

Soil fertility decreasing in S-W districts

From Delwar Kabir

JHENIDAH, Feb 26: Soil fertility has been decreasing fast in the south-western zone of the country.

Continuous and improper use of chemicals fertilisers and want of organic materials in the manure attributed to the phenomenon. It has become a direct threat to the nature of soil, according to an expert of Agriculture Extension Department (AED).

AED experts said, fertiliser is one of the main inputs for crop production. It is well understood that soil's inherent ability to supply sufficient nutrients has drastically decreased with increased intensity of cropping associated with the growing human demand for food and fibre. To enhance the nutrients of soil for crop production, to ensure natural balance and to ensure sustainable development, the cow dung or organic manures can play vital roles. According to the experts, previously the farmers used only cow dung or decomposed waste on their lands and harvested disease-free crops as cow dung contains all the 21 nutrients as nitrogen, phosphate, potash, magnesium, iron, silicon. After invention of chemical fertiliser and to meet the fuel demand the people have

been using cow dung as fuel instead of using the same as manure. As a result we have been burning our fates in the oven whenever we burn cow dung during cooking or some other purpose, said the experts.

AED experts said, the three main ingredients such as nitrogen, phosphate and potash remain in huge quantity in the soil. In the soil the percentage of nitrogen is normally 0.5 to 1.5, percentage of phosphate is 0.4 to 0.8 and potash is 0.5 to 1.9 per cent. But testing some 63 samples one expert proved that there was no nitrogen in the soil. Testing a sample, high percentage of phosphate was detected, while some samples showed low and nil percentage of potash which was really alarming.

The expert said, cow dung may play a vital role to regain the soil fertility. But cow dung is rampantly used as fuel. Rural people massively collect cow dung and make cakes to sale the same in rural as well as in urban areas. AED expert said that they (AED) had been advising people for preservation of cow dung so that they can make compost for applying the same on their lands. This will help save their lands from malnutrition.



Fabulous fuel

Two village women prepare fuel sticks made of cow dung (Top). A woman looks after fuel cakes also made of cow dung (Bottom). The fuel made of dung is popular among rural people. They also use dung as manure in croplands. But now farmers resort to chemical fertilisers, resulting in decrease in soil fertility. The pictures were taken recently from a village in Jhenidah district. - Star photo

Seven killed in road mishaps in 3 dists

Seven persons were killed in different road accidents recently in Rangpur, Bagerhat and Comilla districts, report agencies.

In Rangpur, two brothers were killed in a road mishap on Rangpur-Haragachha Road on Monday night, police said.

The victims are Shah Alam, 18, and Shahajahan, 14. The accident occurred when they were returning home from a bidi factory at Haragachha Bandar riding on a by-cycle, a truck suddenly knocked down and crushed them under its wheels.

Both died on the spot, police said. The killer truck was seized by the local people. The driver is absconding.

In Bagerhat, a rickshaw-puller was killed as he was knocked down by a power tiller at Badhal Bazar in Kachua

thana on Monday. The victim was identified as Lutfur Rahman Khokon, 30. A case was filed.

In Comilla, four people, including three children, were killed and 10 others injured in separate road accidents on Dhaka-Chittagong highway on Saturday and Sunday.

Police said the three children were killed and 10 people injured when two buses collided at Manbazar in Choudagram thana on Saturday night.

Of the dead, two were identified as Imam Hossain, 10, son of Abul Kashem, and Rahima Akhter, daughter of Joyal Abedin in Choudagram thana.

In another mishap on Sunday, an unidentified woman was crushed under the wheels of a speeding bus near Toll Plaza in Daudkandi thana at about 5 pm.

Separate cases were filed.

C'nawabganj farmers expect bumper Boro production

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Feb 26: Bumper Boro production is expected this year here, reports BSS.

Favourable climate and easy availability of fertilisers and seeds in time helped the farmers to cultivate their lands properly.

According to district Agriculture Extension Department (AED) sources, the target of Boro paddy cultivation was 35 thousand hectares here. The farmers exceeded the target by cultivating 42 thousand hectares.

According to agriculture experts and some experienced farmers, the present condition of the crop shows that the production would also exceed the target and a bumper production is expected here.

