

Stamp shortage in Jamalpur

JAMALPUR, Feb 26: Acute shortage of postage stamps and phone cards is prevailing in the district for about a month, reports UNB.

According to local people, postage stamps worth one-taka and fifty paise are not available in any post office including the Head Post Office.

The 50-taka phone cards are also not available which were previously sold from the post offices and branches of Sonali Bank.

Local leaders have urged the concerned authorities to ensure smooth supply of stamps and phone cards without further delay.

2 schoolboys killed in road mishap

TANGAIL, Feb 26: Ripan, 15, and Tipu, 20 students of the Mirzapur High School were killed in a road accident recently at Postakamari on Dhaka-Tangail highway, reports BSS.

When they were returning home from Mirzapur in a bicycle, a passenger bus overran and killed them.

Besides, Mahabbat Aly, 38, of village Tarapur under Mirzapur thana was run over by a bus the same day at Kurni on the Dhaka-Tangail highway. He died on the spot.

Two separate cases were registered in Mirzapur thana. Both of the buses fled.

Bamboo production declines in Kushtia

KUSHTIA, Feb 26: Bamboo production in greater Kushtia district is declining due to lack of proper maintenance, nursing of clusters and planned plantation, reports UNB.

There were hundreds of bamboo clusters in Kushtia, Chuadanga and Meherpur districts but most of them are now decaying.

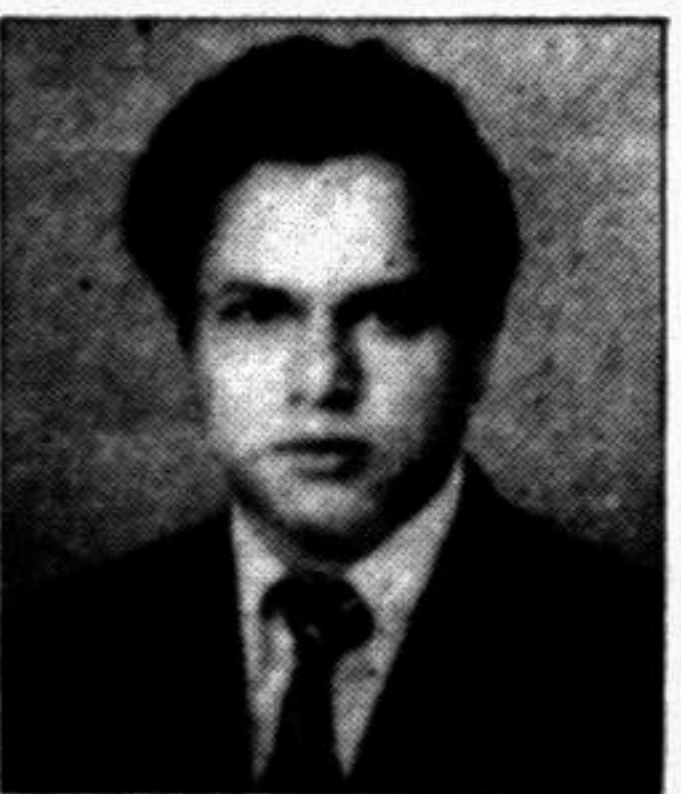
The owners of the clusters are ignorant of the method of cultivation and they think bamboo grows automatically. So the roots which remain underground after cutting bamboo are lifted at random and are being sold in the markets as firewood. Tender bamboos are not even spared.

Due to its scarcity, the price of bamboo has shot up abnormally in the local market hampering bamboo-based cottage industries. Meanwhile, many people engaged in cottage industries have been rendered jobless and passing their days in great hardship.

According to agricultural experts, proper nursing can enable a bamboo to grow at least 20 tender plants whereas now-a-days only two to three plants grow a year.

Moreover, repair and construction of thatched houses in the rural areas are being hampered badly due to shortage of bamboo. About 90 per cent of houses in rural areas are kutcha and bamboos are basic ingredients in constructing the thatched houses.

