

Diarrhoea claims six, attacks 304 in M'bar

From Our Correspondent.

MOULVI BAZAR, Mar 25: Diarrhoea which has spread in an epidemic form in different thanas of Moulvibazar district claimed six lives and attacked 304 others during last two weeks.

According to the official source at the Civil Surgeon Office, Moulvibazar, two persons died in Sadar and Kamalganj thana each and one each in Rajnagar and Baralekha thanas.

It is informed that, anti-epidemic drive has been hampered due to shortage of field workers and physicians. According to the official source, 61 posts of health assistant at field level and 18 posts of medical officers at Union Health Subcentres are lying vacant since long.

Poisonous waste discharged in rivers, canals, fish dying everyday

SAVAR, Mar 25: Fish worth lakh of taka are dying every day in rivers and canals in Savar area, contaminated by poisonous wastes discharged from mills and factories, reports UNB.

According to local sources, dead fish are found floating in rivers Turag and Bangshi, and in canals during the last four/five days would total about one crore taka.

Local Fisheries Officer and Municipal Chairman said, about two dozen mills and factories, including five dyeing units discharge harmful wastes in the rivers causing massive water-pollution.

Special police raid, 57 held on various charges

From Our Correspondent. GAIBANDHA, Mar 25: Gaibandha police nabbed 57 accused on different charges from eight unions under Gobindganj Thana recently. On March 16 a strong police contingent of over 200 police personnel led by Gaibandha Police Super Golam Mostafa launched an operation to apprehend criminals lying at large since long. The contingent continued its operation from mid-night until early in the morning in Katabari, Rajahar, Shibpur, Darbasta, Kamardah, Mohimaganj, Kochashahar, Rakhali Broeze unions under Gobindganj Thana where crime of different nature continued to increase. They were able to arrest 57 accused including one woman.

OMS helping black marketeers not farmers

GAIBANDHA, Mar 25: Some influential businessmen are stocking fertilizer from government open market sale operation by their appointed agents who are buying the same in the fake name, farmers alleged, reports UNB. To combat fertilizer crisis in the district, local administration started selling fertilizer in the open market and on Sunday they sold a sizeable quantity at two separate places of the town. But peasants standing in one km long line said the influential people collected most of the fertilisers in the fake name to sell the same in the black-market. They also accused that some hoodlums are snatching the fertilizer slips from the farmers. Citing an example they said a gang of hijackers near Gobindganj Thana Parishad pond snatched the slip from one farmer Ayub Hossain of village Barshao when he was going to lift his allotted fertilizer from the government godown on Sunday.

In Khulna Zone Over Tk 38 cr electricity bill remain outstanding

From Our Correspondent.

SATKHIRA, Mar 25: A total of about Tk 39 crore has been lying unrealised with Khulna City Corporation (KCC) and 16 other pourasavas under Khulna Zone of the Power Development Board (PDB) as electricity bill for long.

Of the total amount of outstanding bill, Tk 17 crore is lying unrealised with Khulna City Corporation, Tk 25 lakh with Satkhira pourasava, Tk 10 lakh with Bagerhat pourasava, Tk 77 lakh 43 thousand with Jessore pourasava, Tk 13 lakh 79 thousand with Jhenidah, Tk 29 lakh with Narail, Tk 18 lakh 45 thousand with Magura, Tk five lakh 15 thousand with

shortage in the district health service, the source added. It is also inform that interview for appointment of Health Assistant at field level was held at Moulvibazar town in May, 1994, and list of successful candidates has referred to the Health Directorate for approval of appointment of health assistant. But delaying process of approval from the Establishment Ministry, appointment of health assistants is being delayed. The source of the Civil Surgeon office, however, said 30 appointment have been made during this period while 61 posts are still lying vacant and waiting for approval of the concerned ministry.



GAIBANDHA. Demanding supply of fertilizer in the district hundreds of farmers from remote areas launched railway track barricade programme on March 22 '95.

Massive deforestation threatens existence of wild life in CHT region

From Our Correspondent

RANGAMATI, Mar 25: Wild life in the Chittagong Hill Tracts region has been threatened by massive deforestation and other factors. Experts said nineteen species have already vanished and fifty others are on the verge of extinction. Illegal hunting, cruelty, rapid increase in human settlements, industrialisation, extension of arable land, burning of forest areas for jhum cultivation besides deforestation are the dominating factors behind the extinction of wild life.

