



Living with natural disaster

An embankment along the River Brahmaputra in Roumari thana of Kurigram district has been threatened seriously due to river erosion.

Shortage of books hampers primary education in dists

From Our Correspondent

MOULVIBAZAR, Feb 27: Primary students in the district have been facing acute shortage of books, hampering the academic activities.

According to the District Primary Education Office (DPEO) sources, Directorate of Primary and Mass Education earlier had instructed the authorities concerned to complete the distribution programme by January 27. But a large number of students in Moulvibazar district are yet to get books.

The government distributes books among primary students free of cost every year under Compulsory Primary Education programme.

Over two lakh students attend primary schools, both government and non-government,

in the district.

A headmaster of a primary school in the district headquarters said because of short supply all students are not getting books meant for distribution free of cost.

Guardians said they are anxious as two months of this year have already elapsed. In many schools, classes are yet to start.

When contacted District Primary Education Officer Abdul Khaleque Shikder told this correspondent some private publication houses were entrusted with the duty to supply books to the authorities, but they failed to supply in the stipulated time, causing scarcity of books.

He, however, expressed the

hope that the problem would be solved soon.

Our Netrakona correspondent adds: Books meant for distribution among primary students free of cost are being sold in black markets.

Books printed with 'Not for Sale' have almost flooded local markets, but students are not receiving books from the authorities concerned, said guardians. Students have been facing acute shortage of books, they added.

UNB from Jhenidah adds: Academic activities in different primary schools in six thanas of the district are seriously being hampered for lack of teachers.

According to competent

sources, 61 posts of teacher in government primary schools in rural areas have long been lying vacant.

The schools have got 1747 teachers out of their 1,808 sanctioned posts.

More worrying is that many schoolteachers prefer staying in mufassil towns rather than going to remote areas.

According to government rules, there should be one teacher for every 50 students, but the ratio is higher in municipality areas while many rural schools have only 2-3 teachers for 300-400 students.

Villagers alleged most headmasters perform more outside jobs during school hours than their official duties, affecting academic activities.

Bio-fertiliser developed by BINA gains popularity

From Aminul Islam

MYMENSINGH, Feb 27: The use of Bio-fertiliser developed by Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture (BINA) has gained popularity among the farmers of the country.

As the price of this fertiliser is low and it increases produc-

tion and qualitative value of crops, the farmers are being interested day by day to use Bio-fertiliser in their crop fields to grow leguminous crops-lentil, groundnut, bean, cowpea, black gram, chickpea and soyabean.

Bio-fertiliser not only increases the fertility of crop lands but also increases water holding capacity of the land. This is easily applicable, keeps the environment favourable and not harmful to human life. Now this fertiliser is being used by the farmers of the district. It is supplied to the farmers at a low price. The fertiliser is mixed with peat, a kind of soil BRAC has also approved the fertiliser for demonstration in the farmers' fields. Extensive field trials by BINA have showed yield increase to the extent of 20-40 per cent due to use of this rhizobial Bio-fertiliser.

BINA conducted various training programmes including farmers' training courses on use of Bio-fertiliser that created enthusiasm for using this fertiliser among the farmers, especially among the poor and marginal farmers. This is because the fertiliser costs low price.

Soon Bio-fertiliser will be marketed in the whole country in large scale by a manufacturing company who made an agreement with BINA.

Dr MA Sattar, Principal

Scientific Officer of BINA and In-Charge of Bio-fertiliser Research team told The Daily Star that to speed up the rapid growth of plants Urea is used in crop lands. He also said that this fertiliser is costly, great consumers of fossil energy and partly responsible for pollution of water bodies.

Dr Sattar also told this correspondent that they had been doing research work to find out ways of growing plants which would not need such heavy amount of Urea fertiliser, but which would, give good yield. After researching over role of different kind of bacterias which live in symbiosis with leguminous plants.

Some farmers of sadar thana told this correspondent that they have been using Bio-fertiliser and gaining more production. The price is low in comparison with Urea. Farmers have also learnt the method of producing Bio-fertiliser taking training from BINA.

