

# Tea production up

### 57 million kgs produced against 56 million target largely due to favourable weather

IQRAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

The country's tea production was a little better last year compared to recent years largely due to favourable weather in Sylhet, the main tea producing region. Through the rainfall was lesser than in the previous year, its distribution during the prime tea production season was better, contributing to 10 to 12 per cent increase in out, tea officials told The Daily Star. The total production stood at about 57 million kgs against the target of 56 million kgs. It was 52.79 million kgs in 2002

and 56.7 million kgs in 2001 against the targets of 56 million kgs, the officials added. However the export decreased slightly, mainly due to rise in domestic consumption. The production target for the current year is 57.5 million kgs. Director of Bangladesh Tea Research Institute (BTRI) AFM Badrul Alam said the rainfall was about 2000 mm from January to August last year against 2400 mm during the corresponding period in the previous year. But the average distribution was good, which is very important for growth of tea plants.

Though the rainfall was higher in the previous year, budding of tea leaves was obstructed during the prime period due to unfavourable weather caused by uneven distribution, accompanied by inadequate sunshine and inappropriate temperature. Unavoidable behaviour of the weather decreased the production by about 3.2 million kgs against the target in 2002, he said. A number of tea scientists said the 'second flush period', which is from May to August is very important for tea industry. It plays a vital role in the whole of year's production. On the other hand, the scene was

totally different last year. Behaviour of the weather is good yet, they said. In recent years, the highest production was in 1998 and the worst was in 1999 while it was good in 2000. With 160 tea estates, tea is the country's largest foreign exchange earning agro-based industry. Roughly two thirds of this is consumed at home, while the rest is exported, earning around Tk 1500 million a year. The tea sector contributes 0.81 per cent of the GDP and about 0.15 million people are employed in this industry, which is about 3.3 per cent of the country's total industrial employment.

## Man fights tiger, survives

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A fisherman fought a Royal Bengal tiger and survived. The incredible incident took place near the Kachhikata canal in the Sundarbans on Thursday. Abdul Gafoor, 45 and five others of Harinagar village in Shyamnagar upazila went for fishing in the canal. All of a sudden a manatee swooped on them. All his friends fled away. As Gafoor fought with the tiger for about half an hour, his friends returned with sharp weapons and attacked the tiger. It ran into the deep forest. Gafoor, son of Madargazi, is now being treated at Shyamnagar Upazila Health Complex for injuries in the head, chest and other parts of his body, his family said. Mentionably, a woman fought a tiger in the Sundarbans in Kirshna canal area on December last year and survived.

# Literacy drive dashed

### Tribesmen open schools, officials ignore

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

After three days' tedious journey crossing hills and brooks, Jakob Tripura, came to the district headquarter for primary textbooks. But he was disappointed. "The Rangamati Hill District gave me 20 sets (of class one textbooks) each for 60 to 70 students", he told this correspondent recently. Jakob is a member of Farua Union Parishad in Belachhari upazila. About 900 children of tribal communities in Raingkhoyng reserve forest area there attend four schools. "But we can't give books to all of them", he lamented. Assistance from government agencies do not reach the non-

registered schools in the frontier area, about 100 kms from the district headquarter, he said. He narrated the villagers' efforts to make their children educated, as government agencies hardly cared for them. "We set up the four schools a decade ago on our own initiative with the help of army and Christian missionaries". Initially there were two teachers at each school, but it is a one-man show now. Villagers fed the teachers by rotation while the army and Christian missionaries working there provided Tk 1000 as their salary. They army stopped the financial assistance in December last year.

"They (army) told us they do not have adequate funds to contribute", Jakob said. Bortholi Non-government Primary School, Pukurpara Non-government Primary School, Prongapara Non-government Primary School and Charging Para Non-government Primary School cover 19 villages there, inhabited by about 700 families of Pangkhua, Murong, Marma, Tanchangya and Tripura tribes. Teachers do not want to stay there as they are poorly paid, he said. When contacted, an official at RHDC said assistance can not be reached there as the area is very remote.

## SNAPS

### Armed robbery at Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

An armed robbery was committed in the house of a gold trader in the city on Tuesday. According to FIR, a group of masked young men equipped with arms entered the house of Bimal Dutta in Wahab Avenue under Khulna thana. They confined all inmates at gun point in another room and decamped with gold ornament weighing 10 tolas, a computer and a sum of Tk 60,000. The bandits threatened the house owner of dire consequence if he lodges any case. The criminals beat his wife and son for raising hue and cry. As a result they sustained injuries. None was arrested.

### 100 arrested in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

About 100 persons were arrested by the joint forces during combing operations in the city and the district on Thursday night. The arrested include an armed cadre of Janajuddho faction of the outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP). He was identified as Kamrul Islam, 28, of Naihaty union under Rupsha upazila. A pistol-loaded with seven bullets was recovered from his possession.



