD), gave birth to dead baby. Those who survived became crippled, deaf and dumbly retarded.

A renowned physician told that only 20 per cent people of rural areas use iodised salt and the rest 80 percent does not use iodised salt which is creating problems for decades.

Local people alleged that health department is not keenly to test iodised salt in the market.



Bamboos are being carried through the river Dhaleshwari from the north Bengal region destined for Dhaka. Thousands of bamboos are brought to the capital in this way.

— Star photo by Enamul Haq

'Govt firm to ensure health for all by year 2000'

NOWABGANJ, Aug 29: State Minister for Finance Mujibur Rahman said health is the precondition for all happiness and present government is determined to ensure health for all by the year 2000, reports UNB.

He was speaking as chief guest at a public meeting at Nowabganj Abdul Wasek auditorium on the occasion of Mother and Child Health Fortnight '94 on Sunday. State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan also spoke.

He said education is the pre-requisite for all development programmes and to achieve this goal the government has attached top priority in the country's education sector by allocating highest bud-



SYLHET: Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman releasing fish fry in a pond at the Rural Development Training Institute here while inaugurating a seminar on 'Fisheries Development' recently.

— Star photo

51 thousand families become homeless in 12 years

MANIKGANJ, Aug 29: About 51,600 families have been rendered homeless during the last 12 years on account of continued erosion of the rivers Padma and Jamuna, official sources said, reports UNB.

According to officials, 26,000 acres of cropland were eroded during the period till August 24 of this year.

The worst affected thanas are Daulatpur, Shivalaya and Harirampur. At least 300 km road, 112 villages and 56 schools and colleges of the three thanas have been washed away during the same period.

According to TNO of Daulatpur thana, 38 villages, one college and 25 schools and about 11,000 acres of cropland in five unions of the thana have been devoured by the Jamuna.

In Harirampur thana, at least 64 villages, 26 educational institutions and 24 acres of cropland of nine unions have been lost into the river Padma during the same period.

A total of 10 villages and four schools were eroded in Shivalaya thana during the period. Meanwhile, Arjcha port has been threatened by the erosion of the river.

Water Development Board sources said 18 hats and bazaars were also eroded in the said three thanas.

Earlier, the State Minister released some fish fry into a pond inside the Dost Textile Mills as a part of the Fish Fortnight '94.

Later, he went round various production units of the mills and stressed the need for improving the quality of produced cloths.

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BNP government believes in the politics of peace, progress and development and not in the politics of hartial, strike and anarchism. He said hartial and strike can never bring any welfare for the common people, rather it increases sufferings.

He called upon all to remain alert against these heinous activities of some vested quarters.

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Take united efforts to make BTMC run mills viable : Mannan

FENI, Aug 29: State Minister for Textiles Major (Rtd) Abdul Mannan called upon all concerned to take united efforts to make BTMC run textile mills economically viable by increasing production and reducing wastage, reports BSS.

He was addressing the workers and employees of Dost Textile Mills at New Ramir in Feni district.

He said that the present democratic government was determined to change to lots of workers and employees working in various mills and factories. Present government had already taken various steps in this regard, the State Minister added.

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Mushroom growth of hotels threatens public health

NETRAKONA, Aug 29: Mushroom growth of hotels and restaurants in the district and thana headquarters in unhygienic way has been threatening the public health for a long time, reports UNB.

Most of the hotels and restaurants have also grown up by the sides of lanes and by-lanes. These are dirty and not cleaned regularly. Foodstuffs are being prepared and stored in most unhygienic manner in these hotels and restaurants which are injurious to public health.

Meanwhile, adulteration of foodstuffs along with other goods has become rampant in the district threatening the public health.

There is none to look after the harmful activities and even the district administration is

also reluctant to take action against the dishonest owners of these hotels and restaurants due to mysterious reason, local people alleged.

Besides, absence of standard hotels and restaurants specially at Netrakona town has been causing much sufferings to the people. People who come to the district town have no other choice but to take meals in these hotels and restaurants.

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Transplantation of aman being hampered

DINAJPUR, Aug 29: Transplantation of aman in the district is being hampered due to drought prevailing in the area, reports UNB.

A scheme was taken to bring over 5.46 lakh acres of land in 13 thanas during this season, but only 2.82 lakh acres of land could be brought under cultivation by irrigation system.

Meanwhile, 2,000 acres of transplanted aman have already been damaged due to severe drought. Temperature is also increasing day by day. Highest temperature was recorded at 44.2 degree Celsius during this month, according to met office.

Only 127 millimeter rainfall was recorded so far instead of 485 millimeter in the corresponding period last year.