Sylhet Education Board starts functioning

SYLHET, Feb 27: Newly set-up Sylhet Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Board has started its formal functioning in a rented house, reports UNB.

Corruption hits procurement drive of Aman

NATORE, Feb 27: Farmers in the district are found discouraged to sell Aman paddy and rice to government procurement centres because of corruption and delay in payment, reports UNB.

Procurement in the district began on December 15 last year in pursuance of the government policy of giving price support to the farmers and to build up a comfortable food stock.

Ershad Ali Mondal, a leading grower of Rashidpur village under Gurudaspur thana, told the news agency that the farmers are not interested to sell their rice and paddy to the government food godowns due to complexities of payment and malpractice in weighing.

Marginal and small farmers are compelled to sell their produce in the open market at distress price of Tk 250 to 265 per maund of paddy. They are to repay loan taken at the time of cultivation from the village moneylenders.

Taking the advantage of the situation middlemen are controlling the paddy and rice market. They are building up stock to sell at high price during the off season.

District Food Department has so far procured 875 metric tons of paddy and 2,050 metric tons of rice as against the target of 1,562 mts of paddy and 4,185 mts of rice.

Shaheed Minar at native village of Salam inaugurated

From Nurul Karim Majumder

FENI, Feb 27: After 48 years of Abdus Salam's martyrdom a memorial has been built at the native village of the language martyr.

The memorial built in the shape of the central Shaheed Minar was inaugurated at village Laxampur under Daganbhuiyan thana of the district on February 21. Member of Parliament Joyнал Hazari inaugurated the memorial on Laxampur High School premises at a function. Local people call the memorial as Shaheed Minar.

A discussion was held on the occasion. Presided over by Abdus Sobhan, brother of the great language hero, the function was addressed by Hazari as chief guest. Abdur Karim, another brother of the language martyr, and union parishad Chairman

Bodir Rahman also spoke.

Joyнал Hazari MP provided the financial assistance for the construction.

Abdus Sobhan and Abdur Karim, two younger brothers of Shaheed Salam, told this correspondent they are really happy as the Shaheed Minar has been built in honour of the language martyr at his native village.

Meanwhile, the district administration accorded a reception to the members of Shaheed Salam in the town on February 23.

The language hero's brothers Abdus Salam and Abdur Karim and sister Balkeater Nessa attended the reception. Deputy Commissioner Debasish Nag, Additional Deputy Commissioner Abul Kashem, among others, were present.

Loan for development, cultivation

Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB), Janata Bank (JB) and Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank (RAKUB) will disburse loan for development, farm activities and small trading, report agencies.

The Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) has taken up a programme to distribute 48 crore 65 lakh taka as loan under special socio-economic development project in 10 Southwestern districts of the country during the current financial year.

According to an official source, out of the total loan 4 crore 13-lakh taka will be distributed in Jhenidah district, 3 crore 52 lakh in Jessore district, 8 crore 37 lakh in Magura district, 6 crore 94 lakh in Kushtia district, 2 crore 13 lakh in Chuadanga district, 4 crore 30 lakh taka in Meherpur district, 2 crore 77 lakh in Narail district, 3 crore 36 lakh in Bagerhat district, 3 crore 88 lakh taka in Satkhira district and 9 crore 25 lakh taka in Khulna district.

Distribution of loan has already begun and will be continued till June next. The loan is being utilised for creating job opportunities of rural women setting up of small and cottage industries, women entrepreneurship development programme, rearing of cattle and poultry farms under poverty alleviation programme, beef fattening, production oriented activities and development of landless and

marginal farmers in the rural areas of these districts.

In Kishoreganj, Janata Bank will disburse farm loan amounting to Tk 6.12 crore this fiscal (1999-2000).

Officials said the bank has started distribution of the farm credit through its 14 branches and it will continue till March 31.

