

Upazila roundup

RANGPUR

Fate of 221 SSC examinees uncertain

From Our Correspondent
May 10: As many as 221 SSC examinees of Bakerhat High School in Ulipur upazila could not appear in the examination this year.

There were 236 SSC examinees of this institution, of them only 15 examinees have been allowed to appear in the examination while the rest 221 examinees did not receive their admit cards resulting in which they have been deprived of appearing in the examination.

All these examinees have filled the examination forms duly and paid-up excess fees to the authority concerned but yet they could not appear in the SSC examination this year which doomed their future, it was alleged.

MADARIPUR

Maternity centres need care

May 11: Maternity and child welfare centres in the district are plagued with manifold problems affecting medicare to the patients, reports UNB.

Mismanagement, shortage of staff and beds and lack of medicines are negating treatment.

Paucity of drinking water has been prevailing in most of the centres causing untold sufferings to the patients, it is learnt.

Some of the centres do not have boundary walls making way for cattle not only to graze in the fields but to pay occasional visits to the patients also.

JHENIDAH

Dacoits loot valuables

May 11: A gang of about 300 armed dacoits Thursday stormed 17 houses at village Jhethor-Bhabanipur in Sadar upazila, injured at least 20 people and looted valuables.

Witnesses said the dacoits in broad day light from neighbouring village Dohakula attacked the houses and beat the inmates indiscriminately. They decamped with valuables safely.

Of the injured, one Afsar Ali (45), was rushed to the Sadar Hospital where his condition was stated to be critical. The villagers informed the matter to local MP Shahiduzzaman.

When contacted the MP confirmed the incident. A case has been filed in this connection.

MAGURA

Property worth Tk 8 lakh gutted

May 11: Property worth about Taka eight lakh was gutted in two separate fire incidents at Gopara village in Sadar upazila. Fire Brigade sources said here yesterday, reports UNB.

In one incident, light dwellings were burnt to ashes when a devastating fire broke out recently at the house of Jalil Sikdar of Gopara village in Sadar upazila. The fire originating from a kitchen soon engulfed the adjacent areas and damaged property worth about Taka five lakh.

In another incident two houses of Moslem Mondol and Abul Hossain of Roygramme village in Sadar upazila were completely gutted. The loss was estimated at about Taka three lakh, the sources added.

On information, Magura Fire Brigade personnel rushed to the spots and after frantic efforts brought the fire under control.

BARISAL

80 Dakhil examinees expelled

May 8: A total of 80 students of Dakhil examinations under Bangladesh Madrasah Education Board began on April 21 were expelled from Westpur centre of Barisal district, reports BSS.

BRAHMANBARIA

One gets life-term for murder

May 11: District and Sessions Judge sentenced a man to life imprisonment for murdering a co-villager, court sources said here yesterday, reports UNB.

The Judge Nazmun Ara Sultana also fined the accused Taka 5,000, in default, to suffer rigorous imprisonment for six months more.

According to prosecution story, Prabir Kumar of

Nabinagar killed his relative Subash Chandra Chowdhury on October 18, 1989 to grab the owner ship of Nabinagar Puthighar library of which Subash was the manager.

Police after investigation submitted charge sheet against the accused Probir.

The learned judge after examining the evidences and records awarded the punishment recently.

MYMENSINGH

Tornado kills 3

May 11: Three people were killed and 200 others received injuries when a nor' wester lashed the four upazilas of the district on Monday midnight, reports UNB.

The dead were identified as Akram Ali (35), and Ali Hossain (7) of Karkuit village in Fulpur upazila and another woman victim (30) who could not be identified immediately.

The tornado damaged about 1500 Kutcha houses and standing boro crops on a vast tract of land.

The affected upazilas are Gouripur, sadar, Fulpur and Gafargaon upazilas of the district.

The tornado-hit people have urged the authorities to provide them with relief materials and sanction grants for their early rehabilitation.

AGRI VARSITY

Sher-e-Bangla's contribution recalled

May 11: Speakers here paid glowing tributes to Sher-e-Bangla AK Fazul Huq at a seminar in observance of the death anniversary of the great leader, reports UNB.

