

## Crops on 13000 acres of land in Sirajganj inundated

SIRAJGANJ, May 5: Standing crops on about 13,000 acres of land in seven thanas of two northern districts were inundated by the swelling river water of Baral, officials sources said today, reports UNB.

Following last two days' heavy downpour, the flood control embankment developed breach at Bauria point and the river water entered into the low lying areas.

Local people said the embankment breached again this year which was last year repaired by the Water Development Board at a cost of Tk 20 lakh.

According to Agricultural Extension Department, the affected thanas are: Shahjadpur, Ullahpara, Rayganj and Taras of the district and Chatmohar, Bhangura and Faridpur of Pubna district. Chalan beel areas were worst affected.

## Smuggled goods worth Tk2.63cr seized

RAJSHAHI, May 5: Bangladesh Rifles seized smuggled goods worth about Tk 2.63 crore from border areas of the district during last three months, reports UNB.

During the period, they arrested some 106 people on charge of smuggling.

The smuggled goods included Indian sarees worth Tk 46.29 lakh, spare parts of clock worth Tk 18.9 lakh, Chinese silk thread worth Tk 17.24 lakh, 7073 bottles of phenyl, heroin worth Tk 7.90 lakh, gold ornaments worth Tk 2.80 lakh, wig worth Tk 1.36 lakh, cathead worth Tk 9.36 lakh, brass valued at Tk 6.6 lakh, Tortoise worth Tk 7.20 lakh, different parts of drilling machine worth Tk 6.57 lakh and injections valued at Tk 1.59 lakh.

BDR sources said goods worth about Tk 1.67 crore were smuggled into Bangladesh while goods worth Tk 96.4 lakh smuggled out to India during the period.

## Training course on leadership ends

COMILLA, May 5: A week-long training course on leadership training concluded at the local office of Proshika on April 27, reports UNB.

Some 40 rural women took part in the training course, organised by Proshika, an NGO, which was sponsored by the Women Affairs Ministry to make the rural women self-reliant.

President of Comilla Press Club Jahidul Hag Dui attended the inaugural function as chief guest on April 21 which was presided over by chief of district unit Proshika Khalilur Rahman.



## Reception

From A Correspondent  
Prof. Abul Ahsanul Noor, Principal of Pabna Cadet College, who recently retired after completion of 35 years of continuous service in the different cadet colleges will be accorded a reception by the Old Faujians on May 10.

Acclaimed not only as a teacher but also as a writer and poet, Prof. Noor has six publications to his credit. Two of the books are catalogued by the US Library of Congress. He was also a visiting teacher at Wellington and Atlantic Colleges in England.

He joined the Faujdari Cadet College in 1960 and later served in different capacities.

## Traditional ghani business face extinction in southern dists

PIROJPUR, May 5: The traditional Ghani factories in the southern districts are facing extinction due to price-hike of raw materials, lack of government Patronisation and shortage of bank loans, reports UNB.

About 12,000 people here engaged in the occupation are known as 'Kolu' community. They used to produce mustard oil, coconut oil, sesame oil, linseed oil and almond oil in their cow-draught Ghani which was once popular among the rural and urban people.

But with the introduction of modern production methods the traditional Ghani lost its glory and Kolu community have been facing various problems in continuing their age-old occupation.

Workers of Kolu community said that they could modernise their Ghani and produce pure edible oil as before if they were provided with soft-term bank loan.

## Under BMDA project area

# Satisfactory paddy harvest expected despite various set-backs

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, May 5: Despite some trouble a notable amount of IRRI-Boro paddy will be produced this year in the Barendra region. Frequent loadshedding and low voltage of electricity has already affected output target of the grains.

According to official sources, 3.75 lakh acres of land have been brought under IRRI-Boro paddy cultivation during the current season in the command area of Barendra Bahumukhi Unnayan Kartipakkhya (Barendra Multipurpose Development Authority—BMDA) comprising of 25 thanas of Rajshahi, Chapainawabganj and Naogaon districts.

An estimated amount of 4.65 lakh metric tons of paddy will be produced from the total area, it is expected.

After damage of Aman paddy by the last devastating floods, the farmers and the BMDA had taken initiative to increase the total amount of land under Boro cultivation and raise the production per unit area of land to make up the loss of Aman crop. To make it successful BMDA took two special measures.

