

Coconut husk, shell changed their lots

DELWAR KABIR, Jhenidah

Coconut can play an important role for the economic development in the country. Its husk and shell, which have earned little attention so far, can fetch good dividend, apart from its traditional use. In Hogladanga and Taherpur villages, some 23 kilometres from Jessore district headquarters, a group of people, mainly women, testify to the fact.

They are engaged in cottage industry based on coconut husk and shell, making full use of the neglected by-products. They are making decoration pieces, coil or rope and door mats.

A large number of women in rural Bangladesh, where coconut trees grow quite naturally, could be provided with income generation activities based on the by-products, said Dr Pons Batugal, a senior scientist of International Coconut Genetic Resources Network, while visiting the two villages recently accompanied by Dene Cuthbertson, an IFAD representative.

Products made of the by-products can earn good reputation in international markets as these are environment-friendly, said Batugal, who is from the Philippines. About the future of coconut and coconut by-product-based small industry Pons Batugal said his organisation has been working in Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, Sri Lanka, China, Vietnam, Solomon Island, Tonga, Fiji, and Papua New Guinea for the development of the cash crop.

IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development) representative Dene Cuthbertson said the water of coconut may be used for making quality

jelly, alcohol or other food items. IFAD will continue its support to them who are working for the disadvantaged women.

Banchte Sekha, a Jessore-based NGO, in collaboration with BARI (Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute) organised the training programme for the people of disadvantaged group in the two villages. The disadvantaged group includes cobbler community and Kawa community, who live on hunting in rural areas.

Sanjida Khatun, programme officer of Banchte Sekha, said the programme might change the economical status of the disadvantaged people, especially the women.

Fulmala, Basana, Puspa, Moina, Parul, Bhagwati and Gita Rani, members of Nilpadma Women's Organisation at village Hogladanga and Puspa Rani, Anima of Bely Women's Organisation at village Taherpur said they were absolutely jobless before they received training and started business. They said now they can contribute a handsome amount of money to their families.

Abul Hossain, chief scientific officer of BARI and Nazirul Islam, senior scientific officer of BARI and Bangladesh co-ordinator of Coconut Genetic Resources Network, said only five metric tons of coconut oil is produced in the country against the demand of 30,000 metric tons per year.

According to BARI sources, at least 35 per cent of the total coconut are consumed at green stage for drinking the water, 40 per cent at mature stage, 9 per cent are used for seed purposes and the rest 16 per cent for oil in oil mills. Coconut husk is usually used as fuel in rural areas.



Two women at village Hogladanga under Manirampur upazila in Jessore district make rope using coconut fibre (L). Some women are busy making door mats at village Taherpur under the upazila (R).

Robbers kill one in Feni

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Feni

A man was shot dead and two others were injured when robber opened fire at Char Chandia under Sonagazi upazila in Feni district last week.

According to local people, the dead was identified as Khorsheed Alam, 19, son of Abdur Rab of the village. Two others were identified as Jomshed, 25, and Atarar Musa, 35.

Local people said villagers resisted the robbers when they stormed the house of Delwar Hossain.

Robbers, however, managed to escape.

25 injured as villagers clash in Magura

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

A young man was murdered and at least 25 others were injured last week in a clash between two rival groups of villagers at village Bagharia under Sreepur upazila in Magura district.

The dead was identified as Zakirul, 20.

Police and witnesses said two rival groups one led by Lutfar Rahman and the other by Asimuddin Khan locked in clash over harvesting on a disputed land.

Both the groups used sharp weapons, iron rods and sticks during the clash. The seriously injured were admitted to Health Complex.

Infectious diseases break out in Manikganj

Diarrhoea claims two in Comilla

UNB, Manikganj

Several thousands of people, most of them children, have been suffering from various infectious diseases in different parts of Manikganj district for the last one week.

The civil surgeon office sources said various diseases, including chickenpox and measles, have been spreading in an alarming proportion across the district due to climate change.

