

PDB lodges 1,700 cases against illegal consumers

From Staff Correspondent
BARISAL, Nov 19: The Power Development Board (PDB) of Barisal zone has lodged 1,700 cases against the power consumers, both domestic and industrial, during last financial year. These cases were lodged against the consumers who were using power connections illegally. Of the total, about 1,200 cases were settled so far.

98 pc aman output target achieved in JESSORE region

From Our Correspondent
JESSORE, Nov 19: Over ninety-eight per cent of the target fixed for cultivation of T-aman (Transplanted aman) crop has been achieved in 10 districts of south western zone of the country during current year.

Relief for VGF in Rangpur

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, Nov 19: The relief and rehabilitation department has geared up Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) programme all over the district to supply grains to the destitutes who are said to be worst hit due to drought.

Under the programme, at least one lakh sixteen thousand and two hundred enlisted destitutes are being supplied with 10 kilogram of wheat per head for a month.

The programme has been initiated during the current month and it would be continued upto December this year.

There are also allegations that in some areas in the district, the destitutes are not getting actual quantity of VGF wheat due to malpractices of the concerned unions chairmen and members.

Kulaura Degree College bans student politics

From Our Correspondent

MOULVI BAZAR, Nov 19: Kulaura Degree College authority has imposed an order of prohibition on student politics in college for the next two months beginning from October 25, it is learnt.

The order was given after a meeting of college managing body with guardians and leaders of different political and student organisations which was held at college auditorium recently with Principal of the college Mohammed Yousef Ali in the chair.

CLARIFICATION

Issued in a clarification by the Railway administration on 15.11.94 in response to an item published on this page on 6.11.94.

Following is the full text of the clarification column.

"Attention of the Railway administration has been drawn to a news item published in the Daily Star headlined 'Pilferage of railway property rampant in Western Zone'.

As the information stated in the news item are not based on fact, the railway administration deems it necessary to clarify the actual position to remove misunderstandings among the members of the public.

It is true that age-old condemned rail engines, wagons, passenger carriages, etc. are usually kept stabled in different railway yards. These condemned rolling-stock are then put to auction. The bidders generally take delivery of the items in phases. At the time of delivery, representatives of railway stores, accounts and security departments and the stock verifiers remain present to guard any over delivery.

Despite all these precautions theft and pilferage of certain small items may occur which cannot be termed 'rampant'. The railway authority, with the help of law enforcing agencies, has taken measure to arrest such pilferage. Railway authority has also taken steps for quick and speedy disposal of scrap materials stabled in different yards. During 1993-94, scrap materials worth Tk. 12 crore 12 lakh have been sold in the Western Zone alone.

It is no denial of fact that in some particular sections of the Western Zone people travel by trains without purchasing tickets. The Railway authority is aware of the situation and has taken various measures to arrest such trend. Special magistrates and special squads are deputed to check ticketless travelling.

The Daily Star, however stands by its story.

National

Massive winter crop cultivation scheme taken in Khulna Div

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Nov 19: An extensive programme has been taken for cultivation of winter crops including wheat, potato, mustard, grams and other pulses in 10 districts of Khulna Division in the current season.

According to Additional Director of Agriculture Extension Department of JESSORE region, wheat will be cultivated on a total of 91 thousand 390 hectares of land to produce, as expected, one lakh 82 thousand 780 metric tons.

Detail information say that 10 thousand hectares of land will be brought under cultivation of wheat in JESSORE, 12 thousand in Jhenidah, six thousand in Magura, two thousand 290 in Narail, 300 hectares in Khulna, 300 hectares in BAGERHAT, three thousand three hundred hectares in Kushtia, 700 hectares in Chuadanga and one thousand hectares of land in Meherpur districts.

Mustard-seeds will be cultivated on a total of 62 thousand 315 hectares of land in 10 districts. District-wise cultivation list is as follows: 12 thousand 710 hectares in JESSORE, seven thousand 900 in Jhenidah, seven thousand 680 hectares in Magura, five thousand 400 in Narail, three thousand 500 in Khulna, two thousand 675 in Bagerhat, six thousand 400 in Kushtia, five thousand 840 in Chuadanga and four thousand 400 hectares of land in Meherpur districts.

This programme has been taken up to achieve the production of 44 thousand 500 metric tons of Mustard seeds, said the Additional Director, Agriculture Extension Department of JESSORE region.

According to another source, grains will be cultivated on 61 thousand 300 hectares of land, in a bid to achieve production of 43 thousand 520 metric tons of grams.