Just before the beginning of the season, BMDA stored fer-

tilisers in its own and rented godowns in different places of the command area.

Mohammad Asaduzzaman, Executive Director of BMDA said, 'we kept a considerable amount of fertilisers ready in hands to meet any probable crisis like that of the last year. We have sold these to the farmers at retail price.'

He said that their attempts had saved the crop when a temporary crisis of fertilisers had been allegedly created for about a week due to non-cooperation movement of the main opposition parties. During that time, selling of fertilisers at retail price by the BMDA also helped to keep the private market price within limit,' he said.

He, however, admitted that BMDA could not provide necessary amount of fertilisers as the BCIC could not supply its demand. For that reason, somewhere farmers were either to made late use of the second dose of fertiliser in their paddy fields by two to four days or to face troubles to collect fertilisers from other sources like buying from open market at a relatively higher price.

Another measure taken by BMDA was introduction of card

system for irrigation. Each farmer under all the deep tubewells conducted by BMDA was to buy a coupon for irrigation. This had ensured irrigation of the paddy fields at proper time, made wastage of water minimum and lessen the troubles of the farmers and the technicians of BMDA, sources claimed. For this reason, problem of frequent loadshedding and low voltage of electricity could be lessened by a considerable amount.

Despite it, farmers and BMDA sources acknowledged that, loadshedding and low voltage of electricity had hindered irrigation causing some damage to crops. Otherwise, a bumper production of Boro paddy could be achieved this year in the Barendra region, they said.

While visiting some areas of Poba, Mohanpur and Tanore thanas of Rajshahi district, Nabolamlyomustapur thanas of Chapainawabganj district and Niamalpur, Porsha, Sapahar, Patnitola, Mohadevpur and Manda thanas of Naogaon district on the last week of last April, this correspondent talked to many farmers, public representatives and field workers and thana officials of BMDA.

Moksed Ali of Bagdhan No 3 scheme under Naohata union of Poba thana informed that he had cultivated Boro paddy in 5.25 bighas of land. 'We did not face any crisis of fertilisers or water in our area,' he said.

Alhaj Shah Jamal Hossain, Chairman of Tetulia Union of Porsha thana remarked the same way.

In Tanore and Mohadevpur thanas both the farmers and BMDA officials alleged that, irrigation were hampered due to frequent loadshedding and low voltage of electricity.

Due to low voltage of electricity 26 motor engines and 35 starters of deep tubewells, 21 transformers and 12 electric meters have been burnt in Tanore thana during last three months.

During the same period eight motor engines and 18 starters of deep tubewells, three transformers and three electric meters have been fused for fluctuation of voltage.

Hayat Mohammad Firoz, Assistant Engineer of BMDA, Porsha thana office said that they cultivated 9,173 acres of land under 176 deep tubewells of BMDA and about 3500 acres under private-owned six deep tubewells and 304 shallow tubewells. BMDA has sold 1,62,500 kg of fertilisers during the season in this thana.

Whereas in Mohadevpur thana, 23,925 acres of land have been brought under Boro cultivation under 440 deep tubewells of BMDA but here 567.75 metric tons of fertilisers have been sold.

Meanwhile, ripening of IRRI-Boro paddy has started in Barendra region. Production per unit area of land already recorded has proved satisfactory.

Abul Hossain, a farmer from Dhanitor village of Tanore thana said that he cut ripen paddy of one and a half bigha. The harvest exceeded previous recorded by 31 maunds.

Salek Ahmed of Neetpur under Porsha thana said that he has harvested 18-22 maunds of paddy per bigha in his three plots. The rate of production is very satisfactory, BMDA sources said.



RAJSHAHI: Farmers harvesting paddy in a field in Tanore thana recently. — Star photo

## Washed away sluice gate needs replacement in Gaibandha Untimely flood causes heavy loss of property each year

From K M Rezaul Hoque

GAIBANDHA, May 5: People of Gaibandha district have been facing devastating floods, since last one decade. Every year the flood water cause maximum damages to the life and properties.

Consecutive floods caused havoc in the district since 1986. Last year in Gaibandha pourashava alone the loss due to flood was estimated at Taka nine crore. Experiencing bitter result of flood, Gaibandha people plunged into anxiety before the advent of every rainy season that causes much suffering to the people in general as well as cattleheads and poultry birds.