In addition, a good number of rural people were attacked by waterborne diseases due to an acute crisis of safe drinking water in the district, sources added.

An acute water crisis has also been prevailing as most of the deep and shallow tubewells became inoperative due to sharp fall in groundwater level.

Meanwhile, different water bodies, including ponds, canals and rivers, in rural areas have been dried up, causing sufferings to the people.

Of the total patients, 60 per cent children have been suffering from measles, chickenpox and diarrhoea, according to sources.

Besides, a number of people have been suffering from dysentery and chickenpox.

Many of them are being compelled to buy medicines from out-

sides due to lack of necessary drugs in hospitals.

Another report from Comilla says: Diarrhoea that broke out in an epidemic form in last week in Burichang upazila of Comilla district claimed two lives of children and affected several hundred others.

One of the deceased was identified as Sharmin, 6, daughter of Amir Hussain at village Madhabpur while another one is an eight-year-old child.

"Extreme heat in daytime and fall in temperature at night and scarcity of pure water are the main causes behind the outbreak of the disease in the upazila," said Residential Medical Officer of Burichang Upazila Health Complex, Jakir Hossain Bhuiyan.

In last one week hospital sources said more than 300 diarrhoea-affected people were admitted while huge numbers of people are taking treatment in their own houses.

Civil Surgeon Mohammad Abdul Kader Mia on Saturday visited the affected areas where 80 per cent of tubewells went out order due to drastic fall in groundwater level.

Aiming at creating awareness and motivating people to drink pure water Upazila Health Complex authority launched a campaign on

Saturday.

To combat the menace, a temporary medical camp has been set up at Peer Jatrapur union. Two medical teams are also working round the clock in the affected areas.



Bangladesh earns a good amount of foreign exchange by exporting dry sea fish from Kuakata in Patuakhali district. A fisherman is seen engaged in processing dry fish at the sea resort.

Hasnat may become first administrator of Barisal Municipal Corporation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Abul Hasanat Abdullah, Chief Whip in Jatiya Sangsad (JS) and general secretary, Awami League, Barisal district committee is expected to be the first administrator of Barisal Municipal Corporation.

The city corporation bill has already been placed in the ongoing parliamentary session.

Sources in opposition in Barisal alleged and termed it as election ploy though Barisal and Sylhet city corporation bills have been approved in the ministerial cabinet meeting earlier. However, it had not been placed in the previous parliamentary sessions. Now it is being placed before the general election which is expected to be held in near future.

Chief Whip and secretary of Barisal district Al. Abul Hasanat Abdullah met some municipal commissioners of Barisal some time during the first week of this month at

Barisal Circuit House. There he heard the existing problems of Barisal Municipality from the commissioners belonging to different political parties including the main opposition BNP.

Chief whip assured them of solving the problems once he gets scope and opportunity to do so. Most of the commissioners present in the meeting requested him to be the first administrator (mayor-in-charge) of Barisal Municipal Corporation. Abul Hasanat Abdullah replied that it depended upon the decision of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

If she (PM) directs me to take up the responsibility of the municipality, I shall have no alternatives but to accept the responsibility, he added.

It is worth mentioning, Abul Hasanat Abdullah was the first elected chairman of Barisal Municipality after the independence of the country.

75 irrigation dams to be set up in 3 hill dists

UNB, Bandarban

In a bid to increase food production, a massive plan has been taken to set up 75 irrigation dams in three hill districts under CHI Integrated Agriculture Development Scheme.

The irrigation dams are being constructed in the districts of Bandarban, Khagrachhari and Rangamati.

Meanwhile, construction work on seven irrigation dams out of the total 75 has already been completed while the work on another 18 dams is progressing fast.

There is also a plan to construct 17 more irrigation dams under the project in the current financial year.

Executive Engineer of the scheme Uch Prusaid the project had been launched in October, 1996 at a cost of Tk 37 crore.

Meanwhile, a total of Tk 23 crore have been spent till June last year, he

said adding some 57 acres of land have been brought under seed production in order to distribute quality seeds among the farmers in three districts on time.

