

Massive project undertaken at Annada Thakur Adyapith in Rauzan

By Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Feb 4: A wide-ranging programme to establish boys' orphanage, girls' orphanage, old people's home, mother's home, for all classes of the distressed in the society and free dispensary, mobile dispensary, ambulance service, hermits' dormitory, temple, free coaching centre and school at North Gujra village, the birth place of the founder of Adyapith Ramkrishna Sangha humanist Sri Sri Annada Thakur under Rauzan thana of Chittagong district was recently taken in the meeting held on January 20 last.

Participants were among others, industrialist Noni Gopal Saha, Engg SP Kanungo, Dakbhineswar Adyapith, General Secretary, Brahmachari Moral Bhai, and Sri Sri Annada Thakur Adyapith Ramkrishna Sangha, President Sujit Kumar Biswas (Montu Babu), General Secretary Mridul Kanti Deban, Joint-Secretary Sadhanmoy Bhattacharya.

They urged upon all irrespective of religion, caste and creed to come forward in implementing the projects and contact President/Secretary/Joint Secretary, Sri Sri Annada Thakur Adyapith.

Over 170 eye patients given free treat

JHENIDAH, Feb 4: A total of 83 cataract patients were operation upon and 95 others received treatment in a 9-day eye-camp '95 held at local Primary Training Institute in the town, reports UNB.

Sponsored by Jhenidah district administration, the camp jointly organised by BNSB eye hospital, Khulna, Jhenidah Paurasava and BNSB Jhenidah unit began on January 15.

Dr Rahmatullah Shaheen of Bangladesh National Society for the Blind (BNSB) Eye Hospital, Khulna, conducted the operation.

Al-haj Mokaddes Hossain, Superintendent of Jhenidah P.T.I. was the chief guest at the concluding function of the camp.

Dr Rezaul Karim Benu, President of Jhenidah BNSB unit, presided over the function and distributed certificates among the volunteers.

Best educational institutions of Moulvibazar

From Our Correspondent

MOULVIBAZAR, Feb 4: The best college, Boys' High School, Girls' High School and Madrasa at the district level was selected from the institutions of Moulvibazar town this year.

The selection was made during the observation of the national week of education recently.

It is gathered that, Moulvibazar Government College, Moulvibazar Government Boys' High School, Al Amjad Government Girls' High School and Town Senior Madrasa was selected as best college, Boys' High School, Girls' High School and Madrasa of the Moulvibazar district. All of the institutions are located in Moulvibazar town.

Besides this, AK Fazlul Hoque of Moulvibazar Government College, Krishnapada Das of Shiah Heial High School of Moulvibazar, Aminul Islam of Baranti Senior Madrasa were selected as best teachers of college, High School and Madrasa respectively of the district.

Construction work of 72 schools completed

BHOLA, Feb 4: Local Government and Engineer Department has completed the reconstruction and repair work of 72 government and non-govt primary schools here at a cost of Tk 3.23 crore, says UNB.

The project has been completed with the financial assistance from the International Development Bank. According to official sources, of the total, 15 schools were reconstructed in Daulatkhan, 20 in Sadar, 15 in Charfassion, 10 in Borhanuddin, 10 in Lalimob and five in Tajumuddin thanas. These schools were badly damaged by the devastating cyclone in 1990. The department also supplied furniture to these schools. With the reconstruction of these schools primary education will get further boost in the district, it is learnt.

600 hectares of land brought under sunflower cultivation scheme

From Delwar Kabir

JHENIDAH, Feb 4: About six hundred hectares of land was brought under sunflower cultivation in southern districts of the country this season to meet our national demand for cooking oil.

Jhenidah, Jessore, Magura, Narail, Khulna, Satkhira, Kushtia, Chuadanga and Meherpur districts are enlisted for sunflower cultivation.

According to a source of Agricultural Extension Department (AED) 7 hundred 14 demonstration plots have been readied and concerned farmer were given training for maintenance of the crop.

The scientists of agricultural department after thorough research invented a variety of sunflower namely 'kroni' in 1982. The department then started cultivation on experimental basis and

came to a decision that there is bright prospect of sunflower cultivation in southern parts of the country as the soil of these area is suitable for the kroni variety of sunflower seeds, the source said.

In these area, land on average one thousand 8 hundred kilograms of sunflower seeds was procured from a hectare and 40 to 45 per cent of oil was procured from the seeds, the source informed.

