

Indian clothes' invasion of Rajshahi

From Abdul Wadood

RAJSHAHI, Sept 12: Sale of country made clothes is decreasing day by day in the markets of Rajshahi in the wake of aggression of foreign goods, local cloth market sources said.

Low quality and higher price of the country-made clothes, smuggling of Indian clothes, problem of carrying clothes from Dhaka and elsewhere in the country and cheating of the wholesalers are the main reasons behind the alarming fall of business of the country-made clothes, sources identified.

When contacted, cloth merchants of Shahab Bazar told this correspondent that quality of most of the common items of clothes made by local factories and weavers was low.

"Especially colour of our clothes is a big problem," said the salesman of Alam cloth stores at Shahab Bazar in the city selling exclusively lady's clothes.

"Colour of the country-made clothes is very much raw that is washed away during the first washing making the cloth discoloured and fade within a few days, he said. Printing, designs are also not much attractive, he said adding that price of the country-made clothes was higher in respect of quality of the clothes. Though the country-made clothes

are comparatively long lasting, the customers are not willing to buy these only for higher price and in fear of discolouration," he said.

On the contrary, Indian clothes, mainly coming through smuggling, are very much attractive in colour and design though do not last long. "Most customers usually choose showy clothes on confirmation that the clothes will not be discoloured soon. We cannot assure the customers of colour in case of Bangladeshi clothes," said Nurul Islam, owner of Islam Cloth Stores at Shohel Bazar.

A huge amount of Indian clothes and readymade garments are being smuggled for many years. But this is showing alarming threats to business of the country-made clothes now-a-days, the cloth merchants said.

"Each and every kind of Indian clothes are now available in Rajshahi and are openly sold in the shops," said an office bearer of Rajshahi Cloth Merchants Association (RCMA) on condition of anonymity. He informed that there were some traders whose main business was to smuggle Indian clothes and sell those to the retail traders.

When contacted, RCMA general secretary Saidur

Rahman Chand said, avoiding the question of smuggling, "customers wish to buy goods of better quality at a considerably lower price and the businessmen want to keep and sell those goods which have good demands to ensure more profits."

Another office bearer of RCMA, who is not willing to be identified said that they were dead against smuggling of clothes. "But keeping the borders almost open, one should not raid the markets," he said and added that both the government and the producers should have arrangements for better quality and lower price of their products to check smuggling of clothes from India.

Farhana Rahman, wife of a government official, who was buying an Indian silk saree, said that they were undone. "Yes, it is a question of moral obligation, but what can we do when our income is much less?" She bought on Indian silk saree at Taka 700. "She, a Bangladeshi saree of the same quality will cost at least Taka 12000, ask the salesman," she said. The salesman nodded affirmatively.

RCMA general secretary Saidur Rahman Chand said that deterioration of law and order, toll collection by the terrorists transport workers and police,

harta and many other hindrances had made transportation of clothes from Dhaka, Chittagong, Narayanganj, Pabna, Kumerkhali and elsewhere in the country troublesome. "These problems cost in terms of money, time and sufferings that ultimately raise the price of cloth unnecessarily", he said.

Some cloth-merchants also alleged that the wholesalers seldom gave them actual information about the quality of the clothes. "So what we say to the customers often goes false. Then we are losing confidence of the customers," they said adding "that is why the customers do not trust us. Even when we advocate for genuine good quality products, it becomes very hard to make the customers trust."

The cloth merchants suggested extensive and drastic actions to check smuggling at first along the borders and then in the markets. At the same time the government and the producers should take steps to improve quality of the products and lower the price as low as possible, they said.

"Why should we not keep and sell country-made clothes if these have demands, when we want to make profits?", they asked.

News snaps

They live with erosion

From Akhteruzzaman Bablu



Victory of human spirit: Erosion is part of life of the rural people in most villages situated on the River Jamuna in Sirajganj district. They face the calamity with fortitude and courage. So, some homeless people of Matiarpur, Shimla and Vatripara are making good use of erosion. They are enjoying themselves singing, dancing and playing musical records on board a boat along the mighty river when their homesteads have already gone under water. This is victory of the human spirit! --Star photo

SIRAJGANJ, Sept 12: Unabated erosion by the mighty River Jamuna is a regular phenomenon here. The river has already devoured homesteads and lands of lakhs of people in this region. Such destruction has already rendered scores of people homeless and pauper. Erosion is their part of life. People in the area have learnt to live with erosion. They face the calamity regularly with fortitude and courage.

