

SNAPS

350 landless being rehabilitated

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali
Three hundred fifty landless families are being rehabilitated under an Ashrayan project named Pakdal Adarsha Gram Project-2 at Kachipara union in Bauphal upazila.

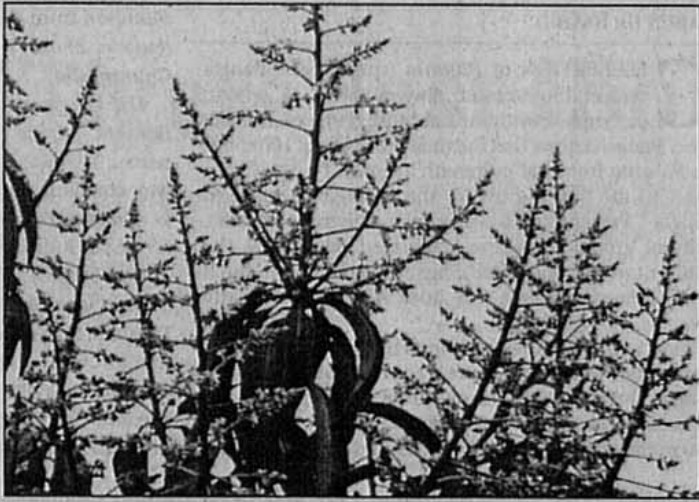
Shahidul Alam Talukder, a member of parliament (MP) opened the project on Friday. Land Ministry has constructed the houses at a cost of one and a half cr taka.

472 certificate cases filed in Patuakhali

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali
Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) has filed 472 certificate cases against the loan defaulting farmers here.

An amount of 53 lakh 9 thousand taka still remains unrealised. The court has issued a warrant of arrest against 40 farmers and dismissed 34 cases.

Off-year for mangoes



Mango trees in Chapainawabganj in full bloom with buds but fruiting is uncertain. The photo was taken on Thursday.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Horticulturists apprehended less fruiting this year though mango trees in Rajshahi-Chapainawabganj area are in full bloom with buds.

"This year will be an 'off-year' as last year was 'on-year' with good production", said Shafiqul Islam, senior scientific officer at the Chapainawabganj Fruit Research Centre. Traditionally, production is good in alternate years, he said.

Experts said, fruiting is at least 30 percent less in 'off year' than in 'on-year'. Besides, there is fear of natural calamities like storm and hail which may cause unpredictable damage. Production may decline due to temperature fluctuation, excessive rainfall and pest attack.

They said there are buds in around 75 percent of mango trees in the region this year. Budding contin-

ues till mid-March.

Mango, king of fruits, is a cash crop in northwestern region, especially in Rajshahi and Chapainawabganj, where the economy largely depends on the its production.

A large number of people are engaged in different jobs, from nursing to harvesting and packing during mango season every year.

The region has a long tradition of producing good varieties of mango including Fazli, Gopalbhog, Khirshapat, Khirshahog, Chosha, Langra, Lakha, Maldahi, Bombai, Mohananda, Mohanbhog and Ashwina. Regional Agriculture Information officer Sharif Uddin said.

Most of these varieties grow well in alternate years. There is no off-year or on-year for four other locally varieties -- Amropaly and Mollika, BARRI-1 and BARRI-2.

7 yr old snake charmer

A CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Rabiul is only seven. He lives amidst snakes as his parents are professional snake charmers.

His parents want that he will also be a snake charmer like them. So from his childhood, Rabiul is learning how to play with snakes.

His parents take him from place to place while moving like gypsies.

This correspondent met Rabiul at Nazirhat a few days back while he was playing with snakes publicly. His father stood beside him. He was playing with a big python as if he had mastery over the art.

