

National

A bazaar by the women, for the women

Form Akhteruzzaman Bablu

SIRAJGANJ, Sept 27: There is a unique bazaar in Sirajganj called Bou-bazaar. "Bou" means wife. So "Bou Bazaar" means "Wife Market". But one must not make a mistake that wives are sold or bought here, rather it is literally a market where both the sellers and buyers are women, mostly housewives.

The market sits everyday in the early morning at Hossainpur and Diardhangora. It is about one and half kilometers away from Borobazaar, the main and the biggest market in the district town. In spite of that Bou-bazaar is a busy and popular market. It is becoming popular day by day, said Khadija Begum who sells vegetables in the market since its inception.

The market started about two years back in a very unplanned manner. Some distressed women of Diardhangora and Hossainpur used to sell vegetables in baskets on their heads in the neighbourhood. Peak time of our business is 8am to 12pm, said Rokeya Khatun adding that they got very tired because of walking and carrying loads of vegetables. "Sometime we take rest here on the road near the tube well, drink water, gossip and then leave the place," she said. Some time people buy vegetable from them during their rest time.

More than 80 vendors sit in the bazaar at about 6am every day and sell their goods up to 12 noon. At the beginning it was totally a vegetable market. All kinds of fresh seasonal vegetable are still available in abundance here. But recently fish, meat, rice, wheat, flour, lentils and others items are also available in the market. "We buy goods from the whole sale market of Borobazaar," said Khadija Begum. The sellers of the Bou-bazaar come from low-income families. Their husbands, grownup sons and brothers are mainly rickshaw-pullers and day labourers.

Both the sellers and buyers of Bou-bazaar are the residents of Sayagobindo, Diardhangora, Hossainpur, Dhanbhandi and Masampur. But nowadays many other people also come to the market from the nearby areas. A very few males are also seen in the market in the recent days. "We are yet to face any embarrassing situation because of the presence of males," Nabida Parvin said adding, they didn't have to pay any kind of tax or toll till today. Wife of a college teacher residing at Thana road area said, "We feel comfortable at the Bou-bazaar. Our husbands are often busy with their job and so they do not get time to go to market. And in the usual markets it is very troublesome for women to move and buy goods."

"Bou-bazaar has relieved us from the troubles," said Shanaz Khatun, wife of a physician living at Masampur. "We are often cheated in other markets," said Poppy Sultana of the same area. "But Bou-bazaar is reputed for fair price of merchandises."

However, the market is rapidly growing and becoming overcrowded. Male sellers and buyers are also seen these days, though very less in number. Besides, cleanliness and sanitation are also not maintained. The sellers and buyers in the market told this correspondent that the males should be barred from going to the Bou-bazaar. "It is exclusively by the women and for the women and should be so," said Zanyta Noor Rany. She also suggested for initiating such female market in some other places in the town.

The buyers have also demanded attention of the municipality authorities in maintaining cleanliness and sanitation in the market. Some locals, however, have demanded that the market should have permanent sheds.



It is a bazaar with a difference. All buyers and sellers are women in the Bou-bazaar in Sirajganj town. However, some males are also seen in these days. —Star photo

Scheme to supply arsenic-free water

KISHOREGANJ, Sept 27: Local Department of Public Health and Engineering has taken up a programme to install 606 arsenic-free tubewells in 13 upazilas of the district, reports UNB.

Official sources said 306 deep tubewells and 300 tara pumps will be installed in these arsenic-hit upazilas aiming to supply arsenic-free water to local people. Upazila-wise sanctioned tubewells are Sadar-67, Karinganj-42, Tarail-25, Hossainpur-32, Pakundia-31, Bajitpur-89, Kuliarchar-113, Nikli-11, Kotiadi-21, Bhoirab-115, Mitamoin-19, Itna-21, and Ausagram-20.

Skilled workers from Barisal, Bhola, Protopur, Noakhali and other districts have been engaged to install the tubewells. Another report from Magura

says: With a view to providing arsenic-free drinking water to the town dwellers, four deep tubewells have been installed in municipality area spending Tk 50 lakh.

Official sources said each of the 1000-foot deep tubewell was installed in Magura Park, Parmandual High School Maidan, Bhayna and Nutum Bazar with the financial assistance from the Netherlands government.

With the implementation of the project the dwellers are being supplied with arsenic-free water. BSS from Panchagarh says: Sinking of 144 tubewells and 37 ring wells has been completed by the Directorate of Public Health and Engineering in this district. The project was implemented in order to supply arsenic-free drinking water in the district.

