

Conference of university, college teachers assoc held at BAU

AGRI-VARSITY (Mymensingh), Dec 3: Bangladesh College University Teachers Association (BCUTA) of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) unit held a conference with its president Professor Dr AM Muazzam Hossain in the chair.

Held at the BAU Faculty of Agricultural Economics Gallery Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr Shah M Farouk was the chief guest at the inaugural function of the conference while former education advisor and Vice-Chancellor of Jahangirnagar University Professor Zillur Rahman Siddiqui was the special guest.

Among others spoke on the occasion were Professor M Akhtaruzzaman, Professor Dr Md Monsurul Amin, Professor Dr A M Farouk, Professor Dr Noor Md Talukdar and Mr Atiar Rahman Molah.

Two papers educational problems: Bangladesh Perspective and Terrorism in the campus were presented by Professor Dr Syed Sakawat Hossain, Dr Md Suhanuddin Bhuiyan and Farid Ahmad.

BRDB starts adult literacy programme

BHOLA, Dec 3: Bangladesh Rural Development Board has taken up a programme for the adult education under its RD-12 Project in the Lalmonirhat thana in the current financial year, says UNB.

According to the official sources, under this programme about 400 adult members of their local samity will be imparted education in the next three years.

In this connection, 20 adult centres were opened and 20 teachers have already been appointed.

The Teachers' Training Programme was inaugurated by the Deputy Commissioner of district recently.

He said under the project RD-12, the adult literacy programme of the BRDB will help greatly in eradicating the curse of illiteracy.

He also called upon the affluent section of the people to come forward to help set up more adult education centres to eradicate illiteracy from the society.

One killed in road mishap

SIRAJGANJ, Dec 3: A small trader was killed and three others were injured on Thursday night when a truck fell into a roadside ditch in sadar thana on Sirajganj-Belkuchi road, says UNB.

The dead was identified as Sujabat Ali, 55, a small trader of sadar thana.

Police said the loaded truck skidded off the road at Baotira village at 11 pm, injuring Sujabat who was travelling on the truck with the others while returning from a bazar in Belkuchi.

Sujabat succumbed to his injuries early Friday morning at the General Hospital where he was admitted along with the other injured.

Police seized the truck but the driver was absconding.

Valuables, cash worth Tk 2.74 lakh robbed in Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Dec 3: Armed dacoits looted valuables and money in cash worth about a Taka two lakh 74 thousand from a house at Nawab road of Kajashah area of Sylhet town early on Tuesday.

A gang of armed dacoits attacked the house of Yaor Ahmed. They tied up all the inmates of the house and took away the valuables and money in cash and managed to escape from the house safely.

A case in this connection had been registered with the police. Eight persons were later taken into custody for interrogation by the police apprehending their alleged involvement with the robbery incident.

One killed in Manikganj

MANIKGANJ, Dec 3: A school teacher was hacked to death and his daughter was seriously injured when a gang of dacoits swooped on a village in Dhamrai thana in Dhaka district on Friday midnight, reports UNB.

The dead was identified as Sunil Kumar Pal, 42, teacher of the government primary school in the thana.

The injured, Shukla, student of Dhamrai Government College was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

They beat the inmates and looted goods worth Taka over one lakh.



RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY: 'Youth Law Forum', an organisation of law research centre of Rajshahi University accorded a reception to David Chel Shelle, local representative of International Donor Agency 'Foard Foundation' at Montaz Uddin Arts gallery recently. Chel in his speech congratulated the young law students for their effort in publishing the monthly magazine. Prof Badar Uddin and Acting Secretary of Youth Law Forum, Hasibul Alam Pradhan were among others who addressed the function. — Star photo

Irregular power supply

Industries incur losses worth Tk 100 cr in northern dists

From Our Correspondent

DINAJPUR, Dec 3: The life in Rajshahi Division have been paralysed by the continued power crisis. Many mills and factories have already been closed down. The irrigation sector has been hardest hit affecting cultivation of the winter crops.