Agriculture experts said if rain comes within 10 days, 75 per cent transplantation work could be completed but production will fall short by 35 per cent of the government target.

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Economic emancipation goal of BNP govt : Salam

NARAYANGANJ, Aug 29: Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Barrister Abdus Salam Talukdar said here yesterday that the goal of the present BNP government was to achieve economic and social development of the country, reports UNB.

"Unless economic emancipation is achieved the prevailing ills of the society could not be removed," he said.

He was addressing as chief guest at a public meeting at Bandar Kadam Rasul Play Ground organised by Narayanganj city BNP in connection with the inauguration of the new Kadamasul Pourashava office building at Bandar in the evening.

The Kadamasul Pourashava on the east bank of the river Shitalakshya covering an area of 15 square mile with five wards was created in July last year slicing Narayanganj pourashava.

The government has sanctioned Taka 56 lakh for the implementation of 22 projects of the pourashava. The population of the pourashava is about one lakh, with this, the Narayanganj district has now two pourashavas.

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Presided over by Advocate Abdul Kalam, MP, the meeting was addressed by Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury. Rezaul Karim, MP, Sirajul Islam, MP and Atahar Hossen Shams, vice-president of Juba Dal central committee.

Talukdar, who is also the secretary general of BNP, said that Awami League was opposing all the development activities of BNP government only to

slice their past misdeeds. People still remember their sufferings of famine, hunger and poverty of 1974 and the killing of 22,000 progressive democratic workers by Rakhi Bahini during the misrule of Awami League, he said.

Speaking on the occasion Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury said the present government of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia had passed a budget of 11,000 crore taka for the development of the country.

Later the two ministers released fish fries to a nearby pond.

'Govt keen to strengthen test relief programme'

PATUAKHALI, Aug 29: Minister for Religious Affairs Muhammad Keramat Ali yesterday said that the government was keen to strengthen the test relief programme to create job facilities for the poor people of the villages in the lean period, reports BSS.

He was addressing a review meeting on food for work, test relief and canal digging programme of the government here.

The minister said, the present democratic government has been working ceaselessly for the welfare of the people. He said, as such, all out efforts are being made to develop the 68 thousand villages of the country.

There is no curative medicine for the fever. The doctors advise complete rest. But people are taking Paracetamol and Anti-histastic drugs to combat the disease.

Notes From Maijdee Court

From Our Correspondent

MAIJDEE COURT (Noakhali). Aug 29: Electricity bills amounting to Taka five crore twenty four lakh have been lying unrealised in greater Noakhali district. The court was addressing the seven jute mill managers of Khulna and Jessore area Tuesday at the local Peoples Jute Mill Board room at Khalishpur, reports BSS.

The minister while reviewing the working of the mills also stressed the need for maintaining gradation of production through increasing efficiency.

It is high time for the management to step-up measures to repair all looms lying unused and put them into operation immediately in a bid to get over the recurring financial losses, said a source.

It is also reported that market price of raw jute is declining due to fewer number of buyers in local hats and bazaars.

The BJMC is in the field to buy raw jute from growers in current season at a reasonable

price. The BJC plans to open 140 jute purchasing centres across the country. Jute growers are reportedly staying off the market under pressure from professional touts and brokers who are, in fact, taking advantages. The growers are in the meantime being deprived of the actual rate announced by the BJC. It is alleged the growers are being forced to sell out the goods at a nominal price not exceeding Tk 200 per maund while the rate offered by BJC is between Tk 300 and 350 per maund.

If this situation continues in the jute purchasing centres any longer, the poor jute growers will be discouraged and may decide to give up cultivation from next season.

District roundup

PATUAKHALI

Seasonal children competition

Aug 29: The moushumi children competition sponsored by the district unit of Bangladesh Shishu Academy was held recently, reports UNB.

A good number of boys and girls from different schools and cultural organisations in Sadar thana participated in the competition.

The competition included, extempore speech, patriotic folk song and general knowledge.

Ferdous Ahmed and his group stood first in the extempore speech while Sardar Rahman and his group did the same in general knowledge competition. Monwar Hossain and his group stood first in patriotic folk song competition.

Sadar thana TNO Humayun Kabir distributed the prizes among the winners at a simple ceremony.

The first prize winners will compete in the district level of the competition, it is learnt.

KHULNA

Reduce output cost in jute mills: Hannan

Aug 29: Jute Minister ASM Hannan Shah directed the local jute mills management to reduce the production cost in their respective jute mills. The jute minister was addressing the seven jute mill managers of Khulna and Jessore area Tuesday at the local Peoples Jute Mill Board room at Khalishpur, reports BSS.

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PABNA

15,000 join BNP

Aug 29: Some 15,000 members of Ollya Parishad