Meanwhile, a report from Chuadanga says: The cultivation of Boro paddy of the current season in all the four thanas here is in full swing and also nearing completion now.

The four thanas are - Chuadanga Sadar, Alamdanga, Damurhuda and Jibannagar.

District Agriculture Extension Department has fixed up a target to bring 26,860 hectares under Boro cultivation during the current season. Of the total, 5,025 hectares will be brought under cultivation in Chuadanga Sadar, 8,770 hectares in Alamdanga, 7,400 hectares in Damurhuda and 5,665 hectares in Jibannagar.

The production target of Boro here in the current season has been fixed at 1,17,000 tons. Another report from Narsingdi says: A total of 46,180 hectares in six thanas here have been brought under IRRI-Boro cultivation with the production target of 1,30,641 tons paddy in the current season.

AED sources said, of the total land High Yielding Variety (HYV) will be cultivated on 44,250 hectares and local variety on 1,930 hectares.

2 sisters killed in Jessore road accident

JESSORE, Feb 26: Two sisters were killed and their cousin was injured when their bicycle was hit by a bus here on Jessore-Chowgachha road on Sunday, reports UNB.

Bus Drivers Association went on an indefinite bus strike on the route from this evening protesting damage of a number of vehicles by angry people after the accident.

The dead were identified as Rozina Akhter, 16, and Rabeya Khatun Rupa, 13, daughters of Zohurul Islam of village Dakatia under Kotwali thana.

Police and witnesses said Rozina and Rupa died on the spot and their cousin Liton, 23, received injuries when the Chowgachha-bound bus hit their bicycle from behind at Jogohati at about 10 am.

Liton was rushed to Jessore General Hospital.

In protests, local people damaged 6/7 vehicles and staged demonstration on the road following the accident.

The bodies were sent to Jessore General Hospital for autopsy. A case was filed in this connection.

PSA enacted for people's safety: Nasim

TANGAIL, Feb 26: Home, Post and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim has said that the police force should be more careful in maintaining development-friendly atmosphere in the country, reports BSS.

"The Public Safety Act (PSA) has been enacted for ensuring safety and security of the common people," he said while inaugurating the newly-built Kalhati Thana Bhaban on Sunday.

Presided over by Tangail Superintendent of Police (SP) Noor Mohammad, the function was attended, among others, by State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury, Abdul Latif Siddiqui, MP, Deputy Inspector General of Police (Dhaka Range) Abul Kashem Howladar, joint secretary of Bangladesh Awami League Shamsur Rahman Khan, president of district Awami League Mirza Tofazzel Hossain Mukul and Deputy Commissioner Molla Waheduzzaman. The home minister said that accountability of police and proper use of the Act have been ensured fully in the newly-enacted law.



Rawshan Ara Begum

Tale of a proud mother

From Hossain Seraj MAGURA, Feb 26: She is a proud mother. Her all children are educated and established.

"I always tried to realise my dreams through my children as my wishes could not be fulfilled," said Rawshan Ara Begum of Hazipur village under Sadar thana.

As father married me off at the age of 13, my desires remained unrealised, said Rawshan Ara Begum, whose most illustrious son is Didarul Islam Didar, the inventor of 'short range quick radio'. The invention has resulted in str in the electronics world.

Among the seven of her issues, three daughters are physicians. They are Dr Selina Begum, Assistant Professor of Bangladesh University Sheikh Mujib Medical University in Dhaka, Dr Afroza Begum, who is working at Dhaka Shishu Hospital, and Dr Shanaja Begum, who is now staying in USA.

Her two sons are engineers. They are Shaiful Islam, a civil engineer working with LGED, Jamalpur, and Didarul Islam Didar. The rest two are Nasrin Akhter Dorin, who obtained M.Com and B Ed degrees, and Nazrin Akhter Tinku, a student of BUET.

News snaps

Book fair opens
SATHKHIRA, Feb 26: A five-day book fair, on the occasion of International Mother Language Day, was inaugurated at Shyamnagar Thana Kinder Garden Auditorium on February 19, reports BSS.

