

Price hike of essentials: Protest meeting held

From Our Correspondent
SATKHIRA, Sept 16: A protest meeting was called by Satkhira district NAP (M) unit in protest against the price hike of essential goods and some corrupted officials of Water Development Board, Satkhira was held here at Sangeeta Cinema hall, premises recently.
Kazi Saidur Rahman, General Secretary NAP district unit and Tariqul Islam, Organising Secretary of the district unit spoke on the occasion.
Speakers urged upon the government to take measures against price hike of essentials and to take stern action against the corrupt officials of WAPDA, Satkhira office. Later, a big protest procession was brought out which paraded the main streets of the town.

Memorial body formed

From Our Correspondent
SHARIATPUR, Sept 16: A 35-member Scientist Gopal Chandra Bhattachariya Memorial Sangsad has been formed at Naria thana of the district recently.
The Sangsad was formed in a memorial meeting arranged on the occasion of 100th birth anniversary of Dr Gopal Chandra who hailed from this area but later settled in Calcutta.
Dr Gopal was a student of the Longsing High School in the area and conducted many research works on plants and insecticides. The Calcutta University awarded him with the DSC degree in 1980 for his research on these subjects.
Held at the Longsing High School the meeting was presided over by Principal Md Sultan Ahmed Simon while Col. Shawkot Ali was the chief guest.
Sultan Ahmed Simon and Dulal Chandra Bhattacharya have been made president and Member Secretary respectively while Col Shawkot Ali, Professor M A Aziz Miah, Begum Mazeda, Shawkot Ali, and Dr Siraj Khan have been made advisors of the memorial sangsad.
It may be mentioned that the paternal property of Dr Gopal is now the property of Longsing High School and the school authority have decided to set up a botanical garden after his name.

Angry mob seizes R&H offices

From CHT Correspondent
KHAGRACHHARI, Sept 16: Protesting the shifting of the office of Superintending Engineer, Road & Highways, from Khagrachhari to Chandanai, in Chittagong district — the village of the Communication Minister Oli Ahmed, the agitated mob locked up all the installations of Khagrachhari R&H circle on Thursday last, August 14, forced out the concerned officials from their offices.
Apprehending the dire consequences, the officials of the Superintending Engineer, R&H, Khagrachhari Circle, Khagrachhari R&H Division-I and II left the offices abandoning their scheduled duties while the agitated mob locked up the offices in protest of alleged unjustified and unlawful shifting of the office misusing official power as Minister of Communication.
Police started guarding the offices to ensure security of the government offices locked up by the furious mob.
Demanding the explanation from the Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia on shifting the circle office at Chandanai, the district unit of Awami League and Chharta League brought out a procession and paraded the town on Thursday noon last.

One held with arms in Satkhira

From Our Correspondent
SATKHIRA, Sept 16: Satkhira thana police arrested one person with two fire arms from his possession recently.
Police sources said, acting on a secret information sadar thana police led by Officer-in-Charge C A Halim arrested one Jahangir Hossain of village Khariadanga under sadar thana from a fish farm owned by Haidar Ali on September 7 last and later according to his confessional statement police recovered Indian made one stengun and a pipegun from the house of one Moktar Ali of village Matiadanga under the same thana. A case was lodged with Satkhira police in this connection.

**From eight N-districts
Drastic fall in jute output likely this season**

NATORE, Sept 16: Quality jute is grown in most of the districts of the northern region and Natore district is undoubtedly the pioneer in respect of production of this crop.
But in course of time, the jute growers have been facing much difficulties in jute production.
It is feared that jute production may fall by about 65 per cent this year in this district along with other seven northern districts namely Rajshahi, Chapainawabganj, Naogaon, Bogra, Joypurhat, Pabna and Sirajganj, official sources said here.

Shortage of seed, scarcity and price hike of chemical fertiliser and pesticide, continued drought at the advent of the monsoon and lastly the devastating flood are the reasons behind the shortfall of production of jute this year from the region.
According to the Agriculture Extension Department, a target was fixed to bring a total of 81,801 hectares of land under jute cultivation during the current season, in the districts.
But only 41,591 hectares of land could be cultivated due to continued drought, that is 50.8 per cent of the cultivation target could be achieved. Recent floods have damaged standing jute crops on a total of 12,178 hectares of land in these districts and it will affect the production by about 15 per cent of the target. As a result, jute production is likely to be reduced by about 65 per cent this year in eight districts mentioned above.
Sources said, 3,510 hectares of land were cultivated against the target of 6,673 hectares and jute crops on 610 hectares of land was totally damaged by recurrent floods in Natore district.
In Rajshahi, the target was 6,640 hectares whereas jute was cultivated on 2,550 hectares and the crops damaged by floods on 199 hectares of land. In Naogaon, only 1,259 hectares of land could be brought under jute cultivation against the target of 8,550 hectares of land and floods damaged standing jute crops on 250 hectares of land.
In Chapainawabganj, the target of cultivation was 2,340 hectares but jute was cultivated on 410 hectares of land.
In Bogra, 6,798 hectares of lands were brought under jute cultivation scheme against the target of 12,050 hectares. Floods damaged standing jute crops on about 964 hectares in the district in Joypurhat. The target was 4,200 hectares. But 2031 hectares were cultivated and the damage caused on 170



