

National

Massive poverty alleviation programme marches on

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, Oct 13: A massive programme for disbursing poverty alleviation loans of Taka 718.32 crore is underway in 13 districts of Rajshahi and Khulna divisions.

Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) is implementing the programme under its six-year Rural Livelihood Project (RLP), from January, 1999 to December, 2004, in 7,237 villages of all the 82 upazilas of the districts which include Natore, Rajshahi, Naogaon, Chapainawabganj, Pabna and Sirajganj under Rajshahi division and Kushtia, Meherpur, Magura, Jhenidah, Chuadanga, Jessore and Narail under Khulna division.

The project is being carried out under the direct supervision of the Rural Development and Cooperative Division under the Ministry of LGRD and Cooperatives with the financial support of the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

The goal is to alleviate poverty through organising the assetless male and female target group, imparting them trainings and through providing them with required micro-credit for necessary income generating works.

A total of Tk. 361.55 crore has so far been distributed among 56,261 male and 24,081 female members of 9,120 societies in the district. Over Taka 325 crore has also been recovered from them during the same period.

Some 1,40,420 and 36,470 members were given training on Human Resources Development and Skill Development respectively and thus at least 16,40,881 people of 2,98,342 families were benefited directly or indirectly.

During the fiscal year of 1999-2000, a total of Taka 81.31 crore were

disbursed against the target of Taka 79 crore and realised Taka 82.63 crore.

The programme has so far achieved 79.3 per cent success in using of safe drinking water, 22 per cent in using of sanitary latrine, 60.2 per cent in adopting family planning measure, 85.8 per cent in child education, 36 per cent in improving housing and 31 per cent in formation of asset.

The 100 per cent target of these fields is expected to be achieved within the project period by involving the target-group. People in various income-generating works like cow fattening, vegetable, duck and poultry fattening, goat rearing, fish cultivation, nursery, horticulture development, betel leaf cultivation, bee keeping, food processing, repairing irrigation equipment, making choco materials, cane, and bamboo works, paddy husking, mat making, cart making, boat making, hawker, pottery, weaving, carpeting, tailoring, blacksmith, sericulture, rural transport and local necessity based other work.

For the 2000-2001 financial year, upto August 2000, BRDB disbursed Taka 12 crore poverty alleviation loan and recovered Taka 15.98 crore.

Officials say Taka 112 crore has been fixed for disbursement among 1,05,000 members and Taka 115 crore is targeted to be recovered during the current fiscal. Not more than 5,260 new members under 263 societies in 200 more villages of the districts will be added to the existing enrolment and 21,670 and 650 members will be given Skill Development and Human Resources Development training respectively.

Best college in Jhenidah

From Delwar Kabir

JHENIDAH, Oct 13: It is an universal truth that good deeds do not go in vain.

The people of village Bagutia and the surrounding areas proved it again by establishing a college named Jarip Biswas College, about 12-kilometre east of Sajidupur upazila headquarters.

According to local people, local MP Alhaj MA Wahab along with some interested persons established a college with only 243 students on his 3,000 decimals of land in 1994 in memory of the late father of Alhaj Wahab. The teachers collected students from the remote areas which was almost impossible previously.

Now enrolment of the college is 450 students. A total of 34 staffers including 23 teachers have been serving in the college now. Posts of four teachers are lying vacant at present.

Subrata Kumar Mallick, prin-

cipal of the college said in his college 19 subjects are being studied in his college including Computer Science, Secretarial Science, Office Management, Statistics and some other practical subjects.

He also informed that with a view to encouraging poor and meritorious students all text books are supplied free of cost among all the students of science and commerce department through cards which are taken back from them after completion of their examinations.

Showing the three-storyed building of the college the principal said that the building was constructed at a cost of Taka 39 lakh and its extension work was done at a cost of Taka 30 lakh.

Ten class rooms are well-equipped. There are separate common rooms for female and male students. The principal's room, and the office room are modern. There is a self-sufficient

library room. The teachers' common room is very wide and well-ventilated. There are facilities for Nation Wide Dialing (NWD). A radio and card phone facilities are available. Anybody can use the card phone with phone card.

According to the principal, the result of his college is always satisfactory. He disclosed that 44 per cent HSC candidates passed in 1997, 51.66 per cent in 1998, 44.44 per cent in 1999 and 34.44 per cent candidates passed in this year from the college.

Jarip Biswas College was declared as the best college in Jhenidah district in 1998 and in the same year principal Subrata Kumar Mallick was recognised as the best principal in the district.

MA Wahab MP, founder of the college said that previously students of his area were deprived of higher education facilities. Bad communication of

roads and financial hardship compelled the poor students to stop their education. Considering the crisis he and his elder brother came forward to establish the college.