President of Shyamnagar Thana Awami League A K M Fazul Haque, MP, inaugurated the book fair as the chief guest. Thana Nirbahi Officer S M Nazibullah was in the chair. The function was addressed, among others, by chairman of Sadar Union Parishad S M Jagul Hayder, Chairman Shahidul Alam, Ashke-e-Elahi, Abul Kalam. Twenty-four book stalls were set up in the fair.

Lawyers boycott court
COMILLA, Feb 26: Some 1000 cases are pending in an Assistant Judge's Court here, as lawyers have been boycotting the court for the last seven months, reports UNB.

District Bar sources said the lawyers have been boycotting the court of Mukbul Hossain, Assistant Judge of Muradnagar thana since August, 1999 for his alleged misconduct with them over the dismissal of 47 cases. The lawyers brought the matter to the notice of Law Minister Abdul Matin Khasru and demanded immediate removal of the judge.

Foundation stone of bridge laid
FARIDPUR, Feb 26: Laying the foundation stone of a bridge over Awlat canal in Nazarkanda thana, Environment Minister Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury on Friday urged all to work unitedly to build a prosperous Bangladesh by implementing the development programmes taken up by the present government, reports UNB.

Local Government Engineering Department will construct the 30-metre bridge on Talma-Chousara road at a cost of Tk 33 lakh. Sajeda said the government has given priority to rural infrastructure development, including the communication network, to ensure fair price of the commodities produced by farmers. Referring to the oppositions' movement, she said the conscious section of the people have rejected their 'destructive' programmes as they (people) want uninterrupted development of the country.

Loan for youths
KISHOREGANJ, Feb 26: Youth Development Directorate has distributed Tk 9.1 lakh as soft-term loan among 110 trained youths for their self-employment in six unions of Mitamin thana, reports UNB.

Officials said the department disbursed the loan till December 1999 and recovered loan amounting to Tk 3.15 lakh from the borrowers during the period. The loan will be used in small trade, poultry farming, pisciculture, dairy farm, cattle rearing and weaving.

Anniversary of death
BARISAL, Feb 26: Shahid Alfaz Memorial Girls' High School observed the 50th death anniversary of Shahid Alfaz Uddin here on Wednesday, reports UNB.

A renowned social worker, Alfaz Uddin sacrificed his life for the cause of communal harmony in 1950. After the separation of India in 1947, he came forward to resist communal violence by forming voluntary forces. He was murdered during a Hindu-Muslim riot in 1950, according to a press release.



Vice Chancellor of Rajshahi University Professor Sayeedur Rahman Khan visits a stall in ELT Book and Audio-visual Exhibition held on the campus recently. -Star photo

Cattle lifting rampant
NETRAKONA, Feb 26: Though 100 cattleheads were lifted from different villages in three thanas here in last one month, police failed to nab the cattle lifters, reports UNB.

The three thanas are Atpara, Mohanganj and Barhatta. Villagers alleged that police do not want to take any case against cattle lifting, except initiating a general diary. Some cattle lifters also return the stolen cows to their owners in exchange of money through their agents.

Mother Language Day observed
COMILLA, Feb 26: People from all walks of life observed the International Mother Language Day and Ekushey February here in a befitting manner, reports BSS.

All political parties, district administration and different socio-cultural organisations arranged elaborate programmes. The programmes included placing of wreaths at the Central Shaheed Minar, rally, discussion meetings, and cultural functions.

Young man succumbs to injuries
BARGUNA, Feb 26: A young man, who was critically injured in an attack by his rivals, died at Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital on Thursday morning, reports UNB.

The victim was identified as Mizanur Rahman Sohrab, 20, of Ghopkhal village in Amtali thana. Police said a group of youths hit Sohrab with an iron rod while he was returning home on Monday. A case was filed.

Valuables looted
HABIGANJ, Feb 26: Armed road pirates looted valuables from the passengers of a night coach on Dhaka-Sylhet highway in Chumarughat thana on Thursday morning, reports UNB.

Police said the highwayman boarded the Dhaka-bound bus in the guise of passengers from Shayestaganj and took its control at gunpoint. Later, they swooped on the passengers and looted their valuables, including gold ornaments and watches, worth about Tk 3.50 lakh in daylight. A case was filed.