Similarly, potato will be cultivated on a total of 10 thousand 900 hectares of land to achieve production of one lakh, 19 thousand 900 hundred metric tons, as planned.

To facilitate achievement of the target, it will be cultivated on three thousand hectares in

Bagerhat, one thousand 500 in Satkhira, seven thousand in Kushtia, 14 thousand in Chuadanga and three thousand 500 hectares of land in Meherpur districts.

Pulses will be cultivated on a total of 94 thousand 400 hectares land in 10 districts of the division.

It will be cultivated on 22 thousand 500 hectares in JESSORE, 11 thousand in Jhenidah, 11 hectares in Magura, 400 in Narail, 800 in Khulna, 600 in Bagerhat, two thousand 500 in Satkhira, one thousand seven hundred in Kushtia, 16 thousand in Chuadanga and nine thousand hectares of land in Meherpur district.

Target for achievement of production has been fixed at 69 thousand 856 metric tons, the source added.

An UNB report from Bholasays About 3.75 lakh hectares of land have been brought under different robi crop cultivation programme in 11 southern districts of Barisal region.

According to Agriculture Extension Department, the districts are Barisal, Pirojpur, Jhalakathi, Bholas, Patuakhali, Barguna, Rajbari, Faridpur, Gopalganj, Madaripur and Shariatpur.

About 1.95 lakh hectares of land have been earmarked for boro and 53,180 hectares for wheat cultivation programme, the sources said.

Of the rest, 4,000 hectares have been brought under potato, 350 hectares under

maize, 8,900 hectares under gram, 8,700 hectares under pulses, 2,200 hectares under maskalai and 68,000 hectares under ground nut cultivation.

Boro production target has been fixed at 5.66 lakh tons and wheat 1.06 lakh tons.

Another report from Kishoreganj adds: A massive scheme has been taken up for wheat and potato cultivation in seven districts under Comilla Agriculture Zone during the current rabi season.

According to Agriculture Extension Department sources, 52,500 hectares of land have been brought under wheat cultivation while 25,100 hectares under potato cultivation.

The districts are Comilla, Brahmanbaria, Chandpur, Sunamganj, A K M Ishtiaque Hossain while passing his judgement in a case found one person guilty and sentenced him to suffer rigorous imprisonment for ten years on charge of keeping illegal arms recently.

For the successful implementation of the scheme, Bangladesh Krishi Bank and other commercial banks will provide necessary loans to the growers.

Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation will supply high yielding variety seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and other necessary inputs to the growers.

Meanwhile, Agri Extension Department has set up several demonstration plots to acquaint the farmers with the modern methods of cultivation.

Fire destroys property worth Tk 10 lakh in Gaibandha

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Nov 19: Property worth about Taka 10 lakh including twelve shops and two offices of student organization were gutted by fire that broke out at Antamli

point of Sundarganj thana in the district recently.

Observers say 20 persons received injury during the incident.

One awarded 10 yrs RI for keeping illegal arms

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Nov 19: The Additional District and Sessions Judge and Special Tribunal, Sunamganj, A K M Ishtiaque Hossain while passing his judgement in a case found one person guilty and sentenced him to suffer rigorous imprisonment for ten years on charge of keeping illegal arms recently.

Thirteen development projects were under implementation by the board during '93-'94. Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) could utilise about 90 per cent of the ADP allocations for the year which is Tk 52.50 crore against allocation of Tk 58.60 crore.

The Annual Development Programme (ADP) allocations

BRDB's credit schemes help improve rural lives

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Nov 19: With a view to develop the socio-economic conditions of the poor people of the vast rural areas of the country, Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) has undertaken a massive programme for disbursement of loan to the poor through its different development projects.

More than Tk 87 crore were distributed on credit programmes through these six projects during '93-'94 financial year. Realisation of credit was more than Tk 70 crore.

Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) normally operates its development projects through the KSS, TCCA organisations.

BRDB has also jointly financed programmes in different districts with foreign donors like the SIDA and NORAD.

BRDB disbursed loans to boost income generating projects, small trade, livestock rearing, pisciculture, rickshaw van pulling, paddy husking including many other activities for the assetless mass of the villages.



KURIGRAM: The Integrated Pest Management (IPM) campaign has been launched in Kurigram district recently. This picture shows the district agriculture officials giving practical knowledge to the local farmers on pest control at the IPM block in sadar thana.