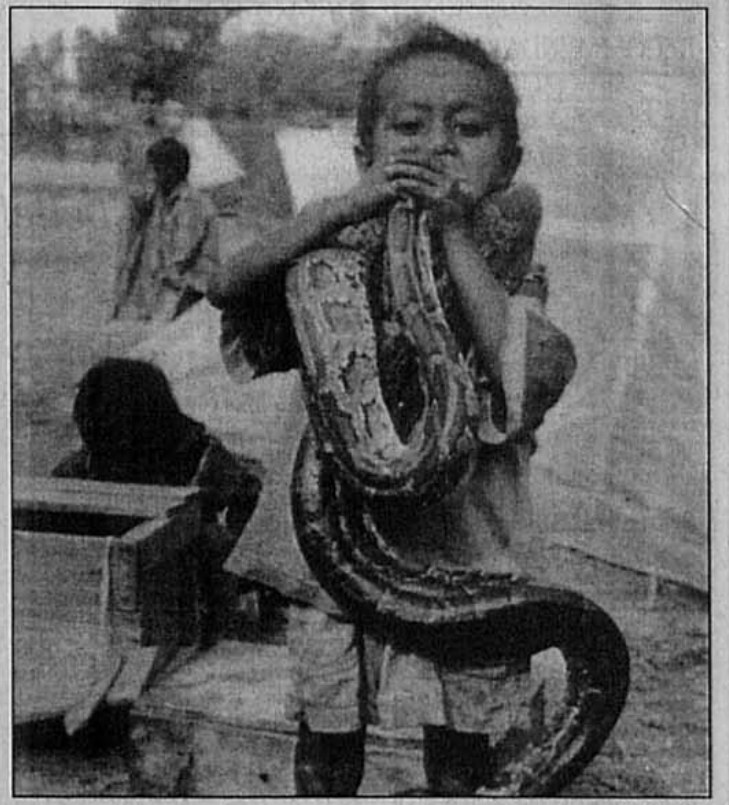
When the show was over, Rabiul's father said, "People now a days do not like to enjoy only snakes. They want mystery."

"That a seven years child like Rabiul can play with snakes is mysterious for people. This gives us good income," he added.

The child snake charmer is of ill health. He wears rugged dress. His limbs are covered with dirt.

Rabiul's family is from Faridpur. They are a group of snake charmers.

His father said they pass days in hardship as income has reduced.



Rabiul playing with a python much heavier than his weight.

IU students launch agitation for VC's resignation

Teachers except those backed by Jamaat express solidarity

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Students of Islamic University who had been demanding resumption of classes yesterday declared an indefinite strike on the campus and launched a 'one-point agitation' for resignation of Vice-chancellor Prof Mustafizur Rahman.

The students agitating under the banner of Anchalik Chhatra Parishad (ACP-Regional Student Parishad) announced their one-point demand at a rally on the campus.

The ACP on Thursday gave a 48-hour ultimatum to the VC for resumption of classes after a police action on agitating students left 25 injured.

Campus sources said, police clubbed students and snatched their loudspeaker as they were observing a sit-in at in front of the VC's residence on Thursday.

Angered by the police action, the student entered the VC's residence and ransacked some rooms including that used by the security.

Yesterday, the students also brought out a rally on the campus in support of their one-point demand. There will be tougher programmes if the VC does not resign, they announced.

The Bidbidhan Sangrakhan Committee (committee to protect rules), a forum of teachers, have also declared solidarity with the ACP demand for VC's removal.

The Committee earlier declared a three-day programme demanding the VC's resignation. The programme includes one-hour token hunger strike on Kushtia Public Library premises today, (14 March), at Jhenidah Press Club tomorrow (15 March) and a sit-in in front of the VC's residence on March 16.

Classes are not held as the since January 1

Only the teachers belonging to the Peshajibi Parishad, who are aligned to Jamaat-I-Islami and BNP are backing the VC.

The IU Teachers Association (IUTA), Zia Parishad and Awami

League supported teachers have also demanded the VC's resignation.

A IU Correspondent adds: Students locked gates of different buildings at about 10 am yesterday. They later gathered in front at the administrative building and held a rally. The rally was addressed by, among others, convenor of Sadharan Chhatra Adhiker Parishad (SCAP) Saifuddin Khan, Mahbub and Firoz.

