

Drought renders 3 lakh agri workers jobless in Nilphamari

NILPHAMARI, Sept 12: About three lakh farm labourers have become jobless due to continuous drought in the district, reports UNB.

Aman seedlings could not be planted in more than 50 per cent of the lands. The aman crops are also drying up for want of water.

A scheme was taken up to bring 1,06,674 hectares of lands under aman cultivation this season in Domar, Dimla, Jaldhaka, Kishoreganj, Syedpur and Sadar thanas. Of the total, 77,674 hectares will be

cultivated under high yielding variety while the rest 29,000 hectares under local variety.

The production target has been fixed at 2,37,685 metric tons. But the target cannot be achieved due to persisting drought.

About 3 lakh agri workers have become jobless in 65 unions and pourashavas of six thanas due to prevailing drought. The price of rice has shot up in the local markets. Coarse rice is being sold at Tk 14 per kg and ata at Tk 11 per kg.

BDR's operation treasure hunt

Contraband worth Tk 48 lakh seized in August

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Sept 12: BDR personnel seized contraband goods worth Taka 48 lakh during the month of August from different border areas of Jessore and Jhenidah districts under "Operation Treasure Hunt", according to a BDR source.

The seized articles include Indian sarees, salt, sugar, heroin, phensidyl bottles, cattle, machinery parts, crockeries, garments, cosmetics, Chinese diesel pump and imitation ornaments.

A total of 11 alleged smugglers were arrested from different places during the period and 208 cases lodged with local police stations. All the seized goods were deposited with Benapole cus-

toms, the source added.

The source giving detailed account of the BDR activities during the period from January to August '94, said that total goods worth Tk 4.10 crore, were seized from the same border areas and 99 alleged smugglers were nabbed from different places under the same drive. A total of 2024 cases were recorded in local thanas during this period.

The articles seized over the period include Indian sarees, VCR and VCP, garments, crockeries, machinery parts, bicycles, electrical goods, fruits, cosmetics, cattle, sugar, salt, polyester, warm clothes, drugs, insecticides, fan bearings, wine, jute seeds, costly stones, opium, heroin and ganja.

Shahbajpur drilling project hangs in balance

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Sept 12: The Shahbajpur gas well drilling project is abandoned for about two months now.

According to experts, the reserve of gas is very poor and the project will not be economically viable.

The Shahbajpur project was started with an initial expenditure of Tk 25 crore at Kachia village of Borhanuddin thana earlier and then the drilling was formally inaugurated by the Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Khandkar Mosharraf Hossain on December 7, last year.

On 26 April this year Prime

Minister Begum Khaleda Zia visited the drilling site during her Bhola visit.

The drilling works were suspended as it reached nearly 65 thousands feet.

Later, in consultation with the foreign experts, the well was sealed.

During the Ershad regime a survey report was submitted to the concerned authority about a good reserve of gas in Kachia Village of Borhanuddin thana of Bhola.

Following the report a test boring work was performed with an expenditure of Tk 1.50 crore and about seven

acres of land was acquired and some infrastructures were built.

After the fall of Ershad regime the workers at gas field remained almost abandoned for more than two years and most of the staff of the project were transferred elsewhere.

Local people alleged that the Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration Company (BPEXC) is not confirming anything about suspension of works at the drilling site.

Besides, the employees of BPEXC may leave the project area within the next two months, local people said.

Sharbahara men gauge eyes of a man in Barisal

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Sept 12: A group of people, believed to be members of so-called Sharbahara Party, gauged eyes of a man recently at Sarshi village of Kashipur Union Parishad.

The group of armed men, numbering eight, forced Muslim Musa, 32, to Sarshi village on gun point. They beat Musa up and gauged his eyes.

Police rescued injured Musa about 9:00 pm from the spot and sent him to Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital for treatment.

Kotwali Police said, Muslim Musa, was an active member of 'Sukkur Bahini' and was involved in Bihangle Masjid incident, occurred on August 28 last year.

Musa was also an active member of Sarbahara Party (Kamrul-group), police said. However, the identities of the armed men could not be known.

She trusted him

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Sept 12: Momena Khatun, 11 of village Putimari under Palashbari thana was violated by one Abdul Matin, 45 in disguise of police at Bharatkhal railway colony on August 15.

According to police, the victim, Momena was returning home from Bogra where her father, Moslem Ali worked. At Bonarpara station she needed to change the train for Gaibandha and mistakenly boarded 8-down mail train bound for Teestamuk ghat. She could realise her blunder soon after the train was in motion. Meanwhile she was introduced with Abdul Matin as a policeman who was residing at Bharatkhal railway colony. Matin, however, offer Khatun to stay at his residence for the night on the plea that he will catch Gaibandha bound train next morning. On good faith the victim accompanied Matin and took shelter at his house.

At night he violated Momena and fled away. Next morning local people recovered her in critical condition. A case was filed with Shaghata thana. The accused is still at large.

Sharp increase in prices of essentials in Jessore

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Sept 12: Prices of some major items of essential commodities are on sharp rise throughout the district hitting hard the general consumers for the last few months, it is learnt.

According to source, rice, atta, edible oil, kerosene, sugar and fish are now far beyond the purchasing capacity of common people due to abnormal price hike. Rice (course) is selling between Taka thirteen to fourteen per kilogram (kg). Atta is selling at Taka ten per kg, while adulterated palm

oil is sold at Taka 50 to 52 per kg. Both, fish and meat are virtually beyond expectation of poor people, the source added.

Soyabean is presently out of market.

Information say that indiscriminate sale of banned palm oil is rampant in all the rural markets. It is learnt, dishonest traders have monopolised the markets by selling the banned palm oil in the name of soyabean, showing original seal on its containers.