Even many of the erosion victims make good use of such situation. Usually they have no recreational facilities, no facility for games and sports. Sometimes they enjoy themselves dancing on boats and playing musical records through mikes in face of erosion. Sometimes such scenes are visible in the villages of Matiarpur, Shimla, Vatripara and other shoal areas. They have taken such calamity easily.

Nayan's musical soiree

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, Sept 12: A solo folk musical soiree of promising folk artiste Nayan has been arranged at 6 pm on Friday (September 15) at Jasmuddin Hall in Faridpur town.

Poet Asad Chowdhury will inaugurate the function. It is worth mentioning, this will be the second solo folk musical soiree of Nayan. His first such programme was held on December 4 last year at the Public Library Auditorium in Dhaka.

Couple commits suicide

SATKHIRA, Sept 12: One couple allegedly committed suicide at Gayakhali village under Assasuni upazila here recently, reports BSS.

Police sources said, on Dilip Kumar Sarder, 25, and his wife Shumitra Sarder, 20, committed suicide by taking poison at night in their Gayakhali residence. The couple is reported to have taken this tragic decision as they allegedly fail to repay a loan money. Two separate cases were filed with Assasuni police. The bodies were sent to Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy. Nomination papers submitted.

Donation to diabetic assoc

RANGAMATI, Sept 12: Rangamati Hill District Council (RHDC) has donated Taka one lakh to Rangamati Diabetic Association to get it registered with Bangladesh Institute of Research on Diabetic, Endocrine and Metabolism (BIRDEM), reports BSS.

Chairman of RHDC, Ching Kew Roaza handed over the cheque for Taka one lakh to Secretary of Rangamati Diabetic Association, Mahbubur Rahman on September 6 at his office. Meanwhile, RHDC has undertaken a project to construct the permanent building of Rangamati Diabetic Society (Association) at a cost of over Taka 20 lakh at the compound of local Civil Surgeon's office. RHDC also provided necessary supports including medical equipment and accessories to Rangamati Diabetic Society.

240 criminals absconding

KHULNA, Sept 12: Some 240 convicted criminals, who have long been absconding, indulged in serious crimes, contributing to the deteriorating law and order of the district, reports UNB.

Upazila-wise breakup of the fugitives Sadar-83, Khalishpur-93, Daulatpur-22, Sonadanga-36 and Khan Jahan Ali-6.

Many cases pending

NETROKONA, Sept 12: A good number of cases under Women and Child Repression Act have been lying pending here due mainly to the absence of investigation officers, medical officers and witnesses, reports UNB.

A Public Prosecutor told that want to proper coordination among the three separate departments of law, police and health the number of pending cases is increasing day by day. Despite court orders, the concerned police investigation officers and medical officers often remain absent during the day hearing date, he alleged. Admitting the fact, an official of police said they are overburdened with many other businesses due to shortage of staff. Besides, many police officials were transferred just after completion of their investigation hampering the trial procedure, he added. Local elite said women and child repression incidents are increasing day by day due to the inordinate delay in the dispensation of justice.

578 schemes implemented

KISHOREGANJ, Sept 12: A total of 578 schemes were implemented in 13 upazilas here under Rural Infrastructure Renovation Programme spending 6,092 metric tons of wheat during the last fiscal year, reports UNB.

Of the total, 2,769 mts were utilised under general rural infrastructure renovation sector and 3,323 mts under special renovation sector. The district Relief and Rehabilitation Department implemented the schemes. The works included construction and reconstruction of rural roads, educational institutions, mosques, madrasahs, temples, bazaars and earth filling. Upazila-wise breakup of the project is Sadar-117, Hossainpur-34, Kulichar-51, Taral-36, Austagram-42, Bajitpur-17, Bhairab-26, Itna-43, Karimganj-53, Kotiadi-58, Nikli-13, Pakundia-45 and Mikhthamoin-43.