Wahab also informed that a pucca road was constructed up to his college and another six kilometres road would be developed to ensure smooth road communication for the students as well as the local people.

According to him, now the college has a total of 600 decimals of land. He highly spoke of the teachers of this college.

Wahab who is also the chairman of the managing committee also disclosed that no admission or tuition fee is taken from the students. Poor and meritorious students are being provided with stipend facilities he further disclosed.

'Save Faridpur from clutch of Padma'

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, Oct 13: Faridpur district town having a long tradition of 200 years has been threatened by the continued erosion of the mighty Padma for the last five years.

But this year the erosion of the Padma has taken such a serious turn that it engulfed 4 kilometres during this monsoon.

The intensity of its erosion has aggravated seriously with the recession of water level. More and more lands are being devoured every day. The Padma is approaching fast with all her rapacities to devour the town which is only two kilometres away from the mighty river flowing with all her ferocities striking horror in the minds of the people.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Md Atiqul Islam Chowdhury in a

recently held meeting on law and order situation at his conference room expressed his grave concern over the style of erosion towards the town and asserted that it is the high time that the erosion of the Padma should be arrested and her course should be diverted for the safety of the town.

The DC also informed the meeting that he had already communicated messages graphically presenting the state of affairs created by the Padma erosion to the concerned authorities including the Prime Minister.

The town dwellers strongly feel that the government should take measures on priority basis to protect the historic town of Faridpur from the clutches of the infuriated Padma.

18 more vocational centres

FARIDPUR, Oct 13: In a move to expand vocational training in the country, the government has taken up a programme to set up 18 more vocational training centres, including six for women, reports UNB.

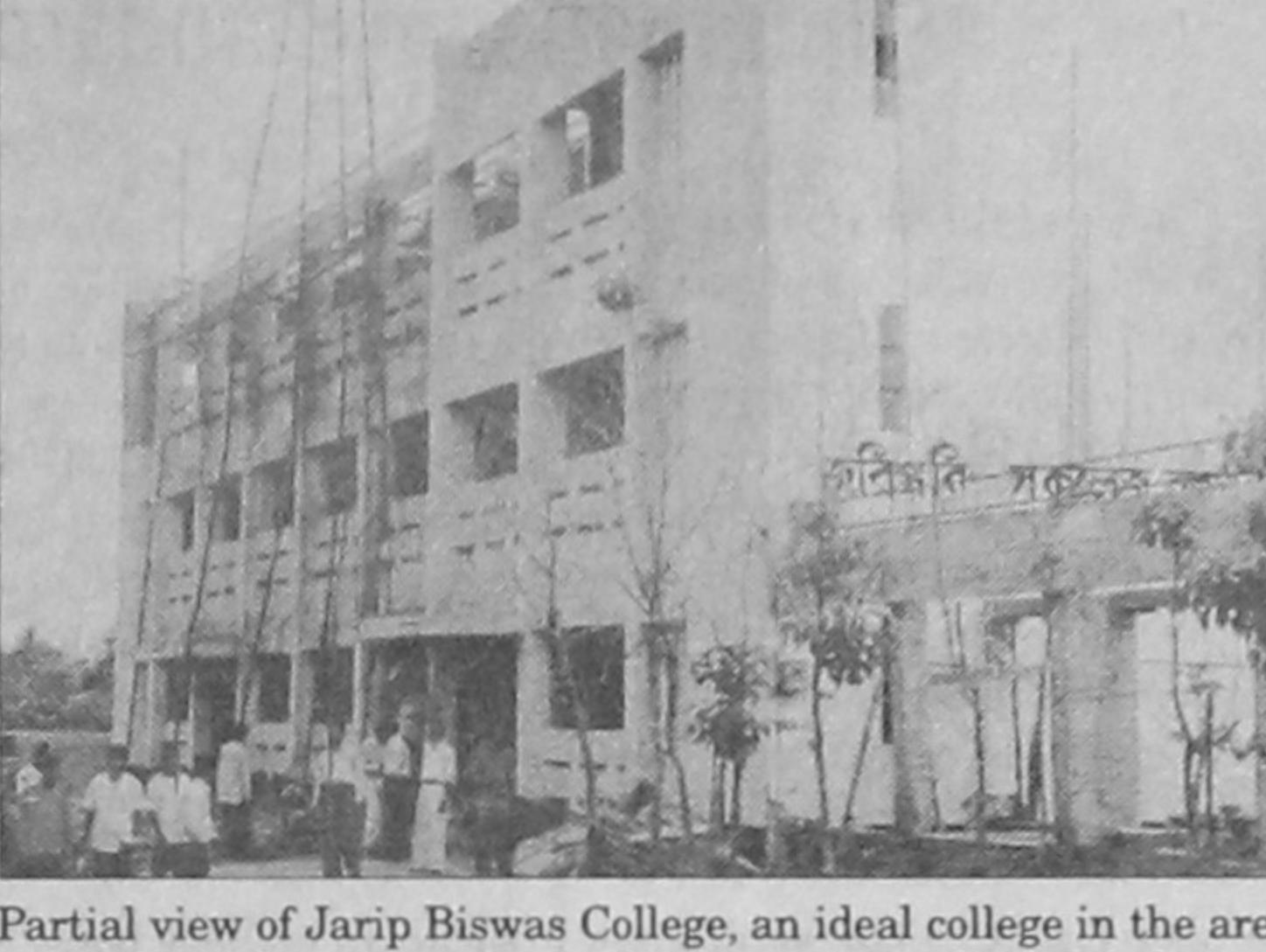
Labour and Employment Minister MA Mannan disclosed this while addressing a certificate distribution ceremony at local vocational training centre recently.