Port activities disrupted
MONGLA, Feb 26: Activities in Mongla Port were disrupted for nearly 12 hours on Thursday after a dock worker was crushed under the wheels of a container carrier, reports UNB.

Police said dock worker Muhammad Ali, 45, died instantly when the container carrier ran over him as he was sleeping alongside it. Another dock worker, Abdul Aziz Khan, who was also sleeping beside him escaped unhurt. The body was handed over to his relatives. A case was filed.

Transformers stolen
CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Feb 26: Some 56 transformers connected to deep tunnels for irrigation in five thanas here were stolen in last nine months, reports UNB.

Of the transformers, 13 were stolen from Sadar, 21 from Shibganj, six from Gomostapur, eight from Nachol and eight from Bholahat, hampering irrigation to croplands under Barendra Development Project.

Forest resources being damaged
RANGAMATI, Feb 26: Huge forest resources are damaged every year due to indiscriminate use of explosives by the stone collectors, reports UNB.

As per rules, one can collect stones only from the foot of the hills and adjacent areas. But the collectors use explosives for breaking hill for stones damaging huge forest resources and bio-diversity.

Officials said that permit is issued in every dry season for collecting stones only from Barachhari, Naragiri, Bhuluchhari, Shilchhari, Wagga, Chitaram, Tarachhari, Rampahar and adjacent areas of Kaptai.

Good wheat output likely in Khulna divn

KHULNA, Feb 26: As a fair weather appears to continue, agriculture officials here expect a bumper wheat production in Khulna division this year, reports UNB.

They hope that some 2.66 lakh metric tons of wheat worth about Tk 10 crore will be produced in nine districts of the division this season if things go well.

The districts are: Jessore, Satkhira, Narail, Bagerhat, Magura, Jhenidah, Meherpur and Kushtia where 1.6 lakh hectares of land have been brought under wheat farming.

Agriculture Extension Department (AED) has provided necessary seeds, fertilisers, pesticides and other agri-inputs among the growers for making

the programme a success. A report from Chapainawabganj says: rejuvenated by the persisting fair weather and late winter rains, farmers here have brought a large track of land under wheat cultivation.

Officials said 6,000 hectares of land has been brought under wheat farming in Sadar, 8,300 hectares in Shibganj, 1,550 hectares in Gomostapur, 1,600 hectares in Nachol and 1,250 hectares in Bholahat thanas.

BSS from Meherpur says: AED has taken up a programme to bring 6,000 hectares under wheat cultivation here in the current Rabi season.

According to official sources, the production target of wheat has been fixed at 12,750

tons. AED has already taken all preparations to supply quality seeds, fertilisers and pesticides to the farmers at fair price to make the wheat cultivation programme a success, official sources added.

Another report from Chuadanga says: A total of 20,130 hectares have been brought under wheat cultivation programme in all the four thanas here during the current Rabi season.

The four thanas were Sadar, Alamdanga, Damurhuda and Jibannagar.

Of the total hectares, 4,100 have been brought under wheat cultivation programme in Sadar thana, 7,500 in Alamdanga, 5,410 in Damurhuda.

Best Imam

From Staff Correspondent



BARISAL, Feb 26: Hafiz H M Moshirur Rahman of Jurakathi Ramakathi Maffizia Jame Mosque in Nalchihiti thana of Jhalokathi district has been

adjudged the best Imam of the district this year. He was selected for his outstanding contribution in the socio-economic development including spreading Islam, popularising family planning methods, mass literacy campaign, afforestation drives, making people aware about sanitation, organising free eye camps and establishing mosque based libraries.

The selection was made recently at a function held at Jhalokathi District Islamia Senior (Fazil) Madrassah. The election of Jhalokathi unit of National Imam Society was also held here when he was elected the secretary of the society's district unit. Deputy commissioner of Jhalokathi was present there as the chief guest.

Taking training in Imam training Institute of Bangladesh Islamic Foundation, Hafiz Rahman has been working relentlessly to train the jobless young men and women of his area creating self-employment by arranging mobile training programmes. He has been working in collaboration with the Youth Development Directorate.

