

NEWS SNAPS

2.50 lakh saplings of fruit bearing trees planted

BSS, Joypurhat
A total of 2.50 lakh saplings of fruit bearing trees have been planted in five upazilas of Joypurhat under a plantation drive which ended recently.

It was initiated by the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) under the Fruit Tree Plantation Drive-2002, official sources said. According to DAE sources, a target of planting 2,03,130 saplings of different kinds of fruit bearing trees was fixed in all five upazilas during the last rainy season. A total of 2.50 lakh fruit plants have so far been planted in the district of which 1,49,789 saplings of fruit bearing trees were planted upto August 15 last. The saplings included mango, black berry, jack fruit, lemon, guava, coconut, sofeda, lichi, star apple, citron, date, olive, palm, pomegranate and wood apple.

Book Fair in Panchagarh

BSS, Panchagarh
Slate minister for industries professor Md Rezaul Karim has said a man can build a better standard of living by acquiring knowledge through reading books.

The minister said this while inaugurating a three-day long Grantha Mela (Book Fair) on Friday at the local auditorium in Observance of Jatya Grantha Barsha-2002 (National Book Year-2002). The three-day fair included discussion meeting, easy competition and cultural function. The discussion meeting was held at local auditorium with Md Fazul Haq ADC (General) in the chair.

25 development projects completed

BSS, Joypurhat
Zila Parishad of Joypurhat has completed its 25 development projects during the last fiscal.

According to official sources, the projects included 11, which were funded from own resources and 14 more projects were funded by ADB grants. A total of Tk 86,40,317 was spent to complete these projects which included ADB grant of Tk 67,14,997. One bridge, one educational institution, one UP Bhaban, one passengers' waiting structure and carpeting and HBB works of 6.50 kilometre long roads were included in these projects. This year, Joypurhat Zila Parishad has been allocated with only Tk 30,08,000 of ADB grant for the 2002-2003 fiscal.

Jhenidah growers face acute shortage of onion seeds

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

The farmers in Jhenidah have been facing an acute shortage of onion seeds. As a result prices of onion seeds have gone up abnormally.

Despite this phenomenon, a programme has been taken up to cultivate onion on 7,500 hectares of land in this district. At least 73,000 metric tons (MT) of onion is likely to be produced in the current season here, told a source in the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE).

Abbasuddin, 42, of village Paikpara and Amulya Raton Biswas, 48, of village Badalso in Saikupa upazila said there is a severe crisis of onion seeds in the market this season.

In different markets of Jhenidah district per kilogram (kg) of Lal Teer brand of onion seed is being sold between Tk 1100 to 1200 and Tin Pata brand of onion is between sold between Tk 950 and 1050. The price may go up further, the farmers have been suspecting.

The growers informed, last year each kg of onion seed was sold between Tk 200 and 250. To collect onion seeds, the farmers have been moving here and there, they told.

In Saikupa upazila 6,000 hectares of land have been brought under onion farming. When contacted, DAE sources said, about 25 per cent of total production of onion comes from Saikupa upazila.

DAE sources admitted the severe crisis of onion seeds this year.

Some farmers informed, in the previous years they depended on smuggled Indian onion seeds. But the farmers lost their confidence on those seeds due to its less productivity as seen in the previous years.

Regarding shortage of onion seeds, the DAE sources said a good number of seed beds of onion was partially or fully damaged due to severe rainfall last season. As a result the farmers could not preserve sufficient onion seeds for the current season, they further said.

Rabi farming output target fixed at 2,85,136 MT in Gopalganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gopalganj

A total of 96,200 hectares of land has been brought under Rabi crops cultivation programme with a production target of 2,85,136 metric tons (MT) in five upazilas of the district this season.

According to Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) official sources, 63,700 hectares of land have been brought under boro cultivation, where 58,700 hectares of land have been brought under HYV and 5,000 hectares of land under local variety with a production target of 209954 metric tons.

The upazilawise break-up is as follows:
In Gopalganj sadar upazila, 14,000 hectares of land have been brought under boro cultivation with a production target of 46,300 metric tons.

In Maksudpur upazila, 13,000 hectares of land have been brought under boro cultivation with a production target of 42,880 metric tons.

In Kasiani upazila, 9,000 hectares of land have been brought

under boro cultivation with a production target of 29,990 metric tons.

In Kotalipara upazila, 19,500 hectares of land have been brought under boro cultivation with a production target of 64,320 metric tons.

In Tungipara upazila, 8,200 hectares of land have been brought under boro cultivation with a production target of 26,464 metric tons.

A total of 6,500 hectares of land has been brought under wheat cultivation with a production target of 14,625 metric tons.

The upazilawise break-up is as follows: In Gopalganj sadar upazila, 1,000 hectares of land with a production target of 2250 metric tons.

In Maksudpur upazila, 4,000 hectares of land with a production target of 9,000 metric tons.

In Kasiani upazila, 1200 hectares with a production target of 2700 metric tons.

In Kotalipara upazila, 50 hectares with a production target of 112.50 metric tons.

In Tungipara upazila, 250 hectares of land have been brought under wheat cultivation with a production target of 562.50 metric

tons (MT).

A total of 500 hectares of land has been brought under potato cultivation with a production target of 5,750 metric tons.

A total of 350 hectares of land has been brought under sweet potato cultivation with a production target of 3500 metric tons (MT).

Mustard is being cultivated on 10,000 hectares of land in the district and with a production target of 8,000 metric tons.

A total of 2,000 hectares of land has been brought under ground nut cultivation with a production target of 3,000 metric tons.

Maize is being cultivated on 200 hectares of land with a production target of 900 metric tons (MT).

A total of 6,000 hectares of land has been brought under lentil cultivation and with a production target of 4,200 metric tons.

