Record paddy harvest likely

Farmers will reap a record IRRI-Boro harvest this season, if not affected by flash floods within a fortnight, experts predicted on Monday.

"It's an unforeseen production with unusually long sheaves," one of the leading experts at the Agriculture Extention Department told UNB.

The government has set a target of producing 70 lakh tons of IRRI-Boro paddy this season, and the experts hope the target would be fulfilled.

Last year's production stood at 61.67 metric tons.

Reports from northern districts said there might be a bumper production of high yielding variety (HYV) and local variety of the dry-season paddy in terms of yield.

But acreage may fall below the target because many farmers could not bring their targeted areas under irrigation due to an unusual high price of fuel oil in the wake of recent Gulf crisis.

The agricultural experts said early rains this season had already had beneficial effect on Rabi crops as well as IRRI-Boro during their plantation, while summer heat would help paddy ripen well, boosting yield.

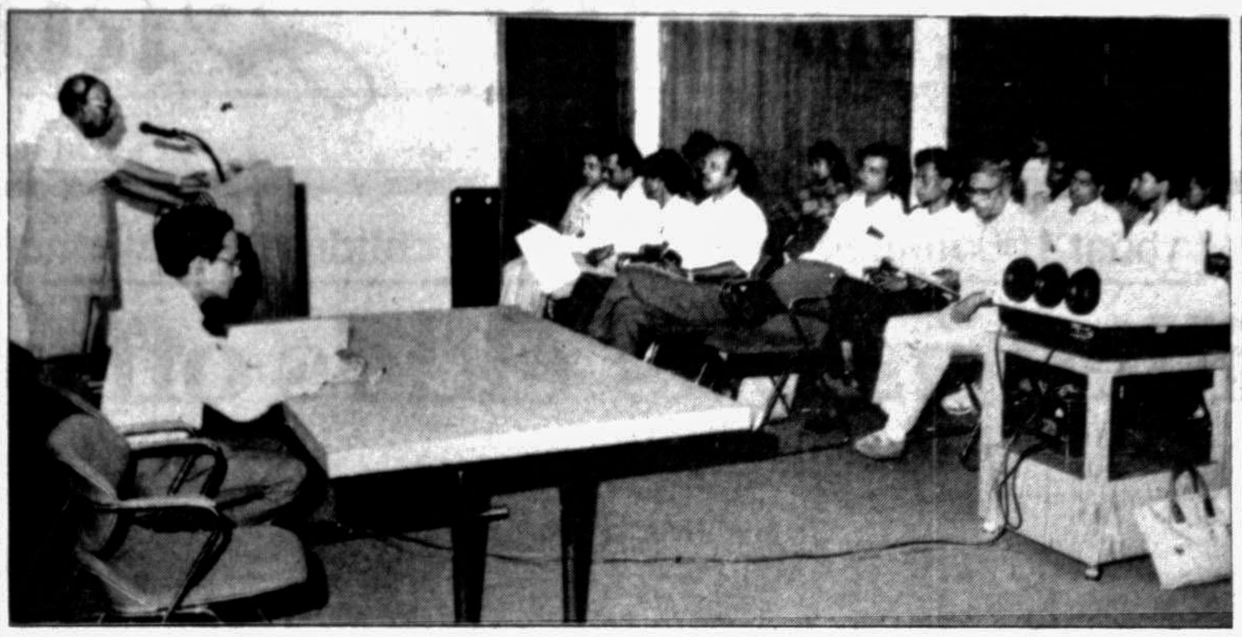
Meanwhile, countrywide IRRI-Boro procurement drive began on Sunday. The government has set the procurement target at 5 lakh tons till the end of the harvest in June.

The procurement price has been raised to Tk 240 per maund this year. It was Tk 220 last year. Rice will be purchased at Tk 369.50 per maund as against Tk 338.40 last year.

The drive aims at ensuring fair price to the growers and building food reserve for the lean period.

The agriculture department has suggested arrangements for mechanical driers for drying the usually wet Boro to minimise wastage in procurement.