Bangladesh Chhatra league, Bangladesh Chhatra Union and Samajtantrik Chhatra Front are also demanding immediate resignation of the VC.

There are allegations of financial irregularity, nepotism in promotion of teachers and official against the VC. It is also alleged that he ignored national days like Victory Day and February 21.

But the VC did not pay any heed to the allegations as he is backed by pro-Jamaat teachers group 'Green Froum', sources said.

Repentant dog kills itself after biting master's son

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

A pet dog killed itself out of repentance after biting its master's son.

According to eye-witnesses, Rafiqul Islam's dog was sleeping on a heap of sand in front of his yellow crushing mill at Madhpara under Gaibandha Pura areas on Wednesday. His four-year old son Rassel playfully threw a stone chip on it.

Awake suddenly, the pet animal instantly jumped on the attacker and bit his nose before ascertaining who he was.

On hearing cries, others rushed and rescued the boy with his nose bleeding. Realising the mistake the pet started barking and jumping hysterically till it died on the spot.

Islam later said the dog was very faithful and used to play with his son. It killed itself out of repentance.

Manikganj Diabetic Assoc executives

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Election to Manikganj Diabetic Association was held at the association auditorium here recently.

Elected office-bearers are: President-Mohammad Abdul Bari, Deputy Commissioner, Manikganj (ex-officio), Vice-presidents-Manikganj Pourashabha chairman, now the post remains vacant (ex-officio), Mohammad Abdul Mannan, Civil Surgeon of Manikganj (ex-officio), Advocate Aziz Ullah, Nina Rahman, Kazi Keramat Hossain, Secretary-Atar Rahman Ata, Joint Secretaries-Benji Ahmed, Gaji Habib Hasan Rintu, Treasurer-Samsul Alam Khan.

Members: Advocate Moksedur Rahman, Amal Kumar Bashu, Masudul Quamri Haque Masud, Advocate Atar Rahman Bhuyar Farid, Advocate Azad Hossain Khan, Advocate AFM Nurtaj Alam Bahar, Dr Syeed Al Mamun, Md Asaduzzaman Khon Dolon, Md Azharul Islam Azhar, Md Hafiz Uddin, Dr Abdul Khalek, Advocate Abdur Rashid Pannu, Dr BC Acharjy, Md Anshad Ali Biswas, Abdul Majid, Muhammad Abu Kalam Biswas, Kasinath Sarker, Advocate Golam Mostofa, Md Fazlul Haque, Monoj Karmakar Montosh and Tapash Karmakar.

2 fake army men arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gopalganj

Two fake army officers were arrested from Gaibandha village in Sadar upazila here by Gopalganj police on Wednesday.

The arrested are: Pradip Talukdar, 29, hailing from Mukshupur and Narawan Wajumda, 25, hailing from Kotalipara.

Life for trafficker in Bhola

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

One person was sentenced to life term imprisonment by a court here on Thursday for trafficking four persons abroad.

The convict is Alamgir of Charshipli village in Bhola upazila.

Additional district judge of Bhola Farzana Begum also fined him 70,000 taka.

Alamgir trafficked Moslem of the same village, his wife Beauty Begum and their two children Imran, 5, and Ismail, 8, to Dubai. On arrival in Dubai Alamgir snatched away the two children from their parents and sold them as 'jockey of camels' in November, 1998. From then on the two children were used as jockeys in Dubai desert.

On October 4 in 2001 the two children were brought back home by the Bangladesh embassy and were kept under Jatiya Mohila Ainjibi Samity's custody. A representative of the samity, Masud Parvez by name lodged a case was against Alamgir and others.

Clash at ferry : Case filed against 150 PSTU students

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A criminal case has been filed with Nilchity thana in Jhalokathi against 150 students and four teachers of Patuakhali Science and technology University students.