A child artiste performing at a function for children, held at the Mukta Mancha in Brahmanbaria town recently.

### Birth registration conference

A CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Patuakhali district administration organised a conference on birth registration here on Thursday. Additional Deputy Commissioner Md Bazlur Rashid presided over the meeting and the member secretary of the Birth Registration Committee, Assistant Commissioner (AC) Sajeet Kumar Roy, Patuakhali Press Club President Golam Kibria and Executive Director of SDA, a local NGO, KM Enayat Hossain addressed the meeting.

# Golden handshake dues not paid at Darwani mill

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

The 98 former workers and employees of Darwani Textile Mills here under BTMC did not get their 'golden handshake' dues before the Eid, promised by authorities earlier. The authorities, at the intervention of BNP First Joint Secretary Tarek Rahman had promised to clear their dues before the Eid as they agitated and threatened of self-immolation on the mill campus.

General Manager of the mill, Julhas Mia, told this correspondent on Friday that an audit team from Dhaka came to the mill to assess the dues. It returned to the capital on January 28 after completing its work. The official work is almost complete, he said. He is in touch the BTMC head office and the payments will be made after the Eid. The acting CBA president at the mill, Abdul Rahman Prodhan, also told this correspondent that the dues will be paid just after the Eid.

## Release of PBCP leader under investigation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

An incident of releasing a leader of Janajuddho faction of the outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) is being investigated thoroughly. Khalishpur police allegedly caught him on Monday and also released him on the same day due to unknown reason. State Minister for Home Lutuzzaman Babar became annoyed to know the news of releasing a notorious outlaw from Khalishpur police station (PS) hurriedly. A high official of Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP) 'confirmed' the state minister about the incident.

The higher echelon of Bangladesh Police also learnt from an agency in Khulna that the outlawed party leader was released from Khalishpur PS for reasons best known to the concerned Officer-in-Charge (OC). The name of the listed criminal, a permanent resident in an area under Sonadanga thana and a Khulna city-based leader of PBCP (Janajuddho) is also known to all police stations in Khulna city. The police high command has directed the KMP authorities to re-arrest the outlaw and submit a report on what ground he was released from the police station.

## 22,300 kg hemp recovered at B'baria

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

BDR recovered 22,300 kilograms of hemp (ganja) from Kalkachcha border area in Sarail upazila on Wednesday. Acting on a tip-off, the border security force of 7 Rifle Battalion led by Havildar Tuffazzal and Naik Md Anwar Hussain raided different places including Akawra railway station, Mygrabagar and Mosjid Para and recovered the hemp, smuggled from India. During the drive, BDR also recovered 854 bottles of phensidyl and 37 bottle of foreign wine. Three alleged smugglers were arrested, BDR sources said. The arrested persons were handed over to Akhaura police station and Akhaura GRP police, from where they were sent to court. The court sent them to Brahmanbaria Jail, police said.

## Two timber lifters held: 650 cft of timber recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mouhubazar

Forest officials arrested two timber lifters and recovered 650 cubic feet of timber from here last week. Sources in the Forest department told that about 30 to 35 timber lifters came to Lawachhera reserve forest under Kamalganj upazila last week and started cutting down Segun timbers. Observing this a patrol team of the department asked them to refrain from destroying the forest resources, but in vain. Then the patrol team opened blank fire and captured two criminals while fleeing. About 75 cubic feet of Segun timber was also recovered from the culprits. The arrested are: Joney, 36, and Sumon Hasan, 32, of Kumrakapon village in Kamalganj upazila. In separate drives, the Forest officials seized two inter-district trucks and a three wheeler tempo loaded with timber and fuel wood from the Chaittacheria bridge area on Srimangal-Bhanugachha road. About 250 cubic feet of Segun timber and 350 cubic feet of fuel wood were recovered from the seized vehicles. Sources in the Forest department told this correspondent that timber lifting is on rise in the area due to patronage of corrupt politicians.

# Three killed in B'Baria, Magura road mishaps

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Three persons were killed and eight injured in road mishaps on Mahura and Brahmanbaria yesterday and the day before. Our Magura Correspondent reported that two persons were killed and two others injured when they were run over by a truck at Ramkantapur in Shaikupa yesterday morning. Buddhisswar Mondol, 60, and Animesh, 17, died on the spot while Shukumar, 20 and Biswajit, 25, were critically hurt. The two injured were taken to Shaikupa Health Complex. The killer truck escaped, police said. Our Brahmanbaria Correspondent reported that one person was killed and six others were injured when a truck hit a taxi cab on Brahmanbaria-Cornilla highway at Teen Lakh Pir village under Akawra upazila on Friday. The victims were passengers and the driver of the cab. Maksudur Rahman 30, died on the spot. The injured, admitted to Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital are Riaz Uddin, 50, and his son Ibrahim Mia, 29; Kamrul, 25; Md Salim Mia, 42, son of Mutalib Hawlader; Nazrul Islam, 60, son of Sultan Mia and Aslam Mia, 25, son of Sarif Uddin, all from Manikganj. The driver and helper of the truck managed to escape, police said. Autopsy of the body was done at Brahmanbaria hospital.