Last year, Gaibandha town dwellers recorded level of flood water in their houses nine inches higher than that of the level of previous year which is gradually increasing. Besides, flood water occasionally hits different location of the district and caused loss of life and properties. Last year sudden onrush of water from upper catchment flooded Palashbari, Gaibandha sadar and Gobindaganj thanas cutting off national highway at different points within the period of only 24 hours. Surging flood water damaged two highway bridges and eroded away 500 feet areas on both the sides of the highway. During the period road communication with the northern region and capital city remained suspended for as long as a fortnight. Army was deployed to restore road communication partially using motor boats and other equipment.

The main tragedy of Gaibandha people is that once the flood water enters into the town it get trapped and take maximum time to recede at a snail's pace.

The river Ghagot is flowing across the pourashava of Gaibandha which joins river Brah-

maputra at Rasoolpur where a sluice gate was built during Pakistan regime to control overflowing water of river Brahmaputra as well as to flush out the excess water of river Ghagot. As such flood water never got stagnant earlier around the localities. But in July 23, 1993 flood water and widespread erosion of river Brahmaputra washed away the sluice gate as well as its surrounding areas in larger portion. Since then with the raising of water level in Brahmaputra basin the river Ghagot automatically fed back by onrush of water and entered the town overflowing its banks.

Last year, Gaibandha town and Gobindaganj thana headquarters went into 4 to 6 feet deep water which was the highest level recorded during the last 50 years. Every year flood hits the areas thrice or more.

According to official sources last year flood destroyed 53 kilometres of roads and embankments, 3,161 kilometres bridge culverts wall and drainage, 220 government and non-government institutes, 1,225 godowns and shops, 15 kilometres of highway and 8,000 dwelling houses.

Unplanned construction of embankments and roads also contribute to one of the main reasons of welcoming flood water in town and surrounding areas. Innumerable roads and embankments are being constructed without any proper planning or ascertaining future reactions, it is alleged. These projects prepared under food for works programme are being implemented to consume the allocated food within the stipulated time it was also alleged. So the authority involved in these programmes never consider the prospective

results as such they implemented work almost haphazardly.

The unplanned construction of roads and embankments created adverse reaction. The rain water gets trapped at different points and inundate crops on vast tract. Moreover, onrush of flood water worsening the situation as those roads and embankment do not possess any outlet arrangement.

On the other hand, erosion of river Ghagot continued to threaten Gaibandha pourashava areas. During the last few years many dwelling houses and structures have already been devoured by the surging water during rainy seasons. Gaibandha-Sunderganj road was threatened by the erosion at Kholahati that might be snapped in the present rainy season. It is feared. About 15 unions under Gaibandha sadar and Sunderganj Thana will be cut off from Gaibandha headquarters if precautionary measures are not taken.

Local Water Development Board (WDB) could not work under Gaibandha town protection scheme for acute flood constraint. Demanding checking of widespread erosion of river Ghagot occasional movements like procession, gherao and meetings by the members of public are going on but the higher authority reportedly do not pay heed to the matter. According to WDB source, in 1993-94 authority allocated a fund of Taka one lakh 98 thousand for the emergency work under Gaibandha town protection scheme which was completely inadequate to the requirement. However, WDB constructed nine bamboo pilings at different points to divert the water flow that could not produce any fruitful result.

## 3 BNP leaders given one month's detention

KISHOREGANJ, May 5: Three BNP leaders who were arrested from Kotadi thana were given one month's detention Saturday, police sources said, reports UNB.

They are: General Secretary of Kotadi thana BNP Abdus Sobhan, Kotadi thana Jubadal convenor Golam Mostafa and member Waliullah.

District BNP held a rally in the town demanding immediate release of the BNP leaders, including former MP Akhteruzzaman.

Presided over by district BNP Vice-President Prof. Giasuddin, the rally was addressed by Kishoreganj Paura Commissioner Abdul Jalil. The rally was followed by a procession.

Meanwhile, former Information Minister Shamsul Islam and other party leaders visited Akhteruzzaman in the district jail Saturday.

Eight other BNP men who were arrested Friday night were sent also to the district jail.

## BPATC training course begins

SAVAR, May 5: A three-week training course on Research Methodology began at Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre (BPATC) here on Saturday, reports UNB.

