

Fodder crisis in Chuadanga

Farmers selling their cattle, cultivation may be hampered

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, May 14: Shortage of fodder has become a serious problem for the cattle rearing families of Chuadanga district and its adjacent areas. Successive loss of crops due to droughts and floods coupled with lack of grazing fields have worsened the situation. According to an unofficial assessment, there are about 5 lakh livestock in the district and in the adjacent region. But due to the absence of any grazing fields cattle rearing business is facing a hardtime. People now graze their cattle either by the side of the railways, or roads and highways. Sometimes they even graze their cows and buffaloes along the boundary lines of their crop fields. They also use their crop fields as grazing grounds for their livestock after reaping the crops. But these are not permanent grazing fields. Sometimes premises of schools, colleges, hospitals, restricted industrial area and govt. establishments are also used as grazing fields. Successive unfavourable climate also damage the grazing fields. Rapid industrialisation coupled with fast pace of population growth is also devouring the pasture land and forests used as grazing grounds. Moreover the favourable highland and comparatively undisturbed climatic condition of the district has all along lured the people of other regions of the country to settle here. In this context, the people of Chuadanga district demand that the government should take immediate steps to increase or reserve some areas of the district as khas lands for cattle grazing. It is learnt that farmers of four thanas of Chuadanga district are being compelled to sell their cattle for want of fodder. If this state of affair continues unabated, cultivation will be severely hampered. Due to unfavourable climate during the last two harvesting season of aus, aman, jute and IRRI-boro season more than 60 per cent of the straw were damaged which are the chief fodder.

Pry edn programme suffering set-back in Moulvi Bazar

From Our Correspondent

MOULVI BAZAR, May 14: The Compulsory and Universal Primary Education Programmes in the Habiganj district has been facing setback for want of adequate number of staff in the primary education department of the district. According to the Habiganj district primary education office source, four out of eight posts of Thana Education Officer (TEO) and 13 posts of Assistant Thana Education Officer (ATEO) lying vacant in the district since long. As a result, inspecting programmes of primary schools and monitoring activities on universal primary education programme yet to be maintained by the authority. Besides this, a total of 18 posts of head teachers and assistant head teacher has also been lying vacant - 10 posts in Nabiganj thana, 2 each in Chunarughat and Madhabpur thanas and 4 posts in Bahubal thana. Moreover, guardians complained that a good number of primary school teachers remain absent and some comes to the school at the late hours. The guardians urged the concerned authorities to take necessary steps to fill the vacant posts and to remove the problems.

107 schemes implemented in Chuadanga

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, May 14: A total of 107 test relief uplift schemes have been implemented in four thanas of the district in the current fiscal year, reports UNB. According to official sources, some 196 metric tons of wheat were also utilised for the implementation of the schemes. The schemes included reconstruction of roads, culverts, classrooms of schools and madrasahs, development of school grounds, maintenance of Eidgah and madrasahs. Of the total schemes, 26 schemes have been implemented in Sadar, 32 in Alamdanga, 30 in Damurhuda and 19 in Jibannagar thanas. The sources said in another programme, government has sanctioned 744 metric tons of wheat for the implementation of 38 schemes under Food for Works Programme in four thanas in this year. Thana-wise schemes and allotment are as follows: 10 schemes will be implemented in sadar thana utilising 174 metric tons of wheat, 13 schemes in Alamdanga thana utilising 239 metric tons of wheat, nine schemes in Damurhuda utilising 198 metric tons of wheat and six schemes in Jibannagar utilising 123 metric tons of wheat.