Many industries and factories in Panchagarh, Thakurgaon, Dinajpur, Nilphamari, Rangpur, Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, Gaibandha, Joipurhat, Bogra, Sirajganj, Pabna, Natore, Naogaon, Rajshahi and Chapalnawabganj are on the verge of closure due to frequent disruption of electricity supply. As a result, the price of rice and atq are also on gradual increase.

The biggest industrial town of the region, Bogra, is the

worst hit. Here the requirement of electricity is 15 megawatt, whereas the supply is only four megawatt. Dinajpur, the requirement of electricity is 10 megawatt whereas the supply is only three megawatt.

In Rangpur, the supply is four megawatts whereas the demand is 12 megawatt. In Pabna the supply is three megawatt against the demand of nine megawatt and in Rajshahi supply of electricity is four megawatt in place of a demand of 12 megawatt.

The total demand of electricity in 16 districts is 55 to 60 megawatt. But the authorities concerned can supply 16 to 20 megawatt which is also irregular.

The Private Industries

Owners' Samity of the northern zone incurred a loss of Taka 100 crore due to irregular power supply during the last three months, it was informed by the samity.

The Power Development Board (PDB) in an advertisement published in national daily newspapers recently, hoped that the crisis will be over by June 1995.

Till the grid comes into operation, the Saidpur and Thakurgaon Diesel Power Station (DPS) are the only sources of electricity in eight districts of Dinajpur and Rangpur zones. The three units of Saidpur DPS are now generating six megawatt of electricity and three units of Thakurgaon DPS generates four megawatt of electricity.

Meghna erosion renders 500 families homeless

MAJDEE COURT (Noakhali), Dec 3: The devastating erosion of the river Meghna rendered 500 families homeless in 4 unions of Hatiya thana in the last three months, says UNB.

The erosion which started in early 1970 has so far rendered at least 60,000 people homeless. Almost 40 per cent of the area of Hatiya thana covering an area of 400 square kms went into the river.

A vast area of cultivable land and many institutions have been completely washed away.

The erosion continued in east, west and northern portion of the thana. Several markets, vast cultivable land and dwelling houses of Sukchar and Nalchira unions are being washed away.

The affected people, mostly farmers, fishermen and day labourers are passing their days in sub-human condition.

Of the affected people, 15,000 have been living in straw made mini sheds on the WDB embankment and 15,000 have left Hatiya and migrated to other districts.

The inhabitants of the Hatiya island are facing natural calamities like cyclone, flood, tornado, tidal bore every year incurring huge losses.

Local MP, Prof Oliullah urged the government to take immediate steps to rehabilitate the shelterless people. He also urged to take up a comprehensive plan to stop erosion of the river.

BADC distributes 75,000 saplings in Barisal region

BARISAL, Dec 3: Bangladesh Agriculture Extension Department (BADC) distributed 75,000 saplings of timber and fruit bearing trees among the small and marginal farmers of seven southern districts free of cost in the last tree plantation season, says BSS.

The districts covered by this programme are: Barisal, Pirojpur, Jhalakati, Bhola, Patuakhali, Barguna and Gopalganj.

According to an official source, government sanctioned a sum of Tk. 7.50 lakh for the implementation of this programme in these districts under the southern district development programme this season.

A total of 18,700 small and marginal farmers have been benefited in 400 unions of the districts.

The saplings included coconut, jackfruits, guavas, meharani and raintrees. The department also raised 20,000 saplings each of meharani, raintree, shishu, chambal and segoon and 5,000 saplings each of jackfruit, jalpai, neem and arjun in 16 nurseries of the districts, the source said.

Government sanctioned Tk 5.60 lakh for the production of four lakh saplings of these varieties in the nurseries of seven districts.

Dairy farm in Jessore, a good example

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Dec 3: The Mother Dairy Farm fares better than any of its competitors in the district. Its progress in four years has encouraged others to follow their foot steps, it was learnt.

Located at Dakatia, two km from Jessore town the farm has 41 cattle including 27 milch cows, 13 calves and one bull. All are mixed breed comprising Shahiwal jersey and Frezian jersey. The farm produces 190 litres of milk every day.