A total of 12 government officials are participating in the course, inaugurated by BPATC Rector AZM Shamsul Alam. Deputy director Syed Nakib Muslim and Senior Research Officer AKM Mahbubuzzaman is conducting the course as director and coordinator respectively.

Another report says: The employees of BPATC celebrated Eid reunion here on Saturday.

Syed Nakib Muslim, AKM Mahbubuzzaman, Golam Mustakim, Rafiqul Islam Bhuiyan, Mahubul Talukder, Nilufar Begum and Rector AZM Shamsul Alam attended the function.



JHENIDAH: (From right) Mijanur Rahman, deputy commissioner, Abdul Haque, outgoing deputy commissioner, Jhenidah and Nalinnee Ranjan Basak, TNO, Saikupa, speaking at the farewell reception to the outgoing deputy commissioner on April 23. — Star photo



RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY: Prof M Altaf Hussain, Pro-Vice Chancellor of the University speaking at the installation ceremony of the Botany Association recently. — Star photo

## 3 killed in Cox's Bazar

COX'S BAZAR, May 5: Three people were killed in separate incidents in Chokoria thana on Saturday, police said, reports UNB.

One Abdus Salam was stabbed to death and another three people were injured by their rivals at Bherapara village in the early morning. The injured were admitted to Chokoria hospital.

An elderly person, Mojaher, 63, died on the spot when a speeding motorbike hit him at Runkhali area in the thana in the morning.

On the same day police recovered the body of a businessman in the thana. Three cases were filed with the police.

## Chhatra League leader stabbed in Khulna

KHULNA, May 5: Abdul Hasan, 22, president of Ward-28 unit of Chhatra League, was stabbed by some unidentified young men on Friday midnight at Dikhola road under Kotwali thana.

The Chhatra League has blamed JCD for the attack. However, JCD has denied the charge.

## Nor'wester hits Faridpur

FARIDPUR, May 5: Nor'wester that lashed Goalpara and Kharagpur villages in Nagarkanda thana on Thursday left 15 people injured, reports UNB.

The nor'wester continued for 20 minutes razed about 300 houses to the ground and caused severe damage to the standing boro crops on about 400 hectares of land.

Of the injured, seven including three women were admitted to Nagarkanda Hospital and the rest were released after first aid.

## Heroin recovered

SATKHIRA, May 5: Police recovered 262 grams of heroin worth about Tk 26 lakh from Tetulia border area of Sadar thana in the district on April 27 night, reports UNB.

Acting on secret information, police conducted an operation in the area and recovered the packet of heroin. Later, police arrested three people—Abul Bashir, Abul Hossain and Mosharraf—in this connection.

The recovered heroin was sent to Dhaka for chemical examination.

## Arms recovered

KHULNA, May 5: Daulatpur thana police recovered a sawed-off Indian rifle loaded with two rounds of bullets from Kalpataru market this evening.

When chased, the arms holder ran away.

## 3.19 lakh hectares of land to be brought under aus cultivation

MAGURA, May 5: About 3 lakh 19 thousand hectares of lands will be brought under 'Aus and Aman' paddy cultivation during the current season in 10 south western districts including Magura.

According to report from Agriculture Extension Department (AED), 10 districts of Magura, Jhenidah, Narail, Jessore, Khulna, Bagerhat, Satkhira, Kushtia, Chuadanga and Meherpur are targeted to cultivate 'Aus and Aman' paddy in a total of 3 lakh 19 thousand hectares of lands.

AED sources said one lakh and eighty-five thousand hectares of lands would be brought under 'Aus' which included high yielding (Ufas), one lakh thirty-four hectares of lands under 'Aman' in the 10 districts. The production target has been fixed at 3 lakh and 75 thousand tons of paddy.

According to the official sources, the Agriculture Extension Department (AED) along with other concerned authorities have taken all necessary measures to achieve the production target.

## Crop output falls by 4 lakh tons a year in S dists

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, May 5: Production of paddy has been decreasing with a rate of at least four lakh tons per year in the eleven southern districts of the country, according to a departmental statistics.

These districts are Barisal, Patuakhali, Bhola, Barguna, Pirojpur, Jhalakathi, Madaripur, Faridpur, Gopalganj, Rajbari and Saratpur.

Concerned authority sources said production of paddy is decreasing in this region due to price hike and short supply of fertilizers, scarcity of agri inputs and above all the farmers who produce paddy did not get their actual prices.