Unrealised land tax

SHERPUR, Sept 12: Land development tax amounting to Tk 36.75 lakh remained outstanding here in last fiscal year, reports UNB.

District Revenue Department sources said inter-departmental problems led a good amount of tax pending in five upazilas of which highest Tk 16.25 lakh remained outstanding in different government and non-government offices. The department realised Tk 17.06 lakh from the private land ownership sector and only Tk 2.26 lakh from commercial sector against the total due of Tk 37.55 lakh and Tk 18.05 lakh respectively. Upazila-wise outstanding taxes are as follows Sadar-Tk 11.58 lakh, Nakla-Tk 1.27 lakh, Nallitabari-Tk 7.12 crore, Jhinaigati-Tk 4.19 lakh and Sreebordi-Tk 7.95 lakh.

Training course

NARSINGDI, Sept 12: A month long training course on fish cultivation organised by Youth Training and self-employment project began here at Jinardes Sun Flower Kinder Garden of Polish Upazila from September 3, reports BSS.

Presided over by Khusrul Alam Babul, Director of Pally Unnayan Sangstha, Polish, the training course was inaugurated by Awanur Rahman, Deputy Director, Jubo Unnayan Narsingdi as the chief guest. Among others, Abdul Kashem, Assistant Director, Jubo Unnayan, Narsingdi, Dil Afroj Begum trainer of pisciculture Jubo Unnayan Directorate, Prof Abul Based and Roman Chowdhury were present there. The chief guest said the Department of Youth Development undertook some training programmes including poultry, dairy, pisciculture, tailoring and computer for youth to develop their skill for facing unemployment problem and to make them self-employed.

Integrated water, sanitation programme

From Our Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, Sept 12: NGO Forum, a non-governmental organisation (NGO) has been working in five districts of Mymensingh region and Tangail district under Integrated Water and Sanitation Programme (IWSP) through partnership with other NGOs since 1988.

The forum is working in 312 unions in 58 upazilas of six districts.

A total of 2,592 hand tube-wells, 50 Tara pumps, 200 deep set pumps, had been distributed free of cost so far by the NGO Forum.

A woman caretaker for every tube-well has been appointed to look after the tube-wells. But one male and female have been appointed for every Tara pump and deep tube-well.

The NGO Forum has established 15 iron removing plants in Kalihati of Tangail and Karinganj upazila in Kishoreganj district, sources informed adding a total of 30 ring wells have been set up in the hilly areas of Jhenaidah and Nalitabari upazilas of Sherpur district to make easy pure drinking water for rural people.

Moreover, 20 Rain Water Har-

vesting Tanks (RWHTs) to contain arsenic free water have been sunk in the hilly areas of Sherpur where 95 per cent ring wells established by government went out of order.

Of the 20 RWHTs, 10 contain 2,000 litres of water each and 10 others contain 3,200 litres each.

The forum has also set up 80 bucket treatment units for pure drinking water in Tangail and Kishoreganj district.

The NGO Forum has given loan of 23 lakh taka to 46 NGOs on establishment of village sanitation centre to serve latrines to the rural people at a reasonable price.

The NGO Forum is also working in 30 schools of six districts to create awareness among the students so that they can teach their family members and others about the use of latrine and pure drinking water. Some 50,000 tube-wells have been supplied to the people.

Punardhan Madhu, Regional Officer, NGO Forum of Mymensingh region, quoting a survey report told The Daily Star that at villages Paragoan, Palgaon, Kamait and Berunia in Bhaluka, Sakua and Babupur in

Trishal upazila and at village Chyapara in Phulpur of Mymensingh district 100 percent people use sanitary latrine.

He also informed this correspondent that out of 300 families, 55 families use sanitary latrines at villages Benipur and Bishneepur in Muktagacha upazila, 35 families out of 350 use sanitary latrine at village Noga in Phulpur upazila, 77 families use sanitary latrine out of 296 at village Bagan in Trishal upazila while only 12 families have sanitary facilities among 328 families at village Dhakuria in Bhaluka upazila in Mymensingh. The survey report reveals a very poor condition of latrine facilities in rural areas.

Training has also been given to 38 trainers on construction of sanitary latrine materials, added the Regional Officer.

