

District roundup

COMILLA

College principal gets 5 yrs RI for misuse of fund

Oct 22: Former principal of a degree college was awarded five years rigorous imprisonment for misappropriation of the college fund, court sources said here Tuesday, reports UNB.

The case, in brief, was that principal Joyal Abedin of Shahebabad Degree College drew a portion of the salaries of the college teachers on September 21, 1991 from the bank. He misappropriated the money instead of disbursing to the concerned teachers.

Later, Abdul Wadud Sarker, on behalf of the college governing body, filed a case against the principal.

After examining the witnesses and records the Additional Sessions Judge, First Court, delivered the judgement on Oct 7.

KHULNA

'Media can play great role in shaping destiny of people'

Oct 22: Speakers at a seminar reiterated that newspapers had a great role to play in shaping the destiny of the people, reports BSS.

These media can reflect the hopes and aspirations of the people in their truest perspective with definite suggestions for their improvement, the speakers said while participating in the seminar held here in connection with the regional book fair at the Shahid Haidis Park.

Presided over by Begum Ferdousi Ali, editor of the Daily Tribune, the seminar was participated by Mayor of Khulna City Corporation, Shaikh Taybur Rahman, Abed Khan of the Daily Ittefaq and Abdus Sattar.

The key note speech was delivered by Monirul Huda. Speaking on the occasion Taybur Rahman said that the growth of free and fair journalism was necessary for the improvement of the lot of the people.

SYLHET

Tk 1.04 cr illegal goods seized, 113 arrested

Oct 22: Bangladesh Rifles seized contrabands worth over Taka 1.04 crore and arrested 113 people from different areas of the district during the last nine months, says UNB.

BDR sources said goods worth Taka 98.16 lakh were seized while being smuggled into the country and contrabands worth Taka six lakh were recovered while being smuggled out to India.

From January to September 232 cases had been filed. At least 61 smugglers managed to flee, the sources added.

The goods included spare parts, cosmetics, ganja, bicycle, sugar, salt, dry chilly, dal, saree, cloths and phenylsydyl syrup.

The goods were deposited with the customs officials.

TANGAIL

Current nets seized

Oct 22: Fisheries Department, Tangail recently seized 202 pounds of current net from Mirzapur and Karatia markets as being illegal tool to catch fish, says BSS.

Official sources said that the nets were seized to stop illegal fish catching. They were burnt down, the sources added.

The government had banned fish catching with current net.

SAVAR

Postponement of pourashava election protested

Oct 22: Rallies and processions were brought out in the town Monday protesting the postponement of Savar pourashava election which was scheduled to be held on Sunday, reports UNB.

Three separate rallies were held, two at Savar bazar bus stand and another at savar thana bus stand.

Speakers at the rallies demanded fresh election schedule within seven days and warned that they will go for a greater movement if their demands were not met within the specified time.

They also urged the town dwellers not to pay municipal taxes until the demands were met.

Three candidates — Ashrafuddin Khan Imu, Riffatullah and Mintu Mollah were contesting for the chairman post.

The municipal polls were postponed by an order of sub-judge court.

CHANDPUR

Women college inaugurated

Oct 22: A women college after the name of Roimannassa, a philanthropic lady of the area, was set up at Matlab on Monday, reports BSS.

Md Nurul Huda, Member of the Jatiya Sangsad, inaugurated the college in presence of a large number of people, including students, teachers and elite of the town.

The meeting held on the occasion was addressed by the Deputy Commissioner of Chandpur Md Golam Kibria, Prof Abdul Majid, Chairman of Comilla Board and Prof Kazi Amin Ahmed, Principal of Chandpur Government College.

This is the third women college and nineteenth college in the district.

In the opening year about five hundred students have been admitted to the college.