Salkhira DIARY

Man gets 10-yr RI in arms case

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA Sept 27: A man was sentenced to suffer 10 years' rigorous imprisonment in an arms case recently.

The case, in brief, is that police raided house of Abdur Rahman of village Paralia in Debhata upazila and recovered a pipe gun from his house on August 10, 1993. A case was lodged with Debhata police station and after investigation police submitted charge sheet against the accused. The judge after examining records and witnesses pronounced the verdict.

Youth commits suicide

A youth committed suicide at village Alipour under Sadar recently by taking poison.

Police said Farooque Hossain, 20, son of Omar Ali of the village took his life out of frustration arising out of family trouble. He died on the spot.

Child drowns

A two-year old child drowned at village Kulla in Debhata upazila last week.

The victim identified as Sonamoni, 2, daughter of Salaiman Ali of the village drowned after she fell in a pond. She was playing by the side of the pond near her house. Later villagers recovered the body from the pond.

Man strangled

A man was allegedly strangled by a group of unidentified assailants at village Kadpur in Kalaroa upazila on September 17.

The victim was identified as Shahidul Islam, 27, son of Kawsar Ali of village the village. Police said the victim left his house for his father's house at Chanduria in Kalaroa upazila in the evening on September 16 and in the following morning his body was recovered from Shekher Bagan area of the village. Motive of the killing could not be known.

Body recovered

Body of a young man was recovered from a garlic field at village Benla in Assasuni upazila recently.

The victim was identified as Khairul Islam, 22, son of Sahir Uddin of the village. Police sources said the man was murdered because of previous enmity. A case was filed in this connection. None was arrested in this regard.

Hemrom works as a day labourer to continue higher studies

From Kamran Reza Chowdhury

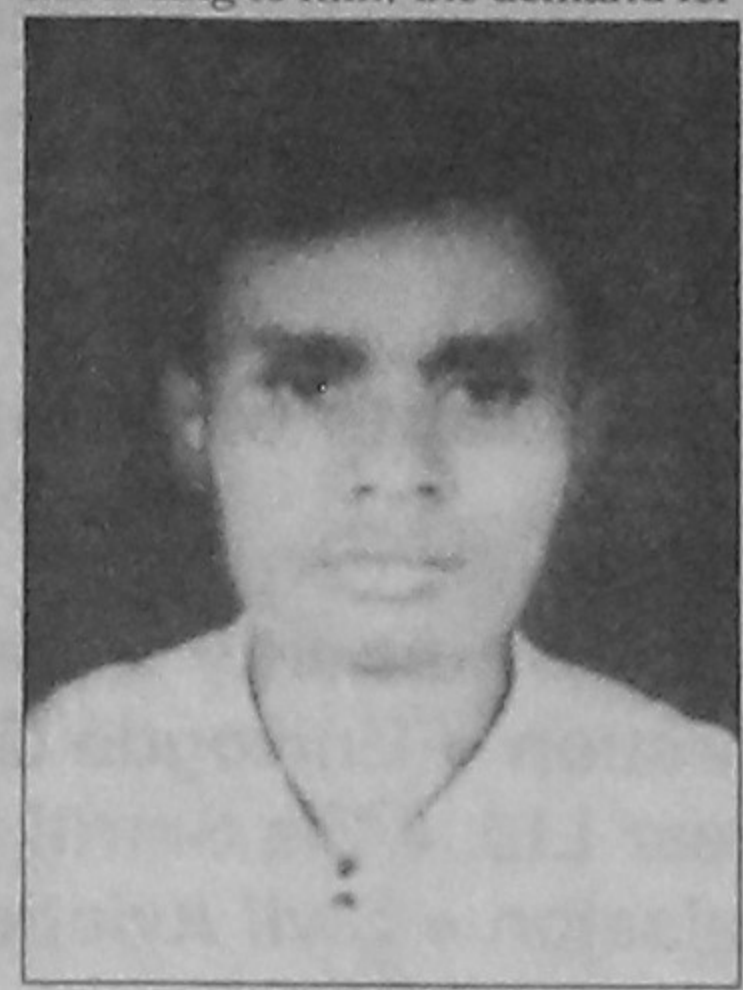
RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY, Sept 27: "Where there is a will, there is a way," the popular proverb once again proves to be true. A student of Anthropology Department of Rajshahi University works as a day labourer to meet the expenses of his study. Santosh Hemrom, hailing from a Mahall family, a sect of Santal community, at Kakonhat upazila in Rajshahi district, was admitted into the department in 1998-99 academic session without any financial help from his parents.