Sunflower oil is very good in quality as edible oil. It is useful to human health as it does not contain 55 per cent. Lemonic acid which is hazardous to our health. Even there is no harmful erasic acid. That is why even the patients who have been suffering from heart diseases can use it without hesitation. The source said that in mustard oil, a good percentage

of erasic is present. The Agriculture Extension Department recently distributed a good number of locally produced sunflower seeds alongwith imported improved variety of intermixed sunflower seeds.

The source also informed that about 4 lakh 1 thousand 5 hundred metric tons of edible oil is required to meet our daily need at the rate of 10 grams for each person. But now only one lakh 35 thousand 7 hundred 85 metric tons of oil is produced in our country which is too little to meet our necessity as mustard seed is the only source of producing oil. Rest of the quantity of oil or oil seeds would be imported from abroad, the source added.

Recently, Agricultural Extension Department has signed

a contract with Netherlands government for better prospect of sunflower cultivation under Crop Diversification Programme (CDP), the source also informed.

Another report says, Sonali Bank will distribute Taka 13 lakh for potato cultivation in 5 thanas of Jhenidah district this winter season.

A Sonali Bank source said that they have allocated Taka 2 lakh 75 thousand in Jhenidah sadar thana, Taka one lakh 35 thousand in Saikupa thana, Taka 4 lakh in Kaliganj thana, Taka 50 thousand in Kotchandpur thana and Taka 4 lakh 50 thousand in Moheshpur thana for potato cultivation. For land preparation and to purchase seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and agricultural equipment, the source added.



RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY: Professor M Eusuf Ali, Vice Chancellor of RU reading out his written statement to local pressmen on January 30, '95.

'Rajshahi University victim of disparity in receiving fund'

From RU Correspondent

RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY, Feb 4: Prof M Eusuf Ali, Vice Chancellor of Rajshahi University said that development work at Rajshahi University is being hampered due to lack of funds. In last 10 years no building has been constructed for teachers' accommodation. As a result, more than 50 teachers are staying in the university guest house, 'Juber'.

Some are living with family in a single room while several hundred teachers are living outside the campus. He was speaking at a press conference on Monday afternoon arranged at his residence.

Students in the arts faculty in some classes do not get a seat in the class room. Many of them are seen listening to the lectures standing. The enrolment of students has gone up but the class rooms and buildings has not been increased proportionately, he added.

Prof Eusuf also regretted that Rajshahi University being the second largest varsity in the country does not get its due share in the five year budget. He further added that in the three five year plan Tk nine crore 20 lakh has been allocated for Rajshahi

University whereas for Chittagong University the allocation was Tk 11 crores 32 lakh. The student enrollment at that time was 11,110 in RU and 6997 in Chittagong University. In the fourth five year plan the allocation was 11 crores 19 lakh for RU, Tk 15 crores 30 lakh for DU, Tk 14 crores 43 lakh for CU, Tk 23 crores 47 lakh for JU.

The per cent increased in the allocation comparison with 3rd five year plan to 4th five year plan was 21.65 for RU,

65.82 per cent for BAU 27.49 for CU and 195.98 for JU. The Vice Chancellor said that thus it is clear that the RU has become the victim of government's disparity in getting funds as well as university grant commission. As a result, last several years the science departments of RU are not getting research equipment, advanced book and journals. He said, 'we are in dire-need of about Tk 40 crore to meet-up the minimum requirement'. There we have been asked to make our

plan within the limit of Taka 20 crores by UGC. He stressed that Tk 5 crores could be enough to modernised the laboratory and library which is badly needed to maintain the highest standard of teaching and research in the university.

Pro-Vice-Chancellor Prof M Altaf Hussain, Registrar M Omor Faruq, RU Press Club Adviser, Dr Abdur Rahman Siddiqui, Dr Kamrul Islam, and information officer of the university M Shadequul Islam was also present.

Table with 5 columns: Serial No, University, 3rd Five Year Plan (1985-90) Allocation figure of Tk Lakh, 4th Five Year Plan (1990-95) Allocation Figure of Tk Lakh, Increased Allocation rate comparison with 3rd Five Year Plan. Rows include DU, RU, Agri. U, CU, JU, Islami U, KU, SU, NU, OU.

Structural, administrative changes needed to make sugar mills profitable

From Delwar Kabir

JHENIDAH, Feb 4: If structural and administration policy are not changed, all the 15 sugar mills of the country will not be able to become profitable institutions.

