

Post-flood rabi cultivation programme executed

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, Dec 10: A massive programme of post-flood rabi crop cultivation is being executed in the district during the current season. Under the programme about one lakh 12 thousand hectares of land are being cultivated with different rabi crops. Of them, 62,450 hectares under boro paddy, 26,500 hectares under wheat, 14,000 hectares under potato, 5,000 hectares under mustard cultivation and the rest four thousand hectares are being brought under vegetables, groundnut, sweet potato and maize cultivation. The Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) in the meantime has geared up the distribution of required improved varieties of seeds among the farmers. On the otherhand, four commercial banks have sanctioned about Taka 12 crores as agri loan and started distribution through their 72 branches. These banks are Janata Bank, Agrani Bank, Sonali Bank and Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank. With a view to recoup the flood loss, a main stress has been given by the government on massive rabi crop farming. But, it is irony of fate that a section of unscrupulous traders blessed by the influential persons belonging to a political party alike last year stepped up malpractices in distribution and selling of urea and other fertilizers. There are allegations that an artificial crisis and high prices of urea is being experienced in scattered areas in the district. This has created a grave concern among the agriculturists in the region.

FP worker engaged in rural areas More coordination recommended among field level workers

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Dec 10: While addressing as the chief guest at a seminar organised by the Pabna District Chapter of the Family Planning Association of Bangladesh (FPAB) on the topic "Further co-ordination among the government and Non-government Organisations (NGOs) engaged in family planning activities," Dr AKM Fazlul Haque, Civil Surgeon, Pabna, stressed the need of more and more co-ordination among those engaged in the activities in the field-level for making the programmes a complete success. The Civil Surgeon in his inaugural speech further stressed the idea of a small family, health-care for the mothers and the babies, controlling the birth-rate and growing mass-awareness of the people in the family planning (FP) activities. Vice-President of the FPAB, presided over the seminar which was addressed, among others, by Muhammad Abdul Bari, Deputy Director, Family Planning Department, Rawshanzaman Mukul, Honorary Secretary, FPAB, Pabna District Branch, Sajedul Haque, Honorary Treasurer and others. Following the inaugural session, a workshop was also held on the topic in which the participants were divided into a three groups for holding group discussions among themselves and put forward their recommendations on the various related matters over the subject. The session was addressed, before starting of the group discussions, among others, by Md Alauddin, Project Director, FPAB, Pabna District Branch, Mrs Anwara Choudhury, Director of Family Planning Project of Pabna Poursabha, Mrs Nilupher Quaderi of Anyano Mohila Samaj Kalayan Sangstha of Pabna, Dr Ram

Dulal Bhowmick, Dr Moazzem Hossain and Md Abdur Rahman. After the group discussions were over, the full house met, heard their respective recommendations and made a unified and co-ordinated 16-point recommendations for forwarding to the concerned authorities. The recommendations include: field areas for the government and the NGOs should be separated for ensuring greater accountability and avoiding duplication in the field-level; full-time appointment of the field-staff by the NGOs; formulation of common principles for the FP projects by the government and the NGOs; similar forms should be introduced by both government and non-government agencies for maintenance of records on the family planning activities; birth control materials should either be distributed free of cost or sold against same price both by the government and the NGOs; introduction of joint meetings of FP officials and workers in every level; introduction of similar cards for the users of FP materials by the government and the NGOs; the temporary vacant posts of FP workers may be temporarily filled in by the NGO men working in the respective areas; before introducing any new birth-control method, wide publicity and training of field-workers should be ensured; injections should be introduced for males as they appear to be generally reluctant to adopt the existing methods; for ensuring greater co-ordination among the FP field workers from government and other agencies regular meetings should be introduced in district, thana and union levels and this should be made compulsory.

Cottage industries on verge of extinction

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Dec 10: The cottage industry based on cane and bamboo in the district is on the verge of extinction for want of marketing facilities, lack of capital and proper patronisation. Hundreds of skilled people engaged in manufacturing various kinds of cane and bamboo furniture are facing financial hardship. Most of the artisans gave up their ancestral occupation. 23 govt primary schools to be constructed in Bhola. BHOLA, Dec 10: Facilities Department of the Education Ministry has taken up a programme to construct 23 government primary schools in five thanas of the district at a cost of Tk 8.05 crore in the current fiscal year, reports UNB. According to official sources, seven schools will be constructed in Charfassion while one in Monpara, four in Tajumuddin, four in Daulatkhan and seven in Lal-mohon thanas. The sources said Tk 35 lakh has been allotted for each school which will be two-storied consisting of two units of latrines and a shallow tubewell. Teenage snatcher held in Jhenidah. From Our Correspondent. JHENIDAH, Dec 10: Three teenage boys were handed over to Jhenidah police after mass beating by the local people for their alleged involvement in snatching. According to police sources, three teenager Sarwar, Babu and Mamun snatched a ring from Tania, a student of Ziaur Rahman Law College near Jhenidah Public Library at about 6.30 pm on November 20 last when she was travelling on a rickshaw. Local people rushed to spot on hearing victims cries and caught all the three alleged snatchers and gave them a mass beating. Then they were handed over to Jhenidah police.