The price of a medium size bamboo is being sold between Tk 80 and Tk 90 which is beyond the purchasing capacity of 80 per cent villagers.



Prof Sadeque dead

AGRI VARSITY, Mymensingh, Feb 26: Professor Dr M Abdus Sadeque, Department of Agronomy, Bangladesh Agricultural University, died of a massive heart attack on Wednesday afternoon at his university residence. He was 46, says a press release.

A distinguished agricultural scientist, Dr Sadeque was born in 1949 at village Rasulpur under the district of Kishoreganj. He joined as lecturer in this university in 1973 and became Professor in 1992.

He left behind his wife, three daughters, one son, relatives, colleagues, students and a host of friends to mourn his death.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr Shah Muhammad Farouk, teachers, students, officers and employees of the university condoled the death of Dr Sadeque and prayed for the salvation of the departed soul. They also expressed deep sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

His namaj-e-janaza was held on the university campus and was buried at his village home.



SYLHET Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman offering munajat after the laying of foundation stone of the Sylhet Government Mohila College auditorium here recently. — Star photo

Ground water level fall hits irrigation network

SAVAR, Feb 26: The irrigation cultivation in the 17 districts of Dhaka division has been badly affected as the existing irrigation network is not functioning properly due to the water scarcity, reports UNB.

According to official sources, the ground water level has fallen abnormally due to the prolonged drought caused by adverse effect of Farakka Barrage. As a result, at least 50 per cent irrigation pumps have gone out of order due to drying up of small

rivers, canals, ponds, beels and haors in the current season.

Most of the deep and shallow tubewells and low-lift pumps of the 17 districts can hardly lift required water due to sudden fall in ground water level. Even hand driven tubewells of some areas of Savar, Gazipur, Tangail, Mymensingh and Narisngdi went out of operation causing scarcity of drinking water.

The sources said, 60,000 shallow tubewells out of 1,00,000 and 7000 deep tubewells out of 10,000 and only 6000 low-lift pumps out

of 30,000 are in operation.

Agriculturists and farmers apprehended that the production target of winter crops will not be achieved.

Farmers of the districts cultivated various rabi crops including wheat massively to recover the loss of the last season but the farming has also been hampered seriously due to the set back in irrigation system.

Agri officials said due to the prevailing situation half of the targeted production of irrigated crops would be achieved.

3 dacoits caught red-handed in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, Feb 26: At least 20 people were injured when villagers of Raidoulapur in Kamarkhand thana resisted a group of dacoits fleeing after committing dacoity in two houses of the village in the small hours of Saturday, reports UNB.

The villagers caught three members of the gang of 20 dacoits. They were fleeing with the booty valued about Tk 1 lakh.

The other members of the gang, however, managed to flee.

The alleged dacoits Ali Hossain, 35, Akhter Ali, 34, and Abdur Rahim, 32, were seriously injured during the resistance.

Tk 143 cr project to build 100 health centres

MADARIPUR, Feb 26: The government has taken up a 143 crore taka project to build 100 health and family welfare centres and for upgradation of 500 rural charitable dispensaries in the current fiscal throughout the country, reports UNB.

Laying foundation stone of Khoajpur Union Health and Family Welfare Centre in the district, the Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Hossain said this on Saturday.

A total of Tk 25 lakh has been allocated for the construction of Khoajpur Health and Family Welfare Centre.

Some 12000 local people will be directly benefited in

different ways in health care from this centre.

Addressing a public meeting on the occasion at Khoajpur High School premises, the minister said health is an important indicator of development activities of the country.

"In spite of limited resources, the government has given high priority to improve the health infrastructure and services in the rural areas," he said.

Ex-minister Abdul Mannan Sikder, Madaripur district BNP president Kazi Mahbub Ahmed and Humayun Kabir also addressed the meeting, said an official handout.

Revolutionary change achieved in education sector: Saifur

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Feb 26: Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman has said that a revolutionary change had been achieved in the education sector as the government had launched a number of programmes for the overall development of education in the country.

To remove the curse of illiteracy, special emphasis had been given on the education, he said.