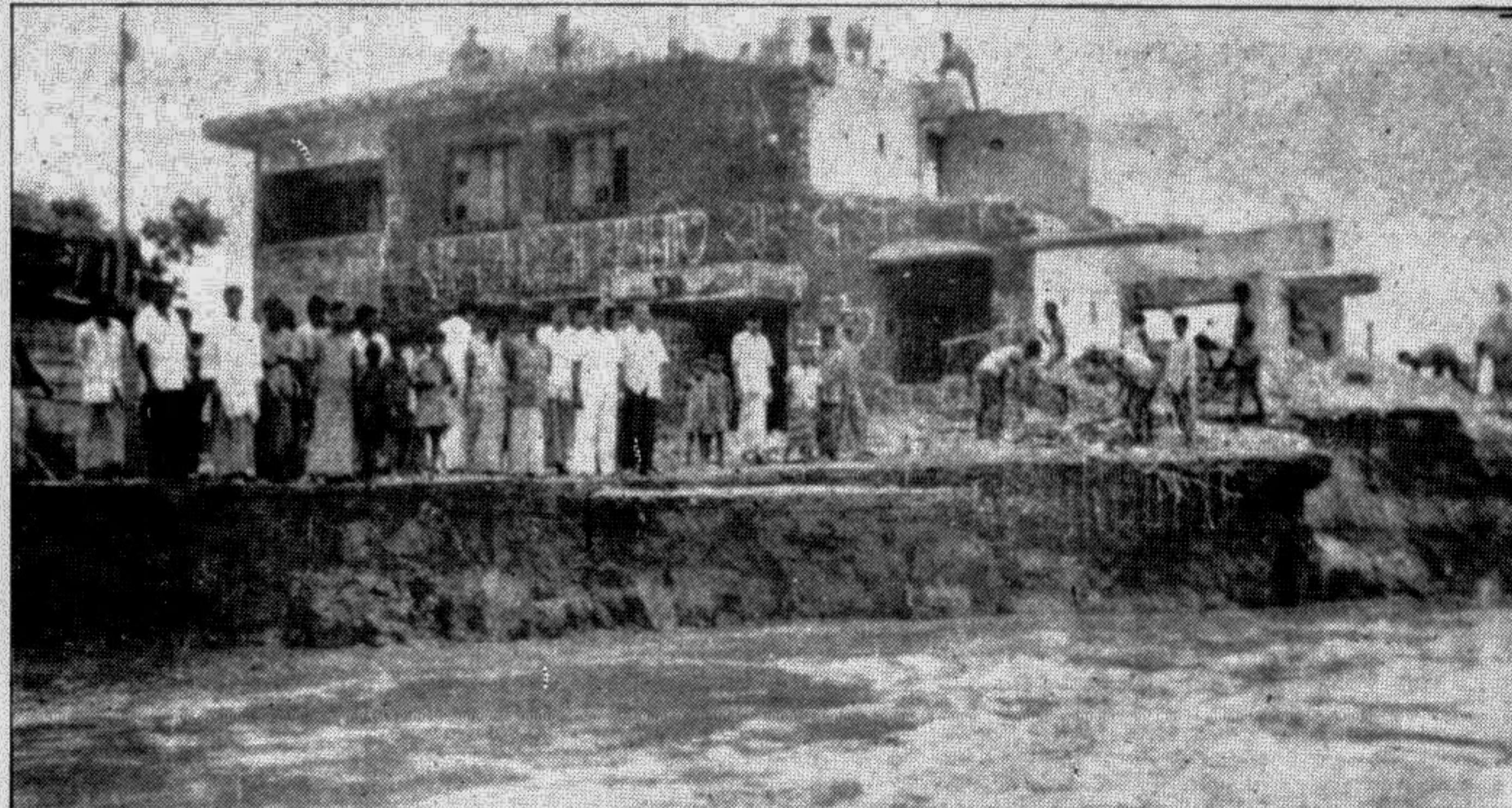
FARIDPUR

20 injured in bus mishap

Oct 22: At least twenty persons were injured one of them seriously when two passenger buses collided head on Saturday at Bakhunda on Faridpur-Barisal highway, reports BSS.