According to the departmental statistics, production of paddy in these districts was 24.36 lakh tons in 1989-90, 21.24 lakh tons in 90-91 and 15.97 lakh tons in 91-92.

According to the farmers, decrease of production of paddy in this region is due to shortage and supply of necessary fertilizers, problems in getting agri loan from different banks and price hike of other necessary materials.

UNB adds: The living standard of the people of this southern region has been declining due to pressing economic hardships caused by lack of employment opportunities and decreasing of agricultural output.

Repeated natural calamities like flood and cyclone and bad communication system are attributed to the main reasons behind the rising of living cost.

The agricultural sector is already ravaged by recurrent floodings, cyclones, unabated pest invasion and increased salinity in the rivers during the last five years. As a result, the farmers of the area are passing their days in great uncertainty and many marginal farmers have already turned destitute.

Once the greater Barisal was famous for its surplus foodgrain production but now it has turned a deficit area. The hazards in communication ruined the prospects for industrialisation of both the urban and rural areas of which 90 per cent roads are kutcha or bricklaid.

As a result, the road communication during the rainy season comes to a halt.

Education sector also wears a dismal look for many primary and high schools damaged by repeated natural calamities are yet to be repaired.

## A laudable example

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, May 5: Some forty youths of Gaibandha David Co. Para showed a laudable example by rendering physical labour for the RCC construction of roof top of a local Mosque here recently.

Encouraged by a local social worker, Mizanur Rahman Chinnu a group of forty youths, of David Co. para rendered day long labour for the construction of RCC of the David Co. para Mosque roof and completed the job without any remuneration.

## Ganja worth Tk 8000 seized

From Our Correspondent

MAGURA, May 5: A special squad of Narcotics Control Department, Magura seized two kg dried 'ganja' from Mardankhola village of Sripur thana of the district recently.

According to the sources, acting on secret information Md Shariyattullah, Inspector of Narcotics Control Department, Magura raided at the house of Lutful Laskar and Akmol Laskar at the village of Mardankhola along with the members and recovered two kg dry 'ganja' worth Taka about 8 thousand.

## Road Division, Gaibandha Notice Inviting Tender

Sealed tenders in Bangladesh Form No.2911 are hereby invited.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Tender Notice No   | 21-EE/GRD/1995-96.  |
| 2. Name of work   | Construction of Semi-Pucca work shed at attached to RHD Stack Yard at Shaplapara, Gaibandha under Road Division, Gaibandha during the year 1995-96.                             |
| 3. Estimated cost   | Tk 5,44,118/-.  |
| 4. Earnest money  | Tk 10,883/-.  |
| 5. Time allowed for completion of work                                | 60 (sixty) days from the date of issue of work order.   |
| 6. Eligibility of contractor  | "A" to "E" general category contractors under RHD.  |
| 7. Name of office where tender documents will be available for sale   | 1. Executive Engineer (RHD), Road Division, Bogra/Rangpur/Kurigram/ (Old DC's Office) Gaibandha/Planning Division (Roads & Bridges), Dhaka/Planning & Design Division, Rangpur. |
| 8. Name of office where tender will be received                       | 2. Sub-Divisional Engineer (RHD), Road Sub-Division, Palashbari, Gaibandha.   |
| 9. Last date & selling tender   | 1. Addl Chief Engineer (RHD), Rangpur Zone, Rangpur.  |
| 10. Last date & time for receiving tender                             | 2. Superintending Engineer (RHD), Rangpur Road Circle, Rangpur/Monitoring & Evaluation Circle, Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka.  |
| 11. Date & time for opening of tender box by other receiving officers | 3. Executive Engineer (RHD), Road Division, Bogra/Rangpur/Kurigram/ (Old DC's Office) Gaibandha.  |
| 12. Date & time for opening of all tender by this office              | Up to 12-05-96 during office hours.   |
| 13. Date & time of lottery if required                                | On 13-05-96 up to 12-30 PM.   |
|   | On 13-05-96 at 12-45 PM.  |
|   | On 15-05-96 at 12-45 PM.  |
|   | On 16-05-96 at 12-30 PM.  |

Signature Day  
Executive Engineer (RHD)  
Current Charge  
Road Division, Gaibandha.  
DFP-9495/4/5  
G-562