The entire production is consumed by its permanent customers in local town. This quantity is too inadequate to meet the increasing demand.

Milk is packed in polythene bags as per demand chart. Bags are delivered early in the morning. Two persons are engaged for this purpose and so far they have not failed to follow the routine. Every bag of milk contains 'Mother Dairy' seal imposed on it.

System of bill collection is good. Bills are prepared at the end of every month and handed over to customers on the first day of following month.

Mother Dairy Farm was established on six acre of land. One acre has been separated by fencing wall. Cowshed has been constructed for accommodation of cattle. Remaining area is used either for grazing field or cultivating fodder.

The owner of the farm Mizanur Rahman Babu said that he started the farm with 4 milch cows on experimental basis to study feasibility for conversion into a commercial one, in 1990.

Within two years he added nine more cattle. Milk produc-

tion a day was 32 kgs then. He earns Taka sixty thousand a month on average. He spends Taka forty thousand to buy fodder, pay salaries of staff and for other expenses. Net profit was Taka twenty thousand per month. During the period seven persons were employed on contract. Recently one more person has been appointed.

Describing nature of their duty he said, four are engaged to look after the cattle, two for procurement of fodder and rest for marketing.

Expenditure doubled

market, he explains, is prevailing in the district.

No medical advice or doctor is available when necessary. He complained that there is only doctor posted for sadar thana while there are 50 dairy farms here. He also said there was no arrangement in Khulna division for test of urine, blood, stool of cattle.

Babu further said that pure milk was not available in the town. There was serious crisis of pure milk in Jessore. He then decided that this to set



Cattle kept in specially built sheds in farm. — Star photo

following, sharp rise in prices of fodder and labour cost.

He complained that prices of fodder has gone up abnormally as they are hard to find these days.

Absence of store for supply of fodder has further worsened crisis.

He said, there is only one fodder store in the capital which can not meet the demand of the entire country.

The situation of fodder

up the dairy farm.

He said that so far he did not seek government subsidy nor any donors assistance for the project. He built it up at his own initiative and from his own investment. He plans to collect over 300 cows to expand the efficiency of the farm.

The farm was awarded in 1991, and 92 by the government. The farm also received 1994 cattle show champion's prize.



A view of the cattle inside the farm. — Star photo

Test relief programmes Uplift works in progress in Faridpur, Chuadanga

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, Dec 3: A total of 107 test relief programmes have been implemented in four thanas of Chuadanga district: Chuadanga sadar, Alamdanga, Damurhuda and Jibannagar this year.

A total of 196 metric tons of wheat have been used for the purpose.

Of the total schemes, 26 schemes have been implemented in Chuadanga sadar thana, 32 schemes in Alamdanga thana, 30 schemes in Damurhuda thana and 19 schemes in Jibannagar thana.

The schemes included reconstruction of roads, earth works in the fields of schools and madrasahs, repairing of school rooms, development of school grounds, maintenance of Eidgah and madrasa, etc.

Our Correspondent from Faridpur adds: A total of 222 development projects under test relief programme are nearing completion in the district during the current season.

Huge quantities of Indian powder milk recovered

HABIGANJ, Dec 3: Police recovered huge quantities of Indian powder milk worth about Tk one lakh 25 thousand from Sutang Bazar recently.

On receiving information Chunarughat police raided a shop, Papri Enterprise' belonging to Jowaherul Islam in the market and recovered the alleged huge quantities of Indian powder milk from the shop.

A case was lodged with Chunarughat police in this connection, but the alleged, Jowaherul Islam was not arrested.

Test relief programmes Uplift works in progress in Faridpur, Chuadanga

son. About 429 metric tons of wheat has been sanctioned by the government for the implementation of these projects, the office source said.

According to district relief and rehabilitation office these projects include repair and reconstruction of roads, earth works in development of educational institutions and clearing of bushes.