Selim Sikdar, secretary of Barisal Bus Owners Association, filed the case Wednesday night.

The case followed a clash at Dapdopia ferry terminal on March 9, involving PSTU students, transport workers and ferry employees.

At least 50 students and one teacher were injured when the workers and employees swooped on the students following an exchange of words over boarding of bus on the ferry boat.

The PSTU students and teachers were coming to Barisal in several buses for a human chain programme demanding resignation of its vice-chancellor. Students earlier claimed that two of their buses were damaged by the workers and employees.

In the case, it has been alleged that the students attacked transport workers of other buses waiting there and also ransacked to buses belonging to the association.

Gaibandha PHE office locked for ninth day

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

The Public Health Engineering (PHE) office at Gaibandha was locked for the ninth day yesterday.

The employees are staying away from work. They are agitating as the government declared 'no work no pay' for those under the village sanitation project.

The employees under the project began agitation all over the country demanding nine months' arrears salaries. In Gaibandha, they are staging demonstrations to realise

their demand.

The finance ministry at a meeting in January this year decided 'no work no pay' for 1797 employees under the project in Gaibandha, recruited in 1977. They are masons and labourers on pay scales of Tk 1625 and Tk 1500.

Protesting the decision, the Public Health Engineering Labour and Employees Union began agitation from March 5.

The sources said the PHE Chief Engineer sent a letter to the Local Government Ministry Secretary

requesting absorption of the employees under village sanitation project into the National Sanitation Programme.

"It is injustice. We are no where even after 15 years' service. We demand that our service be covered by the revenue budget", Abdur Rouf, president of Gaibandha unit of PHE Workers Union told this correspondent.

When contacted, Gaibandha PHE Executive Engineer said, "We are awaiting immediate settlement of problem. Work in the sector has virtually collapsed".

'Journalist Nabil murdered by in-laws'

Relatives claim at press conference

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

People of the father-in-law's family of journalist Nabil Abdul Latif alias Pappu were involved in his murder, Nabil's uncle has alleged.

Nabil was a Dhaka-based journalist of national daily New Age. Police recovered his body from Bamunshur playground at Kekaniganj in Dhaka on March 3. He hailed from Gourmadi.

Addressing a press conference at Gourmadi Press Club, Nabil's uncle Harunur Rashid claimed that he was

murdered following a row with his brother-in-law Jamal over a flat which he got from his father-in-law.

Nabil's brother-in-law could not tolerate giving of the flat to him and they had frequent quarrels over it. Nabil, his wife Farhana Sultana Konok and their minor son were dispossessed of the flat a few days before the murder, Rashid alleged.

He demanded proper trial of the murder.

Jamal also threatened Nabil's mother Nihar Begum and aunt Rawshan Ara Begum when they

went to Dhaka to bring the body to their village home for burial, Rahman alleged in his written statement read out at the press conference. Jamal and others forcibly took the body for burial at his village home at Majharikanda village in Nowabganj in Dhaka, Rahman said.

Hearing his son's death news, Nabil's father Abdul Latif working in Italy rang up Konok to tell her to bury Nabil's body at his family graveyard in Gourmadi. But she misbehaved with him, Rahman alleged.

Barisal people hail Padma bridge at Mawa

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

People of Barisal are overwhelmed with joy after the declaration that the proposed Padma bridge would be built at Mawa.

There were waves of processions on streets in the city after the JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) announced that its survey found Mawa as the suitable site for the bridge.

Muktijoddha Sangshad, Mawa Setu Bastobiyon Parishad (Committee for bridge at Mawa) and other socio-cultural organisations brought out processions in the city hailing the decision. Similar processions were also brought out in other towns in Barisal division, according to reports reaching here yesterday.

Different socio-cultural organisation also sent congratulatory messages to the Prime Minister and the Communication Minister hailing the decision.

Nazrul Islam Rajon, member secretary of the Parishad said, the declaration is the first step in victory. Complete victory will be achieved when the bridge will be completed. Their programmes demanding quick implementation of the project will continue, he said.