Acute water crisis in Magura

From Our Correspondent

MAGURA, May 14: Acute scarcity of drinking water in four thanas of Magura district has been prevailing for a long time causing untold suffering to the rural community. It is learnt that the four rivers, Goral, Kumar, Chitra and Nabaganga passing through Magura district are gradually drying up. Hundreds of the tubewells which are located by the side of the rivers are practically out of action giving rise to serious scarcity of water in the district. About 45 per cent of the 1500 hand tubewells of Sripur thana are not working because of abnormal fall in ground water level. According to the concerned authorities ground water level went 20 to 40 feet down from the normal level as a result of Farakka Barrage, rampant use of ground water and drought. The sellers and buyers of local markets in the district said, most of hand tubewells in the local hats and bazars are not working. They alleged that despite of repeated appeals, no steps has been taken to ensure smooth supply of water in the hats and bazars. Now they are compelled to drink river and pond water due to lack of pure tubewell water.



JESSORE: A BDR team seized huge quantity of Indian contraband from the border area recently. — Star photo

Total requirement 3 cr gallons Khulna city dwellers get 1 cr gallons of water a day

From Our Correspondent

KHULNA, May 14: Water crisis has turned acute in the port city causing untold suffering to the dwellers, reports UNB. According to an official estimate, only one crore gallons of water are being supplied daily for 12 lakh inhabitants of the city against the demand of about three crore gallons. With the upgradation of the Municipal Corporation into Khulna City Corporation in 1990, the area has also been extended to a great extent. But no pragmatic steps have yet been taken to provide the basic amenities of life to the dwellers. Meanwhile, the corporation has taken up an interim arrangement to install 12 deep tubewells at a cost of Tk 5.22 crore to supply pure water and within June next it will be possible to supply 70 lakh gallons of water. Moreover, the City Corporation has been implementing a plan to install 32 deep and 2 shallow tubewells in the metropolitan areas in the current fiscal year to solve the water crisis. A feasibility study is being conducted by the World Bank to ensure smooth supply of drinking water in the metropolitan area and within 1996 a 120-crore taka plan is expected to be undertaken by the WB under the Municipal Service Project, official sources added. It has been revealed that with the setting up of deep and shallow tubewells ground water level is falling further day by day and it is apprehended that in course of time it will be not possible to lift water any more. Considering the gravity of the situation, the authorities are thinking to set up a surface water treatment plant at a cost of over Tk 600 crore to make the waters of rivers Rupsa and Bhairab usable for a permanent solution of the drinking water problem. According to officials, German government is likely to provide the fund.

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Diarrhoea claims 24 in Barguna

From Our Correspondent

BARGUNA, May 14: Diarrhoea that broke out in the six thanas of the district in the last month has claimed lives of 24 people and affected 2500 others. Civil surgeon office sources confirmed 15 deaths only during the period. The worst affected thanas are Pathorghata, Bamna, Barguna, Betagi, Amtali and Taltali. Scarcity of drinking water and consumption of adulterated 4000 are said to be the main reasons behind the outbreak of the disease. A large number of affected people are coming to the hospitals and health complexes daily for treatment, official sources said. The affected people said they are facing problems due to shortage of oral saline packets and necessary medicines. Official sources said 38 medical teams have been working round the clock to combat the spread of the disease. It is also reported that chicken-pox has also broken out in every village since the beginning of the season.

Jute cultivation badly affected in Chandpur

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, May 14: The jute production target in the district may not be achieved as the cultivation has suffered a serious setback due to prolonged drought in the area. According to Agriculture Department sources the land in many places could not be prepared for jute cultivation due to lack of suitable moisture in the soil and rain fall. Besides, small plants of jute cultivated earlier are being withered away and many of them turned yellowish. On the otherhand, ground water level has fallen to 30-35 feet during the dry season. Agriculture Department has fixed a target to cultivate jute in about 40 thousand acres of land during the current season. Of the total, 30 thousand acres of land would be brought under the cultivation of Tossa variety while the rest for local variety of jute. Due to continuous drought, achieving jute production target has become uncertain. Meanwhile, small jute plants which were cultivated earlier are under the threat of pest attack. Jute cultivation is also affected due to shortage of good quality of seeds.