Reports from haor and beel areas, where Boro is harvested four to six weeks earlier, say the local variety of paddy now sells at Tk 160-180 a maund.



Prof. Kazi Zaker Hussain of the Department of Zoology, Dhaka University, President of Bangladesh Wildlife Society and winner of 1990 UN Global 500 Role of Honor Award, presenting a paper on "Bangladesh Towards a Better Environment" in a seminar jointly organized by the Center for Nature Studies, Institute of Life Sciences, Jahangirnagar University; the Environmental Research Unit, Department of Geography, Dhaka University; The Forum for Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh; and the United States Information Service (USIS). The seminar was organized in observance of "Earth Day 1991" and was presided over by Dr KB Sajjadur Rashid, Professor of Geography, Dhaka University. —USIS photo

Alumni Trust Fund formed at BUET

A trust fund entitled, "The Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology Alumni Trust Fund" has been formed at BUET. This decision was taken in the Syndicate meeting of BUET, says a press release.

Professor M.H. Khan, Vice-Chancellor, BUET, presided over the meeting. The fund will be administered by a 12 member Board of Trustees. Vice-Chancellor, BUET, will be the Chairman and Director, Students' Welfare, BUET, will act as Member-Secretary to the Board of Trustees. The President, Institution of Engineers; President, Institute of Architects and representative of Alumni will also be members of the Board.

The primary aims and objectives of the fund are to promote research and development activities including development of libraries and laboratories, organizing seminars and symposia, to construct, expand and renovate the facilities of teachers, students and staff members of the University. The fund shall consist of voluntary gifts, donations and bequest from alumni, teachers, students and employees of the University; grants from Government, Semi-government, Autonomous, Commercial, Industrial and Financial Institutions and Organizations and from other available sources.

Dhaka-Bangkok ties to grow

The Ambassador of Thailand in Bangladesh Shalya Cheinda Wongse called on State Minister for Food Nazmul Huda at the secretariat Monday, reports UNB.

They discussed matters of mutual interests particularly matters concerning food sector.

The Thai Envoy handed over an invitation letter of the Thai Government to the State Minister for joining the "Ice Festival" to be held from May 8-10 in Bangkok, a PID handout said.

The State Minister hoped that the excellent relations existing between Bangladesh and Thailand would be further strengthened in the near future.

Eid reunion held

By Staff Correspondent

The Eid reunion of Bangladesh-China Cultural and Mass Communication Centre (BCCMCC) was held at Bijoynagar in the city on Sunday.

President of the organisation Nuran Nabi and General Secretary Engr. F. R. Siddiqui hosted the reunion.

Military Attache of Chinese Embassy, Coln. Lu Guan Quan, Commercial Counsellor, Su Jun-Lu, Deputy Military Attache, Coln. Geng Ke Pu, First Secretary (Admn) Wang Yu Tu, Cultural Section Incharge, Yao Bao Lai and other Chinese diplomats were present on the occasion.

Dissolution of UZ, Zila parishads ruled out

The government has no plan at the moment to Dissolve District and Upazila Parishads, the LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukdar told the Jatiya Sangsad Monday, reports BSS.

The Minister was replying to a question from Nurul Islam Moni (Ind-Barguna).

Replying to a supplementary question from Moni, Barrister Salam Talukdar said that the present government was very much democratic and there was scope for reforming the Zila and Upazila parishads.

Replying to another supplementary question from Awami League member Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim (Gopalganj) as to how the posts of the Zila Parishad chairmen would be filled up, the LGRD and Cooperatives Minister said. We want to reform them democratically.

When Advocate Fazle Rabbi (JP-Gaibandha) asked the Minister as to how the democratic government could appoint Deputy Commissioners as chairmen of the Zila Parisahds, the Minister said the BNP government had not made the Deputy Commissioners as chairmen of Zila Parishad.

The Minister also told A. K. M. Jahangir Hussain (AL-Patuakhali) that the government would take a decision regarding the posts of the Zila Parisahds through democratic process.