PABNA: Md Abdul Bari, Deputy Director, Pabna District Family Planning (FP) Department, addressing a seminar on "Greater co-ordination between FP activities by the government and Non-Government Organisations, NGOs" organised by the Family Planning Association of Bangladesh, Pabna District branch at the FPAB office recently. — Star photo

Most boats do not carry life saving equipment Risky boat journeys in Cox's Bazar

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, Dec 10: Most of the river transport in the Cox's Bazar district lack adequate life-saving equipment and trained drivers and masters. It was alleged that many launches of different capacities have been plying in various routes without trained drivers and masters. As a result, thousands of passengers have to continue their journey from one place to another risking their lives. Moreover, the owners of these passenger launches and crop vessels hardly follow the existing rules and regulations of the riverine traffic.

There is a standing rule that river transport should have necessary life buoys and other equipments to save the life of the passengers in times of great danger. But this is hardly followed. Passengers alleged that the launches plying in long routes carry huge quantities of cargo, sometimes beyond their capacity. Besides, launch journey on different routes of Cox's Bazar district has become hazardous due to violation of traffic rules. More than 100 launches ply on different routes including Moheskhal, Kutubdia, Chokaria, Shaplapur, Badarkhali, Matarbari and Dolghata carrying thousands of passengers every day. Most of the launches ply on these routes carrying passengers more than their capacity. It was alleged that these launches do not possess life saving equipment and are unaware of navigation rules. It was informed that the masters of the launches do not follow the forecast of weather bulletin for which mishaps can take place at any time. Most of the launches do not carry drinking water and do not have proper urinal and latrine facilities.

Poor children benefitting from Non Formal Pry Edn programme

From Our Correspondent

MAGURA, Dec 10: Distressed and deprived children of poor families in the rural areas of Magura district are getting chance to educate themselves through Non-Formal Primary Education (NFPE) Programme of Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC). According to the sources, BRAC has conducted five programmes for the overall development of socio-economic condition of the poor and landless people of Magura Sadar, Sreepur, Shalikhia and Muhammadpur thanas. These programmes are Non-Formal Primary Education (NFPE), Rural Development Programme (RDP), Smallholder Live-stock Development Programme (SLDP), Sericulture Development Programme (SCDP) and Health & Population Programme (HPP). Among these five programmes Non Formal Primary Education (NFPE) programme is giving opportunities to the distressed children of a chance to educate themselves in the rural areas of Magura district. It was learnt. Talking to M Ruhul Amin, Programme Organiser (PO) of Sreepur Office Number 2 which is situated at Langlabadh, it was learnt that they have established one or more Non Formal Primary Education school in various villages of the district. There are two types of non formal school under the programme the NFPE school of class I to Class-III for boys and girls between eight to 10 years of age while the other is Kishor Kishori (KK) school of class I to Class V for boys and girls between 11 to 16 years of age. Every school consists of 33 students. Among them 23 are girls and 10 are boys. There are 60 NFPE and 20 KK schools under their supervision, he informed. Malati Das, another Programme Organiser (PO) of the same office informed that many boys and girls of poor

parents who work as day labourer or in neighbourhoods to earn small amount of money are now going to their NFPE and KK schools. Rashida Khatun, 13, and Shikha, 12, at the village of Chaturia did not go to school before due to poverty. Their father was not in a position to send their children even to local primary school. After establishing BRAC school in their village, they are going there regularly. They are taking lessons six days a week, it was learnt. Jarina Khatun 12, of village Chatrabanga under Sreepur office No 2 has been regularly, it was learnt. Talking to some other students of the BRAC school said they never went to school before. All of them passed their time playing and gossiping here and there. Some minor boys of the poor families who pulled rickshaw van are attending BRAC school and after school hours they are earning money by different works for maintaining their families. M Ruhul Amin PO & Team In-charge said that one female teacher teaches 33 boys and girls of NFPE school. They provides books and other equipments to the students.