The minister asked the students to improve their knowledge of English apart from availing of vocational training.

Chaired by principal of the centre Golam Sultan Alam, the function was addressed, among others, by local MP Kazi Strajul Islam and Awami League leader Khandaker Mosharrif Hossain.

Earlier, the minister went round different sections of the training centre. Faridpur Pourashava Chairman Hasibul Hasan and Director General of Manpower Bureau M Momenu Huq were also present.

The minister also addressed a rally of teachers and students of Govt Almuddin College in Madhukhali upazila.



Partial view of Jarip Biswas College, an ideal college in the area near village Bagutia under Sajidupur upazila in Jhenidah district.

-Star photo

News snaps

Tribal leaders join AL

KHARACHHARI, Oct 13: Noted tribal leader Budhalal Chakma along with over 50 headmen, ex-UP chairmen and other elite here have joined the Awami League, reports UNB.

CHT Affairs Minister Kalparanjan Chakma welcomed the new comers presenting the bouquets at the District Council Rest House recently. District Council Chairman Jatindra Tripura, Advisor of CHT Affairs Ministry Nurunabi Chowdhury, District Council member M Jabeul Alam and district Awami League leaders Nirmalendu Chowdhury, SM Shafi and Golam Mohammad Chowdhury were present.

Sub-stipend introduced

SHERPUR, Oct 13: Government has introduced sub-stipend for primary school students in a bid to check dropout rate in elementary schools, reports UNB.

A total of 51 government and non-government registered primary schools in Sadar, which are out of the Food-for-Education Programme, has been brought under the sub-stipend programme. Under the programme, 40 per cent meritorious and distressed students of the primary schools with having at least 85 per cent class attendance will receive Tk 240 in two installments a year. MP Ataur Rahman Atique inaugurated the stipend programme at Nabinagar Government School on Oct 5 distributing sub-stipend cards and Tk 60 each among 194 students of Nabinagar Govt Primary School.

Youth arrested

MEHERPUR, Oct 13: A youth was arrested on charge of possessing three Indian pistols from near Jadobpur Bridge in Sadar upazila on Monday, reports UNB.

Local people caught Zakir red-handed as he returned from India along with the firearms and later handed him over to police. A case was filed against Zakir, hailing from Jamshia village in Shibalaya upazila in Manikganj.

Election

BOGRA, Oct 13: Election to Bogra Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) will be held on November 6, reports UNB.

A total of 38 candidates from two panels are likely to contest in the election for 19 posts.

Eight more convicted

BOGRA, Oct 13: Eight people were sentenced to life term rigorous imprisonment by a court here Thursday in a case filed under the Public Security Act (PSA), reports UNB.

The District and Sessions Judge Court also sentenced the accused Badal, Tota, Kohinur, Helal, Selim, Neyagra Panna, Uzzal and Hira to 10 years more RI under another section. According to the prosecution, the accused snatched a truck loaded with bi-cycle spare parts on March 11, 2000. Police later recovered the truck and arrested seven of the accused. A case was then filed under the newly enacted PSA. After examining the records and witnesses, the court announced the verdict. Under Section 5 of the case, the court awarded them life term imprisonment and fined them Tk 20,000 each with a provision to suffer one year more RI in default. The court under Section 4 of the act sentenced them to 10 years in jail apart from fining Tk 10,000 each. They will have to suffer six months more RI in default. Seven of the convicts are now in jail while Hira remained absconding.

Landless rehabilitated

BOGRA, Oct 13: The government has rehabilitated 957 landless families under its ideal village project-1 here during the 1999-2000 fiscal, reports UNB.