Saifur Rahman was addressing a gathering at the foundation stone laying ceremony of the auditorium of Sylhet Government Mohila College Friday. The finance minister said that national development should be ensured through raising the literacy rate. Programmes like food for education and girls' stipend had already started, giving effective results in the country, he added. Education sector has been developed significantly during the last four years, he said.

A major programme has been taken up for development of 27 non-government colleges and 114 non-government high schools in the four districts of greater Sylhet region, the minister said, adding that a total of Taka 12 crore would be spent for its implementation.

Presided over by the college Principal Professor Abdul Matin, the function was also addressed by central BNP leader Abul Haris Chowdhury, Deputy Commissioner Abu Taher Khan, Sylhet Pourashava Chairman A F M Kamal, the Daily Sanglap Editor Md. Faizur Rahman and Begum Bilkis Jalidar.

12 Sarbahara party activists arrested

BARISAL, Feb 26: Police in a special drive arrested 40 people including 12 outlawed Sarbahara Party activists from Barisal and Jhalokathi districts, reports UNB.

Police arrested them in the first three days of the drive, started from February 10, from Babuganj of Barisal and Sadar thana of Jhalokathi.

The alleged outlaws are Jabangir Alam, Shahjahan, Abu Bakar Siddique, Shyamal Das, Chandu Khan, Abdul Hakim, Ainal Huq, Syed Mujahidul Islam, Yusuf Ali, Shukharajan, Shahajahan Howlader and Sukkur Jamaladar.

The special drive is going on to nab the miscreants including outlawed Sarbahara men.

11 kv electric line opens in Jamalpur

MADARGANJ, Jamalpur, Feb 26: Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Abdus Salam Talukder inaugurated the 11 kv electric line between Malancha under Melandaha thana and Madarganj, Saturday, reports BSS.

The Power Development Board (PDB) has built the 23 kms line at a cost of Taka 80 lakh, an official handout said.

At least 10 thousand people will get the benefit of this. Besides it will also help increase economic activities in the areas, the handout added.

Addressing a gathering here, the LGRD and Cooperatives Minister said the present government was implementing widespread development programmes all over the country.

"Only the Local Government Ministry implemented development works including 8000 kms of roads, 5000 bridges and culverts, 2,100 hats and bazars and a large number of educational institutions over the last three and a half years," he said.

Thana BNP president Advocate Manzur Kader Bulbul chaired the meeting while it was addressed by Deputy Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Muhammad Sirajul

Rabi crop cultivation scheme in Satkhira

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Feb 26: A scheme to bring 1,99,413 hectares of land under different rabi crops cultivation has been undertaken in seven thanas of Satkhira district, local Agriculture Department officials have said.

Out of the total land, about 1,32,421 hectares have been brought under high yielding variety of boro paddy and 8,117 hectares under local variety, 3,500 hectares under potato, 12,500 hectares under wheat, 50 hectares under maize, 1,000 hectares under masur, 400 hectares under mugh and 1,000 hectares under mash khalai.

The target of production includes 4,35,922 metric tons of different varieties of boro paddy, 38,500 tons of potato, 1,500 tons of maize, 740 tons of masur, 220 tons of mugh, 670 tons of mash khalai, 284 tons of chihola, 438 tons of khesari, 4793 tons of mustard and 3200 tons of groundnut.

The Bangladesh Agriculture Department will distribute high yielding variety of seeds, fertilizers, insecticides and other necessary inputs.

Besides, the Bangladesh Krishi Bank and other commercial banks will grant loan for the successful implementation of the programme.

Students protest increase in HSC exam fees

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Feb 26: H.S.C Examinees of the Karimganj College brought out a procession recently in protest against the increase in examination fees by the College authority.

The processionists paraded through the different streets of the Karimganj thana headquarters and later kept the offices of the college under lock and key.

The students alleged that the college authority is collecting Taka 2500 to 3000 instead of Taka 1000 as examination fees from the students.

About five hundred students of the college are appearing in the H.S.C examination of this year.