He manages his educational expenses by doing different odd jobs including day labourer. He reached university level only because of his passion for education. He is the eldest of two brothers and two sisters. His parents are illiterate and the family lives on selling handicraft items made of bamboo and cane. They make the items in their house and sell them in the market.

Hemrom was also involved in the business while he was in school living with his parents at their village home. His mother, Kristina Marmur, took him to the village primary school and after completing primary education, he got admitted in the Kakonhat High School from where passed the SSC examination in 1996 in second division.

He got admitted in the Kakonhat College in the same

year. He preferred day labourer work to his parents' job because it was not profitable. Besides, according to him, the demand for



Santosh Hemrom

such items were declining in the market.

He started working as a domestic help in the well-to-do families in his village. During the farming seasons he ploughs the croplands, cuts earth, sows seeds, and clear the weeds in the field. In the off seasons, he works as a supplier with the masons in building construction works.

Hemrom also passed the HSC examination in second division in

1998 in spite of doing the odd jobs. Later he got admitted into Anthropology Department in 1998-99 academic calendar in honours class with the money he saved over the years.

Now, he has been passing through financial hardship as he has to attend the classes regularly to fulfill the university's condition of attending 80 per cent classes.

In the off days and university or government holiday, he goes to his village and works as a day labourer or domestic help and in this way he manages only 50-60 per cent costs of his living. But he cannot ensure three-meals a day regularly owing to financial constraints, he said.

Hemrom lives in a subsidised adwasi mess, made for the indigenous people, at Sagarpura in Rajshahi city as he couldn't obtain any seat in the university dormitory. He desperately needs financial help or a means of income to retain his studentship.

He has applied for scholarship to the university authorities. However, when contacted, Prof AHM Zehadul Karim, Chairman of Anthropology department, said that his quest for education is praiseworthy despite financial hardship. "We have been helping him personally. I will try my best to manage a scholarship for him," he added.

Adulterated cement floods markets

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Sept 27: A section of unscrupulous traders here have been selling adulterated cement, which has flooded local markets.

The dishonest section of traders mix sands and other components with cement, taking toll on construction work, local people said.

According to an investigation, there are at least 15 cement re-packing points in the district headquarters and Kaliganj and Shailakupa upazila headquarters. But the law enforcing agencies are virtually indifferent in this regard.

The dishonest traders collect empty paper-made bags and pack it with spurious cement. Local people said cement of many popular brands can be found spurious here in these days.

Dishonest traders mix low quality cement or extract of cement cake, dust, sand, soil and some colours to produce cement.

In the first week of this month, police recovered forty bags of adulterated cement from Shailakupa upazila headquarters and arrested two persons in this connection. They were identified as Amirul Islam and Khairul of Brahmapur village under the upazila.

Local people have urged the authorities concerned to take action against the illegal trade.

BSS from Chuadanga says: Police arrested four persons recently in the district on charges of mixing sands with cement.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided a warehouse near the Old Telephone Exchange Office and caught the four red handed while they were engaged in mixing sands with cement.

Police also recovered huge quantities of spurious cement and empty bags from the warehouse. A case was filed in this connection.

Farmers experience bumper vegetable production

KURIGRAM, Sept 27: Farmers in the district achieved bumper vegetables this year, reports BSS.

The weather was not at all favourable but the farmers by dint of their hard labour produced a total of 51,250 metric tons of summer vegetables in nine upazilas of the district against the target of 35,000 metric tons.

An official of the Department of Agriculture Extension told the news agency that initially 2,800 hectares were fixed for producing 35,000 metric tons of vegetables this year. But finally the total land area was expanded upto 4,100 hectares that yielded 51,250 metric tons, bringing a beaming smile on faces of sweating farmers.

There was no report of pests attack from any part of the district and the official said this had perhaps helped the farmers produce such a large quantity of vegetables.

The local markets in nine upazilas of the district are now flooded with different kinds of fresh vegetables, which are being sold at prices to the satisfaction of the growers, market sources said.

Crop production in the district has been surpassing the annual target since 1996, the official sources said.

Another report from Narsingdi says: Guava farming has become very popular in Narsingdi district in recent days. People have taken to modern

methods of cultivation, as the item is now a cash crop.

Organised farming of guava in the district began only 3 to 4 years ago. As the item is fetching money, the farming area has been extending. As much as 3 to 5 thousand acres of land are now under guava cultivation in the district.