A total of 1000 hectares of land has been brought under gram cultivation with a production target of 700 metric tons.

Highway in Meherpur needs repair

BSS, Meherpur

The 54-kilometre Meherpur-Kushtia highway up to Gopalpur, which is in deplorable condition for want of maintenance, needs immediate repair.

According to transport owners and users, potholes on the road which had developed a few years back, remain as it were making movements of vehicles difficult. All kinds of vehicles, including passenger buses, private cars and jeeps experience severe jolts and can hardly ply at minimum speed on this important highway. Road users of Meherpur and Kushtia districts urged the authorities to take immediate steps to repair the shabby part of the highway.

Contraband worth over Tk 4.60 cr seized

BSS, Satkhira

The 12th battalion of the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) seized various contraband goods worth over Tk 4,60,24,380 from different border areas of Satkhira in nine months from January to September.

The BDR sources said, a total of 80 smugglers were arrested during the period and 2,970 cases filed with different police stations. Of the total, 2,919 cases were unclaimed.

The month-wise break-up of the value of the seized goods is Tk 39,33,552 in January, Tk 46,78,643 in February, Tk 46,04,732 in March, Tk 44,91,040 in April, Tk 47,61,141 in May, Tk 62,18,525 in June, Tk 51,60,736 in July, Tk 67,56,919 in August and Tk 54,19,092 in September.

The seized goods including sugar, salt, saree, onion, garlic, bicycle, spare parts of bicycle, spare parts of wrist watch, cow, stainless steel goods, nylon nets, crockeries, clothes, several kinds of fruits, fertiliser, battery, watch, cosmetics, medicine, injection, toy, fish fry, fish, chicken, egg, spices and phensedyl syrup worth over Tk 3,85,78,632 were smuggled into Bangladesh from India. Keya soap, fish, birth control pill, shallow machine and synthetic fabrics worth over Tk 74,45,748 were being smuggled from Bangladesh to India.



PHOTO: STAR

Russian Ambassador in Bangladesh Nikolai G Shevechenko receives a piece of embroidered cloth made by Manipuri women in the Masimpur area of Sylhet while visiting there recently. Manipuri people have been residing there for a long time.

2 murders in Narail last month No progress in investigation

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narail

Two incidents of killing occurred in Narail in the month of September, but only one person was nabbed in connection with one murder incident while none was arrested in connection with the other incident of killing.

No further progress in investigation of the murder cases was reported. Tahosildar Mujahidul Islam of village Jhakra in Lohagara upazila was killed on September 21.

Police on September 30 arrested one of the alleged killers named Rezaul Islam in this connection.

But on September 14, another person named Gopal Krishna Pal, 42, of Ghosibaria in Kalia upazila was brutally killed in his shirmp farm whose body was kept concealed in water. After a long search, the body was found. No arrest in this connection was reported.

A fish producer named Dukhu Mia, 25, was injured seriously recently by some known miscreants of this region. He was shifted to Narail Sadar Hospital in a critical condition.

It is widely alleged that police help escape the outlawed party activists in the pretext of ruling party or four-party alliance activists.

Besides, at least 50 incidents of armed robbery were committed here in September. The incident of armed robbery is up in Lohagara upazila. But police allegedly remain indifferent to the incidents.

Meanwhile, incidents of torture on housewives by their husbands also rose many times. As a result the victims usually commit suicide. The situation created an alarm in the area.

Because of increase in criminal activities including extortion in the district, the deputy inspector general (DIG) of police, Khulna visited Narail on September 28 who asked police to be more vigilant. He also exchanged views with the local political leaders and local administration during his visit here.

However, no improvement of the situation is in sight.

Access of power Rapid growth of industries in Noakhali villages

BSS, Noakhali

The Rural Electrification Board (REB) through giving increasing number of power connections to customers has been facilitating rapid growth of small and medium industries in rural areas of the district.

Besides, harvest of crops have increased manifold in the district as the farmers are getting added irrigation facilities due to REB services. Income generating activities of the rural people have also increased due to availability of electricity, REB sources told.

According to Noakhali Palli Biddut Samity (PBS) sources, connections have been given in five out of six upazilas of the district so far. Power connections to 2,775 KM-long line, already built in five upazilas, are expected to be given shortly.

In sadar upazila, electric connections have been given to 97 out of 303 villages, in Begumgonj connections have been given to 243 out of 317 villages, in Senbag connections have been given to 77 out of 100 villages, in Chatkhil connections have been given to 94 out of 117 villages, and in Companyganj connections have been given to 17 out of 47 villages.

Massive uplift schemes in 3 greater dists

BSS, Rangpur

A massive rural infrastructure development scheme is being implemented in 105 upazilas of greater Rangpur, Dinajpur and Mymensingh districts.

Under the Rural Development Project-21, the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) has been executing the scheme at a total cost of about Tk 800 crore.

The total fund is being provided by ADB, IFAD and SIDA. Deputy Project Director of RD-21, told that the scheme included construction of 8,100 bridges, culverts, 279 growth centres and 105 union parishad complexes.

About 65 per cent works of the scheme have already been completed and the rest will be finished by June 2005, he said.

Concern over screening of obscene films

UNB, Narail

Screening of obscene films has been going on unabated in the town and different parts of the district for long posing a threat to the life of young generation.

Youths, particularly students of schools and colleges of the town and the upazila headquarters, are getting interested to enjoy the indecent films.

As a result, guardians of the youths have become anxious about their young dependents, as they sometimes commit various anti-social activities.

Meanwhile, a large number of unlicensed video shops have been set up in the town and different upazila headquarters of the district.

Local people have urged the concerned authorities to take legal action against the unlicensed video shop owners.