DHAKA THURSDAY DECEMBER 11, 2003

SNAPS

61,086 more get electricity

UNB, Madaripur

Palli Bidyut Samity (PBS) constructed 2.053 kilometers of power distribution line in 366 villages of four upazilas

during the last 21 years.
About 61,086 subscribers of the villages have been brought under the supply network during the period.

Steps to rehabilitate the disabled

UNB, Panchagarh Boda Upazila Social Welfare Department has taken up a programme to rehabilitate the

disabled of the upazila. Under the programme, the department has disbursed interestfree loan worth Tk 5 lakh to 52 disabled people to make them self-

The loan was given for poultry and cattle farming, pisciculture, sewing, vegetable cultivation, handicrafts and cottage industry.

4 die in separate incidents

UNB, Gazipur

Four people died and 14 others injured in separate incidents in Gazipur on Monday.

One of the dead was identified as Azizul Hug, 16, a worker in Moushumi Dveing Factory.

Azizul was electrocuted at Konabari in Sadar upazila in the early hours on Monday while the body of a new born baby wrapped in a polythene bag was recovered from near the District Council premises at

Besides, an unidentified youth, aged about 25, was crushed under the wheels of a bus at Keubazar in Sadar upazila in the morning.

Another unidentified man, aged about 30, was killed and 14 others were injured in a collision between a truck and a bus near Ashraf Textile Mill in Tongi.

25 hurt in clash over supremacy in Kushtia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

At least 25 persons were injured in a clash over supremacy in the area between two rival groups at village Monohardi in the Sadar upazila on

One group was led by Alfaz while the other group by Kashem. Twenty two houses were ransacked during the clash.

Police said, the clash occurred at about 7 in the morning. Both the groups used lethal weapons during the clash.

No case was filed.

BCL, PSA threaten to boycott RU Golden Jubilee programme

A RU CORRESPONDENT

The university unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and Progotishil Student Alliance (PSA) submitted two memoranda containing 10-point of demands to Student Advisor Professor Rafiqul Islam and Proctor Professor Shamsul Alam Sarker.

The demands include with-drawal of invitation of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to attend the Golden Jubilee celebration programme of the university on December 21, lifting ban on BCI activities in residential halls and placing of Bangabandhu's mural in front of Bangabandhu Hall and Shaheed Smrity Sangrahasala.

They demanded of the university authorities to invite the President at the university Golden Jubilee programme as the chief

BCL and PSA leaders have threatened to boycott the golden jubilee programme if their demands are not met by December

The Progressive Teachers' Association of the university announced to boycott the Golden Jubilee programme on October 13 blaming 'politicisation' of the programme.

Three Indian nationals arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Bangladesh rifle (BDR) arrested three Indian citizens for their illegal intrusion in Bangladesh territory on Tuesday.

The arested are Paran Halder, Ramdash Halder and his wife Sumita Halder.

According to BDR of Bagdanga Border Outpost (BOP), Jhenidah, the three Indians hailing from Nadia district crossed the border through Joydurga point in Jhenidah at about 9 pm.

BDR caught them and handed over to police

A case was filed with Mohespur police station against them.

Seed crisis affects Rabi farming in N dists

NATIONAL

Potato, wheat, boro farming may fall far behind targets

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Cultivation of Rabi crops including potato, wheat and Boro paddy has hit snags in the northern districts at the very beginning the season due to crisis and high price of seeds.

During a recent visit to different areas, many farmers told this correspondent that they have reduced Robi cultivation target this

Abdul Wahab of Naodapara in Rajshahi said he has lowered potato cultivation target to 15 bighas from 80 bighas last year due to the seed

But there was no noticeable effort by government agencies to augment seed supply.

Taking the advantage, adulterated and low quality smuggled seeds are being sold in markets.

Farmers said the crisis is due to large scale consumption of seeds during the monga (food crisis before harvest) period and short supply by BADC (Bangladesh Agriculture development Corporation), the government's main agency supplying seeds.