According to experts, Bangladesh has 105 species of animals, 567 species of birds, 129 species of reptiles and 14 types of amphibians which constitute rich wild life resource of the country. Experts suggested establishment of wild-life sanctuaries in the region with efficient officials for meaningful conservation.

Meanwhile, in absence of proper conservation, wild life has started migrating to the extraction of trees and burning of forest areas for cultivation are forcing the wild elephant, deer, boar, bear, monkey, wild fowl, tiger and the other rare species of animals to look for safer sanctuaries in the dense forest of neighbouring India.

A section of tribal hunters have become very active in hunting in the hamlets adjacent to the Khagrachhari town and in the dense forests of Dighinala, Baghaihat, Merung, Itachhari and Panchhari, Taruh Bhattacharya, News sold openly at Mainmukh Bazar, Naniarehor, Kachalong and Belaichhari in Rangamati hill district, Mohaichhari, Dighinala and Luxmichhari in Khagrachhari district as well as in Naingkhiongchhari, Lama, Aikadam and Roangchhari in Bandarban district.

Local leaders and wild life lovers said groups of law violators were seen poaching into the forests to catch or kill birds and animals with bows, nets and arrows and fire arms regularly. Some of them even spray poison on food to get hold of the valuable species, they said. In addition to this the continuous deforestation by illegal extraction of trees and burning of forest areas for cultivation are forcing the wild elephant, deer, boar, bear, monkey, wild fowl, tiger and the other rare species of animals to look for safer sanctuaries in the dense forest of neighbouring India.

Mohammad Ghulam Habib, the Conservator of Rangamati Forest Circle said 19 species which were lost include nilgai, wild buffalo, wild cows, belting, boro shinga harin (long horned deer), nekra (wolf) and three types of gandar (rhino) of mammal group. The species started disappearing mainly after liberation of the country and went totally out of sight in the last nine years, he said.

The number of tiger, elephant, deer, monkey, gharial and dolphin are also decreasing.

Editor of Khagrachhari based weekly 'The Parbat' informed this correspondent claiming his personal observation. The hunters are hunting deer and fowl which fetch good price and easy market. They sell the meat of their prey at between Tk 50 and 60 per kilogram at the doors of the town dwellers, said wife of Tarun.

Meanwhile, migratory birds from the north and north-west which started settling in the hill tracts region are being caught at random. These are the district. He said, he observed it while having their dinner in a hotel with his team on way to a cultural trip to Baghaichhari thana. Migratory birds are sold in the hilly bazars at cheaper rates in comparison with the domestic fowl, he added.

Tremendous development achieved in CHT since liberation of country

From Our Correspondent

RANGAMATI, Mar 25: Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Development Board (CHTDB) has implemented 85 projects at a cost of Tk 3.68 crore in six different sectors during 1993-94.

Established in 1976, CHTDB has been operating its multi-type performances in the three hill districts of Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bandarban for development of the socio-economic condition of the people of this region, especially the tribal community.

The CHTDB had taken 123 projects at a cost of Tk 4.5 crore to implement in 1993-94. Sheikh Mohabbatullah, the Vice-Chairman of CHTDB said.

Besides all other donor agencies, only the CHTDB alone has implemented different projects with an amount of Tk 456.0 crore for the socio-economic development of the tribal people of this region with an additional allocation of Tk 263.0 crore for the special five year plan till 1992-93.

A revolutionary change has taken place in education sector in the region. At present there are ten government and non-government colleges, one hundred secondary schools including thirtyfive junior high schools, 952 primary schools, nine tribal students' hostels, two residential schools with separate hostels for tribal students, Bangladesh Swedden Polytechnic Institute, the best of its kind is in Kaptai of Rangamati hill district and 'Nutan Kuri,' a Kinder Garten school of Khagrachhari town may be adjusted as one of the best of its kind in the country.

In addition training is being imparted to the tribal youths in two vocational and one technical training centers in Rangamati and Khagrachhari in automobile, driving, carpentry, electric fittings, weaving etc. About 6,500 tribal youths were trained in different trades including 1500 by BSCIC during the last three years.

The allocation so far was made against agriculture, education, sports and culture, small and cottage industries, communication, social welfare and other income generating projects is the region.