Advertisement for Bangladesh Besamirik Biman (Bangladesh Airlines) featuring flight schedules and contact information. Text includes: বাংলাদেশ বেসামরিক বিমান চলাচল কর্তৃপক্ষ, সদর দপ্তর, কুমিল্লা, ঢাকা-১২২৯, নথি নং-সিএবি/৩০৪/১৭০/৯৩/৯৩ (সিএবি/৩০৪-৯৩) (অংশ-২)/২১৪৬, তারিখ ৩০-১১-১৯৯৫ইং.



Children of a BRAC school attending a class. — Star photo

Government of Bangladesh Office of the Superintending Engineer, RHD Dhaka Road Circle, Allenbarry, Tejgaon, Dhaka

RHD Notice Inviting Tender

- 1. Tender Notice No : 2/DRC of 1995-96.
2. Name of work : Construction of pre-stressed concrete girder over bored pile foundation of 18th KM at Dhaka-Khulna Road (2nd Dholeswari Bridge) under Munshiganj Road Division during the year 1995-96.
3. Estimated cost : Tk 21,59,69,672/-
4. Earnest money : Tk 2% (Tk 43,19,400/-) BD/TC from any schedule bank/NDS certificate in favour of Executive Engineer, RHD, Munshiganj Road Division.
5. Time allowed : 1095 (One thousand ninety five) days from the date of issue of work order.
6. Eligibility of contractors : I) "A" special category of RHD contractor who have past experience of constructing at least one RCC bridge of minimum length 300'-0" and successfully completed one pre-stressed concrete girder bridge or who have past experience of construction at least one pre-stressed concrete bridge of minimum length 300'-0". II) Joint venture (not more than two) will be allowed to participate in the tender. In such cases 'A' special category of RHD contractor not having experience as in (I) may form joint venture with other 'A' special category of RHD contractor having the requisite experience as stated above in (I) Memorandum of association of joint venture shall be registered by the Notary Public in which the extent of share and responsibility of each partner shall be mentioned & one of them to be specified as "Lead Firm." In such cases FD of individual partner will not be acceptable. They shall have to submit earnest money as per rule in the name of joint venture. III) (i) Contractor's experience certificate issued after 30-9-95 shall be in prescribed form duly signed by the concerned Executive Engineer of RHD as per sample attached with the tender documents. (ii) Contractors possessing experience certificate issued before 30-3-95 shall fill up and sign the prescribed experience certificate form in accordance with the experience certificate in possession. The contractors shall also attach the copy of original experience certificate duly attested by any class-I officer of RHD. In filling the experience certificate form if the contractor conceals any fact and (a) if it is proved during evaluation of tender then the tender will be cancelled forfeiting the earnest money. (b) if it is proved after issuance of work order then the work order will be cancelled & the contractor's enlistment will also be cancelled or suspended. (iii) Experience certificate issued by the other department will not be acceptable unless it is examined & countersigned by the Executive Engineer, RHD of the area where the work is situated.
7. Name of offices where tender documents will be available for sale. : Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division Munshiganj/ Dhaka/Narayanganj/Manikganj/ Narshingdi/Gazipur/Tangail/Mymensingh/Planning Division (Roads & Bridges) Dhaka/Planning & Design Division under Addl. Chief Engineer, RHD, Dhaka Zone/ Chittagong Zone/Comilla Zone/ Rajshahi Zone/Rangpur Zone/Khulna Zone/ Barisal Zone.
8. Name of offices where tender will be received : Office of the Additional Chief Engineer, RHD, Dhaka Zone/ Chittagong Zone/Comilla Zone/ Rajshahi Zone/Rangpur Zone/Khulna Zone/Barisal Zone/Superintending Engineer, RHD, Dhaka Road Circle, Dhaka/Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation Circle, Dhaka/Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division Munshiganj/Narayanganj/Dhaka/ Manikganj/Narshingdi/Gazipur.
9. Last date of selling of tender documents : 30-12-95 during office hours.
10. Last date & time of receipt of tender bids : Up to 12-30 PM on 31-12-95.
11. Date, time & office where tender bids will be opened : At 1.00 PM on 7-1-96 in the office of the Superintending Engineer, RHD, Dhaka Road Circle, Allenbarry, Tejgaon, Dhaka.
12. Ch. Head : 266-Dev. (Dhaka-Khulna Road, 2nd Dholeswari bridge).
Md Serajul Islam
Superintending Engineer, RHD
Dhaka Road Circle, Dhaka
DFP-30586-7/12
G-1882