

Sylhet flood control project moves at a snail's pace

Only 20pc of 5-year plan done in 8 years

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet
Water development Board's (WDB) flood control and irrigation project titled 'Upper Surma-Kushiyara Project' in northeastern Sylhet sees completion of only one-fifth of the work in eight years.

ject with target to complete it in 2009-10 FY, WDB sources said. Now further time extension would be essential as it is impossible to complete it by the time, said an official. Repeated floods, water stagnation and large-scale erosion along the banks of Surma and Kushiyara rivers caused huge damage to croplands and households in the region during the last few years. Meantime, the project has been revised several occasions, escalating targeted expenditure and extending time for implementation. The much talked 'Upper

Surma-Kushiyara project' was designed for flood control, improvement of drainage system and introduction of better irrigation facilities in vast areas of Zakiganj, Kanaighat, Beanibazar, Golapganj and Sylhet Sadar upazilas of Sylhet. It begins from the starting point of Surma and Kushiyara at Amolshid border in Zakiganj upazila and runs up to Golapganj and Sylhet Sadar along the banks of Surma and Kushiyara rivers. The works include construction and reconstruction of embankments along the banks

of Surma and Kushiyara rivers in Zakiganj, Beanibazar, Kanaighat and Golapganj upazilas. Shafiqul Islam, executive engineer of WDB, Sylhet, said successful implementation of the project would provide irrigation facilities for 38,000 hectares of land through the canals. The progress of work is only 20 per cent and only Tk 32 crore had so far been spent, he said, adding that construction and reconstruction works of 41 km embankment has been done in bordering Zakiganj and Kanaighat upazilas. A large portion of the sanc-

tioned amount would be spent for land acquisition for embankment and canals, the official said. Immediate measures are needed for construction of 25 kilometre embankment in Zakiganj, Kanaighat, Beanibazar and Golapganj upazilas to get benefit of the project and avert further escalation in expenditure, locals said. Repeated and prolonged floods due to the gushing down of water from the upper stream in Indian hilly region left behind a colossal damage to crops and dwelling houses in the region last year.



Jubilant GPA-5 achievers from Chittagong Government College, which got the highest number of GPA-5 in Chittagong board, flash V-sign on the college premises yesterday.

Ctg board betters result, bags more GPA-5

CU CORRESPONDENT
The pass rate in this year's Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examinations held under Chittagong Education Board this year has increased by 8.35 percent while 178 more students got highest Grade Point Average (GPA)5 compared to the previous year. A total of 1,448 students secured GPA-5 this year while the pass percentage stood at 76.31 -- the highest success rate after introduction of the grading system in 2003. Of the 41,498 students who appeared from 175 colleges under the board this year, 31,668 came out successful. In 2008, a total of 1,270 students got GPA-5 and 27,696 of the 40,752 students examinees came out successful with a pass percentage of 67.96. In 2005, the pass percentage was 55.05 while 61.45 and 61.36 in 2006 and 2007. In terms of percentage of GPA-5 achievers, Faujderhat

Cadet College topped the list as 66.66 percent (30 out of 45 students) of the examinees from the college secured GPA-5. Pass percentage is 100. The highest 313 GPA-5 achievers came from Chittagong Government College but in terms of percentage it is 39.62 -- the second highest in the board. A total of 790 students appeared and 779 passed (pass percentage 98.61). Ispahani Public School and College took third position in the list with 36.32 percent GPA-5 achievers as 81 of the 223 examinees got GPA-5. The pass percentage is 97.31. Government Hazi Muhammad Mohsin College secured the second position considering the number of GPA-5 achievers as 312 students out of 1,348 obtained GPA-5 while the pass rate is 96.96 percent. Securing the third position in terms of number, 215 examinees obtained GPA-5 from Government Commerce

College. Of the 598 students, 597 came out successful from this college (pass rate 99.83). Along with the Faujderhat Cadet College (45 students), Alhaj Yakub Ali Girls High School and College (39), Kafco School and College (8) and Sijok College (9) in Rangamati entered the list of colleges with 100 percent pass. With pass percentages of 99.83, 99.60, 98.61 and 98.25 respectively, Government Commerce College, Chittagong Public School, Chittagong Government College and Chittagong Metropolitan Commerce College stood second, third, fourth and fifth. "The students are more attentive to study now due to the actions against unfair means in the examinations. The board is now more vigilant about quality of education in the colleges," said Prof Mohammad Abu Taher, controller of examinations of Chittagong board.



A number of chars (small islands) feature the Kaptai Lake that sees low water level due to scanty rainfall in the ongoing rainy season.

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

Fire at Zia Fertiliser

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B. baria
Authorities of Zia Fertiliser Company Limited (ZFCL) at Ashuganj stopped work at the factory as a fire damaged its cooling unit yesterday morning. Production came to a halt as the cooling tower of ZFCL factory caught fire that originated from a short circuit at 10:00am, said sources at ZFCL office. When contacted, ZFCL Managing Director Md Osman Goni said, "Engineers and technicians are working round the clock to repair the damaged parts. It will take around seven days to resume production at the factory."

One electrocuted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari
A grocer was killed while his son was seriously injured in Musha village of Kishorganj upazila yesterday as they came in contact with live wire. They were repairing the ceiling fan of their shop. When Dulal Hossain, 20, came in contact with electric line, father Ibne Azam, 52, tried to push him aside with his hand. Although he could save his son Azam himself was electrocuted. Dulal was taken to Rangpur Medical College and Hospital in a critical condition.

