

National

Corruption grips fishery projects in Jessore

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Jan 31: Malpractice and corruption have gripped six fishery projects in greater Jessore district.

The projects are Baluhar Baor, Morjad Baor, Bergobindupur Baor, Joydip Baor, Fatepur Baor and Katgora Baor.

According to sources in the projects, Baluhar Baor, the biggest one of the six, failed to achieve the production target. Last season the project produced only 60.25 metric tons of fishes against target of 200 metric tons.

The Morjad Baor project, which covers 257 hectares area, produced 64 metric tons of fish last season against the target of 75 metric tons.

Bergobindupur Baor covering an area of 217 hectares produced only 109 metric tons of fishes against the target of 121 metric tons.

Joydip Baor project with an area of 79 hectares achieved only 50 per cent of the production target.

Fatepur Baor with an area of 47 hectares produced 30.5 metric tons fishes against the target of 38 metric tons.

Katgora Baor having an area of 71 hectares, however, achieved 100 per cent of its target, which was 30 metric tons.

Sources said total revenues earned by Baluhar and Fatepur projects in the last season were not deposited with the authorities concerned. In an investigation it was found that Baluhar Baor deposited only Taka one lakh 30 thousand against its last year's income of Taka 9 lakh 60 thousand shown in official papers, while Fatepur Baor deposited Taka 62 thousand against Taka 6 lakh 84 thousand.

It is learnt that the matter has been brought to the notice of the ministry concerned, but no action has been taken.



Flooring is a common feature in hospitals throughout Bangladesh. The scene at Saikupur Thana Health Complex is no different where patients are suffering a lot due to acute accommodation problem.

— Star photo

News snaps

1,250 sacks of rice seized

NAOGAON, Jan 31: Some 1,250 sacks of rice allocated for a road reconstruction project in Atrai thana were seized as the project authority allegedly tried to lift it with forged documents on January 25, reports UNB.

Water Development Board had allocated the rice for reconstruction of 3,000 feet road from Rasulpur village to Bhabanipur sluice gate in Sahangola Union damaged during the last year's flood. Sources said local people seized the rice when acting chairman of the union, Azizul Huq, along with two members tried to lift the rice showing 'fake' documents. The rice was later stored in a godown.

Condolence meet

NETRAKONA, Jan 31: A condolence meeting organised by Netrakona Chamber of Commerce and Industries (NCCI) was held in its conference room, paying glowing tribute to former founder member of NCCI late Mukshed Miah Friday, reports BSS.

It was presided over by president of NCCI A R Khan Pathan. The condolence meeting was addressed, among others, by vice presidents of NCCI Abdul Hakim Ahmed and Nurul Islam Khan, executive committee members of NCCI Muzammel Haque, Suhrabuddin Akhund, Hafizur Rahman and Abdus Salam, eldest son of late Mukshed Miah.

Foodgrains allocated

FENI, Jan 31: The Relief and Disaster Management Department (RDMD) has allocated 54 metric tones of rice and wheat for Chhagalnaiya thana under Vulnerable Group Feeding programme of the government during the current financial year 1999-2000, reports BSS.

The allocated foodgrains, wheat and rice, were distributed to some 5,400 distressed families holding VGF cards in six unions of the thana. Each card holder received 5 kg of rice and 5 kg of wheat. Official sources said about 5,400 destitute families have been brought under VGF programme in the thana.

Sweet potato cultivation

NETRAKONA, Jan 31: A total of 450 hectares of land have been brought under sweet potato cultivation in ten thanas of the district in the current Rabi season, reports BSS.

According to official sources, Agriculture Extension Department (AED) has fixed the target to produce 5,400 tons of sweet potato in the current season. Local farmers have also applied modern cultivation method to make the cultivation programme a success.

Academic bldgs being built

MAGURA, Jan 31: Two two-storied academic buildings are being constructed for two private colleges in the district at a cost of Tk 90 lakh, reports UNB.

Facilities Department of Education Ministry has allocated Tk 45 lakh each for construction of the two buildings: one for Dariapur College in Sreepur and another for Babukhali College in Mohammadpur thanas. The construction works are likely to be completed by June next.

Man with fake notes held

NETRAKONA, Jan 31: Police arrested one person and seized ten counterfeit notes of Taka five hundred denomination from his possession at Pachundari Bazar Kendua thana of the district recently, reports BSS.

Kendua Thana police sources said, the arrested person was identified as Lami Chandra Barmon of village Barari under Katiadi thana of Kishorganj district. Barmon went to a shop in disguise of a customer at Pachundari Bazar for purchasing some goods by exchanging one note of five hundred taka. Then the shopowner challenged the customer on suspicion and handed him over to police who after interrogating him seized the ten fake notes from his possession. A case was filed with Kendua police station against the arrested person.

Wheat sanctioned

FENI, Jan 31: The government has sanctioned 198 tons of wheat for implementation of 24 schemes in six unions of the thana under food for works programme (FWP) in the current fiscal year '99-2000, reports BSS.

The schemes include repair and maintenance of rural roads, excavation and reexcavation of ponds and canals. The schemes will create job opportunities to poor villagers including women.

Loan for women

BENAPOLE (Jessore), Jan 31: The Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) has undertaken a special programme to distribute loan of Taka five crore and ten lakh among the destitute women in 21 thanas of greater Jessore district under Self Employment Project for the Poor Woman (SEPPW) as committed by the Prime Minister on October 27 last year, reports BSS.