150 CU teachers on leave

CU CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Education of about 16,000 students in Chittagong University (CU) is being hampered as many teachers are on leave.

Shortage of employees has aggravated the situation.

At present session jam grips all the departments due to shortage of teachers. A total of 150 out of 567 teachers are on leave. Over 100 teachers are on study leave, 14 are on lien and 12 are on deputation and other leave.

Science Faculty topped the list of teachers on leave with 43 teachers followed by Commerce Faculty with 28, Arts Faculty- 27, Social Science Faculty- 24 and Law Faculty- 5.

In Economics Department 15 teachers are on long leave followed by Institution of Forestry and Environmental Science with 10 teachers on leave, sources said.

Deputy Controller of Examinations Mofakkarul Islam performs duty of Controller of Examinations, Deputy Librarian SM Abu Taher performs duty of Librarian, Deputy Curator of Museum Shamsul Hossain performs duty of Curator while Deputy Accountant Abdul Monayem has been appointed the Transport section Director-in-Charge.

On contact, Chittagong University Teachers' Association (CUTA) General Secretary Helal Uddin Nizami said to this correspondent, "The university authorities should take stern action against them."

Moneylenders take away their potato



Moneylender's men harvesting potato from a cultivator's land to realise the loan.

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

They had a bumper production of potato this year but can not reap the benefit. Moneylenders are taking away sackfuls of potato from their fields after harvest to realise loans.

About 70 big farmers in Dhulia, Govindopur, Naripur, Kalaja and Gashinga villages in Bauphal upazila in Patuakhali took one lakh taka loan each from moneylenders for four months. Now they have to pay Tk 1.25 lakh each.

The moneylenders are taking away the harvested potato from fields at the market rate of around Tk 160 per maund to realise the loans.

Narayan Sarker, said he cultivated potato on 20 acres of land and the yield was around 300 maunds per acre. But virtually nothing will

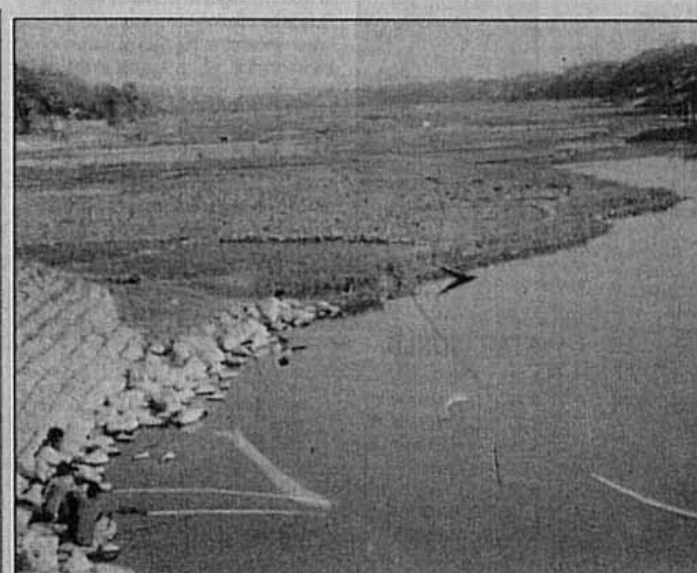
remain after the loan is repaid in kind at so high interest rate, he said.

Another farmer Sukh Rranjan Told The Daily Star that hard labour will not bring him any benefit. Moneylenders themselves are collecting potatoes from his fields. Same is the condition with Putul Mistri and many others in the area.

According to Bauphal agricultural office, potato was grown in 285 hectares in the area this year and the yield is about 20 tonnes per hectare.

The total production is about double of the last year's quantity, they said. The harvest will continue till mid-April.

When contacted, officials at Bauphal Krishi Bank said the farmers had to go to moneylenders as the bank did not give them loan because they were defaulters.



