

Winter clothes distributed in Moulvibazar

From Our Correspondent
MOULVIBAZAR, Feb 18: The Greater Sylhet Development and Welfare Council (GSDWC) has distributed winter clothes among helpless and distressed people here recently.

The clothes were distributed at a function, which was presided over by Syed Mohsin Ali, President of GSDWC Moulvibazar chapter.

Deputy Commissioner of Moulvibazar GKM Nurul Ameen was present as chief guest. The function was addressed among others by Chairman of Moulvibazar Pourasava Mahmudur Rahman, Professor A K Fazlul Haque and Professor Mahmudul Kabir.

225 pieces of warm clothes were distributed among the poor.

2 held, firearm recovered in Natore

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NATORE, Feb 18: Police recently arrested two alleged terrorists and recovered firearm and a sharp weapon from their possession in the town.

The 'terrorists' were identified as Abdul Hamid, son of Mizan Ali, and Shariful Islam, son of Shamsul Islam.

Police in a special drive arrested them from Nichabazar area.

Care builds 10 rural roads in S dists

JESSORE, Feb 18: The Jessor office of CARE-Bangladesh has completed the construction of 10 rural roads in seven districts of the southern region of Bangladesh, reports BSS.

The project cost Taka four crore 22 lakh. Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) has materialised the programme.

According to CARE field office sources, two roads in Keshabpur and Manirampur thanas of Jessor district, two roads in Sadar and Kalaura thanas of Satkhira district, two roads in Sadar and Damrjhuda thanas of Chuadanga, one in Fultala Thana of Khulna district, one in Sadar thana of Meherpur district, one in Lohagara thana of Narail and another in Shallabpur thana of Jhenidah district, have been constructed.

The CARE-Bangladesh has constructed these roads in light of the government's commitment to ensure the proper communication system and ease the transport and marketing of agricultural and industrial products.

Best school

FENI, Feb 18: Bishnupur High School in Sonagazi thana has been adjudged the best among the district's 200 non-government and government secondary schools, reports BSS.

The Committee for observation of National Education Week-2000 selected the school as the best in the district evaluating its SSC results over the years, efficient management and other extra-curricular activities.

Founded in 1919 as a minor school, it was elevated to a secondary school in 1959. At present the school, manned with 17 teachers, has over 1,200 students, 55 per cent of them are girls.

Headmaster of the school G B Roy said relentless efforts of the teaching staff and cooperation of the local people had brought the success for the school this year.

The school building, constructed in '60s, can not accommodate the increasing number of the students. The number of teachers is also inadequate compare to the number of students.

Fish crisis in Faridpur region

SHARIATPUR, Feb 18: In-discriminate use of current nets and veshals to fish fry are continuing unabated in different water areas of the rivers Padma, Meghna, Arialkhan, Kumar and Kirtinasha in Faridpur region, reports BSS.

About 10 thousand current nets and veshals are used everyday to fish Hilsa and other fish fry in Shariatpur, Madaripur, Rajbari, Gopalganj and Faridpur area. Hilsa fry measuring 4 cm to 15 cm are called 'Jhatka' and Jhatka are found in fresh water in the rivers Padma and Meghna from February to June. After the end of this period they migrate to seawater. During the growing period, they are netted by unscrupulous fishermen everywhere in Faridpur region.

The government has banned catching of fish fry below 9 inches all over the country to increase fish production. But despite governments ban, huge quantity of different types of fish fry including Hilsa, Ruhil, Katla, Mrigil, Magur and Shingi are being caught from different rivers and ponds and are being sold in the markets in the districts of Shariatpur, Madaripur, Rajbari, Gopalganj and Faridpur.

Fish crisis of fish prevails in this region. According to fishermen, a maund of Hilsa fish is now selling at Taka 6600 against Taka 1,200 last year. At Angaria Bandar under Shariatpur Sadar thana, the four large sizes Hilsa fish were priced at Taka 1,250, Helauddin, a fish merchant of Shariatpur Sadar informed.

According to Fisheries Department, the pisciculture is going on in the rivers Padma, Meghna, Arialkhan and in different beels and canals. Besides, unplanned use of chemical fertilisers and insecticide in crop fields has also affected the growth of different kinds of fish, creating scarcity of the same and fall in their production.

Hundreds of ice factories became inoperative due to short supply of Hilsa fish. Some owners of the ice factories said price of ice has also come down as two cans of ice are now selling at Taka 120 against Taka 480 last year.

On the other hand, thousands of professional fishermen of Faridpur region have been facing numerous problems including shortage of funds and price hike of fishing materials. Earlier different kinds of fish were available in abundance in ponds, beels, canals and rivers but now the situation has



Unabated fishing of Hilsa fries in the southern districts created an acute crisis of the fish last year. Such trend is also going on this season defying the government ban. Immediate measures should be taken to check such practice. This picture was recently from a wholesale market in Barisal where trading of Hilsa fries is going on at random.

—Star photo.

turned quite reverse due to indiscriminate fishing by non-professionals.

According to fishermen, the survival of professional fishermen is at stake and as a result some of them have left their profession already, some fishermen have migrated to

other places for their survival.

Local people said about 60 per cent of the ponds in the areas have been silted and dried up due to lack of maintenance.

A large number of ponds are also covered with water hyacinths hampering fish cultivation.

It is felt that arrangement should be made to impart training on pisciculture as well.

Local elite have urged the concerned authorities to take up a massive scheme to make the districts self-sufficient in fish.

International Mother Language Day programmes in districts

Befitting programmes have been chalked out in various districts to celebrate the International Mother Language Day, report agencies.

A week-long programme has been chalked out in Sherpur to celebrate the International Mother Language Day.

The district administration, different local educational institutions, social and cultural organizations will take part in the programmes. The programmes will begin on February 21.

The programmes includes rally, discussion, book fair and reception to language movement heroes and cultural functions.

A week-long programmes have been chalked out in a meeting held in the conference room of the deputy commissioner in Sylhet on Monday to celebrate the International Mother Language Day.

The meeting was presided over by Deputy Commissioner A M M Farhad.

It was attended, among others, by local journalists, lawyers, educationists, public officials and representatives of different socio-cultural organisations.

An organising committee headed by deputy commissioner and some sub-committees have also been formed to make the programme a success.

Islamic University will observe the great Language Day and International Mother Language Day in a befitting manner.

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