They said the crisis of potato seed is more acute than other Rabi crops. Potato seeds are selling at between Tk 1000 and Tk 1200 per 82 kg bag against last year's Tk 600-

BADC potato seeds are good but those are not available now, farm

Wheat seeds are selling at Tk 700 per maund against BADC's price of Tk 600 and Boro seeds at Tk 450 per bag of 20 kg against the BADC's rate

Abdur Rauf Chowdhury, BADC Joint Director for Rajshahi division, said they supplied 2000 metric tons of potato seeds, 5150 metric tons of wheat and 2725 metric tons of Boro seeds to their 444 dealers in the region and all those were sold by November 30.

BADC supplies around five per cent of the demand.

Shamsul Haque, additional director of the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) in Rangpur, also admitted an "acute potato seed crisis" this year. This is because monga compelled many farmers to consume their seeds kept in cold storages.

Abdus Salam, additional director of DAE in Rajshahi, however denied that there is crisis. Framers have their own seeds stored in cold Farmers in different areas are

now frantically moving for potato seeds, but the stock ran out in mid-November, said Fazlul Haq of Pragati Seed House in Rajshahi. He said, during the monga, many growers sold their seed

potato at up to Tk 560 per maund, creating the crisis. He said prices of Boro paddy and wheat will go higher because their peak sowing season is yet to come. It is about 10 days away.

During the five-day tour of northern districts by this correspondent, farmers were seen in queues in front of cold storages of Rajshahi, Natore and Chapainawabganj to lift their stored seed potato.

Many farmers also made allega-tions that some cold storage owners sold their seed potato.

Shafiqul Islam of Adanarayanpur in Mohonpur upazila waiting in front of Uttara Cold Storage at Baya in Rajshahi saidhe stored 100 bags of potato seeds. The cold storage owner sold 50 bags out of this.

"Now, I have to collect seeds from outsides", he said.

Sohel, a cold storage owner, said many farmers took loans from them and they have to repay the loan with potato seeds. Official sources said, this year's

potato cultivation target in 16 northern districts is 2.29 lakh hectares against 1.92 lakh hectares last year. But other sources said this is unlikely to be fulfilled. Dr Manjur Hossain, a seed

expert at Rajshahi University, said at least 40 percent of the seeds in open markets are infected with

Abu Bakar Siddiqui of Teghore in Paba upazila alleged that many



The much wanted potato seed... But the seed seen in the picture is of low quality and infected, according to experts. The photo was taken from a market in Chapainawabganj.

seed companies are doing brisk business but their seeds are not guaranteed.

"I cultivated potato on 82 bighas of land with seeds from a private seed company last year but 40 percent of the seeds turned out to be virus-affected ", Siddiqui said. The company later closed its Rajshahi office, he said.

There should be a government agency to certify seeds to check cheating by certain private seed

Agriculture experts said last year's Boro cultivation target was not achieved due to seed crisis and the same thing may be repeated this year also. This year's Boro cultivation target is 12.75 lakh

The situation is the same for seeds of onion, mustard and other

Nine die of pneumonia in Nilphamari

Ward for pneumonia to be opened at Sadar Hospital as rush of patients increase

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

At least nine children died of pneumonia in seven days till Tuesday and around 300 have been are attacked with the disease in the

The dead are Ahamed Ali, son of a Social Welfare Department employee at Jaldhaka; Rashidul Islam, son of Abu Taher of Cherenga village and Sumon, son of Md Latif of Bagulagari village in Jaldhaka; Aleya, daughter of Abdul Kazi of South Gayabari village in Dimla; Sharif, son of Mohor Ali of Zorabari union in Domar; Sapna, daughter of Julmat Mia of Dohol Para village in Dimla and Baby, daughter of Saju Mia of Sadar upazila. Two other victims from Sayedpur and Domar could not be

However the district health department control room admitted death of four children.