Potential turns into problem..The bed of Nabaganga river in Magura is now cropland as the river has become silted.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer, Dhaka Division
Construction and Maintenance Management Unit (CMMU)
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
105-106, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka
Memo No: MOHFW/CMMU/Day to day-Rev/Tender-5/2004/60 (20)
Dated: 26-2-04

Invitation for Tender (IFT)

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the updated renewed enlisted contractors of CMMU for some packages of repairing and maintenance works of Health and Family Planning facilities located in the union level to district level of Gazipur, Narsingdi, Narayanganj, Munshiganj & Manikganj district through GOB (Revenue) budget. The details of tenders are given below.

1.	Project name	Repairing and maintenance works of Health & Family Planning facilities (Periodical, Routine & Day to Day maintenance) under (MOHFW).
2.	Source of funds	Revenue Budget of Government of Bangladesh.
3.	Tender package no.	List of works are available in the offices mentioned Para - 11 (I & V).
4.	Invitation for tenders ref. & date	Memo of the Head Office MOHFW/CMMU/Gen. Esti Dhaka/04/2003/154. Date: 21/01/2004.
5.	Tender name	Repair & maintenance works of facilities of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
6.	Brief description of works and related services	Repair & maintenance works of facilities of MOHFW (Works include Civil, Sanitary, Plumbing, Electrical etc. of the existing facilities to be done as periodical/routine or day to day) under Gazipur, Narsingdi, Narayanganj, Munshiganj, Manikganj.
7.	Time completion for	Mentioned in the package list.
8.	Eligibility of tenders	Update renewed enlisted contractors of CMMU.
9.	Price of tender document	Tk 400.00 (Tk four hundred) for the works value up to Tk 10.00 lac & 750/- for works valued above Tk 10.00 lac only in the form of Pay Order/Bank Draft in the name of Executive Engineer, CMMU, Dhaka Division.
10.	Amount of tender security	3% (Three per cent) of the estimated amount in the form of Pay Order/Bank Draft in the name of Executive Engineer, CMMU, Dhaka Division.
11.	Name and address of the office(s) selling tender document	(i) Office of the Executive Engineer, CMMU, Dhaka Division, 105-106, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka. (ii) Office of the Divisional Commissioner, Dhaka Commissioner's Building, Segunbagicha, Dhaka -- For the works valued more than Tk 10.00 lac only. (iii) Office of the Civil Surgeon, Munshiganj/Narayanganj/Manikganj/Narsingdi/Gazipur. For the packages of respective area only. (iv) Office of the Deputy Director, Family Planning, Munshiganj/Narayanganj/Manikganj/Narsingdi/Gazipur -- For the package of respective area only. (v) Office of the Assistant Engineer, CMMU, Munshiganj/Narayanganj/Manikganj/Narsingdi/Gazipur -- For the package of respective area only.
12.	Quoting of rates	In percentage above/below of the estimated amount up to three digits after the decimal.
13.	Name of address of the office(s) receiving tenders	(i) Office of the Executive Engineer, CMMU, Dhaka Division, 105-106, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka. (ii) Office of the Divisional Commissioner, Dhaka Commissioner's Building, Segunbagicha, Dhaka. (iii) Office of the Divisional Director, Family Planning, 3/2, Asad Avenue, Mohammadpur, Dhaka. (iv) Office of the Civil Surgeon, Faridpur Mansion, Chameleybag, Dhaka.
14.	Name and address of the office, opening tenders	Office of the Executive Engineer, CMMU, Dhaka Division, 105-106, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.
15.	Last date and time for selling tender document	20-03-2004, up to office hours.
16.	Last date and time for submission of tenders	21-03-2004, up to 1430 hours.
17.	Date and time for opening of tenders	21-03-2004, at 1500 hours. Tenders and/or their authorised representatives are allowed to attend during opening.
18.	Special instruction	The authority reserves the right to accept any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereby.

Md Belayet Hossain
Executive Engineer
CMMU, Dhaka Division

DfP-4884-29/2/04
G-118