Members of Bangladesh Army with the help of local administration constructed different infrastructure facilities for 20 such ideal villages on khas land. The present government has taken up a massive plan to set up 44 ideal villages under Ideal Project-1 and 2 and works on 20 villages have so far been completed while on 12 others are progressing. The villages will also have electricity and road communication facilities apart from schools. Besides, each family would be provided with tubewells and small farms. Upon completion of the ideal village project, some 15,000 people of 2,847 families will be rehabilitated.

Road accidents claim 4

COMILLA, Oct 13: Four people, including a local BNP leader, were killed and 37 others were injured in separate road accidents here on Friday, reports UNB.

Police said Rafiqul Islam and two other unidentified people were killed and 35 were injured when a bus overturned at Shahidnagar in Daudkandi upazila on Dhaka-Chittagong highway. In another incident, Jamil Hossain, district unit general secretary of BNP, died on the spot and two of his accomplices were injured when a bus knocked their motorcycle down at Chashapur on Comilla-Feni road. The injured were hospitalised. Separate cases were filed.

Wheat for development

PIROJPUR, Oct 13: Relief and Rehabilitation Department has allocated 1,298 mts of wheat for developing rural infrastructure under the Food-for-Work Programme in the current fiscal, reports UNB.

Officials said some 247 mts of wheat has been allocated for Sadar, 187 mts for Bhandara, 90 mts for Kaukhali, 299 for Mothbaria, 214 mts for Nazirpur and 261 for Nesarabad upazilas. The project works include reconstruction of embankment and renovation and earth filling of religious institutions. Works on the project will begin soon and are expected to be completed by February next.

Four unnatural deaths

GAZIPUR, Oct 13: Four unnatural deaths were reported from different parts of the district during the last week, reports UNB.

Police and hospital sources said Jalaluddin, 17, a poultry farm worker of Gararon village in Sripur upazila, was killed in a lightning. In another incident, Ruman, 22, of village Tumulia in Kaliganj upazila allegedly committed suicide by taking poison as his parents refused to give him money he demanded for going abroad. An 11-year-old boy, Pullock, a student of class V, hanged himself from a ceiling fan at Aribpur in Tongi. The reason behind his suicide could not be known. Another little boy, Russell, was crushed under the wheels of a maxi-cab while crossing the Dhaka-Mymensingh road in Tongi. Separate cases were filed.

Boy killed in Rajshahi

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Oct 13: An eight-year-old boy died as a youth hit him with a sharp weapon at Bamidohi village in Charchhat upazila last week.

Police said Habibur Rahman Kalu, 18, got angry over a trifling matter and hit Milan, son of Habib Ali. The boy succumbed to his injuries on the way to hospital. Kalu went into hiding soon after the incident.



Korban Ali Khan (Motiar), an agent of The Daily Star at Iswardi upazila in Pabna district won a mobile phone in the recently announced lottery by the sister organisation of Akiz Group of Industries. He won the prize procuring cigarettes of the Navy company. Masudul Huq, territory officer of the company distributed the prize at the Ishawardi Gokulnagar area office on Monday.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board
Office of the Director Procurement, Telephone Exchange Building
Gulshan, Dhaka 1212

No. D/P-F-10/IT/99-2000/84

Sub: Time Extension of International Re-Tender No. D/P-F-10/IT/99-2000/26 Dated 23/08/2000 & Amendment No. D/P-F-10/IT/99-2000/29 Dated 27-08-2000 for Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Digital Switching and related equipment etc. for 50,000 Line Digital Telephone under 200KL DTI Project on Turn-Key Basis.

Due to unavoidable circumstances the closing and opening date of above mentioned tender has been shifted from 16-10-2000 to 06-11-2000.

All other terms and conditions of the tender will remain unchanged.

Md Mosharraf Hossain
By Director (Foreign Procurement)
BTTB, Dhaka
Phone: 880-2-8827599
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G-1786

Kazi Aref murder: Next hearing

Oct 29

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Oct 13: Date of hearing in murders of five JSD leaders including Kazi Aref Ahmed has been postponed for the sixth time. Next date has been fixed on October 29.

The latest date of hearing was fixed on October 4. Meanwhile, lawyers on behalf of the accused prayed for shifting of date of hearing on the ground of non receipt of the High Court judgement of quashing of accused Bachchu Molla and non availability of statement given under section 164 of a murder case. It is reported that accused of that case-- Jhantu, Elach and Habib gave statement before magistrate under section 164 which is also related to the murders of Kazi Aref and four others.

Out of 25 accused in the case of Kazi Aref murder the three are also involved in the case.

On October 4,