The source also added that of the total allocation of wheat in eight thanas and one pourasava of the district 36 metric tons have been allotted to Alifdanga thana for 15 projects, 56 mt to Bhanga thana for 34 projects, 56 mt to Boalmari thana for 52 projects, 37 mt to Char Bhadrason thana for 16 projects, 64mt to Kotwali thana for 24 projects, 68 mt to Nagarkanda thana for 25 projects, 49 mt to Sadarpur thana for 21 projects, 52 mt to Madhukhali thana for 32 projects and 11mt to Faridpur pourasava for three projects.

Another report adds: The government has sanctioned 744 metric tons of wheat for implementation of 38 schemes under food for works programme in four thanas of Chuadanga district during the current dry season.

Of the total schemes, 10 schemes will be implemented in Chuadanga Sadar thana at a cost of 174 metric tons of wheat, 13 schemes will be implemented in Alamdanga thana at a cost of 239 metric tons of wheat, 9 schemes will be implemented in Damurhuda thana at a cost of 198 metric tons of wheat and 6 schemes will be implemented in Jibannagar thana at a cost of 123 metric tons of wheat.

The implementation works of the schemes will start shortly.

58,000 hectares of land for winter crop farming in Bhola

BHOLA, Dec 3: A scheme has been taken up to bring 58,000 hectares of land under the Rabi crops farming in the district, says UNB.

According to local Agriculture Extension Department, of the total land, 22,400 hectares have been brought under boro cultivation programme, 5,000 hectares under wheat, 1,000 hectares under potato, 2,500 hectares under pulses, 7,000 hectares under khesari, 4,050 under mustard seeds and 1,500 hectares under ground nut cultivation.

Another message adds: Bangladesh Rural Development Board, Borhanuddin thana branch has disbursed Tk 2.45 lakh as loan among the landless farmers through their field-level co-operative society for fish cultivation.

According to official sources, the samity possesses 50 big and 30 small ponds which can be brought under fish culture.

One awarded life-term for killing his wife

JAMALPUR, Dec 3: A man was awarded life term imprisonment here on Tuesday for killing his wife, says UNB.

According to prosecution story, Abdul Quader of Islampur thana strangled his wife, Mamta Begum to death on November 3, 1991 following a family feud.

A case was filed and police after investigation submitted charge sheet against Quader on Oct 21, 1992.

The District and Sessions Judge Md Shamsher Ali after examining 15 prosecution witnesses and records awarded the punishment.

Jamalpur PBS-1 faces problem

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Dec 3: Jamalpur Palli Bidyut Samity-1 is facing various problems including burden of a loan of Taka 2.5 crore. This loan was used to construct a power line under deposit work to supply electricity at Jamuna fertilizer factory.

The samity constructed a 34 kilometer long 33 kv power line to supply electricity to Jamuna fertilizer by September 1991.

As per rules, expenses for any deposit work has to be paid in advance. Jamalpur Palli-Bidyut Samity took up the construction work without receiving any advance payment.

Jamalpur Palli Bidyut Samity alleges that when the work was almost completed, the Power Development Board

(PDB) authorities declined to give the necessary power connections from the PDB grid.

Subsequently, PDB and Jamuna Fertilizer Factory reached an agreement. The PDB completed the remaining work. Since then PDB is supplying electricity to Jamuna Fertilizer Factory through the power line.

The irony is that Jamalpur Palli Bidyut Samity is now burdened not only with the loan but also with the interest of about Taka 25 lakh per year in addition to the loan.

Jamalpur Palli Bidyut Samity has brought the whole matter to the notice of the authority concerned. But failing to solve the dispute through mediation, the samity filed a case with the local court

against PDB and Jamuna Fertilizer Factory to protect the interest of its consumers. The consumers of the samity have become ultimate victims as they are paying a higher rate of bills for electricity as the samity has to adjust the expenses it had incurred to construct the aforesaid power line.

It was further revealed that despite the provision of transferring all PDB lines of a particular area to a Palli Bidyut Samity, if such a samity existed, PDB is yet to transfer any line including the most profitable ones like that of Nandina Bazar, Sarishabari municipal areas to the samity. The samity is deprived of huge revenues as a result.



KURIGRAM: These women are collecting arum plants to cook as food in Rajarhat thana of the district

— Star photo by A K M Mohsin