NATORE: The jute growers, finding no buyers were returning from the Tebaria hat with their unsold raw jute. The picture was taken from Dutta Para village last week.

hectares of land. A total of 10,925 hectares out of the target of 17,275 hectares could be cultivated in Pabna district and about 397 hectares of jute land was damaged by the recent floods in this district.
In Sirajganj, a target of 23,353 hectares was fixed to bring under jute cultivation this year. But only 14,136 hectares could be cultivated, out of which 9,579 hectares of jute crops were damaged by the recent devastating floods.
When this correspondent contacted with the jute cultivators in the region some of the growers said, they were gradually losing their interest in jute cultivation for its low

price which is below the cost of production.
They added that the recent drought and floods also damaged the crop. As a result, jute cultivation are likely to be reduced in the future which may hit our national economy, he added. The farmers are often seen going back home with their unsold jute.
Market sources said, the tossa quality of jute is now being sold between Taka 550 and 600 per maund and local variety of jute is sold between Taka 380 and 470 per maund in the local markets.
It is learnt that the jute production cost this year in a 'bigha' of land is between Taka 1500 and Taka 2000.

Jute market dull in Chandpur

From Our Correspondent
CHANDPUR, Sept 16: The jute market at Chandpur district seems to be very dull during the current season, with the arrival of new jutes in the market. The price of jute is decreasing day by day.
Jute is being sold between Tk 300 and 350 per maund. The important jute markets of the district are Chandra Bazar, Baburhat, Mushirhat, Matlab, Haziganj, Balakhal, Ramchandrapur etc. There is no government jute purchasing centre in the district. Some cultivators alleged that sometimes they are compelled to sell their products on credit.
Meanwhile, the jute production target in the district has not been achieved this year as the cultivators suffered a serious setback due to prolonged drought and lack of seeds during the sowing time.

According to Agriculture Extension Department, the land in many places could not be prepared for jute cultivation due to lack of suitable moisture in the soil and rainfall. Besides, small plants of jute cultivated earlier were damaged due to extreme heat.
Agriculture department had fixed a target to cultivate jute on about 40 thousand acres of land during the current season in the district. Of the total, about 20 thousand acres of land were brought under jute cultivation in the district.
Due to continuous drought and lack of jute seeds at the time of sowing, jute production target became uncertain. Some jute cultivators complained that they are not getting even the production cost of jute.

Rajshahi to have modern TV centre, Mayor says

From Our Correspondent
RAJSHAHI, Sept 16: Mijanur Rahman Minu, Mayor of Rajshahi City Corporation reiterated that a full-fledged Television Centre with modern studio would be established in Rajshahi as per commitment of the Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia. The required lands for the TV centre was acquired, the foundation stone was also laid and works on construction of boundary wall are going on in full swing thereby proving that the TV centre with modern studio must be established at Rajshahi, he said urging the people not to be biased or misunderstood.
Establishment of the TV centre will cost an estimated amount of Tk. 30 crore, but the masterplan is yet to be approved, he said.
Mijanur Rahman Minu said this while addressing a press conference on September 13 afternoon at the auditorium of Rajshahi Circuit House. He arranged the conference to explain the actual situations, facts and to give information on two separate burning issues of the city. The issues are uncertainty of establishment of the long-awaited TV centre and acute crisis of LP gas supply. The Mayor acknowledged that the longlasting-crisis of LP gas supply had become very acute in the recent days. He

identified short supply against the increasing demand, transport problem, corruption, and irregularities in distribution as the main reasons behind the crisis of LP gas in the area. He said, six to eight thousand cylinders of LP gas come here against the demand of 20 thousand.
The Mayor assured the city dwellers of taking steps to remove the crisis as soon as possible. He warned that drastic actions would be taken against those who created artificial crisis or irregularities in distribution of gas cylinders.
Citing development projects already completed at a cost of Taka 50 crore in last four and a half years by the city corporation, Mayor Mijanur Rahman Minu reaffirmed that the present government believed in politics of development and fulfillment of all its commitments on priority basis.
It is to be mentioned here that the citydwellers of Rajshahi feel despair when the Executive Committee of National Economic Council (ECNEC) recently approved three regional television centres excluding Rajshahi though some primary preparations like acquisition of lands, laying of foundation stone, construction of boundary wall etc for Rajshahi Television Centre have already been completed. Many organisations — political, social, professional and cultural organisations brought out processions demanding establishment of TV centre without any delay.