Organised by F H Hall of the Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) the seminar was held recently at the auditorium of the Hall.

Presided over by Dr Monju Mohon Sen, Provost of the Hall, it was also addressed by Prof Monsurul Amin and Prof Rafiqul Huq as the chief and special guests respectively.

The speakers said Sher-e-Bangla was the great friend of the farmers who fought until death for the improvement of their condition.

Prof Monsurul Amin recalled that the great leader also founded the ground of higher agricultural education and research in the country and called on all to translate the ideals of Sher-e-Bangla in our national life.

The seminar was also addressed by Dr Abdur Rahman, Naibuddin Ahmad, and VP of F H Hall Niazuddin Pasha and others.

MYMENSINGH

4 arrested for stealing food from godown

May 11: Four employees have been arrested and 16 government godowns sealed here after detecting a notorious ring grabbing food for long, reports UNB.

Officials said the Deputy Commissioner sealed the godowns on Saturday after unearthing the fraudulent theft, which also entangled some big fish.

The accused in their confession in police custody involved the District Controller of Food and the CSD Manager in the scandal, police said.

Those arrested are SI (food) Mahmudul Hasan and Zahurul Ameen Khan, godown guards Samir Ali and Shah Muhammad Faridul Islam.

A case was registered with Kotwali thana, alleging that several staffers and officials of the food department have long been making huge money by stealing government food.

The alleged frauds take away wheat bags from the godowns keeping same bags instead, it was stated in the case.

MAULVI BAZAR

2 killed by lightning

May 11: Lightning struck to death two people at Vatara union in Kulara upazila of the district, police said here today, reports UNB.

One of the victims was identified as Pulen Dev (28) of village Vatara while the other remained unidentified.

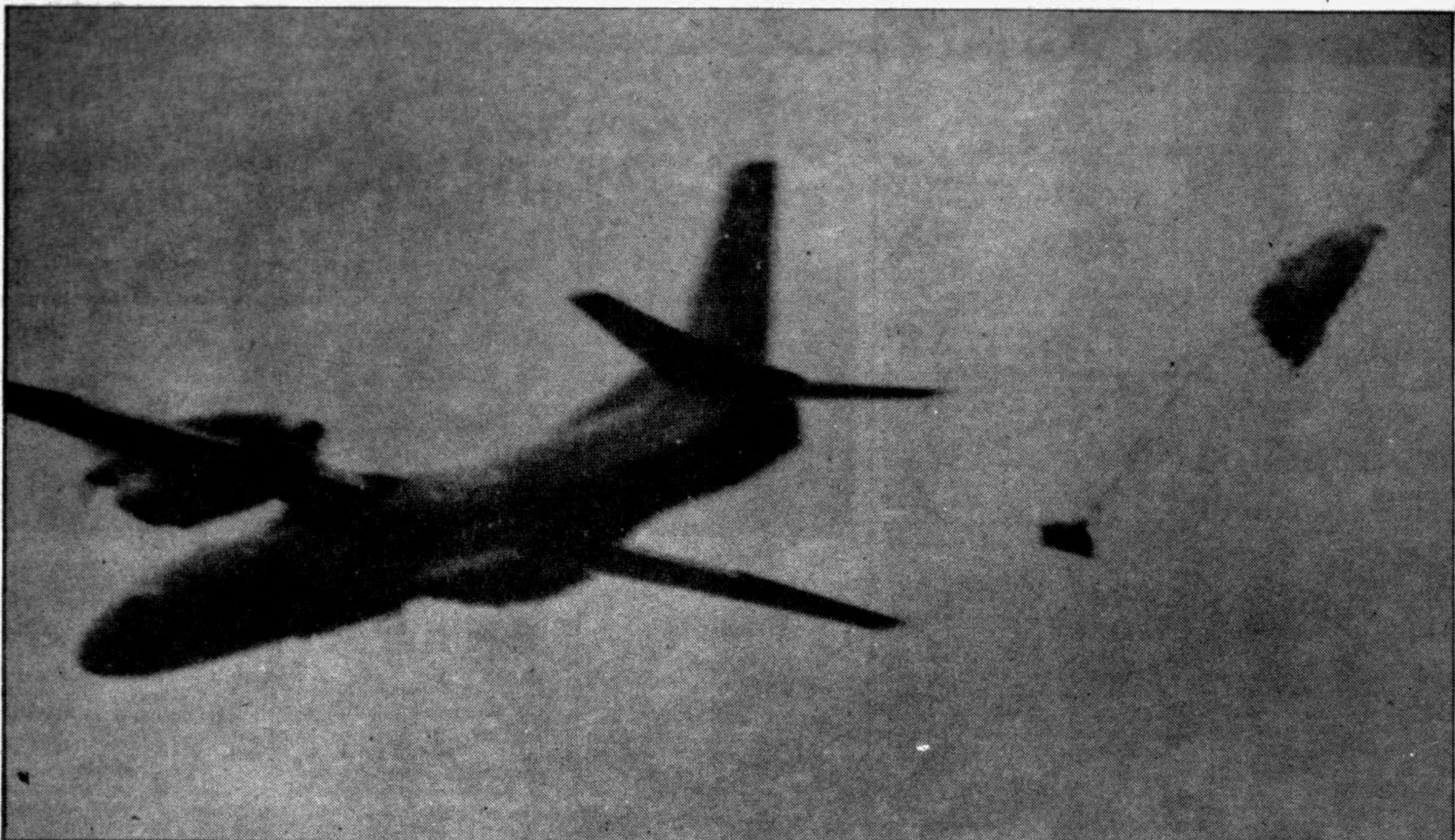
Witnesses said the incident occurred while they were returning home from a market. They died on the spot.