Four robbers arrested

A CORRESPONDENT, Comilla
Police arrested four robbers at Sreedarpur village under Monohorganj upazila and recovered one revolver, one knife and three bullets from their possession early yesterday. Acting on a tip-off, a police team from Monohorganj Police Station raided the village at around 3:30am and arrested Md Kadir, 29, of Uttar Howla village, Md Nasir, 25, of Bowpur village in Monohorganj upazila and Md Sujon, 20, and Md Momin, 19, of Gazimura village in Laksam upazila. Police said they arrested the four while they were preparing to commit robbery at a house at the village.

Five intruders arrested

BSS, Benapole
Members of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) arrested five people while entering Bangladesh illegally from India through Benapole border in Sharsha upazila on Friday. The arrestees are Korban Ali, 32, son of Noor Islam of village Mullikpur under Jhinkargachha upazila, Nabi Ali, 28, son of late Babar Ali of Ghope Central Road, Jessore town, Moin Mullik, 21, son of Montaz Ali of village Pulerhat under Sadar upazila, Kabir Hossain, 18, son of Siraj Uddin and Hafizur Rahman, 18, son of Abdul Malek both are from village Purbocharamangal under Rajjoir upazila in Madaripur.



Faridpur journalists hold a protest rally on the local press club premises yesterday demanding withdrawal of 'false' extortion cases filed against eight of their colleagues in the last few days.

Mutineers' trial, reform to go simultaneously: BDR chief

A CORRESPONDENT, Feni
Director General of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) Major Gen Mainul Islam has said the trial of those involved in Pilkhana carnage and reorganisation of the border guards will go simultaneously. The BDR chief said this while exchanging views with local journalists after visiting 19 Rifles Battalion at Jalaskara in Feni yesterday morning. Comilla Sector Commander Col Mirza Ejazur Rahman and acting Commander of 19 Rifles Battalion Major Md Ekramul Kabir were present. The Pilkhana incident was unfortunate and deserve condemnation, Gen Mainul said, adding that if the border outposts (BOPs) got involved with the incident the situation would have been serious. He said, "BDR personnel have realised the gravity of the incidents. We have to be careful so that such incident does not occur in the future." After visiting the quarter guard at 19 Rifles Battalion, the BDR director general held durbar for the BDR officials, JCO and soldiers of other ranks. Later he visited 5 BOPs including Padua, Majumderhat, Guthuma and Khejuria on Bangladesh-India Border under Feni district and exchanged views with BDR men.



Khulna Nagarik Samaj forms a human chain at Picture Palace intersection in the city yesterday demanding setting up of a deep sea port at Akram Point near the Sundarbans.

Deep sea port at Akram Point demanded

BSS, Khulna
Khulna Nagarik Samaj leaders and activists yesterday formed a human chain at Picture Palace intersection to press home their demand for setting up deep sea port at Akram Point. Speakers at a rally held on the occasion said the depth of water at Akram Point is much more than that of Sonadia which has been declared as site for deep sea port. They pointed out that there are adequate anchorage facilities at the site. Citing experts' views, they said that the risk of colossal damage from natural disasters is less at Akram Point due to proximity of the Sundarbans, one of the world's largest mangrove forest. The government should take a decision on the basis of opinions of the international port experts, they said. Chaired by Advocate Firoz Ahmed the rally was addressed by Prof Mazharul Hannan, Advocate Abdullah Hossain Bachchu, Syed Mostahed Ali, Zahid Hossain, Sheikh Ashrafuzzaman, Momtaz Begum Bizli and Prof Sheikh Sadi Bhuiyan.

FOUR DISTRICTS OF DINAJPUR SECTOR

BSF kills 23 Bangladeshis in last 18 months

HASIBUR RAHMAN BILU, back from Hilli border
Border Security Force (BSF) of India killed at least 23 Bangladeshis in bordering areas of four northern districts under Dinajpur sector in the last 18 months, Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) sources said. The Indian border guards so far killed 33 people and injured 49 others from September 2008 to July 2009 along the Bangladesh border. BDR sources said, 14 out of 23 'innocent' people were killed in BSF shooting in bordering areas of Thakurgaon district from January 2008 to June 2009. Seven of the rest nine were killed near border points of Dinajpur district. According to official sources, four people including Mosir Uddin, 20, Md Akter Hossain, 35, Md Saidul Islam and Aktarul, 27, were shot dead by BSF on borders of Thakurgaon district under the sector in January 2008. One Tulin, 22, was killed by BSF on February 6 while Afaz Uddin, 30, and Md. Faruk Hossain, 25, were killed on February 23, 2008 in border areas of the same district. Besides, Rahidul Islam, 35, was killed on September 9 and Taj Uddin Kulu, 40 was killed on November 9 last year. Zahirul Islam, 28, of the same district was killed on January 1 this year near Cochal border outpost (BOP) in Thakurgaon district. Another three people--Zahangir Alam, 30, Fazlur Rahman, 42, and Abdur Razzak, 30, were shot dead by Indian border guards in the district in February last. One Azad Ali, 50, of Dinajpur district was killed near Chapshar BOP on February 3 last year. Moksad Ali, 35, of the same district was killed in broad daylight at Shandara BOP on September 9, 2008. Five people -- Momtaz Uddin, 35, Md Jalal Uddin, 32, Md Kashem Uddin, 45, Md Mojibur Rahman, 25, and Md Rabulul Islam, 18, -- were gunned down by BSF at separate border points of the district during the last six months, BDR sources said. Besides, Md Mejan of Joypurhat district was killed on May 9, 2008 and Md Lazul Miah, 23, of Rangpur district was killed on March 30, 2008 by the Indian BSE.

Advertisement for Boshua (বসুয়া) featuring a man's portrait and text about a new product launch. The text includes the brand name 'চট্টগ্রামে বসুয়া' and details about the product's benefits and availability. It also mentions a 'বসুয়া সীমিটেড' (Boshua Limited) and provides contact information for various branches.