Smuggling goods worth Tk 25 lakh recovered

From Our Correspondent
SATKHIRA, Sept 16: The Jawans of 21 Rifles Battalion recovered smuggled goods worth Taka about 25 lakh from different border areas of the district during last two days.
According to local BDR sources, the BDR personnel of Lawjani, Bhomra, Jhrowdanga, Kushkkali, Bhatshala, Satani, Padma, Shakhra, Debhata and Kakkanga BOP's under 21 battalion launching anti-smuggling drives in the border areas recovered smuggled goods worth Tk 24.64 lakh during the period. The smuggled goods include sugar, bi-cycles, salt, imitation ornaments, powder milk, sarees, blouses, medicines cows hide and skin etc.

RAKUB fails to fulfil loan distribution, recovery targets

From Ranesh Maitra
PABNA, Sept 16: The Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank (RAKUB) failed to fulfil the target of distribution of loan and also the target of recovery in the district during the last financial year 1994-95.
According to reliable sources, the target of distribution of loan of RAKUB in this district was fixed at Tk 14 crore but the bank, through its 18 branches, could only distribute Tk 12,62,61,000 i.e. 90.18 per cent of the target of distribution could be fulfilled.
Recovery, during the last financial year, the target was fixed at Tk 24,56,00,000 including the recovery of its outstanding loans but the actual recovery was only Tk 10,72,24,000. The percentage of recovery reached only 43.65 during the same period in the district.
Meanwhile, the Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank fixed the target of distributing loan of Tk 16,13,00,000 during the current financial year 1995-96, out of which Tk 12,07,00,000 would be distributed as short-term loan, Tk 2,32,00,000 as medium term loan and remaining amount of Tk 1,74,00,000 as long-term loan.
RAKUB's branch wise distribution of recovery of loan during the last financial year in this district is given below:
Aminpur Branch: Distribution target was Tk 65,00,000, actual distribution Tk 66,20,000; recovery target Tk 65,00,000 and actual recovery Tk 39,77,000.
Agharta Branch: Distribution target Tk one crore, actual distribution Tk 96,08,000; recovery target Tk 1,45,00,000 and actual recovery Tk 84,78,000.
Ishurdi Branch: Distribution target Tk 2 crores, actual distribution Tk 1,83,89,000; recovery target Tk 2,29,00,000 but actual recovery was Tk 1,36,35,000.
Chatmohar Branch: Distribution target Tk one crore, actual distribution Tk 98,56,000; recovery target

tributition target Tk 55,00,000, actual distribution Tk 44,46,000; recovery target Tk 90,00,000 and actual recovery Tk 36,70,000.
Banwarinagar Branch: Distribution target Tk 55,00,000, actual distribution Tk 22,14,000; recovery target Tk 1,20,00,000 and actual recovery Tk 28,58,000.
Bera Branch: Distribution target Tk 60,00,000, actual distribution Tk 44,07,000; recovery target Tk 1,19,00,000 and actual recovery Tk 46,38,000.
Bhangoor Branch: Distribution target Tk 42,00,000; amount distributed Tk 40,78,000; recovery target Tk one crore but actual recovery stood at Tk 35,61,000.
Maidandighi Branch: Distribution target Tk 36,00,000, actual distribution Tk 32,90,000; recovery target Tk 75,00,000, actual recovery Tk 31,81,000.
Satbaria Branch: Distribution target Tk 85,00,000, actual distribution Tk 94,03,000; recovery target Tk 1,19,00,000, actual recovery Tk 77,42,000.
Santlia Branch: Distribution target Tk 95,00,000, actual distribution Tk 81,83,000, recovery target Tk 1,66,00,000, actual recovery Tk 67,25,000.
Sujanagar Branch: Distribution target Tk 55,00,000, actual distribution Tk 61,17,000; recovery target Tk 1,40,00,000, actual recovery Tk 56,01,000.
Singa Branch: Distribution target Tk 75,00,000, actual distribution Tk 78,32,000; recovery target Tk 1,33,00,000, actual recovery Tk 52,32,000.
Hadol Branch: Distribution target Tk 40,00,000, actual distribution Tk 29,27,000; recovery target Tk 80,00,000 and actual recovery Tk 35,24,000.
Kshetupara Branch: Distribution target Tk 95,00,000, actual distribution Tk 1,22,32,000; recovery target Tk 1,70,000 and actual recovery Tk 1,15,000.
To hold the tests peacefully, no one, was allowed to enter the campus without identification or pass. All kinds of meetings, rallies and processions were banned in and around the university since Sept 12 afternoon to Sept 15 evening. The tests, scheduled to be held on June 3-5, were postponed three times for student clashes and protest from a group of students. The university, remaining closed since July 22 following a student clash, will reopen on September 20 and the residential halls will be opened for the students on the previous day.