According to rough estimate, about 80-100 maunds of guava are produced in an acre of land. The market price of a piece of guava according to size and variety varies between Taka 2 and Tk 4.

A survey team recently visited Raipur, Palash and Shibpur upazilas and came to know guava is one of the cash crops of the area.



Two teenagers work at a cucumber garden at village Bela Pingalhati in Jamalpur district. Cucumber cultivation has gained popularity in the district in recent days. The popular vegetable sells between Tk 8 and Tk 10 a kg in local markets. Some 40 acres of land in the village have been brought under the farming this season. —Star photo

Acute water crisis

SHARIATPUR, Sept 27: An acute shortage of drinking water has been prevailing in the town for a long time, affecting normal life of residents, reports BSS.

Shariatpur Municipality, the only authority for supplying drinking water to the taxpayers, can meet the demand of only 25 to 30 per cent of the consumers.

It is learnt that the demand for drinking water per day, in the town is now about 5,00,000 gallons.

The water supply project was completed here in 1992. But there were faulty installations of the pipes, deep tubewells and construction of overhead tanks. Some pipes under the project

went out of order immediately after the installation.

Besides, due to shortage of trained technicians, the condition of these pumps is turning worse day by day. The strength of the pump house has also been reduced due to absence of proper maintenance.

Water Supply Department of Shariatpur Municipality office sources said that fall in the underground water level is the main cause of drinking water crisis.

Another sources said installation of private tubewells in an unplanned way is also a cause for fall in the underground water level.

UNB from Kushtia says: Work on three water treatment plants at a cost of Tk 16.42 crore is yet to be completed in the municipality.

The work on the project implemented by Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) was obstructed due to toll collection by a group of terrorists but with the intervention of police the situation has changed and work on the project has started again.

Executive Engineer of PHED said that after completion of the water treatment plants the quantum of water would increase to 57,000 gallons per day and 99,440 people of the municipality area will get pure and arsenic free water.

News snaps

Teachers sued

KUSHTIA, Sept 27: Five teachers of government primary school and madrasah in Daulatpur upazila have been sued on charge of child repression, reports UNB.

Officials said separate cases were filed against Hamidul Haque, assistant headmaster of Ali Nagar Govt Primary School, Akkas Ali, assistant headmaster of Gacherdar Govt Primary School, Abdul Hannan, assistant teacher of Malipara Govt Primary School, Meherulla, assistant teacher of Rajnagar Govt Primary School and Ali Hossain, assistant teacher of Baraganda Madrasah. Meanwhile, Hamidul Haque, Akkas Ali, Abdul Hannan and Ali Hossain have been suspended, the officials said.

Three unnatural deaths

NILPHAMARI, Sept 27: Three unnatural deaths were reported in the district on Friday, reports UNB.

Police and family sources said Shahida Begum, 28, wife of Jabul Huq of Kolmari village in Jaldhaka upazila allegedly hanged herself to death following a family feud. Police recovered the body of van driver Mokhesur Rahman of village Shimulbari in the same upazila from a paddy field. The body bore several marks of injuries. In yet another incident Rafiqul, 19, of village Dundiabari in the same upazila allegedly committed suicide by taking poison following a quarrel with his father Majibar Rahman.

Lightning kills youth

BARISAL, Sept 27: A young man was killed and 30 others were injured in separate incidents when struck by lightning in the district on Tuesday, reports UNB.

Sources said Shaheen, 25, succumbed to his injuries after he was struck by thunderbolt at Narayanpur village in Uzirpur upazila. In a similar incident 30 people were wounded at a market of Bakshir Char in Babuganj upazila at noon on the same day. Of the injured, condition of Shyamol Majumder, Anwar, Salam, Sunil, Shambhu and Adhir Dilip was stated to be critical.



A meeting to condole the death of journalist Mahbubul Haque Peyara was held at Feni Press Club in Feni recently. —Star photo

Urs

Annual Urs of Garib-e-Newaz Hazrat Khwaja Moinuddin Chisty will be held on October 5 (Rajab 6, Hijri 1420) at Garpara Imam Bara Darbar Sharif in Manikganj district, says a press release.

Elaborate programmes have been chalked out on the occasion. The week-long Urs programme includes fete, milad mahfil, ziarat, kawali and discussion on the life and works of Garib-e-Newaz.

Rat killing drive

RANGPUR, Sept 27: Rat killing drive was inaugurated in AED office premises at Khamarbari Lalbagh here on Saturday, reports UNB.