DU teachers go on token strike today

Teachers of the Dhaka University will observe a two-hour work abstention from 11 am today (Tuesday) to protest the recent incident in which miscreants threatened one of their colleagues, reports UNB.

The Dhaka University Teachers Association (DUTA) which called the token strike will also bring out a silent procession on the campus at 11.30 am and hold a protest rally at he Central Shaheed Minar.

The decision as taken at an emergency meeting of the Association on April 14.

A group of students misbehaved with seven teachers of the Mass Communication and Journalism Department April 11. They also allegedly threatened to kill Dr. A. A. M. S. Arefin Siddiqi, an Assistant Professor of the Department and Joint Secretary of DUTA.

Today's token strike of the teachers is the first such programme in the Dhaka University campus after the fall of Ershad regime December 6 last year.

Press workers' call to solve Observer crisis

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Sangbadpatra Press Sramic Federation (BSPSF) on Monday urged the Government to arrest Hamidul Haq Chowdhury, owner of the Bangladesh Observer immediately.

Mosharraf Hossain and Bazlur Rahman Milon, President and Secretary respectively of BSPSF, in a joint statement also called upon concerned authorities to seize his passport and not to give him permission to go abroad.

The leaders of BSPSF said that Hamidul Haq Chowdhury who was awarded imprisonment in 17 cases, is still doing 'despotic acts' one after another with warrant of arrest.

In the statement the leaders alleged that by violating orders of Labour Court, Chowdhury and terminated more then 200 journalists and employees after taking ownership of paper from autocratic Ershad in 1984.

The statement also said Hamidul Haq Chowdhury is still adamant from his decision to terminate nine employees including two journalists although three federations of newspapers requested him.

Children's Day Fest of Turkey Today

A Children's Day Festival and a Charity Bazaar will be held with festivities at the Turkish Embassy premises on Tuesday, at 3 p.m. The day is celebrated every year on the international level in Turkey and is the first and unique official children's day in the world, says a Press release.

The Children's Day is shared by the children of all countries with the aim of establishing mutual understanding and securing a future of peace and friendship. "23 April National Sovereignty and Children's Day' was established and dedicated to the children by great leader Kemal Ataturk to commemorate the opening of the first parliament of modern Turkey.

High-level body to examine report on Haripur oil

The non-government Public Enquiry Commission on Haripur oil agreement on Monday formally submitted its final report to the government, an official handout said, reports BSS.

State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources Dr. Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain received the report and said the government would consider it with utmost importance.

He said a high-level committee would be formed soon to examine various aspects of the report of the Public Enquiry Commission.

The Commission Chairman Dr. Kamal Hossain, and members Syed Ishtiaque Ahmad, Advocate Shamsul Haq Choudhury and Mr. Amirul Islam and Secretary of the Ministry Azimuddin Ahmed and Petrobangla Chairman M. Lutful Matin were present on the occasion.

Various aspects of national interests in exploration and exploitation of gas and oil resources were also discussed on the occasion. The State Minister thanked the members of the Public Enquiry Commission for their contribution towards national interests.

Propaganda abroad on jail incident 'baseless'

The government has described as "baseless" the propaganda created abroad by interested quarters with regard to the incidents in Dhaka Jail on April 9 and 10, reports BSS.

An official press release Monday said "it has come to the notice of the government that a wrong impression has been created abroad about the incidents of Dhaka Jail on April 9 and 10 and that a number of foreigners including a Human Right Organisation has made allegations in this respect which are not based on facts. They put exaggerated figures of casualty and alleged that the deaths were caused when the prisoners were beaten up and hot water was poured on them.

Amnesty International, Australia, and some individuals of Federal Republic of Germany, Japan, Norway and the United Kingdom addressed letters to the Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed demanding appropriate action in this regard.

The government regrets that the wrong impression about the incident has been created abroad due to a baseless propaganda resorted to by the interested quarters.

Maid dies in hospital

By Staff Correspondent

A maidservant met unnatural death at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) on Sunday.