There has been a rush of pneumonia patients, most of those children, to the Nilphamari Sadar Hospital and the six upazila health complexes with the onset of winter

On Monday, 28 patients were brought to the Sadar Hospital, sources there said.

This correspondent while visiting the Sadar Hospital and health complexes at Domar, Dimlaa and Jaldhaka on Tuesday found child patients even on floors as all beds were occupied. In absence of children's wards, patients have been accommodated. in female wards with other

know that medicines were scarce at the hospitals. Moxizentin and Oradenon injections were in short

Fatema Begm, mother of fouryear-old Ratan, said at the Sadar Hospital that she had been buying medicine for her son from outside for the last seven days.

But Nilphamari Civil Surgeon Nazrul Islam declined to term the disease pneumonia. It is bronchiolities, an acute respiratory track infection caused by virus. "Children are its main victims", he

The Civil Surgeon denied shortage of medicines at the Sadar Jospital but admitted accommo-

A ward for pneumonia patients will be opened at the Sadar Hospital within two to three days,

dation problem.

ignored death threat STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet motorbike, mobile phone and

The dutiful doc who

Amiable physician Dr. Aftab Hossain did not stop seeing patients despite threats by crimi-

His family requested him not to go to his private chamber at Dhakadakshin bazaar in Golapganj, but he ignored, his son Jakir Hossain told the Speedy Trial Tribunal, Sylhet on Tuesday. Jakir is a student of Sylhet Osmay Medical College.

He said days ahead of the brutal incident, his father told them that an organised gang of miscreants was pressing him for a big amount of toll. Trial of the sensational murder

case got a belated start in the court on Tuesday. The next hearing date

Charge framing of the case was completed on 19 November last.

Among the six chargesheeted accused, two are in custody, three are on bail and one is absconding. Dr. Aftab Hossain, Assistant

Director of the Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital, was called out of his chamber on the plea of attending an elderly patient on the night of September 14 last

The assailants on motorbikes

The body was recovered next

morning Killing of Dr. Aftab, who was well known for his amiable behav-

iour with the commonman sparked a widespread resentment. Strike was observed in Gopalganj upazila and doctors stayed away from private practice for days demanding trial of the

The BMA also gave memorandum to the government for arrest and punishment of the killers But, all went in vain due to

olice negligence to arrest the killers immediately when they were in the area, sources said. The then OC of Golpaganj thana

was probing the incident immediately after the murder. As there was no headway, the

case was transferred to the Detective Branch. The DB submitted charge sheet against six persons on July 4 this

They are Noman Uddin Murad Jashimuddin, Sujan Ali, Abdul Ali alias Ali, Luthfur Rahman and

on bail, granted by the High Court.

Main accused Murad and Sujan Ali are in custody. Jashim is absconding. Luthfur Rahman, Abdul Ali and Sufian are

Sylhet Diabetic Hospital formally opens today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A long cherished desire of the people of Sylhet will be fulfilled with formal inauguration of Sylhet

Finance minister M Saifur Rahman will inaugurate the well-equipped 25-beded hospital, set up on a government land at Puran

Mayor of Sylhet City Corporation Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran and Secretary General of Bangladesh Diabetic Association AK Azad Khan will be the special guests at the function.

Svlhet Diabetic Association will chair the function.

Construction of the three storied building was completed in December 2001 at a cost of Tk two crore and equipment worth Tk one crore were brought in September

Association, set up in 1984. About 100 patients are given

medicare services every day there Treatment of poor patients will be subsidised, the hospital management told this correspondent.

The Association had started a diabetic clinic in January 1985 with temporary arrangements at Pourashava's Binodini Poura Charitable hospital.

The government allotted a land for a diabetic clinic at Puran Lane in January 1993.