Conference of Tea Labourers' union

From Our Correspondent

MOULVI BAZAR, Feb 26: The 24th biennial conference of the Bangladesh Tea Labourers' Union (BTLU) was held at the Rajhat Tea Estate of Moulvi Bazar recently.

Dhiren Majhi, central president of the BTLU presided over the conference where more than two thousand representatives of tea labourers from Chittagong valley, Longla valley, Laskarpur valley, Monu-Doloi valley, Juri valley, North Sylhet valley and Balishira valley attended.

Speaking on the occasion the leaders of the tea labourers expressed their disappointment over the silence of the government on welfare programmes for the country's tea labourers. They called upon the government to implement 19-point demand of the BTLU immediately.

A 17-member executive committee was also formed in the conference for the central body of BTLU with Dhiren Majhi as president, Rajendra Banerjee as executive president, Surendra Banerjee as secretary and Bhupesh Singh Rautia as executive secretary.

350 tonnes of wheat sanctioned in Kishoreganj

KISHOREGANJ, Feb 26: Government has sanctioned 350 metric tons of wheat for the execution of 44 projects under Food for Works Programme at Hossainpur and Pakundia thanas in the district, reports UNB.

This was stated at two separate meetings of Thana Development Committee of Hossainpur and Pakundia on Sunday with Deputy Minister for Shipping ABM Zahedul Haq in the chair.

The meeting was informed that the government had allocated Tk 52 lakh for implementing development projects for those thanas under the current Annual Development programme.

One beaten to death

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Feb 26: One person was beaten to death at village Kaukhan under Madhybanagar thana of Sunamganj district recently.

Police said, the victim Abdul Matin, 50, while returning from a local market, was given a good beating by 5 to 6 people of the same village. The incident took place after an altercation of hot words and at one stage the attackers hit Abdul Matin with sharp weapons.

Previous enmity caused the death. The victim succumbed to his injuries in the Sunamganj sadar hospital.

A case has been registered and post-mortem on the body had been performed in the Sunamganj sadar hospital morgue.

Extension of closing time of Bangladesh Television International Tender No. TV (EHGG) 009.04 for Leasing of a Satellite Transponder.

Closing time/date of the above tender initially fixed at 11.00 hrs BST on 26th February 1995 is now refixed at 11.00 hrs BST of 14th March 1995. All other terms & conditions of the tender shall remain unaltered.

S. D. Khan
Chief Engineer
Bangladesh Television
Phone: 864462

Invitation of International Bids for Supply of 132 KV Induction Type Voltage Transformer

1. Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (DESA) has received a fund in various currencies from the Asian Development Bank under Loan No. 963-BAN (SF) — Eighth Power Project towards the cost of Greater Dhaka Power Distribution Project, Phase-II.

2. Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (DESA) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the procurement of 132 KV Induction Type Voltage Transformers required for implementation of the project.

3. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information on the bid form and inspect the bidding documents at the offices of the Project Director, Greater Dhaka Power Distribution Project, Dhaka Electric Supply Authority, House No. 47, Road No. 135 Gulshan -1, Dhaka and at the office of the Secretary, DESA, Biddut Bhaban, 1, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka.

4. A complete set of bidding document may be purchased by interested eligible bidders on submission of written application to the above address and upon payment of a non refundable fee of Tk. 2000.00 (- Taka two thousand) only or 50 (fifty) US Dollars in the form of Bank Draft or Pay Order in favour of Director (Finance & Accounts), DESA.

5. All bids must be accompanied by a bid bond in the form of Bank Guarantee from any schedule bank of Bangladesh (for banks outside Bangladesh endorsement of scheduled bank of Bangladesh will be required) two per cent (2%) of total bid price, and must be delivered in accordance with the instruction to bidders on or before 25th April, 1995 at 10:00 am at the office of the undersigned which will be publicly opened immediately thereafter.

6. Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (DESA) reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof.