State Minister for Communications Anisul Haque Chowdhury inaugurated the drive as chief guest. Presided over by Deputy Director of Agriculture office Moklesur Rahman the function was also addressed by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, AED Additional Director, AKM Anwarul Islam, Principal, Agriculture Institute here, Adv Hosne Ara Lutfi. Awards were given among the three rat killers of last year at the function. The recipients are Birendra Nat Modak, Shukla and Makbul Hossain.

Tk 2.44 cr land tax realised

KISHOREGANJ, Sept 27: An amount of Tk 2.44 crore land development tax was realised from the district during 1999-2000 fiscal, reports UNB.

Of the total amount, Tk 2.25 crore were realised from general sector while Tk 12 lakh from different organisations, showing a recovery rate of 90.42 per cent. The highest amount of Tk 14.11 lakh was realised from Katiadi upazila while the lowest Tk 41.70 lakh from Itna upazila. Sources at the DC office said a vigorous drive was launched last fiscal to raise the recovery rate of land development tax.

Meena Day observed

MYMENSINGH, Sept 27: In observance of Meena Day, Bangladesh Shishu Academy, Mymensingh branch, with the financial assistance of UNESCO, organised a day-long programme in the local town hall premises on Monday, reports BSS.

The programme included fair, art and essay competition, debate, and audio-video show. Anwarul Aziz, Director of National Academy for Primary Education (NAPE), inaugurated the day long programme. A discussion was also held at the local town hall in the afternoon.

The discussants emphasised the need for upholding the rights of girl child.

Squad to crack down on lawbreakers

SYLHET, Sept 27: In the wake of deteriorating law and order situation, Kotwali police station has formed a special squad to crack down on muggers and illegal arms-holders, reports UNB.

These days hundi traders and bank clients have become the main targets of the muggers who follow their movement through their informers. Locals alleged that the muggers have long been perpetrating these criminal activities with the patronisation of a section of influential people. Although police occasionally nab muggers or illegal arms-holders, they have to set them free due to pressure from the influential quarters, they alleged. However, Police Super of the district said the law and order situation in the town has improved remarkably after the squad conducted several raids in last few days.

1,820 schemes implemented

SYLHET, Sept 27: Some 1,820 schemes were implemented in 11 upazilas under Food for Works programme during the last three months, reports UNB.

Besides, construction of bridges and culverts have been completed in five upazilas at a cost of Tk 1.44 crore which was sanctioned during the last fiscal year. Official sources said 7,622 tons wheat have been distributed through 4,855 VGF cards for the completion of the Food for Works schemes under the supervision of district Relief and Rehabilitation Department. These schemes included reconstruction of rural infrastructure, development of rural roads and religious organisations, re-excavation of derelict ponds and earth filling. They said the schemes were implemented from April to June this year.

Liquor seized

BANDARBAN, Sept 27: Police seized locally made wine worth Taka 50,000 from Raicha of Bandarban Sadar upazila recently, reports BSS.

Later, police handed over the seized wine to Narcotic Control Department and filed a case. Earlier, in another operation, police also recovered huge amount of locally made wine from same place and arrested 3 person in this connection.

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority

141-143, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000

Extension of Time of Tender

For International Tender of the Expansion, Modernization and Beautification Project of Dhaka River Port Terminal at Sadarghat, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

The documents will now be available for sale up to 3rd December, 2000 instead of 2nd October, 2000.

The tender will be received on or before 4th December, 2000 instead of 3rd October, 2000.

All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged.

Mahbubur Rahman

Chief Engineer

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority

GD-894 141-143, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka

রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় কৃষি অনুষদ ভবনের উপদেষ্টা নিয়োগ

বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-৮২/১

রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় কৃষি অনুষদ ভবন নির্মাণ কাজে প্রতিদ্বন্দ্বী উপদেষ্টা কার্যের নিমিত্ত খেতে বসে।

১. বিদ্যালয় সভাপতির কার্য
২. বিদ্যালয় কমিটি, গঠন করা
৩. বিদ্যালয় পরিদর্শন প্রতিবেদন
৪. ৫টি বার্ষিক প্রতিবেদন ও ১টি মাসিক প্রতিবেদন।

৫. কাজের ১০টি শর্তাবলী

এছাড়াও অন্যান্য প্রয়োজনীয় আনুষঙ্গিক কাজের দায়িত্ব থাকবে। প্রতিদ্বন্দ্বী কর্মীদের আনুষঙ্গিক ১০০০০০ টাকার অর্থ প্রদানের ব্যবস্থা থাকবে।

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প্রধান প্রকৌশলী

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