According to sources, in 1994-95 fiscal year a total of targeted 2 lakh 18 thousand 6 hundred 22 metric tons of sugar would be produced from 15 sugar mills of the country. The procurement of sugar was 8.60 per cent. Out of this 21 thousand 3 hundred 15 metric tons in North Bengal Sugar Mills, 20 thousand 1 hundred 60 metric tons in Rajshahi Sugar Mills, 11 thousand 1 hundred 40 metric tons in Natore Sugar Mills, 19 thousand 90 metric tons in Jyppurhat Sugar Mills, 16 thousand 6 hundred 25 metric tons in Mobarakganj Sugar Mills, 15 thousand 4 hundred metric tons in Darshana Sugar Mills, 15 thousand 2 metric tons in Kushtia Sugar Mills, 14 thousand 4 hundred 96 metric tons in Modhukhali Sugar Mills, 13 thousand 4 hundred 40 metric tons in Rangpur Sugar Mills, 13 thousand 50 metric tons in Setabganj Sugar Mills, 12 thousand 7 hundred 50 metric tons in Jilbangia Sugar Mills, 11 thousand 6 hundred 58 metric tons in Shyampur Sugar Mills, 10 thousand 9 hundred 62 metric tons in Panchagarh Sugar Mills and one thousand 50 metric

tons in Beshleandhu Sugar Mills will be produced. To procure this quantity of sugar, atleast 25 lakh 55 thousand 5 hundred metric tons of sugarcane would be crushed, a source said.

The source also said that two lakh 21 thousand 5 hundred metric tons of sugar was produced crushing 27 lakh metric tons of sugarcane in all 15 sugar mills last year. Though more than the targeted sugar was produced, the procuring rate was 8.21 per cent instead of 8.60 per cent. As a result, the mills authorities were compelled to crush maximum sugarcane.

Last year, the mills authorities sold two lakh 17 thousand 4 hundred 71 metric tons of local sugar for Taka 562 crore 25 lakh 52 thousand. In addition, the government imported 51 thousand 7 hundred 8 metric tons of sugar from abroad at a cost of Taka 138 crore 44 lakh 8 thousand, the source added.

Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation (BSFIC) authorities deposited one hundred 12 crore Taka as Value Added Tax (VAT) and other revenues in same year. It was 26 crore 54 lakh 89 thousand more than the year 1992-93. In the year 90-94, two lakh 27 thousand acres of land was brought under sugarcane cultivation in all 15 sugar mills

command areas. To make the mills production profitable, authorities distributed including cash Taka 24 crore 25 lakh 26 thousand among the farmers for purchasing fertilizers, seeds, pesticides and other equipment. Of this, 89 per cent was recoverable.

Atleast three lakh metric tons of sugar and six lakh metric tons of molasses (gur) is required for the people of our country, the source said. According to a statistics of Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) however, atleast seven lakh metric tons of sugar and 10 lakh metric tons of 'gur' is required to meet country's demand. Though 15 sugar mills of the country produce more than two lakh metric tons which can not meet the requirements. As a result, atleast 1 lakh metric tons of sugar is imported from foreign countries spending a good amount of foreign currencies. It may be noted here that most of the village people do not care about their health.

If we want to meet our national demand of sugar atleast nine lakh acres of land would have to be brought under sugarcane cultivation. But it is cultivated on only 4 lakh 50 thousand acres per year. As a result, the sugar mills are not in a position to meet the necessity and losing years together. The statistics say

crease of sugar output rate from the sugarcane, overtime, bonus, incentives and other benefits to the employees and failure of administration are mainly responsible for the losses though sugar industry in almost a profitable institutions in the country.

To make the industry profitable some change are required. Bonus, unnecessary overtime, some undue activities of sramik unions, interference of labour leaders would be prohibited. Further, strict administration would be needed to guide the factories. Head office would not fix abnormal target of production on sugar mills, amount of sold sugar, molasses or other goods would be deposited in the accounts of concerned mills instead of head office. Import tax on sugar would be decreased and the rate of sugar would also be reduced. The farmers would be paid their bills on time to avoid harassment. The employees would not fraud or blackmail either the farmer or the mills authorities.

It was also stated that almost all the sugar mills have 30 per cent excessive employees or officials which may run additional sugar mills. Further quality sugar would be produced from these sugar mills which may fulfil our national demand.



SYLHET: The Press Council Chairman, Justice Sultan Hossain Khan speaking as chief guest at the installation ceremony of the executive body of Sylhet Press Club held on Tuesday.

Possibility of discovering ancient village in Kurigram

From H B Khan

KURIGRAM, Feb 4: It is believed that there might be a pucca building 15 or 20 feet beneath the earth at Jogirbhitha under Belgacha union of Kurigram Sadar thana.

While sinking tubewell pipe, the echo of the underground roof of a certain building could be heard. The location, height of the ancient village, its natural surroundings, the innumerable pieces of bricks and utensils strewn all over the 'bhitha' bear testimony to the inference that about two hundred or three hundred years ago, there might have been human habitation around the locality which had been lost by the onslaught of severe earthquake or other calamity, without leaving behind any historical record whatsoever.