Julekha, 16, was brought to the Emergency Department of DMCH in coma on Saturday from Kalabagan by a housewife, Rasheda Haider, who said she died from taking poison.

But eyewitnesses in hospital said that Julekha might have died from beating. Marks of torturing ware found on her body.

More tubewells to be sunk in diarrhoea-hit areas

The Public Health Engineering Department of the Local Government division has undertaken emergency measures to sink more tubewells in those districts for ensuring supply of pure drinking water where diarrhoeal diseases have broken out, reports BSS.

Under the emergency arrangements, 1601 tubewells are being sunk in Barisal, Jhalakathi, Perozpur, Bhola, Patuakhali and Barguna in addition to the existing 30,560 tubewells in the area. Of these additional tubewells, more than eleven hundred have already been sunk and the remaining ones are expected to be sunk by the end of this month, a PID handout said.

Besides, emergency control rooms have been set up in the district and upazila headquarters in the areas to monitor the developments in the public health sector. D P H E personnel in those districts have been put on emergency alert to face the situation and to ensure prompt repairs of the inoperative tubewells.

A Central Control Room is operating round-the-lock in Dhaka with the following telephones : 233103, 258881 and 404948.

SAIC meet from Apr 28

The 5th meeting of the governing board of the SAARC Agricultural Information Centre(SAIC) will be held here from April 28, a SAIC press release said here Monday, reports BSS.

The three-day meeting will be attended by the board members from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Sri Lanka, the Maldives, Nepal and Pakistan. It will be presided over by the current Chairman of the Governing Board and Executive Vice-Chairman of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council Dr MS U Choudhury.

The board will review technical matters and strategic plan for the SAARC, SAIC budget for the year 1991-92, audit report of 1989-90 and 90-91, staff rules for support services employees, financial rules and accounting procedures for the SAIC and other relevant matters pertaining to the SAIC.

The governing board will also discuss matters relating to organising the SAIC as a full fledged professional institute, the press release said.

Dateline Chittagong

10 hurt as rival groups clash at Karnaphuli Paper Mills

From Our Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Apr 22: At least 10 persons were injured, four of them critically, in a clash between two rival groups of workers at Karnaphuli Paper Mills, 20 miles off the city on Saturday night.

The critically injured — Ledu Mia (21), Miladunddin (21), Dulal Mia (25) and Abdul Noman (22) — were admitted to the Chittagong Medical College Hospital with bullet injury, hospital sources said.

When contacted SP of Rangamati told the Daily Star that the clash was the sequel to previous rivalry between the two groups of workers. Both the groups used fire arms and lethal weapons. None was so far arrested, police said.

KSP for parliamentary form of govt

BSS adds: The Krishak Sramik Party president, ASM Solaiman, Sunday called upon the government to take necessary steps to introduce parliamentary form of government in the country, a party press release said, reports BSS.

He said the people had struggled for a parliamentary form of government and that the party in power should not ignore the demand of the people.

Addressing a meeting of party workers at north Patenga, here, he also urged the government not to delay overcoming the constitutional crisis which was hampering smooth transfer of power to the elected government.

Solaiman also demanded of the government to release former President H M Ershad from detention.

Party leader Saleh Ahmad Chowdhury presided over the meeting.

Hassan killing : One more held

By Staff Correspondent

Mohammadpur police on Monday morning arrested another person Jahidul (22) from Tajmahal Road at Mohammadpur on charge of Hassan killing.

Hassan who was a video shop employee was killed on Saturday night by some armed youngmen who were suspected later as the activists of Freedom Party.

BCL call to recover arms from BIT

CHITTAGONG, Apr 22 : Leaders of Bangladesh Chhatra League (S-A), Bangladesh Institute of Technology Unit, today demanded recovery of illegal arms from the institute campus and punishment to the three students who were arrested with arms on Sunday, reports BSS.

Shantanu Talukdar and Sohel Sajjad, President and General Secretary of BIT unit of Chhatra League, addressing a Press conference at the Press Club here said a section of students of the institute had vitiated the academic atmosphere by their desperate and violent activities. If those culprits were not arrested and punished other students of the institute would not be able to prosecute their studies, they said.