A seed processing centre has been set up in Khagrachhari at a cost of Tk one crore while a plan to install another processing centre in Bandarban is underway involving Tk 50 lakh.

To make the project a success, some 2,392 male and female farmers have been given necessary training in addition to distribution of agri-inputs among them.

Deputy Director of Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) MA Kuddus said there had been a good harvest in the district last year with a surplus of 2,890 mts of foodgrains due to distribution of quality seeds among the farmers and application of modern technology.

NEWS SNAPS

Three commit suicide

UNB, Manikganj

Three persons allegedly committed suicide in separate incidents in Shiblaya upazila of Manikganj district in two days. Police and family sources said Rebeya Khatun, 50, wife of Anwar Ali of village Gottaibari allegedly committed suicide by hanging on Monday following a family feud.

On Sunday a youth identified as Bhura, 18, of village Kamar Bakla took poison following a quarrel with his father. In yet another incident Abul, 20, of village Zemdia killed himself by taking pesticides on the same day. Separate cases were filed with the police.

Young man shot dead

UNB, Noakhali

A young man was shot dead while three others received bullet injuries in an attack by miscreants at village Nauri in Begumganj upazila of Noakhali district Sunday night.

An armed group attacked the house of Shah Alam in an attempt to kill him, but the bullets hit his younger brother Sakir Ahmed, 22, who was sleeping in his bed. After being admitted to Noakhali General Hospital Sakir succumbed to his injuries Monday morning. Earlier, the attackers allegedly led by Mohiuddin and Mosharraf chopped Shah Alam's cousins Monir Hossain and Nurul Huda and their mother Shamsun Nahar at about 10 pm. Then Shah Alam called a doctor from a nearby bazaar for treatment of the injured and informed the local UP chairman about the incident which angered the attackers, locals said.

Nor'wester lashes 2 Gopalganj UZs

UNB, Gopalganj

A severe nor'wester lashed Moksudpur and Kashiani upazilas of Gopalganj district on Monday leaving over 50 people injured. The storm, which lasted about two minutes, caused havoc to standing crops on vast tracts of land in the two upazilas.

Besides many dwellings were razed to the ground and a large number of trees were uprooted by the storm. The loss was estimated at about Tk 50 lakh. The injured were admitted to Moksudpur Upazila Health Complex. Condition of one of the injured identified as Yusuf Sheikh, 38, was stated to be critical. Several hundred homeless people have been passing their days under the sky.

8 BCL activists hurt by JP supporters

UNB, Munshiganj

At least eight BCL activists were injured in an attack by Jatiya Party (JP) supporters in Kanakbar area in Louhajang upazila of Munshiganj district on Monday.

Police and witnesses said the JP workers swooped on the ruling party student front activists over a trivial matter. Four of the injured, identified as Sharmim, 25, Belal, 23, Bidyat, 24, and Jewel, 23, were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital in critical condition.

5 including 4 cops hurt in road mishap

UNB, Gazipur

Four policemen and the driver of their van were injured in a road mishap in Kalkajoir upazila on Nabnagar-Kalkajoir road when they were performing protocol duty of State Minister Advocate Rahmat Ali on Tuesday.

Police said the police-carrying van skidded of the road at Barobari at noon on Tuesday when its driver tried to give side to a bicycle and a rickshaw. Critically injured OC Tozafal Hossain was rushed to Combined Military Hospital in Dhaka. Three other injured were identified as Aynal, Sattar and Mustafiz.

Clashes over water bodies rise

UNB, Sunamganj

Incidents of clashes between the leaseholders and the fishermen over the demarcation of leased out 'Jalmahals' (water bodies) rise alarmingly in Sunamganj.

Local people said 17 people were killed and over 200 injured in clashes between the leaseholders, farmers and fishermen last year. Locals alleged that hired musclemen of the influential people killed the fishermen. They also filed cases against the 'innocent' fishermen. District administration lease out the 'Jalmahals' in the Bengali month of 'Baishakh'. Boundary of the 'Jalmahal' cannot be made during the monsoon as waters submerge the vast cropland also. In this circumstance, the leaseholders capture the entire submerged area as his 'Jalmahal' and prevent the fishermen from fishing, leading to the clashes.

