



Jhenidah to honour 25 language veterans today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Jhenidah district administration will honour 25 language veterans on the occasion of International Mother Language Day today.

They are Md Jahid Hasan Musa, Mokbul Hossain, Amir Hossain Malita, Dr Md Rezaul Karim Benu, Md Abdur Razzak Khan, Md Abul Hossain, Md Ashraf Hossain Joarder, Md Aminur Islam Kunti, Gulzer Hossain, Md Ashadur Rahman Moti, Dr Md. Shahadat Hossain, Nanda Dulal Saha, Md Amjad Hossain Dhani, Md Shamsul Islam Joarder, Begum Monoora Khatun, Amulya Kumar Sarkar, Md Abdur Rashid, Mostafizur Rahman, Md Jalal Uddin Ahmed Md Abdus Shahid Khan and Dharendra Nath Sarkar.

Of them, language veterans Amulya Kumar Sarkar and Mostafizur Rahman passed away while the rest are alive.

Md Shafiqul Islam Apu, AL lawmaker from Jhenidah-2 constituency, will attend the function to be held on the premises of the old collectorate building in the town at around 11:00am with Deputy Commissioner (DC) Roma Rani Roy in the chair.

The lawmaker will also open an eight-day long book fair at the same venue. Different cultural groups of the district will stage their programmes at the fair from 6:30pm every day until February 28.

College student electrocuted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A college student was electrocuted at village Ishaanpur in Kaharol upazila yesterday.

Victim Ashwini Chandra Roy 25, was son of Anil Chandra Roy of the village.

Family sources said, Ashwini went to their paddy field to take bath with deep tube well water. He was electrocuted as he came in contact with live wire when tried to switch on the deep tube well.

Ashwini was a degree student of Kaharol Degree College.

CRISIS OF BORO SAPPLINGS IN PEAK SEASON

Price shoots up 4 times, new seedbeds in dists

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Crisis of boro sapplings following damage of seedbeds due to prolonged cold wave accompanied by foggy weather in December and January is hampering boro farming in different areas during the ongoing peak season.

Boro farming is facing setback in seven upazilas of Gaibandha district as price of seedlings has shot up to four times, reports our Gaibandha correspondent.

Due to crisis of boro seedlings, it is now selling at Tk 500 per pawn (80 bundles) whereas last year it sold at Tk 120 per pawn.

With price of boro seedlings spiralling up, poor farmers are reluctant to cultivate boro this year as they cannot afford the high production cost.

This season there is target to cultivate boro on one lakh 70 thousand 436 hectares of land in the district this season and seedbed was prepared on 6,704 hectares of land, said officials of the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) in the district.

"I prepared boro seedbed to cover up five bighas of land but most of the seedlings dried up due to cold injury. Therefore, I could plant boro on only a one-bigha plot," said Hazrat Ali of village Tarapur under Sunderganj upazila.

"For cultivating the remaining lands, I have to purchase seedlings from the local market but quality of seedlings cannot be ensured. So, the production may fall," he said.

During recent visits to Dharmapur, Kapsia, Lalchamar, Sreedpur areas under Sunderganj upazila, this correspondent saw solvent farmers guarding the seedbed erecting makeshift sheds from probable theft.

"I will plant boro on a bigha of land of my own. I had also a plan to cultivate more four bighas land of another person on crop sharing contact. But half of the seedlings have been stolen and I can replace it now," said farmer Nurul Islam of village Chapporhati in Sunderganj upazila.

This season farmers could not transplant early variety of boro seedlings due to prolonged biting cold during winter. Till now only 60 percent land have been brought under cultivation, but last year all the targeted areas went under cultivation by February first week, said DAE officials.

Our Dinajpur Correspondent adds: Delayed boro farming is likely to affect production in Dinajpur, Panchagarh and Joypurhat districts as farmers have to prepare new boro seedbeds following damage of sapplings due to severe cold spells in early January.

Although Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) officials said 15 to 20 per

cent of the seedbeds were damaged with cold injuries and the damage would not hamper attaining the target of the season.

However, several DAE officials unofficially said that about 30 to 40 per cent sapplings in seedbeds failed to survive due to several cold waves with foggy weather in last January.

Farmers said the boro plantation in last year was completed within February but it is being delayed as most of the sapplings could not survive due to cold wave with foggy weather.

Now they are worried about planting boro within optimum plantation time that ends in mid-March as sapplings on new seedbeds will take about one month to grow.

During a recent visit to different places in the district, this correspondent found that a large number of farmers were busy in preparing their new seedbeds.