The project was later included in the government's programme to establish seven diabetic hospitals in the country. It got ECNEC

approval in 1995. Expressing gratitude to the contributors, Sylhet Diabetic Association General Secretary AFM Kamal said more funds are now needed for construction of residences for doctors and nurses to turn it in a full fledged institution.

Dr. MA Raquib said there are eight lakh diabetic patients in Sylhet region. The hospital should be expanded we have to do much



took him to a hillock in remote Ghoshgaon village and killed him. The miscreants took away his

Diabetic Hospital today.

Lane in the city.

Dr. M.A. Raquib, president of

It came into being mainly at the initiative of Sylhet Diabetic

The three storied Sylhet Diabetic Hospital will be inaugurated today.

The admission test in first year honours classes of Chittagong University (CU) for 2003-2004 academic session will begin from February 24 next year. On the first day the test will be held at 10:30am and 2:30pm

Nilphmari Sadar Hospital crowded with pneumonia patients, most of them

IGP's visit activates Rajshahi police?

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

children. The photo was taken on Tuesday.

Rajshahi citizens were impressed witnessing unique activities by police during a visit of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Shahidul Haque in the city on Tuesday.

on the day at the rail gate crossing here where four roads converged, as police obstructed plying of all kinds of vehicles.

Commuters were relieved and traffic at the roads eased after the IGP crossed the rail crossing after

Police remained alert at differ-Haque came here to attend a ent city points during the period. function organised by the Western Regional Bangladesh Railway. However, hundreds of vehicles remained stranded for 15 minutes

Wife murdered for dowry, boy klled

UNB, Manikganj

Two people, including a little boy, were killed in Sadar and Singair upazilas, police said.

Police quoting family sources said Sirajul Islam of Barahir Char village of Sadar upazila used to torture his wife Julekha for dowry since their marriage three years ago. On Saturday night he picked up a quarrel with his pregnant wife over the dowry demand. When she expressed her inability to bring the money from her parents Sirajul beat and strangled her.

Later the culprit went into

hiding leaving the body on the bank of the nearby Kaliganga river. A case was filed. In another incident, Jewel

Mondol, 7, son of Hossain Mondol of Jamsha village, was strangled by snatchers at the neighbouring Dudghata village in Singair upazila on Thursday. Police said when Jewel went to

visit his grandfather's house at Dudghata local miscreants called him out of the house and strangled the boy after snatching his gold chain and ring.

Police arrested Royal, 18, and

Child specialist Abu Ahmed Mortuza at Nilphamari Sadar Hospital also termed the disease bronchiolities.

This correspondent also came to

CU admission test from Feb 24 next year

under "Ka unit" (Physical

Science) and "Cha unit" (Forestry

On February 25, the test will be

The test under "Uma unit"

(Law faculty) will be held on

February 26, while test under "Ga

unit" for students with Science

and Arts background on February

28. The test for students belong-

ing to Commerce group will be

The test under "Gha unit'

(Social science) and "Kha unit"

(Arts faculty) will be held on

Admission forms will be avail-

able from December 20. The last

date for distribution of admis-

sion forms is February 14. The

price of admission form for each

unit is Tk 300. Applicants will

have to collect their admit cards

from the respective dean offices

Students can collect their

admission forms from the Agrani

Bank branches at CU campus,

New Market, Agrabad and Kapasgola at Chawckbazar in the

Minimum qualification for

appearing in the test under

Science faculty is GPA 6 com-

bined in the SSC and HSC exami-

Students can apply for Business

Administration faculty and Social

Science faculty who obtained GPA

5.5 in the both SSC and HSC exami-

nations. But separately the stu-

dents must have to bag GPA 2.5 in

Multiple Choice of Question

The test will be held under

held on February 29.

March 1, 3 and 4.

by February 15.

nations result.

SSC and HSC.

system of 100 marks.

(Biological Science) and

held at the same time under "Ka

and Environmental Science).

'Chha unit" (Marine science).

CU CORRESPONDENT