Of the loan, Tk 5.95 crore will be disbursed for cultivating Boro crops, Tk 10 lakh for wheat, Tk 3 lakh for potato, Tk 2 lakh for mustard and nut, Tk 1 lakh for sugarcane and Tk 1 lakh for vegetable farming.

Janata Bank under its farm credit programme has disbursed Tk 5.52 crore in two districts.

The bank has distributed Tk 2.98 crore among farmers in four thanas of Madaripur district while Tk 2.54 crore in six thanas of Shariatpur district, officials said.

In Thakurgaon, Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank (RAKUB) has launched a 'Micro Savings Scheme' for small trader and professionals.

Officials said under the scheme, the small traders and businessmen could deposit Tk 25, Tk 50, Tk 75, Tk 100, Tk 150 and Tk 200 per week and will get the money after five years with an 8.5 per cent interest.

A weekly Tk 200 deposit will stand at Tk 57,712 after five years.

A similar scheme has also been introduced for teachers.

Cotton harvesting in full swing in Chuadanga

CHUADANGA, Feb 27: The harvesting of cotton in Chuadanga Zone of Bangladesh Cotton Development Board is in full swing and will continue till the end of this month, reports BSS.

According to an official source, during the current cotton cultivation season, a total of about 8,000 hectares were brought under cotton cultivation in this zone.

So far, about 70 per cent harvesting of cotton there have been completed.

About three and a half lakh maunds of cotton (including seed) worth over Taka one crore is expected to be produced in

this zone.

This zone consists of all the four thanas of Chuadanga district and Meherpur Sadar thana of Meherpur district.

Another report from Ranpur says: Cotton Development Board (CDB) has launched a drive to procure cottonseeds from the growers of its Rangpur-Dinajpur zone.

Reception

From Our Correspondent
BRAHMANBARIA, Feb 27: The Director General (DG) of Secondary and Higher Education Directorate, Prof Aysha Khan said, there is no alternatives to training. We all are teachers and there is no difference between us. Without training a teacher can not develop himself and there is no alternative to develop the standard of education.

The DG was addressing as chief guest at a reception programme organised by trainees and managing council of a training workshop for the heads of the secondary schools at Annada Government High School in Brahmanbaria on February 25.

The function was presided over by Abdur Rashid Sarker, District Education officer of Brahmanbaria while Dr Golam Rasol Miah, Director (Training) of Secondary and Higher Education Directorate, Director (Acting) of Secondary Education Development Project and Md. Shahzahan, Assistant Director of Secondary Education Development Project and coordinator of training course were special guests.

The function was addressed, among others, by Shaheen Akter, headmistress of Sarail Annada Government High School, AFM Osman Gani, headmaster of Brahmanbaria Annada Government High School, Md. Abul Kashem, headmaster of Brahmanbaria Ideal High Academy.



Syed Mohammad Masum

Best college teacher in Moulvibazar

From Our Correspondent
MOULVIBAZAR, Feb 27: Syed Mohammad Masum, assistant professor of Baralakhya Degree College, has been adjudged the best college teacher in the district.

This was announced in the National Education Week 2000 programme, which concluded here recently.

Syed Mohammad Masum teaches Islamic history and culture.



Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture (BINA) and Grameen Krishi Foundation (GKF) jointly organised a field day recently at Gangachhara in Rangpur district. Md Shah Alam, managing director of GKF addressing there.

—Star photo

News snaps

Monument in memory of martyrs

RANGPUR, Feb 27: A monument commemorating the martyrs of the Rangpur Cantonment Attack will be built at the killing ground at Nishbetganj near the cantonment, reports UNB.

The monument named 'Rokto Gourab' will be constructed at a cost of Tk over 20 lakh. Official sources said a good number of villagers embraced martyrdom while fighting with the Pakistan occupation army on March 28, 1971. The villagers swooped on the Rangpur Cantonment with bamboo sticks and arrows and bows three days after the Liberation War was declared. Army Chief Lieutenant General Mohammad Mostafizur Rahman unveiled the plaque of the foundation stone of the monument at a function on February 17.