Dateline Khulna

Diarrhoea claims six : 500 affected

Our Khulna Office

KHULNA, Apr 22: About 500 diarrhoea patients were admitted to Khulna Infectious Disease Hospital and Khulna Shishu Hospital since April 14. Of them six persons including two minor boys died.

It is reported that hundreds of diarrhoea patients could not be admitted to Khulna Infectious Disease Hospital due to inhuman behaviour of doctors and staff of the hospital.

Some of them died reportedly while they were refused to get admission in the hospital. Both Infectious Disease and Shishu Hospitals have only 20 beds. Many patients are kept on the floors without any practical medicare. Oral saline are also reported to be inadequate in both the hospitals.

The Civil Surgeon of Khulna Dr. Sk. Alimuzzaman told The Daily Star yesterday that 48 anti-diarrhoeal medical teams were working round the clock in the district to combat the disease.

He further said that control room has been set up at the sadar hospital while the disease broke out in the last month.

It may be mentioned that more than 20 persons died in the month of March in Khulna. Five persons were died in the Infectious Disease Hospital alone. The beds of the hospitals should be immediately expanded to cope with growing number of diarrhoea patients, many said.

'Govt firm to build corruption-free administration'

State Minister for Establishment Osman Gani Khan Monday said that the main duty of the administration was to infuse dynamism into economic activities through ensuring peace and improving law and order situation in the country. He said the present government was pledge-bound to build a corruption-free administration in the country.

The State Minister was inaugurating the 11th BCS Law and Administration Training Course at the BCS (Administration) Academy auditorium in Dhaka. The duration of the training course is three months.

Anti-smuggling drive in Rajshahi: 30 arrested

RAJSHAHI, Apr 22: Law enforcing agency personnel launched anti-smuggling drive in Rajshahi sector to check smuggling. They had already seized about 92,897 kgs of Indian smuggled sugar during the last three months, reports BSS.

They also arrested 30 persons on charge of smuggling and filed 66 cases.

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HOSPITALS

DMCH	505025-9
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SMCH	240061-3
Suhrawardy	325150-4
Holy Family	831721-5

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DMP Exchange	410061-5
Control Room	509922
Telephone Inquiry Central	239900
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Sher-e-Bangla Nagar	312141
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Moghbazar	402030

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Sundarban	505055-9
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CHITTAGONG

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Airport Customs	894485
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British Airways Reservation	861091-4
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Burmah Airways	253090
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Indian Airlines	231687
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Iraqi Airways	325631
JAL	258390
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THE DAILY STAR

বিরাট কাস্টমস নিলাম

কালেক্টর অব কাস্টমস, কাস্টম হাউস, ঢাকা-এর আদেশক্রমে আগামী ৮ ও ৯ই মে '৯১ ইং তারিখে বেলা ১০ ঘটিকা হইতে বাজেয়াপ্তকৃত বিপুল পরিমাণ নূতন বিদেশী বিভিন্ন প্রকার আসবাবপত্র, যেমন: সোফা, ডাইনিং টেবিল, চেয়ার, খাট, ওয়ার্ডরোব, সোকেস, কাঠের ডেকোরেশন, ইত্যাদি "যেখানে যে অবস্থায় আছে" ভিত্তিতে পুরাতন এয়ার ফ্রেইট গুদাম, তেজগাঁও, ঢাকা প্রাঙ্গণে প্রকাশ্যে নিলামে বিক্রয় হইবে।

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২৮, কে, পি, ঘোষ স্ট্রীট, ঢাকা-১১০০।

D — 20

Subscription Rate for
The Daily Star
(For Bangladesh only)

YEARLY : Taka - 1000.00 (Including Postage)
HALF YEARLY : Taka - 525.00 "
QUARTERLY : Taka - 265.00 "

Please Contact :
Circulation Manager
The Daily Star
28/1, Toynbee Circular Road, Motijheel, Dhaka-1000
G.P.O. Box No. 3257

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