Road Division, Patuakhali Notice Inviting Tender in Sealed Cover in BD Form No 2911

- Tender Notice : PRD 39/1999-2000.
- Name of work : Construction of brick pavement (side widening) work at 18th (p), 19th (p) & 35th (p), km on Amtali-Khepupara-Kuakata Road under Patuakhali Road Division during the year 1999-2000.
- Chargeable : 266-Development road
- Estimated cost : Tk 2,32,819/00.
- Earnest money : Tk 4,660/00.
- Time allowed : 35 (thirty-five) days from the date of work order.
- Eligibility of contractor's RHD
- Name of offices from where the tender documents will be available : Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Barisal/Bhola/Perojpur/Jhalakati/Barguna/the undersigned all Sub-Divisional Engineer, RHD, under Road Sub-Division, Patuakhali during office hours on all working days.
- The officers who will receive the tenders in sealed cover : 1. Superintending Engineer, RHD, Road Circle, Barisal. 2. Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Barisal/Barguna, & 3. The undersigned.
- Last date, time of selling the tender : 05-03-2000AD during office hours. 22-11-1406BS
- Last date, time of receiving the tender : Up to 12:30 PM 06-03-2000AD 23-11-1406BS
- Date & time of opening the tender box : At 12:45 PM 06-03-2000AD 23-11-1406BS
- Date & time of opening the tender : At 11:00 AM 09-03-2000AD 26-11-1406BS
- Date & time of lottery (if any) : At 11:00 AM 14-03-2000AD 31-11-1406BS

Md Abdul Bari

Executive Engineer, RHD (C/C) Road Division, Patuakhali.

DFP-3929-22/2 G-351

Government of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD

Road Division, Comilla

Notice Inviting Tenders

- Tender Notice No : 104/EE, 105/EE & 106/EE of RHD, Road Division, Comilla, during the year 1999-2000.
- Name of work : As per group list.
- Estimated cost : Tk As per group list.
- Earnest money : Tk. As per group list in BD/Pay Order in favour of EE (RHD), Road Division, Comilla.
- Name of office where tender bids will be received : Addl. Chief Engineer, RHD, Comilla Zone, Comilla/ Superintending Engineer, RHD, Road Circle, Comilla/ Procurement & Monitoring Circle, Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka/office of the undersigned.
- Name of office of availability of tender bids : Office of the undersigned/EE, RHD, Road Divn, B'baria/Chandpur/Planning & Design Divn, Comilla, Planning Divn-I (P&D), Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka & SDE's office under this Division.
- Time allowed : As per group list.
- Last date of selling of tender bids : 5-3-2000 up to office hours.
- List date of dropping of tender bids : 6-3-2000 up to 12:30 PM.
- Date, place of opening of tender bids : 8-3-2000 in the office of the EE, RHD, Comilla.
- Date of lottery : 9-3-2000.
- Charge to : As per group list.
- Eligibility of contractor : As per group list.

Group List

Tender Notice No	Group No	Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Time allowed	Ch to	Eligibility of cont
104/EE		Surfacing work at 4th (P) KM of Chapapur-Tomchambridge Road on emergency basis, under Comilla Road Divn, during the year 1999-2000.	5,50,000/-	11,000/-	15 days	266-CA	"A" to "E" RHD general categ of contractor
105/EE	01	Painting of lane mark centre line & edges at diff KM of Old Dhaka-Chittagong Road (Comilla Town Road) & B'baria-Kalamura-Maynamati Road under Comilla Road Divn. during the year 1999-2000.	5,55,000/-	11,100/-	15 days	-do-	-do-
	02	-do- -do- work at diff. KM of Lalmai- Laksham -Sonaimuri Road & Comilla-Chandpur Road under Comilla Road Divn during the year 1999-2000.	6,37,500/-	12,750/-	15 days	-do-	-do-
106/EE	01	Const of RCC Box Culvert No. 6/1 (1x3.05x2.13) at 6th KM of Comilla-Sreepur) Fakirbazar -Saldanadi Road under Comilla Road Divn during the year 1999-2000.	5,94,336/-	11,887/-	50 days	-do-	"A" to "D" special categ -do-
	02	-do- -do- work of 15/1 (1x3.05 x2.74m) at 15th KM of -do-	8,00,000/-	16,000/-	50 days	-do-	-do-

DFP-3907-22/2 G-350

Md Rafiqul Islam Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Comilla.