Similar in the case with mustard oil. It is adulterated

and being sold between Taka 55 and 60 per kg claiming a pure product by mixing chemical essence smuggled from across the border.

In many of the rural areas, cases of intestinal diseases are being reported following consumption of the adulterated edible oil. When contacted, a number of consumers said that present market of edible oil, kerosene and sugar was all time high. Lack of logistic supply in the markets, has adversely affected stability in price rate, they said.



SYLHET: Colonel (Retd) AR Chowdhury speaking at a discussion meeting marking the 76th birth anniversary of General M A G Osmany held at the Osmany Museum recently.

Daring dacoities, valuables worth Tk 1.5 lakh looted

PABNA, Sept 12: Valuables worth about Tk 1.5 lakh were looted in a daring dacoity at the residence of a businessman at Iswardi thana of the district on Sunday, reports UNB.

According to police, a gang of dacoits numbering 10-12 stormed the residence of Dhiren Karmaker at dead of night, beat some of the inmates and looted cash and gold ornaments at gun point.

The dacoits fired blank shots while leaving the place to terrorise the villagers.

A case has been filed with the police.

Another report says: Armed robbers looted cash and goods worth about Tk 20,000 from a truck near Chandpur tea gar-

den in Chunarughat thana on Dhaka-Sylhet highway on Saturday night.

Police arrested Rafiq Miah, 20, Rauf Miah alias Mitu, 27, and Raham Ali, 22, in this connection.

A gang of eight armed dacoits created a blockade on the road by felling trees and halted the rubber loaded truck (Chittagong Na-4180) which was bound for Mirpur, Dhaka, from Rupair rubber garden of Bahubal thana.

The dacoits beat up the employee of the tea garden Zahirul Islam, driver of the truck Shamsuddin Hawladar and a helper. They also took away some papers of the rubber garden.

District roundup

FARIDPUR

Construction of Padma bridge demanded

Sept 12: A meeting was held to press the demand for construction of a bridge over the river Padma on Thursday at Barisal, reports UNB.

Chaired by Administrator of Barisal Pourashava Ahsan Habib Kamal, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Chairman of Faridpur Pourashava Fazlul Kabir Chand, president of Barisal Press Club advocate S M Iqbal, president of district Bus Owners' Association Golam Saleque and president of Journalists' Association of Faridpur unit Munshi Harun.

Describing the necessity and importance of the bridge for the convenience of the three crore people of the south and south western region, the speakers urged the authority to start the construction of the Padma bridge immediately.

They said a new era of commercial and economic activities would start in the region with the construction of the much-needed bridge.

COMILLA

CMC's freshers' reception

Sept 12: BNP Standing Committee member and Housing and Public Works Minister Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mia said, BNP government came to power with people's mandate and the people can change the government through ballot only, reports UNB.

The minister was speaking as chief guest at the freshers' reception at the Comilla Medical College (CMC) and a public meeting held at Muradnagar thana headquarters on Saturday.

Barrister Rafiq said every one has the right to express his own opinion in a democratic society. He said, a democratically elected government could not be ousted by the whims of any person or group.

Referring parliament as the right forum for discussion on the national problems, he urged the opposition members to attend the parliament session to reach a consensus on the national problems.

JHENIDAH

UP chairman by-election Sept 15

Sept 12: The by-election of UP chairman of Rakhalgachi union in Kaliganj thana of the district will be held on September 15, officials said, reports UNB.

District Election Commission office sources said a total of seven candidates are contesting for the UP chairman post. They are Hamiduzzaman Harun, Durub Ali, Jumman Ali, Eunus Ali, Abdul Wahed, Ami Hossain and Nargis Parveen, wife of former chairman Mohsin Ali.

A total of 10,689 voters, including 5125 females are likely to cast their votes in the election. The post is vacant since the death of former chairman Mohsin Ali killed in a road accident on July 16.

RANGPUR

Withdrawal of case against commissioner demanded

Sept 12: About a thousand people, including the chairman and ward commissioners of Rangpur Pourashava, brought out a procession on Thursday demanding withdrawal of a case filed against a commissioner, reports UNB.

They said a false case has been filed against Md Idris Ali, a commissioner of the Pourashava, by the authorities of Rahatin Industries of Alamnagar thana.

The processionists paraded the main roads of the town and chanted slogans in favour of their demand.

BARISAL

2 fishermen die as trawlers capsize in Bay

From Staff Correspondent

Sept 12: At least seven fishing trawlers capsized and two fishermen died in Bay during past three weeks.

Thirty-six fishermen were rescued by fishing trawlers nearby. Of them, six were admitted in Patharghata hospital.

বাতজ্বরজনিত হৃদরোগ প্রতিরোধ করুন



গলা ব্যথা হলে
বাতজ্বর হতে পারে



জ্বরসহ শিশুর গিরায়ে
ব্যথা হলে বা গিরা ফুলে
গেলে চিকিৎসকের পরামর্শ
নিয়ে বাতজ্বর হয়েছে
কিনা জেনে নিন।

মনে রাখবেন

বাতজ্বর থেকে শিশুর হৃদরোগ হতে পারে।

গলা ব্যথার চিকিৎসা নিন।

নিয়মিত চিকিৎসা নিলে বাতজ্বর প্রতিরোধ করা যায়।

বাতজ্বর ও বাতজ্বরজনিত হৃদরোগ প্রতিরোধ প্রকল্প

স্বাস্থ্য শিক্ষা বুরো, স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তর

সংসার যদি ছোট হয়
সেথায় থাকেনা দারিদ্র্যের ভয়



পরিবার পরিকল্পনা অধিদপ্তর

আই. ই. এম. ইনস্টিটিউট