The thanas are Jessore sadar, Chougacha, Jhikargacha, Abhyanganagar, Bagharpura, Sarsha, Monirampur and Keshabpur in Jessore district, Jhenidah, Kaliganj, Kotchandpur, Moheshpur, Harinakundu and Shailakupur in Jhenidah district, Magura, Mohammadpur, Salkia and Sreepur in Magura district and Narail sadar, Lohagara and Kalia in Narail district. About 17,500 members of 1,050 samitis will get the loan.

7 cattle lifters sent to jail

JAMALPUR, Jan 31: Seven cattle lifters of Goalerchar village of Islampur thana of the district were sent to jail Thursday after they appeared for court arrest seeking self-purification, reports UNB.

Local people said Abdul Gani, Nurul, Lechu, Rafiqul, Bachchu, Bahadur and Anwar had been engaged in the infamous profession for more than one decade. The thieves went to the magistrate court through Islampur police and they were sent to jail. Police said the cow lifters surrendered following a drive against anti-social activities and cow theft by a local social organisation with active cooperation of police.

Body recovered

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Jan 31: Police recovered the decomposed body of a youth from a beel in sadar thana of the district January 20, reports UNB.

Police said the victim Nasir, 17, of Gobratola village of the thana had been missing since the night of January 12. On January 20, some cowboys saw the body in the beel and informed the police immediately. A case was filed with police who arrested Sukur Uddin in this connection.

Faridpur cattle market in pitiable condition

From Abdul Matin Fakir

FARIDPUR, Jan 31: Tepakholo weekly cattle market situated in the eastern part of the town is now in a pitiable condition, causing great inconveniences to both the buyers and sellers.

Lack of maintenance by the authorities concerned has been attributed to the pitiable condition of the market.

Besides, the population has increased over the years, but the market has not been expanded and renovated accordingly.

Lack of water supply to market is another problem, much to the sufferings of customers and sellers. Moreover, in the market there is no toilet, forcing people to respond to the call of nature in roadside place and open places, making the surroundings unhygienic. Cow dung and filth strewn in and around the market are causing health hazards.

The market authorities said there is little or no scope for expansion of the market because many stationary shops and houses have been built in and around the market over the years.

The market has no permanent sheds for cattle, causing sufferings to animals.

Local people have urged the authorities concerned to shift the weekly cattle market to another place.

Fertility of croplands in coastal areas declines

BARISAL, Jan 31: Saline water from the Bay is increasingly getting mixed with river waters due to unplanned construction of embankments, reports UNB.

Fertility of croplands in the country's southern region is being affected.

Experts said the normal tidal course of rivers in downstream of the region is being hampered for construction of

embankments, making way for saline water to enter into the rivers from the Bay.

A survey revealed that saline water entered into the River Andharmank in Patuakhali district although it runs 46km away from the sea.

It said the presence of salinity in water of Paita in Patuakhali and Bishkhali rivers in Barguna, which are 59km and 48km away from the sea, has risen alarmingly.

Another survey by Hydrographic Department showed that the presence of EC in water of the Kirtankhola river per cm was 280 microms in 1995 while it stood at 300 in 1996.

During the period, the presence of sodium chloride in water of the river per litre rose by 60 mg from 28 mg.

A teacher of Chemistry Department of Barisal BM College said the presence of sodium chloride in every litre of river water in the region now stands at 188mg.

If the situation continues, he fears, it will exceed the permissible limit of 250 mg set by World Health Organisation (WHO).

Fertility of croplands in the coastal areas of Kalapara and Galachipa thanas in Patuakhali district has declined alarmingly due to adverse effects of saline water.



A buyer at an old-clothes shop at Magura town. Sellers are doing brisk business as cold wave sweeps across the district.

— Star photo

Date molasses flood Natore

NATORE, Jan 31: Date molasses, locally known as 'Khejur Gur' has flooded the markets of the district with comparatively low price, reports UNB.

With the intensity of cold, during the Bengali month of 'Magh' extraction of date juice is going on in full swing.

The extractors — commonly known as "Gachha" — are busy in trimming date trees to collect juice for making molasses.

People in remote areas as part of their Bengal tradition, are busy in making different delicious winter cakes with khejur gur, milk, coconut, rice-flour and oil and entertaining the dear ones.

There is an estimated 75,000 tonnes of date trees in the six thanas, including about 35,000 in Lalpur thana alone.

Every week, about 250 metric tons of molasses is being transported to various bordering districts and other parts of the country from the district, market sources said.

According to the molasses producers in remote villages, about 5 kg of juice is required to produce one kg of molasses.

About 2 to 3 kg of juice is being extracted from a single matured tree daily and juice from a tree is being extracted six-day a week, they added.

Massive IRRI-Boro cultivation programme in districts

Massive IRRI-Boro paddy cultivation programme has been taken up in Jessore, Manikganj and Satkhira districts, report agencies.

In Jessore, a total of 1,18,920 hectares of land have been brought under IRRI-Boro cultivation in eight thanas of the district in the current season.

According to AED sources, a total of 37,500 hectares have been taken under the cultivation in seven thanas of the district during the current season.

According to the AED sources, a total of 3,40,210 tons of Boro paddy have been brought under IRRI-Boro cultivation with a production target fixed at 110,374 tonnes.

The district administration has appointed additional fertiliser dealers in seven thanas of the district. AED has also started distributing quality crop seeds and seedlings among the farmers.

The farmers have already taken necessary preparation to cultivate Boro paddy. They have been inspired to cultivate the paddy in several areas of the district.

under taken a massive IRRI-Boro cultivation programme in seven thanas of the district in the current season.

The thanas are Sadar, Kalapara, Tala, Debnath, Kalliganj, Assasun and Shyamnagar.

According to the AED sources a total of 38,060 hectares in the district have been brought under IRRI-Boro cultivation with a production target fixed at 110,374 tonnes.

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