# Order not to cut WDB dike ignored in Satkhira

### 20,000 to be affected, crops to go under water

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Violating officials' order, pipes are being installed for shrimp cultivation by cutting a Water Development Board embankment at Kashimari union in Shyamnagar upazila. This will inundate vast areas in Shyamnagar and Kaligonj upazilas, affecting over 20,000 people and damaging crops on 10,000 acres of land, a local Union Parishad chairman told a press conference here recently. Being informed, the UNO and a sub-assistant engineer of WDB visited the spot and ordered them not to cut the embankment. But they ignored their order as the local administration did not take any action against them, Anis said. He urged the authorities concerned to take immediate steps to stop the embankment cutting and save the people.

# CU poised to face a fresh deadlock after Eid

CU CORRESPONDENT

A fresh deadlock is likely to be created at Chittagong University (CU) after Eid vacation as ruling BNP's student wing JCD starts agitation for resignation of Vice Chancellor AJM Nuruddin Chowdhury for "appointing an alleged Shibir cadre" as teacher in Department of Political Science. The teachers have also threatened of indefinite work abstention after February 19 as the university authorities "ignored their demands". Meanwhile, the left leaning student body, Progressive Students Alliance (PSA), has also declared an indefinite strike after Eid if fees charged from graduates for verification of certificate is not withdrawn. The CU Syndicate finalised the appointment of Enayet Ullah Patwary in the political science department on Thursday. Sources claimed that Enayet Ullah Patwary is a "Shibir cadre and

an accused in a case in connection with a murder on the campus". Moreover, he did not obtain First Class in honours and masters, the sources claimed. "We will launch an indefinite siege on the campus after the Eid as the authorities are appointing Shibir cadres in different departments", JCD General Secretary MR Milton Chowdhury said. The Chittagong University Teachers Association (CUTA) will observe work abstention for two hours on February 17 and for a full day on February 19 to press their demands, which include election of graduates to the Senate, different bodies and of the Dean of Social Science. "We will enforce a non-stop work abstain after February 19 and the authorities will be responsible if the first year admission test scheduled to begin on February 24 is hampered by that", CUTA General Secretary Helal Uddin Nizami said.

# Three UP chairmen killed in Khulna in a month

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Three union parishad (UP) chairmen were killed by outlaws in Khulna district till January 29 this year. Chand Mia Shikder, chairman of Shechiadeh UP in Terokhada upazila was gunned down on January 14. On the same night, outlaws bombed to death Partha Pratim Roy, chairman of Digraj UP under Mongla upazila. The last victim was Amir Azam Khan, chairman of Amirpur union in Bataghata upazila. Amir Azam, also a local BNP leader, was killed in bomb attack on January 29. Assaults hurled three powerful bombs at him when he was on way home. He died on the spot. Partha and Amir belonged to the BNP, while Chand Mia Shikder was an Awami League leader. Police sources said 36 UP chairmen were killed in last 11 years in Khulna division. Seventeen of them were killed in Khulna district, five in Jessore, four in Bagerhat, Kushtia, and Chuadanga each and two in Narail.