Computer club opens in Panchagarh

UNB, Panchagarh

Aiming at promoting computer literacy among students, a computer club has been set up in this remote northern district recently. Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Rabul Islam opened the club where SP Azgar Ali and Awami League district general secretary Nurul Islam were present among others.

The computer club first initiated in Government MR College on March 15 last year with 40 members. Club president Delwar Hossain said they would impart computer training to poor and meritorious students under six to eight-month course with a token admission fee. "Every day we will impart training for two hours," he said. Organisers said they have a plan to expand the programme in different areas of the district.

Plan to prevent extinction of turtle

UNB, Rangamati

The Hill District Council has planned to undertake a scheme on turtle husbandry in order to prevent its extinction and protect ecological balance.

The Council has recently given directives to the local Fisheries Department to prepare a project concept paper on the proposed scheme to be implemented by its own resources. District Fisheries Officer said they would start the scheme by nurturing turtle fry in ponds on experimental basis. Besides, they are trying to innovate new methods for it. Another source said different NGOs are working in the coastal islands of Cox's Bazar district to increase the production of turtle. They set up many hatcheries of turtle.

Bumper output of wheat achieved

UNB, Dinajpur

A bumper production of wheat has been achieved in Dinajpur district in the current season. Deputy Director, Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) M Taleb Ali Sheikh told that wheat was cultivated on 72,500 hectares of land this season against the target of 70,500 hectares which is more than the previous years.

According to DAE officials, 62,300 hectares of land was brought under wheat cultivation in last season. Wheat production has been increased by 14 per cent than the previous years as farming of the crop has gained popularity among the farmers. Farmers of the district cultivated Shaughat, Akbar, Sonalika and Shatabdi and other high yielding variety of wheat seeds supplied by BADC. Though the farmers achieved bumper production, they are suffering from frustration as per maund of wheat is being sold at Tk 300 in the market which is below cost of production.

Project to repair religious instts

UNB, Rangamati

A project has been taken up to repair and renovate 15 different religious institutions of Rangamati district costing Tk 3 lakh.

Rangamati Council Chairman Ching Kye Roaza handed over cheques of the amount to the representatives of different religious institutions on Wednesday. The projects include Buddha Mandirs in Hazachhari, Dabua Headmanpara, Chitshagram, Hazachhari, Marmapara, Dighalchhan, Punarbashan, Imongshongpara, Nimno Jamskhali Shibli and Longgodu, Uttar Betchhari, Tolbadhahpara and Dhupshaland Jame-e-Mosques in Kaskhali Adarshagram and Islampur. Work on the project will begin soon.

12 uplift projects undertaken

UNB, Comilla

Twelve different development projects have been taken up at Chowara and Barpara unions in sadar upazila of Comilla district.

Local MP Abu Hena Mustafa Kamal inaugurated the projects on March 25, which include carpeting of nine different roads, constructing two school buildings and electrifying a village, Goyalgaon, Lalbagh Dakkhinchpara and Lalbagh-Rajekapur roads will be metalled. The projects also include construction of two academic buildings of Neura MI High School and Rajeshpur Primary School and electrifying the Nirbhoypur village.

Man shot dead

UNB, Bandarban

A man was shot dead and another injured by the terrorists at Kagozikhola bazaar in Naikhongchhari upazila of Bandarban district on Saturday.