Project Director
Greater Dhaka Power Distribution Project
Road # 135, House # 47
Gulshan (Circle-1), Dhaka.
DFP-4381-22/2
G-310 Dhaka Electric Supply Authority

Saga of success of a self-made man

From K M Rezaul Haque

GAIBANDHA, Feb 26: Dairy farming is now gaining popularity in the district. It was not so popular in the eighties, but now about 62 quality dairy farms have been established here so far.

Khandker Osman Ghani Dulu of village Harinamari under Palashbari Thana is a pioneer in the field of dairy farming in the district. He is a successful entrepreneur. He won the President's bronze medal award for his outstanding contribution in this field and received a grant of Tk 92,250. During the period he had 31 cattle and his farm produced 110 litres of milk per day.

He spent all the money received as grant for renovation and development of his farm. At present the number of cattle in the farm stands at 50 — 20 are milch cows which produce 140 litres of milk per day. The success of Dulu made many of the farmers enthusiastic about setting up dairy farms.

Even a decade ago, Dulu could not assume he might be an owner of a dairy farm. Now his farm has become a model of dairy farm in the district.

Osman Ghani Dulu became enthusiastic about setting up a dairy farm when he happened to visit the Milk-Yita complex at Baghabari under Pabna district in early 1985. Immediately Dulu started a very small farm with only two cows which cost Tk 15,000 at village Harinamari under Palashbari Thana. The cows were Shalwal-Frisiana cross. But he had to face a lot of problems at his home. His family members expressed much dissatisfaction at spending a large amount of money to procure cattle which initially affected the economy of their poor family. But nothing discouraged Dulu from achieving his goal.

The situation went in his favour when the cows gave birth to two calves and produced huge quantity of milk which was really beyond the imagination of Dulu's family. But space problem once plunged Dulu in great trouble. He could not accommodate existing cattle in small space of his homestead. Few months later he decided to shift all the

cattle to another place. Accordingly he procured a .10 decimal plot at Nurmagari under Palashbari Thana where he set up the dairy under the name and style of Palash Milk Farm.

Since then, day by day Dulu extended the area of his farm which now stands at .70 decimal. To meet the requirement for fodder he now cultivates high quality Napier grass on .60 decimal of land.

Dulu has also set up a hotel cum restaurant at Palashbari Thana sadar where he supplies all his produced milk. Other local farm owners sometimes faces problem when the price of milk come down from the normal market rate. At present

milk is being sold at Tk 12 per seer.

Dulu told The Daily Star that milk of a dairy farm is not a profitable item but the profit oriented items are production of calf and selling of cow-dung. A cross-breed calf is being sold at Tk 15,000 to 20,000 each.

Farmer Dulu set up his dairy farm with only two cows which now stands at 50 in number. The price of his all cattle might be about Taka 8 lakh and property will be of Tk 7 lakh.

It proved that dairy business is a profitable one. At present there are a total of 22 middle and small scale dairy farms at Palashbari. Each farm possesses 5 to 20 cattle