Sanitation programme

KISHOREGANJ, Feb 27: Public Health and Engineering Department under its post-flood sanitation programme distributed 3,472 latrine slabs and rings among poor people in 1998-99 fiscal, reports UNB.

Of the slabs and rings, 273 were distributed in Mithamain, 234 in Tarail and Hussainpur, 217 in Itna, 172 in Nikli, 381 in Kotiyadi, 429 in Sadar, 186 in Kuliarchar, 334 in Karimganj, 180 in Austagram, 284 in Pakundia, 266 in Baitpur and 282 in Bhairab thanas. Officials said the programme was implemented at a cost of Tk 26.03 lakh with financial assistance from UNICEF, bringing about two lakh rural people under sanitary facilities.

Production suspended

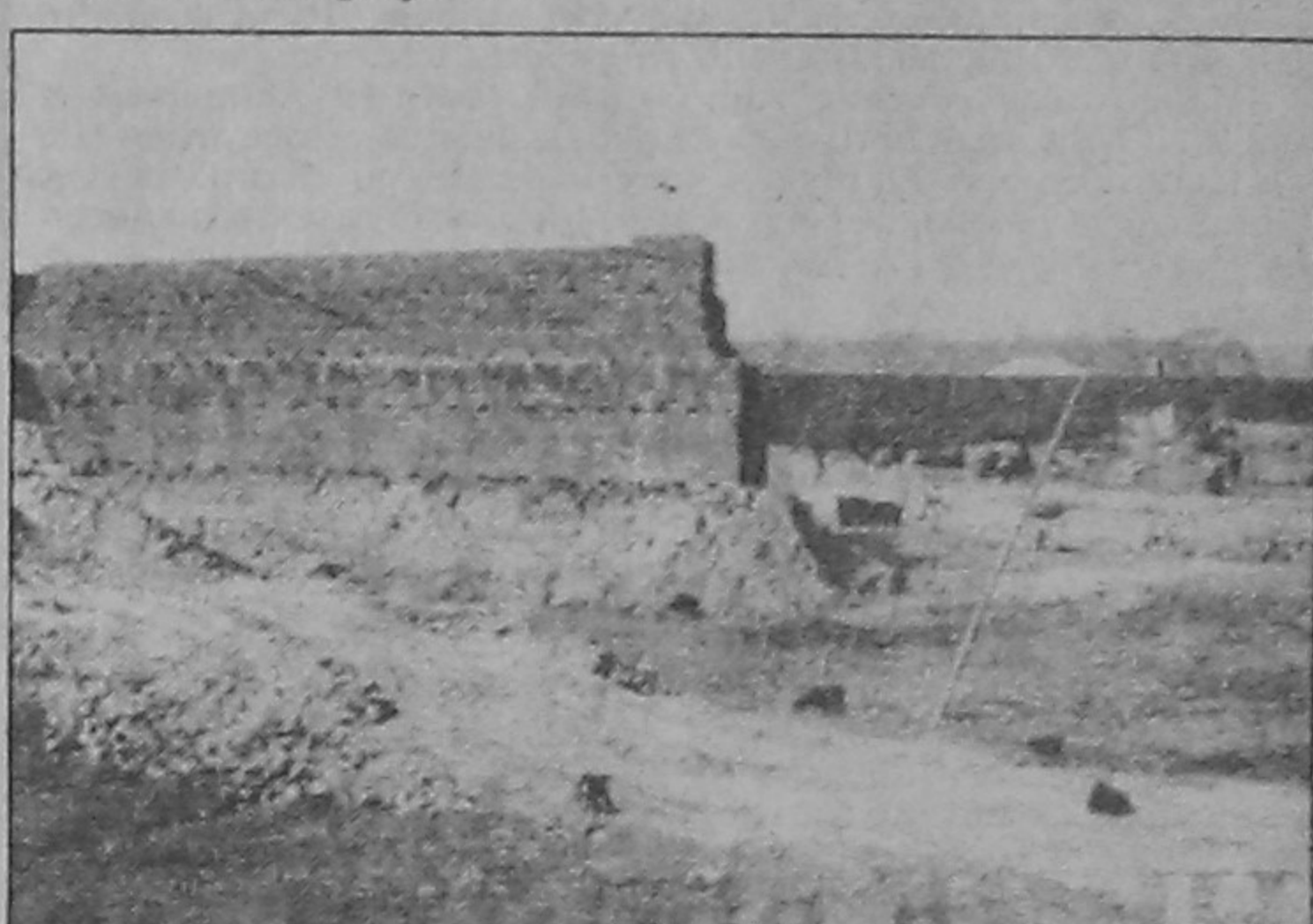
RANGPUR, Feb 27: Nine sugar mills, out of 10 in northern region, have suspended production before achieving their targets due to short supply of sugarcane this season, reports UNB.