Boy electrocuted

A boy was electrocuted when a storm hit the village Bisrakandi under Kulara upazila of the district, witnesses said today, reports UNB.

Eye witnesses said Abu Miah (10), son of Noor Ali died on the spot as soon as he came in contact with a live electric wire lying on a field near his house.

A case of unnatural death was registered in this connection.



Parachute dropping of relief materials in cyclone-ravaged Hatiya.

—Star photo by Mohsin

Plundering of forest resources rampant

SATKHIRA, May 11: The unauthorised exploitation of the resources of the Sundarbans continued unabated reducing the government income and the forest resources.

The district is famous for forest resources as its vast area is covered with Sundarbans. The government annually earns about Taka 10 crore from the resources of these forests, such as deer and tigers, golpata, honey and wood. In spite of government's ban on hunting of wild animals in the forests, the hunters hunt the valuable animals very often. They enter the Sundarbans without the permission of the authority and kill the animals only to sell their skins at very high prices. The honey which can earn a lot of money is being exploited by unauthorised people.

The Forest Department has failed to take effective measures to check for plundering of the forest resources.

The Royal Bengal Tigers are becoming rare because of random hunting. The flora and fauna are being demolished by the wood cutters who cut the trees indiscriminately without considering their age and size.

The Forest Department to augment the production of Golpata has a directive to leave one fourth of the leaves on the trees uncut but the cutters cut all the leaves except one in the middle. As a result production of Golpata is hampered to a great extent and scarcity of Golpata prevails which are only roofing material for huts used in the region. These leaves are being smuggled out to India on large scale, it is learnt.

Bad communication in Assassuni upazila of the district has been causing numerous troubles to the people.

Handicrafts Production of handicrafts in Satkhira district may earn a huge amount of foreign currency from the export.

Women flock of the district possess good skills in making different kinds of jute bags and textures which have great demand in foreign markets. They make these items in their spare time. They also make bamboo and cane baskets of various types and colour them beautifully with excellent embroidery work on the baskets with a view to making them more attractive. But the

From Our Correspondent

The road from the district headquarter to Assassuni upazila is about 25 kms. The communication between these two places is not well connected either by road or by any navigable river. As a result, the people have to go either on a foot or by boats and bicycles to the different areas of the district.