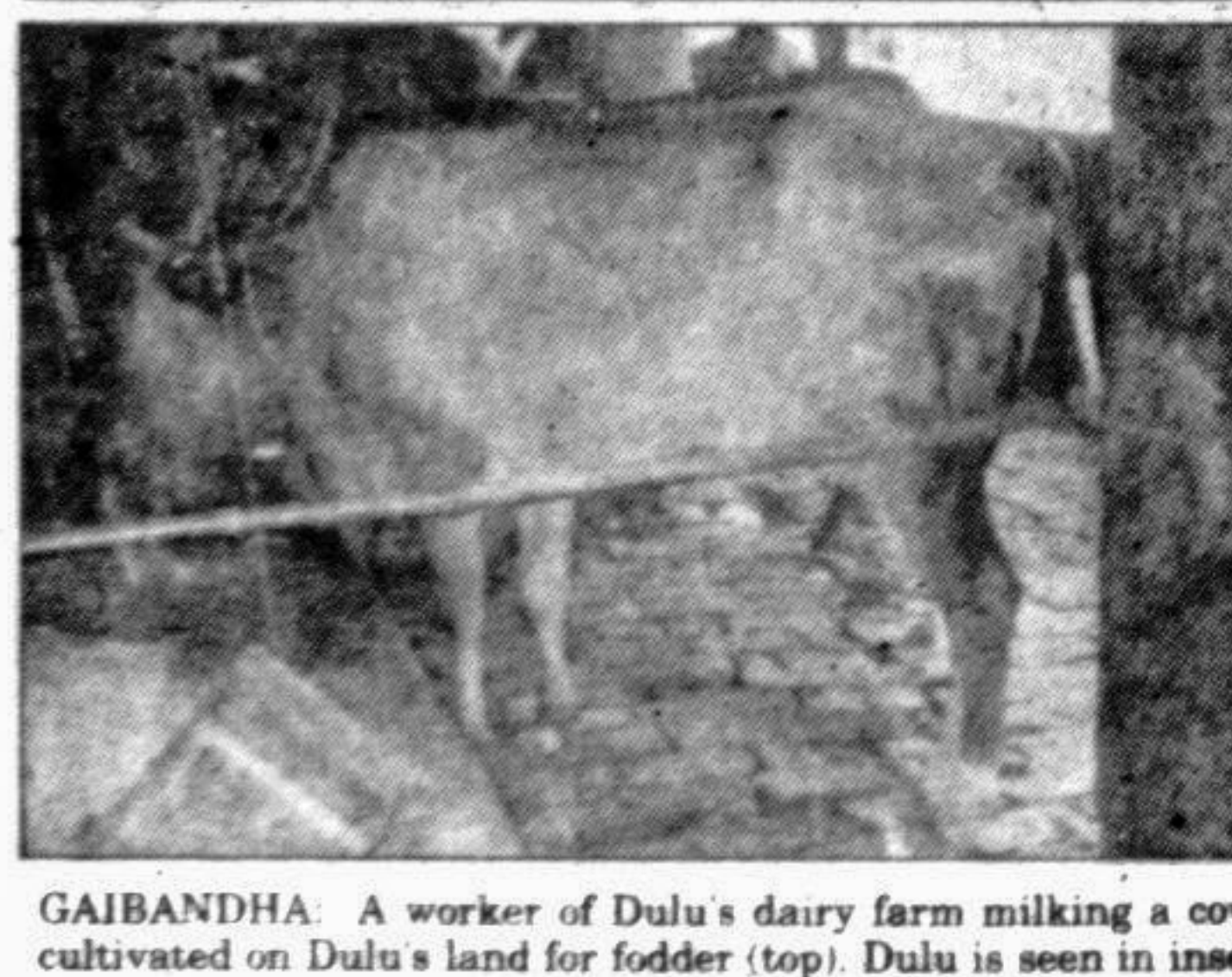
of high quality.

Dulu said that medicare of cattle is an important factor of dairy farm. Sometimes it become dangerous when the preventive or curative medicine are not available in the livestock department as well as in the local market. So, I am to preserve both preventive and curative drugs from different places at an exorbitant price, said Dulu. Sometimes compost fodder is to be procured at high prices which hamper the maintenance.

The owners of local dairy farms said that they face problem with their excess milk. So the owners of farm keenly feel the need of a milk processing complex in the area. If established, the excess milk of Gaibandha, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat and Rangpur will be consumed duly.

Another farm owner of Palashbari Moazzem Hossain expressed his opinion that subsidy should be provided in fodder and medicine which has already been introduced in the neighbouring country. Then more entrepreneurs will be encouraged to set up new dairy farms.

When contacted local livestock officer Dr Md Abdul Khaleque told this correspondent that a keen interest is marked among the farmers for setting up new dairy farms. He further added that in 1993 a total of 22 owners of dairy farms received Tk 8.48,000 as special grant from the Prime Minister in the district.



GAIBANDHA: A worker of Dulu's dairy farm milking a cow (above) and napier grass being cultivated on Dulu's land for fodder (top). Dulu is seen in inset. — Star photo