He also said that people of rural areas of the region are getting habituated in using sanitary latrines and in consuming pure water from tube-wells and other sources installed by NGO Forum.

"Our activities on sanitary latrine facilities and easy supply of pure drinking water will continue" the official said.



Innumerable cracks and potholes have been developed along the road in front of Mukterpur ferryghat in Munshiganj district. Hundreds of passengers coming from Munshiganj, Tongibari, Baligaon and Louhajong suffer a lot while motor vehicles ply at risk. But who cares? --Star photo

Jute price makes growers unhappy

From Our Correspondent



A jute grower of village Khulumbaria in Jhenaidah district carrying his produce towards Salkupa bazaar, 10 kilometre away from his village, for sale. But will he receive fair price of his produce? Probably no, because most of these unfortunate farmers come back frustrated getting no fair price. Who will ensure their fair price? --Star photo

JHENIDAH, Sept 12: Jute growers in the district are facing trouble with their products as they are compelled to sell the 'golden fibre' below production cost.

According to market sources, jute now sells between Taka 290 and Taka 320 a maund.

AED sources said a total of 6,175 hectares of land were

when plants were growing. Besides, the farmers faced scarcity of water for decomposing jute plants.

Although newly harvested jute has started arriving in markets, the number of purchasers is scanty, forcing the growers to sell their product below production cost.

Abul Hossain, 45, a farmer of village Khulumbaria under Shailakupa upazila said farmers are losing interest in jute cultivation due to low price. Many are opting for other crops, he added.

However, jute stalk is in demand instead of fibre, he said. The jute stick is used for setting up betel leaf farms. It is also used as firewood.

Our Faridpur correspondent adds: Some varieties of jute have started arriving in the local markets, but the price is much below the rate fixed by the government. Tosa variety is selling between Tk 320 and Tk 340 a maund.

However, traders cannot afford to purchase jute due to lack of fund. Different jute mills owe a huge amount of money to jute traders.

Md Siddique, a farmer of village Haji Dangi under Char Bhadrans upazila, said at least Tk 400 is required to produce a maund of jute fibre, but we are selling our products below production cost.

According to farmers, sufficient rainfall was not available



Training underway on construction of sanitary latrines at a village in Mymensingh district. --Star photo

C'nawabganj flooded

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Sept 12: A vast area of Chapainawabganj including low-lying areas in Godagari upazila were inundated due to sudden rise of the rivers Mohananda and Padma.

Thousands of people were marooned. On rush of water from the upstreams following last week's heavy incessant rains caused the flood, Water Development Board (WDB) sources said.

Flood waters entered 38 unions and Chapainawabganj and Shibganj municipal areas. Chapainawabganj-Rajshahi, Chapainawabganj-Sona Masjid and Chapainawabganj-Rohanpur highways were inundated with flood waters at places threatening suspension of communications at any time.

A boy, 8, son of one Mohammad Ali of Rajarampur in Chapainawabganj municipal area drowned yesterday. Most areas of the municipality went under water.

The Padma and the Mohananda were flowing 120 cm and 56 cm above the danger levels respectively in Chapainawabganj this morning, WDB sources said.

In Rajshahi, some areas of Godagari upazila and Rajshahi City Corporation went under flood waters.

Severely affected areas are Madarpur of Godagari municipality, Ujanpara and Vatupara of Matikata union, Premtoli, Faradpur and Bidipur.

Meanwhile, erosions have taken serious turn in Godagari, Rajshahi city, Poba and Charghat upazilas by the river Padma. A vast tract of lands have already been devoured by the river last week.

The Charlands of Godagari, Paba and Charghat were also inundated.

Poverty alleviation scheme marches on

KISHOREGANJ, Sept 12: Rural Poverty Eradication Foundation (RPEF) has been implementing massive micro credit programmes with a view to achieving the socio-economic development of the people here, reports UNB.

RPEF, a jointly financed organisation of CIDA and Bangladesh government, so far, disbursed Tk 48.05 crore loan among the group members in all

the 13 upazilas through its 1,102 associations.

During the period it realised Tk 47.30 crore outstanding loans. The loan recovery rate is 96 per cent, said official sources.