The closed mills are: Rajshahi Sugar Mills, Natore Sugar Mills, Pabna Sugar Mills, Joypurhat Sugar Mills, North Bengal Sugar Mills, Shatabganj Sugar Mills, Thakurgaon Sugar Mills, Shyampur Sugar Mills and Rangpur Sugar Mills. The mills produced 60,090 mts of sugar crushing 888,699 mts of sugarcane against the target of 110,800 mts from 14.06 lakh mts of sugarcane this season. Production in Panchagarh Sugar Mills might also be suspended at anytime for want of sugarcane. Officials attributed the sugarcane crisis to growing trend of producing molasses.

Deep tubewells' installation

SHERPUR, Feb 27: Fifteen deep tubewells are being installed in the town to ensure arsenic free water supply, reports UNB.

The Dutch funded project, involving Tk 7.20 lakh, is being implemented under 'Eighteen Town Development Project.' Officials said that during an examination last year 3 mg of arsenic was found in most tubewells of the town against the permissible level of 0.5 mg. In the first phase, five tubewells were installed in Kasba Shibuttar, Kasba Namapara, Digharpur, Kaliganj and Sheikhhati areas while the rest 10 are being sunk in Nabiganj, Kandapara, Digharpur, Kasba Mollapara, Kasba Shibuttar, Tatalpur, Kamaria, Digharpur, Dakkhinpara, Shitalpur and Kaliganj areas.



Fund shortage has been hampering the construction work on Gopalganj District Jail. Photo shows the incomplete boundary wall of the underconstruction jail.

—Star photo

Drugs recovered: 8 held

COMILLA, Feb 27: Police in their separate drives recovered huge drugs and liquors, and arrested eight people from Kotwali and Daudkandi thanas on Thursday, reports UNB.

The seized liquors and drugs included phensidyl, whisky and hemoglobin. Police said there were three women among the arrested. Earlier on Tuesday, BDR jawans recovered 70 bottles of Indian Gripenwater and 42 bottles of BG Fort vitamin syrup from Bibir Bazar in Sadar thana.

249 projects implemented

KISHOREGANJ, Feb 27: Disaster Management Ministry under its Rural Infrastructure Maintenance Programme implemented 249 projects in the district during the 1998-99 fiscal, reports UNB.

Officials said the projects were implemented spending 2,629 mts of wheat. Of the schemes, 19 each were implemented in Hosainpur, Baitpur and Kuliarchar thanas, seven in Bhairab, 20 each in Austagram and Itna, 25 each in Katiali and Pakundia, 33 in Sadar, 29 in Karimganj, 10 each in Nikli and Mitamain and 13 in Tarail thanas. The project works included reconstruction and maintenance of rural roads, construction of cross dams and development of schools, madrasas, playgrounds, Eidgahs, graveyards and cremation sites.

Touch stone statue recovered

THAKURGAON, Feb 27: A touch stone statue, weighing 109 kgs and worth about Taka one crore nine lakh, was recovered from a village of Birganj thana under Dinajpur district, reports BSS.