Murders, dacoity on rise in Jhenidah

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, May 14: Killings, dacoity, clash, theft and other anti-social activities have become a regular feature in the Jhenidah district. According to reports, Abdul Quddus, 32, of village Falia in Saikupa thana was chopped to death recently. Police sources said, Abdul Quddus was sleeping in his house. At the dead of night at about 2-am some unknown miscreants took him out of the house and slaughtered him on the yard of the house. A case has been filed. Another report says, a dacoity was committed in a Dhaka-bound night coach near Bishoykhali bazar recently. When the coach reached near Bishoykhali at 9 pm some six dacoites who were travelling in the guise of passengers took the control over the steering at gunpoint and robbed the passengers of Taka 20 thousand. A case was lodged with Jhenidah thana but none was arrested. According to another report, at least 20 people were injured in a clash at village Pantapara in Mohespur thana of the district recently. Local people said two rival groups of the village used lethal weapons during the clash in which 20 persons including the chairman of union parishad were injured. In another incident, Jahid Hossain, 22, a student of Jhenidah Government Keshab Chandra Degree College succumbed to his injuries on April 25. He was injured when a group of miscreants on April 7 when they attacked him with lethal weapons. It was a sequel to an incident in which a goat damaged crops of a field. A case was filed with Jhenidah Police but none was arrested. Another bus dacoity was committed in a Khulna-bound night coach of Saukhin Paribahan near Dulalmundia in Kaliganj thana of the district recently. Reports say when the coach reached near Dulalmundia a gang of dacoites numbering about 14 to 15 who were travelling in the coach looted valuables of the passengers worth nearly Taka one lakh. A case was lodged with Kaliganj thana in this connection.

300 bullocks seized from different places in Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, May 14: BDR seized about three hundred bullocks worth Taka fifteen lakh from different places of Sylhet and Sunamganj districts Friday. Of the total, 197 were seized from Takerbazar of Sunamganj sadar thana and Brindabanpur of Tahirpur Thana while the remaining one hundred were seized from Salutikar of Gowainghat thana in Sylhet. BDR sources said that these bullocks were being smuggled from India. But the owners and traders claimed that all these bullocks are Bangladeshi and were being brought to the local markets. In Sunamganj, a scrutiny committee has been formed with additional district magistrate as chief to return the bullocks to its owners after proper checking.

Seedling shortage: IRRI, boro output likely to fail

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, May 14: Production target of IRRI and boro paddy may not be achieved in 16 northern districts due to scarcity of seedlings, price hike of fertilizers and irrigation inputs, officials apprehended, reports UNB. According to Agriculture Extension Department (AED), some 8.30 lakh hectares of land in these districts have been brought under IRRI-boro cultivation in the current season. The production target has been fixed at 22.50 crore metric tonnes of paddy. But price hike of fertilizers and diesel and shortage of seedlings stood as barrier in achieving the target, said an AED official. In the northern area at present a bag urea, ISP and SSP is being sold at Tk 450, Tk 550 and Tk 300 respectively as against the government rate of Tk 230, Tk 343.75 and Tk 180. Due to severe cold in the northern zone in the last winter IRRI and boro seedlings could not be grown adequately. At present per kg seeds is being sold between Tk 120 and 150. Besides, officials apprehended that price hike of diesel needed for irrigation will also hamper the production.

Tk 27 lakh govt grant for development of Tajmuddin College

From Our Correspondent

BHOLA, May 14: Government has sanctioned Tk 27.5 lakh for the construction and development of the Tajmuddin Intermediate College in the current fiscal year, reports UNB. According to the local Facilities Department, a two-storied academic building of the college will be constructed at a cost of Tk 25 lakh while Taka 2.5 lakh has been sanctioned for the development work of the college. The fund was sanctioned from the Annual Development Programme. The work on the project will start soon. With the implementation of the project a long felt demand of the local people will be met and the students will get modern facilities to prosecute their studies.