Witnesses said Ziaul Haque died on the spot when a gang of armed youths fired at the villagers who chased them watching their suspicious movement in the bazaar. Villagers also set fire to the house where the gang took shelter after being chased. The injured Mustak was admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital. A case was filed against three people in this connection.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Directorate of Health
Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212

Memo No. DH/ME/MA/2000/520

Dated: 27-3-2001

Notice

178 candidates from among the already published merit basis waiting list of 250 (two hundred fifty) are selected in the first phase after automation for admission to 1st year MBBS course in respect of seat vacancy in different govt. medical colleges in Bangladesh during 2000-2001 academic year. They have been given the colleges on the basis of their merit & choice and in respect of seat vacancy. The students (male/female) given the opportunity are instructed to complete the admission formalities by contacting the principal of the college concerned within 15-4-2001. Other terms and conditions of admission notice published with the Directorate Memo No. DH/ME/Admission/MBBS/2000/345, dated: 10-12-2000 will remain unchanged. It may be noted that the detail information regarding automation can be obtained from the respective colleges of the applicant students (male/female).

Prof. (Dr.) Kazi Shahidul Alam

Director
Medical Education & Health
Manpower Development
Directorate of Health
Mohakhali, Dhaka.

Candidates Selected from Waiting List after Automigration

Khulna Medical College							
BM0087	CO0120	CO0360	CO0495	DM1171	DM1281	DM2514	DM2845
DM2866	DM4065	KHO124	KHO131	KHO245	KHO503	KHO673	MM0083
MM0465	MM0477	MM0261	RP0088	SB0146	SB0359	SB0153	SB2173
SS2582	SS2626	SS2646	SS2881	SS3224	SS3410	SS3443	SS3492
SS3639							
Faridpur Medical College							
CO0109	CO0138	DM0251	DM0397	DM0456	DM0953	DM1110	DM1216
DM1742	DM2687	DM2804	DM2908	DM2928	DM2976	DM3031	DM3035
DM3041	DM3120	DM3159	DM3531	DM3623	DM3681	FHO195	KMO535
KHO716	MM0023	MM0129	MM0210	RHO031	SB0083	SB0295	SB0306
SS0343	SS2302	SS2676	SS2899	SS3225			
Bogra Medical College							
BM0250	BM0280	BM0371	BM0372	DJ0144	DM0273	DM0308	DM0808
DM1170	DM1265	DM1371	DM1741	DM2676	DM2826	DM3019	DM3347
DM4064	DM4097	FHO122	MM0040	MM0253	MM0313	MM0419	RM0295
RM0313	RM0457	RM0500	RM0509	RM0551	RM0709	RM0723	RM0730
RP0762	RP0076	RP0158	RP0159	RP0177	RP0300	RP0468	RP0582
RP0584	RP0867	SM0136	SS0053	SS0790	SS2124	SS2765	SS2985
SS3172	SS3295						
Dinajpur Medical College							
BM0183	BM0334	CO0590	CO0124	CO0214	DJ0086	DJ0094	DM0407
DM0484	DM0902	DM1315	DM2649	DM2701	DM2802	DM2832	DM2921
DM3006	DM3844	DM3991	DM4003	FHO131	KHO199	KHO578	KHO593
MM0045	MM0484	MM0942	MM0949	RHO122	RHO154	RHO678	RP0521
SB0039	SM0247	SS0336	SS2084	SS2236	SS2292	SS2652	SS2846
SS3389	SS3518						
Comilla Medical College							
CO0055	CO0123	DM0279	DM0526	DM0560	DM0580	DM0659	DM2825
DM3479	DM3530	DM3533	SB0195	SS2481	SS2544	SS2911	SS3282

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Sl.No.	Course Title	Duration	Pre-requisite
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2	ORACLE 8i with Developer 6	3 days per week Time : 5-00 to 9-15 PM Duration: 6 weeks	Experience of either ACCESS / Foxpro / DBASE.

Applications in plain paper with full particulars stating course title, academic qualifications and experience should reach the DIRECTOR, COMPUTER CENTRE, BUET, DHAKA by 16th April, 2001. Fees for JAVA Programming Language Course is Tk. 8,000/- (Taka eight thousand only) and fees for ORACLE Course is Tk. 10,000/- (Taka ten thousand only) payable by Bank Draft or Pay-Order in the name of "BRTC Computer Centre Fund, BUET" should accompany the application. The fees includes course materials,