## International Re-Tender Notice for Supply of Petroleum Products During April-December '04

- 1. Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) hereby invites offers from International Integrated Oil Companies with a proven record of reliability and expertise in the supply and transportation of petroleum products, for supply on C&F Chittagong basis of about 6.17 million barrels plus minus 10 per cent at BPC's option of Superior Kerosene Oil (SKO), Aviation Turbine Fuel (Jet A-1), Motor Spirit (MS)/High Octane Blending Component (HOB) and High Speed Diesel (HSD) 0.25% S during the period April-December, 2004 in accordance with the delivery schedule and terms & conditions set out in the tender document.
- 2. Tender documents will be available on all working days during office hours from (a) Commercial & Operations Division, BPC Head Office, BSC Bhaban (1st Floor), Saltgola Road, Chittagong, (b) Bangladesh Missions in Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, South Korea, India, Pakistan, Iran, Sri Lanka, Abu Dhabi, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UK & USA and (c) BPC Liaison Office, 1/1 Pioneer Road, YMCA Bhaban (2nd Floor), Kakrail, Dhaka-1000 at Tk. 12,000.00 or US\$200.00.
- 3. Offers will be received up to 1200 hours (BST) on February 17, 2004 in a sealed envelope delivered at BPC Head Office, BSC Bhaban (1st Floor), Saltgola Road, Chittagong, Bangladesh. Offers through telex or facsimile will not be accepted.
- 4. All offers must be accompanied by a bid bond in the format and in accordance with the provision of tender documents and all offers must have validity up to 1800 hours (BST) on March 06, 2004.
- 5. Bidder shall furnish along with the offer a declaration that the bidder has carefully examined and understood the tender document and his offer is subject to the terms & conditions contained in the tender document.
- 6. Bidders shall accept all terms and conditions of tender documents, otherwise their offers may stand rejected.
- 7. Tenders shall be opened at 1205 hours (BST) on February 17, 2004 at the BPC Head Office, Chittagong, Bangladesh in presence of bidders or their authorised agents who would wish to be present.
- 8. No rights of any kind shall be created in favour of any person by virtue of having obtained the tender document, nor shall any right be created in favour of any person by virtue of submitting an offer. BPC reserves the right to accept the lowest offer or to reject any or all offers in part or in full without assigning any reason.

**Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation**  
BSC Bhaban (1st Floor), Saltgola Road, Chittagong, Bangladesh

### Engineering Office

University of Chittagong

## Tender Notice

No-07/2003-2004

Sealed tenders are hereby invited for the following works from enlisted contractors of this University, under government, semi-government and other autonomous organizations.

Sl. No.	Name of the works	Category of contractors and conditions
1.	Construction of four-storied flat type 8 units teachers/officers residential quarter and its ancillary works at CU	The tenderer must be a first class contractor shall have experience of having completed high quality building with last 5 (five) years which must be included by a single building of at least 4-storied high and costing minimum Tk 50.00 lac covered by a single tender under government, semi-government and autonomous organizations only. The tenderer must have an annual turn-over of Tk 10.00 million in each year for the last three years of building construction works. The turn-over should be supported by certified bank statement.

Interested tenderers can purchase the tender documents only on fulfilling the following terms and conditions:

- The tenderer must have an enlistment certificate, trade licence, Vat registration certificate, income tax clearance certificate and all these shall be currently valid.
- The tenderer should be an individual firm. Joint venture or consortium of firms shall not be allowed to participate in the tender.
- Memorandum and Articles of Association of the firm or in case the firm is not a Private Limited Company, relevant documents of concern authority regarding formation of the firm shall be submitted. The firm must have at least one Director who is a Graduate Engineer.
- Only the Managing Director or Technical Director, Proprietor of the firm shall personally make correspondence to purchase tender. Authorization or delegation of the power of the above personnel shall not be allowed for the purchase of tender documents.
- The tenderer shall show all the above eligibility documents in original to the University Authority and have their photocopies attested by the Authority and such attested photocopies shall be submitted along with the application for seeking approval for purchasing the tender documents.
- Soon after the publication of the tender notice, the intending tenderers shall be given full facility and opportunity of having familiarity with the construction project through perusal of the tender documents and consulting the design, drawings with the related Engineer of Chief Engineer Office at Chittagong University. They will also be allowed to inspect the site and its surrounding conditions.
- Intending purchasers of the tender documents shall submit their applications after publication of tender notice in the daily newspaper i.e. from 15.02.04 to 20.02.04 supported by all necessary documents and credential claiming their eligibility duly shown in original and thereafter attested as mentioned in the clause 5 to Chief Engineer, University of Chittagong, Chittagong.
- Regarding purchase of tender documents the firms approved by the Authority will be allowed to collect the tender documents from the office of the undersigned during 9:00am to 2:00pm up to 22.02.04 in all working days after producing receipt of the payment of non-refundable sum of Tk 2000/- (Two thousand) only for the above work to Agrani Bank, Chittagong University Branch, Chittagong. (No Authorization will be allowed to receive tender documents).
- Each tender must be accompanied by earnest money cited against each work in the form of Bank Draft or Pay Order from any scheduled bank to be drawn in favour of the Chief Engineer, Chittagong University, Chittagong which is payable on Agrani Bank, Chittagong University Branch or Janata Bank, Fathepur Branch, Chittagong.
- The tender documents will be received by the Engineering Office, Comptroller of Accounts Office, Registrar Office as well as Chief Engineer, Chittagong Development Authority, Chittagong and Chief Engineer, Chittagong City Corporation, Chittagong up to 12:00 noon on 23.02.04. Tender will be opened on the same day by the office of the undersigned at 1:00pm in presence of the tenderer who wish to be present.
- The Authority is not bound to accept the lowest tender and reserves the right to reject any or all tenders or part of it without assigning any reason whatsoever.

**Md Alamgir Chowdhury**  
Chief Engineer  
University of Chittagong