SHERPUR: Children bathing in the Bousha Beel of Srebordi thana to escape from the sweeping heat-wave. — Star photo

Plan to set up industries in Natore yet to be implemented

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, May 14: Despite bright prospect, the proposed small, medium and large scale industries could not be set up in the district due to lack of proper planning and patronisation of the concerned authorities, reports UNB. According to local experts, feasibility studies were carried by the government about the possibility of setting up of some industries. But due to some mysterious reasons the plan could not be implemented as yet. Natore, basically as an agro-based area, has only two sugar mills which cannot utilize the huge quantity of sugarcane produced in the district. Sugar mills sources said, another two sugar mills, two paper mills and a distillery could be operated with the sugarcane and its by-products. Besides, the waste materials from the sugar mills could be used in generating bio-gas. Feasibility study of establishing bio-gas plant was done and several recommendations were made earlier, but those were not materialised. A proposal in this regard was also adopted at a seminar on 'expansion and appropriation of locally-innovated appropriate technology' held here in December, 1993. But due to lack of fund, the plan could not be implemented despite the assurance of the State Minister for Social Welfare Fazlur Rahman who was the chief guest at the seminar. The prevailing paper crisis in the country could be overcome with the establishment of more paper mills here utilizing the sugarcane wastes.

Train journey in N dists hazardous

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, May 14: Train journey in different northern routes has become hazardous. The number of trains in these routes specially in the meter gauge are inadequate, as a result the journey is extremely irksome. These routes are Dinajpur-Teestamuk ghat, Santaher-Lalmorhat, Parbatipur-Kurigram, and Parbatipur-Panchagarh. Only two or three trains ply in these routes everyday. Moreover, the trains have only 3 to 5 dilapidated coaches that could not accommodate increasing load of passengers. Due to shortage of passenger coaches, most of the trains remain over crowded. The elderly and female passengers are often found helpless to board or get down the trains. Passengers are often seen travelling on the hooks between two bogies risking their lives. Almost all the compartments are in ramshackled condition. During summer it is impossible to stay inside the coach as a good number of fans are stolen by the miscreants. At least one third of the hard board and pith pieces that covered the ceiling and walls have disappeared. The condition of local trains in these routes is even worse. The toilets remain dirty all the times causing health hazard. Except for the intercity expresses, all other trains do not maintain time schedule. Most of the passengers travelling in local or mail train are found without tickets due to absence of regular checking. Moreover, every day huge amount of goods are being carried without any fees. In local trains second class compartments are hardly seen. Although some compartments are marked second class but those classes do not have minimum standard. There is no water supply and lighting arrangement in the local trains. Ticketless travelling in these routes is rampant. The trains also do not reach the destination on time.

130 phone lines snapped for non-payment of bills in Chandpur

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, May 14: Conducting a special drive, local T & T officials snapped 130 telephone lines in the town for non-payment of arrears bills, reports UNB. During the 15-day drive that concluded on May 8, the T & T officials also realised outstanding bills worth over Tk 10 lakh from the private subscribers. At present there are 1209 telephone subscribers in the district headquarters. According to official sources, telephone bills amounting to Tk 15 lakh has long been lying outstanding with the local government offices, autonomous bodies and Chandpur pourashava. In spite of repeated reminders, a T & T official said, no steps have yet been taken by the concerned authorities to repay the outstanding bills.

BCIC Tender Notice. Managing Director, Chhatak Cement Co. Ltd. Chhatak, Sunamganj hereby invites sealed quotations for supply of Shell Liner against Tender No. PUR/A/RT/311(1)/94-95. Tenders accompanied with 1% (one per cent) Earnest Money in the form of P.O./D.D and also Money Receipt evidencing purchase of Tender documents will be received up to 10 AM on 11-6-95 and be opened immediately thereafter the same day at Purchase Deptt, Chhatak Cement Co Ltd on payment of Tk 750/- in cash (Non-refundable). The tender documents will be available from the office of the (1) The Controller of Accounts, BCIC Head Office, 30-31, Dilkusha C.A Dhaka, (2) BCIC Branch Office, 6, Agrabad C.A, Chittagong and (3) Chhatak Cement Co. Ltd. except the opening day of the tenders. BCIC 426/94-95 DEP-11125-95 G-746