Knowledgeable sources expressed that there might be hidden treasures like Iron-safe containing gold coins or ornaments which could be found out by excavating.

Mostafa Tofael Hossain, a rising poet of the 'bhitha', Md Abul Hossain, their father and uncles faintly recollected that in 1958, a deep ditch was covered up by trees and earth.

That ditch is still believed which is supposed to be a point, where there was an Iron-safe about seventy years back. Their grandfather, made

an attempt to dig out the antique Iron-safe, but supernatural agents intervened and they failed. It is reported that a storm was raised all of a sudden, and those who were engaged in digging had strange dreams, and suffered from various deadly diseases leading to collapse.

deep forest where wild animals like tigers and bears dominated habitation. Grandfather of Mostafa Tofael Hossain and Md Abul Hossain, late Fazal Uddin, was an energetic and brave man who steered clear through the bushes and made it worthwhile. He died about sixty years ago. There is a superstition that he suffered from diseases because of the vengeance of the supernatural elements who did not like his adventures.

This 'Wuthering Heights' is required to be investigated by excavation works.

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KURIGRAM: The site at Jogirbhitha where an iron safe of archaeological importance is believed to be kept underground.



SYLHET: The Kuwait returnees brought out a procession in Sylhet town on Monday to press home their 4-point demand. They also observed a day-long sit-in and a token hunger strike.

580 students receive Tk 783,900 as stipend from TLWF

From Our Correspondent

MOULVIBAZAR, Feb 4: The Tea Labourer Welfare Fund (TLWF) has distributed 'stipend' of Taka seven lakh 83 thousand 9 hundred among 580 students who are the children of tea labourers working in different tea gardens of the country.

A stipend giving ceremony was held recently at BTRI high school auditorium in Srimongal. AFM Badrul Alam, the Acting Director of the Bangladesh Tea Board (BTB) was in the chair, while Musibuddin Chowdhury, Acting Chairman of the BTB attended the function as chief guest. The function was addressed among others by M Ali Ahmed, Secretary of BTB, SA Hasib, Director of Project Development Unit of BTB and Rajendra Prasad Banarjee, Executive President of the Bangladesh Tea Labour Union.

The TLWF source said that, each student of class VI to VIII received Taka 1200, each student of classes IX to X received Taka 1500, each student of classes XI and XII received Taka 1800 and each student of Degree classes received Taka 2400 as stipend from the fund. The TLWF has been distributing stipend of this kind yearly since 1987.

In Jhenidah Only 6 pc people use sanitary latrines

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Feb 4: Only six per cent people has been brought under sanitary use of latrines in last 5 years in Jhenidah district. The rest 94 per cent people use unhygienic way to defecate like in bushes ditches and bamboo made kancha latrines.

According to various survey reports and statistics, most of these people used unhygienic latrines in rural areas five years ago. They were very conscious about use of hygienic latrines. Only a few families in rural area used pucca latrine. Though a good number of people using sanitary latrines, is not satisfactory. Most of these low priced sanitary latrines have no sufficient safety tanks and buckets, the reports said.

The sources also said that in six thanas, Jhenidah sadar, Saikupa, Harinakundu, Kalganj, Kotchandpur and Moheshpur, almost all the people are not aware about use of sanitary latrines. Rather they are interested to defecate in bushes, jungles, ditches or similar other places. All these people do not use ash or soap after using latrine. Awareness about use of pure water is not clear to them. Talking to a Thana Health and Family Planning Administrator it was learnt that they are trying to motivate the common people of rural

area about primary health care including use of sanitary latrines. He said that might be able to make 'Health for all by the year 2000' a success.

Radio, Television, newspapers and other electronic media are playing vital roles to make the people aware.

1,782 people held on various charges in Jhenidah

JHENIDAH, Feb 4: Police arrested 1,782 people on various charges, recovered 26 firearms and 532 ammunition during the last year from the six thanas of the district, reports UNB.

According to the Police Super office, of the total, 534 were arrested under regular cases, 210 under court register (CR) cases, 316 under general register (GR) cases, 711 under section 54 and 11 activists of outlawed Purba Bangla Communist Party.

The seized arms include 19 pipeguns, three guns, two revolvers, one pistol, one airgun, rifle bullets-78, gun bullets-26, self loading rifle bullets-380, sub machine gun bullets-28 and its magazine-2. Mentionable that police arrested 1,884 people and recovered 77 firearms during the year 1993.