RPEF mainly provides financial assistance to the poor women aiming to make them self-reliant. At present the foundation has some 29,371 members of which 80 per cent represent women, officials informed.

RAKUB's programme

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Sept 12: Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank (RAKUB) will disburse Taka 420 crore as loan during the current financial year, official sources here said.

RAKUB has identified seven thrust sectors for disbursing loans. The largest amount, Taka 250 crore, will be disbursed for crop cultivation. The loan will also be disbursed through 301 branches of the bank for agro-based industry, poverty alleviation, and development of livestock and purchase of agricultural tool.

The bank has fixed the target to disburse 60 per cent of the total amount of loan in the first half of the fiscal year.

RAKUB has also fixed a target to realise Taka 420 crore outstanding loans. It will also open 30 new branches.

During the last fiscal, RAKUB disbursed Taka 366.13 crore loan against the target of Taka 350 crore and realised Taka 388.

Netrakona Press Club AGM

From Our Correspondent

NETRAKONA, Sept 12: Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Netrakona Press Club was held at the club here recently.

Deputy Commissioner of Netrakona M Koddus Khan, who is ex officio president of the club, presided over the meeting. It was also addressed by Dr M A Hamid, Advocate K M Eazul Kader, Prof Ruhul Amin and Hider Jahon Chowdhury.

Earlier, the annual report of the club was presented.



বাংলাদেশ উন্মুক্ত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
Bangladesh Open University

বোর্ড বাজার, গাজীপুর-১৭০৫
বাবু/প্রশ্ন-নি-৮২৬/৯৭/২৫৪৩ তারিখ ১২-০৯-২০০০

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলাদেশ উন্মুক্ত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ে নিম্নে বর্ণিত স্কুলে শূন্যপদে বিধি মোতাবেক প্রদেয় অন্যান্য ভাতাদিসহ নিম্নে উল্লিখিত বেতন স্কেলে নিয়োগের নিমিত্তে বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত নাগরিকদের নিকট হইতে নিম্নোক্ত শর্তাধীনে নির্ধারিত ফরমে দরখাস্ত আবেদন করা যাইতেছে।

স্কুল অব এডুকেশন

পদের নাম

১। সহকারী অধ্যাপক (স্থায়ী পদ)

৭২০০-২৬০-১০,৮৪০/-

বর্ণিত পদে নিয়োগের জন্য নির্ধারিত শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা, অভিজ্ঞতা ও গবেষণা প্রকাশনার শর্তাবলী এবং আবেদন করার নিয়মাবলীসহ আবেদনপত্রের ফরম সরাসরি অথবা ১০ (দশ) টাকা মূল্যের ডাক টিকেটসহ নিজ ঠিকানা সম্বলিত ৪.৫"৩১০" খাম প্রেরণ পূর্বক রেজিস্ট্রার-এর দপ্তর হইতে সংগ্রহ করা যাইবে। আবেদনকারীকে জনতা ব্যাংকের যে কোন শাখা হইতে জনতা ব্যাংক, বাউবি, ক্যাম্পাস শাখা, গাজীপুর-এর বরাবরে বাংলাদেশ উন্মুক্ত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের অনুকূলে ইস্যুকৃত ২০০/- (দুইশত) টাকা মূল্যের ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার (অফেরতযোগ্য) আবেদনপত্রের সহিত গাথিয়া দিতে হইবে। পোস্টাল অর্ডার গ্রহণযোগ্য হইবে না।

রেজিস্ট্রার-এর বরাবরে আবেদনপত্র ডাকযোগে পৌছানোর শেষ তারিখ ০৩-১০-২০০০। অসম্পূর্ণ এবং উক্ত তারিখের পর প্রাপ্ত আবেদনপত্র সরাসরি বাতিল বলিয়া গণ্য হইবে। কর্মরত প্রার্থীদের যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে আবেদনপত্র প্রেরণ করিতে হইবে।

বামের উপর প্রার্থিত পদ, বিষয় ও স্কুলের নাম উল্লেখ করিতে হইবে।

রেজিস্ট্রার

বাংলাদেশ উন্মুক্ত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

জিডি-৮৪৬

বোর্ড বাজার, গাজীপুর-১৭০৫