Teacher shortage Shortage of teachers is hampering education in the government institutions of the district.

In Satkhira Girls High School several posts are lying vacant since long which include one post of Assistant Headmistress, two posts of senior teachers, one post of physical instructor and one post of Office Assistant.

Besides, in Satkhira Government College one post of Associate Professor, two posts in English, one post in

Economics, two posts in Political Science, two posts in Physiology, one post in Islamic Studies, one post in Chemistry, two posts in Mathematics, three posts in Botany, two posts in Zoology, three posts in Accounting, two posts in Management, two of demonstrators are two posts of Office Assistants have been lying vacant since 1980.

In Satkhira PTI four posts of Instructors, one clerk, one agricultural instructor, one accountant and one librarian have been lying vacant for the long time.

Minor girl drowns One Sabir Sultana Labani (9), daughter of Saifur Rahman of Lalbag Muhalla in Dinajpur town was drowned in a pond near her house recently.

According to the sources, she was trying to pluck Shapla flowers from the pond but she slipped down and drowned.

Selling of adulterated edible oil on rise

MADARIPUR, May 11: Adulterated edible oil is being sold in open market in four upazilas of the district since long.

Besides, palm oil meant for manufacturing soap is being mixed with the mustard oil and sold to the people openly.

Some organised gangs are learnt to be engaged in this malpractice and are supplying adulterated items like edible oil, ghee and coconut oil, soyabean oil etc to the wholesale dealers freely. Even after knowing the facts numerous businessmen are purchasing these adulterated materials and selling the same to the innocent customers at cheaper rates only to make huge profits.

On the other hand, the poor consumers are being attracted with the cheaper rates and buying these items without any hesitation. The adulterated edible oil coming from Dhaka and other places has flooded the markets of the district. As

a result the genuine traders are facing a tough competition in marketing their pure goods at higher rates.

According to the physicians many people are being attacked with various diseases due to consumption of such adulterated items.

Impure water threatens patients' health

KHULNA, Mar 11: Improper maintenance of the underground water tank of Khulna General Hospital has been threatening the health of the patients, reports UNB.

According to sources, garbage, dirt and filth from the adjacent slums, cow and pig sheds are polluting the water of the tank, which is not protected by walls.

Slum dwellers also collect water from the tank.

SSC examinee drowns, 13 missing in boat capsizing

SIRAJGANJ, May 11: One SSC examinee was drowned and 13 other passengers were missing in separate incidents when two boats capsized in the river Jamuna near Bhuapur and Natuapara here yesterday, witnesses and family sources said, reports UNB.

Rashed, a SSC candidate of Bhuapur centre drowned in the river Jamuna when he was going to appear at the examination yesterday morning.

He met the accident when the boat, carrying about 12 passengers, capsized near Bhuapur Ghat. He drowned as he did not know how to swim, passengers said.

Another incident took place at Natuapara in Kazipur upazila yesterday afternoon when an engine boat carrying about 27 passengers, capsized in the mid stream of the Jamuna, missing at least 13 people.

Witnesses said, local people rushed to the spot and rescued the remaining 14 passengers.

Dhaka team not allowed to enter Dahagram

RANGPUR, May 11: A 27-member Bangladesh team could not enter Dahagram and Angorpota enclaves in last April for want of transit permission.

The team headed by Deputy Commissioner of Lalmonirhat district was scheduled to enter

13 injured in Kushtia clash

KUSHTIA, May 11: At least 13 people were injured in a clash between two rival groups at village Dahakula in sadar upazila, police here said, reports UNB.

Eye witnesses and police said the clash ensued recently due to past enmity over the possession of 12 big has of land in the village. Both the groups have been claiming the ownership of the land.

Of the injured, Nasirul (28), Kamruzzaman (35), Habiluddin (28), Ashrafur Alam (30), Yad Ali (25), and Shajahan Ali (35) were treated in Kushtia

the enclaves on April 24 and to stay there for a few days to look into the progress and problems in education, health, family planning, rehabilitation and other programmes to have spot idea on the living conditions of the enclaves people.