— Star photo

Large-scale corruption in a leading school in Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Nov 19: Large-scale irregularities and corruption have been going on at the Blue Bird High School of Sylhet town according to allegations from guardians and students of the school.

A cold relationship is continuing centring the issue between the school managing committee and the Headmistress, it is alleged.

A written complaint had already been lodged with the higher authorities, the Education Secretary and other education department officials, last week.

According to the allegations, the headmistress temporarily appointed three teachers reportedly her relations including her daughter few months back, and arranged for appointment through interviews last month. But, on receiving complaints the Deputy Commissioner sent a team of six magistrates for holding the written interviews in which all three failed to fulfill requirements as teachers. As per board regulations, the Headmistress is to take at least eight classes a week. But, the Headmistress never takes any class it is also alleged. There are dispute among the teachers regarding distribution of classes. Some of the teachers take only five to six classes while some are compelled to take 22 to 24 classes a week, it is alleged.

No action was taken against the office clerk Abul Quasem, who fled away after grabbing several lakhs of taka from the school account mysteriously, years ago. The school canteen had been leased out to a relative of the Headmistress without any tender or quotation, it is alleged.

An office clerk had to resign when he was blamed for publishing some 'benami' leaflets against the acts of Headmistress.

The school has two sections.

The junior section is situated in a separate building

which is 200 yards from the main school building. Though there is no telephone connection there, the nursery students also have to pay the fees for telephone, it is alleged.

Huge amount of money had been misappropriated during construction of the new build-

Believe it or not!

From Delwar Kabir

JHENIDAH, Nov 19: Uttam Kumar Biswas, a college student drew world map on a single piece of mustard seed, wrote the name of American President Bill Clinton 56 times on a single piece of grain and 20 songs of poet Rabindra Nath Tagore's "Gitanjali" on a 17 mm x 19 mm British Postage stamp.



Uttam Kumar Biswas

Biswas, from village Shimulia in Salikhia thana of Magura district, appeared in HSC examination this year. Talking to the Daily Star Biswas informed that he sent 4 samples said mustard seeds to Ripley's. "Believe it or not" an American television entertainment programme.. The programme authority assured Biswas that they were interested in his fabulous work of art.

Biswas uses pencils of sizes .03 and .05 and ball pens along with magnifying glass. Biswas also wishes to send samples of his works to Guinness Book of Records.

He claims that no such record was written in Guinness Book of Records from Bangladesh earlier.

Railway ferry services at Bahadurabad face closure

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Nov 19: Railway ferry service between Teestamukh ghat and Bahadurabad ghat is facing closure due to sharp decrease in water level in Sharbaputra basin.

With the closure of all available routes, ferry boats had to be moved 40 kilometres away to Balashi through a narrow channel at Kalasona char which might be declared abandoned at any time.

Besides, hundreds of small and big shoals have appeared paralysing the normal movement of ferry boats. The ferries need additional three to four hours to cross the river from Teestamukh ghat to Bahadurabad ghat.

Ferry boats could not maintain its time schedule, for which connecting trains in both the sides of river are running in late hours.

Very often ferry boats remain stranded for hours mid-stream causing additional miseries to the passengers.

Ten years ago it needed only half an hour to cross river from Teestamukh ghat to Bahadurabad ghat due to its navigable channel but now it requires three to four hours time to cross the river.

12 students hurt over teasing of a girl student in JESSORE

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Nov 19: A dacoity was committed on a Dhaka-bound night coach recently.

Report says, some armed dacoits in the guise of passengers numbering 7 to 8 started looting on the coach of Doordoronto Paribahan.

The dacoits stabbed the driver of the coach and took control over the vehicle. They looted away valuables from the passengers worth Taka about 50 thousand and got off near Hatgopalpur.

A case was filed with Jhenidah thana in this connection.

3 dacoits held

Another report says, three dacoits were nabbed by a bridal

Robbers active in Jhenidah

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A sword and dagger were recovered from the alleged dacoits, police said.

Another report says: Six dacoits were committed at Kaliganj thana and Bangladesh Power Development Board colony, recently.



The never ending challenge. Women learn how to write in rural areas of northern districts.

Acute food crisis in Satkhira

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Nov 19: Seven thanas of Satkhira district are in the grip of acute food crisis and there is little job opportunity for day labourers. A large number of jobless villagers have been flocking to the district town as beggars, it is observed.

A prolonged draught and other natural calamities have created acute food crisis in seven thanas of the district. High prices of essentials have been prevailing for a long time.