Construction of dwelling houses for the destitutes with relevant up-to-date facilities, giving training on maintaining and domestic animals, weaving, tailoring, rickshaw projects and extend assistance to the small traders including other income generation projects of CHT has already been implemented.

The continued steps of the government for developing the once-neglected hill districts of Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bandarban has brought a dimensional change in all the sectors.

Tremendous development has taken place in communication sector. Every district and thana headquarters are connected with about 800 kilometres of asphalted roads where there were only 72 kilometres 'pucca' roads until 1982. Every thana headquarters are also well connected with telephone under nationwide direct dialing net work.

Every thana has health complex. There are hospitals in six thanas, each having 31 beds, 50-bed hospital each in Khagrachhari and Bandarban, a 100-bed modern hospital in Rangamati. There was only single 31-bed hospital in Rangamati till 1982. Moreover, hospitals operated by NGOs in Chandraghona, Langudu Jhalapara and Malumghat have been rendering modern medicare services to the people of this region.



NOAKHALI: The British High Commissioner Peter J Fowler distributing books and instrument to a girl student at the inaugural function of Non-formal Primary Education Programme recently of Sagarika Samayannayan Sangstha at Char Bata of Sadar thana.

Call to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination

RAJSHAHI, Mar 25: A seminar was held in observance of International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination at the Rajshahi University Senate Bhaban Tuesday, reports UNB.

Addressing the seminar, the speakers expressed allout support to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination. They also called for the creation of a new atmosphere where human potentiality, dignity and values would be respected, and terrorism uprooted.

27 houses burnt to ashes in Bhola

BHOLA, Mar 25: At least 27 dwelling houses were burnt to ashes in two separate fire incidents at Lalmohan thana of the district on Mar 15, reports UNB. In one incident at Balurchar village, 22 houses had been destroyed and property worth about Tk 50 lakh was gutted in the blaze. The fire originated from a kitchen.

Another incident at Doly Gournagar five houses were gutted destroying property worth about Tk one lakh.

Thin chances of achieving IRRI-boro output target

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, Mar 25: Irri-boro crop production target may fall in Chandpur district during the current season due to scarcity and high price of fertilizer.

According to agriculture department sources, about two lakh acres of land were brought under Irri-boro cultivation scheme, in Chandpur Irrigation Project and Matlab Meghna-Dhanagoda Irrigation Project, two of the biggest irrigation projects of Bangladesh Water Development Board. About forty lakh metric tons of fertilizer are required for the effective implementation of the farming programme in the total area but the supply of fertilizer in the market is insufficient in comparison with the demand of the farmers.

A section of unscrupulous traders have started stocking the fertilizers in their godowns with an intention to see price of fertilizer go up. Due to scarcity of fertilizer the traders have also increased the prices abnormally causing suffering to the farmers. Some fertilizer dealers complained that they are not getting fertilizer from Zia Fertilizer Factory and Ashuganj Fertilizer Factory as they deposited their money in October last against their demand. Zia Fertilizer Factory is distributing fertilizer through deputy commissioners on emergency basis. As a result, fertilizer distributions through dealers remained suspended. Fertilizer dealers are incurring heavy loss due to delay in delivering fertilizers from the factories.

So, acute scarcity of fertilizer is prevailing in different markets. On the other hand, fertilizer distributed through deputy commissioners reportedly can not meet the present requirement. Some fertilizer dealers are selling the fertilizer bags in black markets.

In Chandpur, a bag of fertilizer is being sold between Tk 300 and 400 instead of its original or retail price of Tk 230. Many farmers are cultivating IRRI-boro without or fewer application of fertilizers.

Fifteen injured as train catch fire

JAMALAPUR, Mar 25: Fifteen people were injured when they jumped out of a local train after a compartment caught fire at Chuania here on Monday, reports UNB.

Railway sources said fire broke out in the compartment of the Mymensingh-bound train from Jamalpur at about 2 pm. A relief train from Mymensingh extinguished the fire an hour.

Advertisement for Dhaka City Corporation, Dhaka. It includes a list of 19 wards for the 1993-94 financial year, with details on ward names, locations, and estimated expenditures. The list includes wards such as Nyaabajar, Jhalapara, Kachalong, and many others.