Section 1. Invitation for Tenders Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Third Fisheries Project Department of Fisheries, Matshya Bhaban Park Avenue, Ramna, Dhaka. Memo No: TFP(Pro) 830 Dated: 4 May 1995. Invitation for Local Tenders Lot No 16h: Stocking Platform Equipment and other Field Equipment. The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) in various currencies towards the cost of the Third Fisheries Project and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this credit will be applied to eligible payments under the Contract (s) for which this Invitation for Local Tenders is issued. 1. Sealed tenders are hereby invited from eligible tenderers in Bangladesh for the supply and delivery of Stocking Platform Equipment and other Field Equipment to Matshya Bhaban, Park Avenue, Ramna, Dhaka. 2. Interested eligible Tenderers may obtain further information in detail from and inspect the Tender Documents at the Office of the Project Director, 6th floor, Matshya Bhaban. 3. A complete set of Tender Documents can be obtained by any interested eligible tenderer on the submission of a written application to the above, and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Tk 500/-, during normal working hours up to 24 May 1995. 4. All tenders must be accompanied by earnest money of not less than 2% (two per cent) of the Total Tender Price in the form of a Bank Draft or Pay Order and must be delivered to the Office of the Project Director on or before 12.00 hours on 25 May 1995. 5. Tenders will be opened immediately after the deadline for closing in the presence of tenderers' representatives who choose to attend the Office of the Project Director. 6. The Department of Fisheries does not bind itself to accept the lowest tender or any tender submitted in response to this Invitation for Local Tenders. Md Liaquat Ali Project Director Third Fisheries Project DFP-11560-75 G-749

বাংলাদেশ রপ্তানী প্রক্রিয়াকরণ এলাকা কর্তৃপক্ষ. ২২২, নিউ ইকান রোড, ঢাকা-১০০০। তারিখ: ৪ঠা মে, ১৯৯৫ইং/২১ মে বৈশাখ, ১৪০২বং। সংক্ষিপ্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি. বাংলাদেশ রপ্তানী প্রক্রিয়াকরণ এলাকা কর্তৃপক্ষের নির্বাহী দপ্তর ও ঢাকা ইপিজেডের জন্য এয়ারকন্ডার করার নিমিত্তে প্রকৃত প্রযুক্তিকারী/সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহের নিকট হইতে সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাইতেছে। দরপত্র আগামী ২৫-৫-৯৫ইং তারিখ দুপুর ১২-০০টার মধ্যে সচিব, বাংলাদেশ রপ্তানী প্রক্রিয়াকরণ এলাকা কর্তৃপক্ষ, ২২২ নিউ ইকান রোড, ঢাকা-এর কক্ষে সন্ধিত ব্যাংকে জমািত হইবে। একইদিনে দুপুর ১২-৩০ মিনিটে দরপত্রাদাতা/সরবরাহকারীদের উপস্থিতিতে যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন। দরপত্র খোলা হইবে এবং ঐদিন কোন দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয় করা হইবে না। দরপত্রের সচিব উক্ত মূল্যের ২-১/১০ হারে (ফেরতযোগ্য) আনুমানিক তকদিলী ব্যাংক হইতে বাংলাদেশ রপ্তানী প্রক্রিয়াকরণ এলাকা কর্তৃপক্ষের অনুমুদিত পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট সনিকল করিতে হইবে। নির্ধারিত আনুমানিক ব্যতীত কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা যাইবে না। দরপত্র সিডিউল ২৪-৫-৯৫ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে টাকা ৫০.০০ (পঞ্চাশ) (অফিসযোগ্য) মূল্যে বেপজার হিসাব শাখা হইতে ক্রয় করা যাইবে। কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন প্রকার কারণ প্রদান ব্যতীত দাবিকৃত যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ অথবা সকল দরপত্র বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন। সচিব বাংলাদেশ রপ্তানী প্রক্রিয়াকরণ এলাকা কর্তৃপক্ষ \* DFP-11606-75 G-751