Acting on a tip-off, a task force consisting of 3-Rifles Battalion and Thakurgaon district administration recovered the statue from the house of Sanoar Hossain of village Uttar Faridpur (Palashbari) under Birganj thana at dead of night on February 20. Height of the statue is 97 cm. The statue was deposited to Thakurgaon Treasury. Police arrested Sanoar Hossain in this connections.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Local Government Engineering Department Office of the Executive Engineer Chandpur-3600

Memo No LGED/EE/Chand/2000/497

Dated: 17-2-2000

LGED Tender Notice No-47/1999-2000

Tenders in sealed envelopes through BD Form No 2911 are hereby invited from enlisted contractors/contractor establishments (renewed uptodate) of LGED and pre-qualified contractors/contractor firms of all projects of LGED for implementing 1(one) scheme under Rural Development Project-20 under Local Government Engineering Department, Chandpur during 1999-2000 fiscal year. Tenders will be received in the tender boxes kept at the office of the Divisional Commissioner, Chittagong Division, Chittagong, Project Director, Rural Development Project-20, LGED, Headquarters Dhaka Executive Engineer, LGED, Chandpur/Comilla/Bbaria and the offices of Thana Engineers concerned till 3:00 PM on 8-3-2000 and tender schedule can be purchased till 7-3-2000 on all working days during office hours in the offices stated on payment of specific cost in cash (non-refundable). This notice is short. Detailed description can be known by contacting the offices stated on all working days during office hours.

The authority reserves the power to accept any tender or reject all tenders.

DFP-3947-22/2
G-356

Shyma Proshad Adhikari
Executive Engineer.



Pragoti Industries Limited
(An Enterprise of BSEC)
96, Agrabad Commercial Area
Chittagong, Bangladesh

International Tender Notice

Pragoti Industries Limited (An Enterprise of BSEC) 96, Agrabad Commercial Area, Chittagong invites sealed quotations from the bonafide manufacturers/suppliers/distributors on C&F(C) Chittagong/Benapole basis under cash/untied loan/grant/SEM etc. for supply of the following:

Sl No	Tender No & date	Description	Cost of documents	Opening date and time	Place of opening	Earnest money
1.	PIL/PUR-TC/2000/166 Dt 14-2-2000	100 (one hundred) unit Truck Chassis of around 12000 KG GVW in CKD condition	Tk 2,000/- (two thousand) per set (non-refundable)	04-04-2000 at 11-45 AM	1) Pragoti Industries Ltd, 96, Agrabad Comm. Area, Chittagong 2) Sr General Manager (Purchase) Bangladesh Steel & Engg Corporation, BSEC Bhahan, 102, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue Dhaka-1215	1% on quoted value
2.	PIL/PUR-JP/2000/167 Dt 14-2-2000	100 (one hundred) unit Hard Top 4 WD Petrol Jeep, Capacity: 1800-2000 cc in CKD condition	Tk 1,000/- (one thousand) per set (non-refundable)	-do-	-do-	-do-
3.	PIL/PUR-VMP/2000/168 Dt 14-2-2000	20 (twenty) Nos of each Panel Van, Microbus & double cabin Pick-up in CBU condition	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-

For SI No 1 & 2: PIL intends to execute long term agreement with the successful bidders.

For SI No 3: Interested local bidders may also quote in local currency on free delivery at Barabkund, Factory Site, Ctg. Tender will be received up to 11-30 AM on the above date & place & opened at 11-45 AM in presence of bidders, if any. No tender documents will be sold on the date of opening. Tender documents may be obtained from Cash Section, Pragoti Industries Limited, 96, Agrabad Commercial Area, Ctg, 151/152, Tejgaon I/A, Dhaka & Bangladesh Steel & Engineering Corporation, BSEC Bhahan, 102, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215.

Under any unavoidable circumstances, if tender cannot be received & opened on the scheduled date, the same will be received & opened on the next working day at the same venue & time for which no further notice will be issued.

No-BSEC/PRD/228
dt-17/2/2000
DFP-3949 22/2

G-348