"My boro seedbeds on one acre land was damaged due to frequent cold spell in January. I am now preparing new seedbeds which will need at least one month to grow," said Kabir Uddin a farmer of Kantha Dighipara under Ghoraghat upazila of Dinajpur.

Many other farmers of different areas of these districts have similar tales to tell.

There target of boro production on 1,71,592 hectares of land in Dinajpur, 46,333 hectares in Panchagarh and 69,460 hectares in Joypurhat, DAE officials said.

Half-hearted honour for a language martyr

Panchua renamed Jabber Nagar in 1987 sees no development so far

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Jabber Nagar, the village home of Language Movement martyr Abdul Jabbar, is yet to see adequate development initiatives although the authorities constructed a Shaheed Minar and a library and museum complex at the village.

Earlier named Panchua, the village about four kilometres from Gafargaon upazila headquarters in Mymensingh district, was renamed Jabber Nagar on March 25 in 2007 as token of respect to the language martyr.

In 2005, authorities constructed a Shaheed Minar at the village home of Abdul Jabbar and 21st February

was observed there under government initiatives.

In 2008, a museum and a library complex was constructed at a cost of Tk 63 lakh there and Language Movement veteran Abdul Matin inaugurated it.

But the roads leading to Jabber Nagar have not been developed for smooth plying of vehicles and the village is still out of total electricity coverage, said several villagers.

The library needs sufficient books and daily newspapers and more staff for its good running, said librarian Manjurul Ahsan.

A primary school established in 1998 in the village after the name of the language martyr is yet to be nationalised.

The villagers have demanded setting up of more educational institutions at Jabber Nagar after the name of Abdul Jabbar to make the locals enlightened.

"The administration should take proper steps for development of the village," said Abdul Jabbar's son Nurul Islam Badal, also a freedom fighter.

He also alleged that an influential person has grabbed 44-decimal land of his father's homestead.

"Initiatives are on for all-out development of Jabber Nagar. A gate will be constructed soon at the village in honour of the language martyr," said Gafargaon Upazila Nirbahi Officer Khen Chan.



As the nation pays respect to the language martyrs today, people of Goalpara village in Panchagarh Sadar upazila prepared this Shaheed Minar with banana plants wrapped in white clothes to place wreaths in honour of the great sons of the soil.

No 12 Titas well still unwell

SHEIKH MD SHAHIDUL ISLAM, B'baria

A well of Titas Gas Field in Brahmanbaria has remained inoperative for over a month, adding to the ongoing gas crisis in the country.

As well No 12 of Brahmanbaria Titas Gas Field under Bangladites Gas Field Company Limited (BGFCL) on January 18 started emitting a huge quantity of water through the gas delivery pipe, the BGFCL authorities closed it.

Following closure of the well with a daily capacity to produce 20 million cubic feet gas, BGFCL authorities took an initiative to increase production in other wells in the field but the process can make up for only half of the amount, BGFCL office sources said.

The situation worsens gas crisis due to shortage of supply to the national grid.

Emission of up to one barrel of water per million cubic feet gas is acceptable,

but the amount far exceeded in Titas Gas Well No 12 long ago, BGFCL office sources said.

Set up in 1999, the well used to supply 20 million cubic feet of gas to the national grid.

But two years later, it started emitting excessive underground water with gas.

Some improvement followed a remedial work in 2002 but it lasted only one year.

In 2007, the flow of underground water emission rose to over 100 barrel per million cubic feet of gas and on January 18 this year, the well started giving out only water, BGFCL sources said.

Work-over is the only way to make Titas Gas Well No 12 operational, said a high official of BGFCL.

When contacted, BGFCL MD Md Nurul Islam said, "We are going to do the work-over in the well from May. After work-over, the well will regain its full production capacity."

TRAWLER SINKS IN PASHUR

Two children missing

A CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

Two children went missing as a trawler sank in the Pashur river in Mongla upazila yesterday.

The missing children are Tania Akhter, 14, daughter of Yakub Ali Biswas of Bakulia area in Kaliganj upazila in Jhenidah district and Abu Huraira, 11, son of Golam Azam of the same area.

The accident occurred near Karamjal Wildlife Breeding Centre under Chandpai range in East Sunderbans division around 10 in the morning.

Police said, they were the

members of a tourist team from Kaliganj who came to Mongla to visit Sunderbans yesterday morning. Seventeen others in the trawler swam ashore.

The people of forest department, coastguard and divers of the Navy have started search for the children missing in the Pashur.

The tourists went to visit Karamjal Wildlife Breeding Centre yesterday morning, said Md Abdur Rab, official of the centre. After visiting Karamjal the 19 tourists boarded their hired trawler MV Mayer Doa for Sunderbans, he said.

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