A letter seeking transit permission was sent to the District Magistrate of Coochbihar on March 21 by the Deputy Commissioner of Lalmonirhat.

But the Coochbihar district authority did not respond to it till date. This has caused a great shock among the members of the Bangladesh team.

There are strong opinions among the general people that Indian silence to accord transit permission to Bangladesh team was an act of hindrance in mitigating the sufferings of the 15 thousands people of these enclaves who have been leading inhuman lives due to strong blockade by the Indians for the past few years.

Notes from Chuadanga

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, May 11: About 65 hats and bazars in four upazilas of the district are in very deplorable condition.

Lack of proper maintenance and care by the concerned authorities is said to be the main reason for the gradual deterioration of the markets of both urban and rural areas of the district. Drainage system is absent in all the hats and bazars. As a result rain water remains stagnant creating much inconvenience to the people. Tubewells are absent in some of the markets. Besides, whenever a tubewell goes out of order it takes several days to make it operative again. Shortage of space is another problem. Hats and bazars have not been expanded in accordance with the growing population. Lack of proper arrangement of the toilets and urinals in the markets creates more problems, the condition of the main bazar is also lamentable where numerous people visit for shopping every day.

Jute farming

Over 9000 hectares of land will be brought under Jute cultivation in four upazilas of Chuadanga district during the current season.

The upazilas are Chuadanga Sadar, Alamdanga, Damurhuda and Jibnagar.

According to an official source, of the total land, 1,800 hectares will be cultivated in Chuadanga Sadar upazila, 2,200 hectares in Alamdanga upazila, 3,600 hectares in Damudur upazila and 1712 hectares in Jibnagar upazila.

BADC will supply seeds, fertilizers and insecticides among the jute cultivators at a fair price.

The production target of raw jute has been fixed at 82,876 bales.

Arms recovered

Huge quantities of arms and ammunitions have been recovered by the Chuadanga police from an unused well of the old BDR camp recently.

Acting on a secret information, the police investigated the area and recovered these arms and ammunitions.

In the opinion of the police, the Pakistan army abandoned these arms when they left Chuadanga during the Liberation War in 1971.

Three dacoits arrested: arms recovered

BAGERHAT, May 11: Bagerhat police arrested three notorious inter-district dacoits and recovered two shot guns, huge quantity of live ammunitions and some booty from their possession recently.

It is reported that acting on a secret information, a police squad led by the Officer-in-Charge of Morrelganj P.S. in Bagerhat district raided a slum area of Manikalta in Khulna Metropolitan town and arrested the dacoits from there and recovered two shot guns and some booty from their possession. According to their statements, police raided Lasmikhali village under Morrelganj Upazila and recovered 27 rounds of live ammunitions. The arrested dacoits are Badsha, Bachehu and Azhar.

Mr. M. A. Rauf, Police Super of Bagerhat told this correspondent that those dacoits had committed a daring dacoity in the house of one Nikhil Chandra of village Sanyasi under Rampal Upazila in the and looted a double barrel gun and 40 rounds of live ammunitions.

The dacoits had also organised an inter-district gang and had committed a number of dacoities in Bagerhat district and its adjoining districts.

1 killed as trains collide in Sylhet

SRIMANGAL, May 11: One person was killed and 10 others were injured when the engine of the Surma Express and Sylhet Akhaura mixed train collided at Lauchara, between Kamalganj and Srimangal railway stations, official sources said.

The engine of the Sylhet-bound Surma Express was being used as an alternative telecommunication system that has remained disrupted from Monday after cyclone, the Station Master of Srimangal told the Daily Star.

The engine of the Surma Express leaving all its bogies at Srimangal station was going to Kamalganj to clear the line, he said adding that "the Akhaura-bound passenger train hit the engine at Lauchara, six miles from Srimangal".

Two driver of the engine and the driver and the guard of the mixed train were among the injured. The dead man was unidentified.

The injured were being treated at Srimangal Sadar



Relief workers removing chunks of debris from a Gazipur village which was hit by a devastating tornado on Tuesday last.

—Star photo