Bangladesh Railway preparing master plan to improve services in Western Zone

From Our Correspondent
RAJSHAHI, Sept 16: Bangladesh Railway authorities is preparing a 15 years term (1995-2010) master plan for overall development of the railway in the Western Zone.
Railway service and its infrastructural conditions in this area have deteriorated during last two decades and it continued to incur loss of crores of money every year.
In 1994-95 fiscal year the Western Zone incurred a loss of Tk 75 crore.
Whatsoever, Bangladesh Railway, Western Zone require development in all sectors to make it a profitable concern.
It cannot be ignored that the infrastructure of railway in the Western Zone were not given proper care for long period after liberation. The quality of services in the zone also deteriorated below any standard. That is a main cause railway lost people's confidence day by day rendering it a losing white elephant.
The railway sources said that the authorities could not undertake any big programme for its development only due to shortage of money. The donor agencies were not interested in assisting the railway sector. World Bank, recently, expressed interest on condition that the Western Railway should reduce its loss to about zero. Since then the railway authorities started to reduce its expenses by adopting any possible means.
At the same time, railway authorities took some development projects to improve its structural conditions and

services as well, to increase its earning. The railway Western Zone earned Taka 107 crore during the last fiscal year which was about 16 per cent higher than that of the previous fiscal year.
To achieve these targets three projects have been taken in 1994-95 fiscal year. The projects will end by the year 1995-96 and cost Taka 7.13 crore. Works under these projects include repairing and rehabilitation of 30 stations buildings, security-based repairing of 40 bridges, repairing and protection of railway embankments in both the sections of broad gauge and meter gauge lines.
A groin has already been built at a cost of Taka 3 crore in 1994-95 to protect the Garai Bridge at Kushtia.
Two separate projects of remodelling of the railway tracks was also completed recently at a cost of Taka 69.59 crore.
Works on remodelling of Bonarpara-Dinajpur meter gauge railway track started in 1986 under the project financed by CIDA and ended recently at a cost of Taka 19.19 crore.
Asian Development Bank assisted project of remodelling of broad gauge lines from Khuina to Parbatipur began in 1987 and was completed recently at a cost of Taka 50.40 crore.
Another project of ADB for replacement of the slippers in railway lines from Annura to Abdulpur via Rajshahi and from Rajshahi to Sirajganj (Partial) was completed last year at a cost of Taka 12.75 crore.
Bangladesh Railway, Western Zone has undertaken a big 5 years project (1995-2000) to remodel and rehabilitate 408.5 km main and 222.5 km branch lines of broad gauge section and 96.25 km main and 230.5 km branch lines of meter gauge section. This project will cost an estimated amount of Taka 67.50 crore.
Works on extension of railway tracks and development of yards to accelerate

and promote transport of goods from India through border corridors are going on in full swing. It will cost a total of Taka 15 crore.
A project of repairing and upgrading of level crossings and second phase of rehabilitation and security-based repairing of 261 bridges has been under consideration of the concerned ministry. This five years' project will cost about Taka 23 crore.
The railway authority is also readying a project for rehabilitation and repairing of bridges, embankments and buildings damaged by recent floods. This project is hoped to start in the current fiscal year.
When contacted, General Manager of Western Zone Saif Hussain said that the establishments and infrastructures of Bangladesh Railway had faced heavy damage in the Liberation War. It took about 10 years to be rehabilitated. Then came the devastating floods of 1987 and 1988. The whole railway communication experienced a heavy set back that could not yet completely been recovered.
He said that the railway had to complete with other means of transports which were flourishing rapidly maintaining its nature and extent of public service. This is a difficult task to balance with these counter-polar functions, he said and hoped, whatever it may be, we have to extend our standard services. We think, we can do if the development works can be performed and continued accordingly. He sought cooperation of all concerned people.

Five villages in Kushtia free from curse of illiteracy

From Our Correspondent
KUSHTIA, Sept 16: Five villages of Daulatpur thana have been declared as free from illiteracy by holding a function on the occasion of International Literacy Day on September 8.
The function was organised by Swanirvar Bangladesh, an NGO engaged in imparting adult education in village level to remove illiteracy. The villages which have been declared free from illiteracy are, Laxmikola, Daripara, Mirerpara, Mohis-kunda and Jaipur.
The function was addressed by Rabulul Islam, Chairman of Refayetur Union as President, Narayan Chandra Howladar, Thana Education Officer, Chanchal Kumar Bhowmic, Thana Female Secondary School Project Officer, Moniruzzaman, Thana Swanirvar Trainer.



RAJSHAHI: Saif Hussain, GM of Bangladesh Railway, Western Zone elaborated the 15-year long development programmes for the railway at a press conference held here recently.