According to hospital source, of the injured, nineteen were given first aid and one was admitted to the hospital with grievous wound.

A case has been registered with the police.



GAIBANDHA: A two storied building on the bank of the river Brahmaputra at Fulchhari thana of the district is on way to be erected. — Star photo

"Go for effective plan to face challenges of disasters"

COMILLA, Oct 22: The Secretary General of BNP and LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder Sunday said that "our progress and prosperity would remain an illusion unless we could save our people from the vulnerabilities of disasters, both, natural and man-made," reports BSS.

It is therefore, became imperative for us to go for an effective and meaningful programme to face the challenges of all disasters," he added.

The minister was inaugurating three day SAARC workshop on "disaster preparedness and management" organised by Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) at its auditorium here.

Thirty participants from Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and the host Bangladesh are taking part in the workshop.

Presided over by the Director General of BARD, Dr Salehuddin Ahmed, the inaugural session was also addressed, among others, by the Secretary of Rural Development and Cooperatives Division of the Ministry Md Mahe Alam, a participant from India, VP Pasrija, Workshop Director Fazul Bari and Director, Training, Makbul Ahmed Chowdhury. Dr Salehuddin Ahmed also read out the keynote paper in the workshop.

The minister said our government was well aware of the adverse effect of the recurring disasters like flood, cyclone, tornado and earthquakes on our economy and that was why the government was prepared to cope with such emergency and unavoidable situations.

The minister suggested a number of measures to face and mitigate the fatal consequences of disaster which include construction of shelters, flood control embankments, cyclone preventive embankments, afforestation in the coastal areas, embankments along the river belt, construction of strong houses, proper navigation facilities between the mainland and islands and evacuation of the people before, during and after disasters.

The laid emphasis on making people aware and conscious so that they could help themselves at the time of calamity to mitigate and minimise the effects of disasters.

The minister underscored the need for international cooperation for technical and material assistance for disaster preparedness and management.

Md Mahe Alam said, that SAARC workshop on disaster was a timely one in view of the sufferings of the human beings by natural disasters every year.

Dr Salehuddin Ahmed, in his key-note paper, highlighted various issues specially socio-economic perspectives of the people regarding disasters and expressed that people's vulnerability to disasters could be reduced through proper programmes and management at national, local and individual levels.

Promotion of trade stressed

CHITTAGONG, Oct 22: Commerce Minister M Shamsul Islam on Tuesday said, the traders and industrialists were the main driving force in the struggle for achieving economic prosperity of the country, reports BSS.

The minister was addressing as chief guests a meeting on overall trade situation with the members of the Chittagong Chambers of Commerce and Industries at Chamber Bhaban here.

The main objective of the liberal economic policy of the government was to achieve a self-reliant economy through the optimum use of productive creativity of the entrepreneurs, the minister said.

Referring to the recent address of the Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to the

Bangladesh ambassadors in European countries asking them to work sincerely for the betterment of Bangladesh trade and industry, Islam said, Bangladesh was making all out efforts to derive maximum possible benefit from the free-market economy.

He stressed the need for mutual discussion between the government and business community to promote the trade sector.

Islam said, the present government was committed to strengthen the overall production sector through reducing government control gradually.

To reactivate the commerce sector all sorts of co-operation would be provided by the government to remove bureaucratic bottlenecks, if any.

Islam urged the business

community to come forward with their valuable suggestions and recommendation in implementing the government programme in this sector.

Presided over by the President of Chittagong Chambers of Commerce and Industries S M Abul Kalam, the meeting was also addressed, among others, by the mayor of the Chittagong City Corporation Mayor Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin.

UNB adds: Chhatra Dal, Chhatra Shibir and Chhatra Union on Tuesday night announced formation of Sangrami Chhatra Oikya Parishad with the objective of freeing the campus from the terrorists.

The student leaders demanded immediate arrest of those involved in the Monday's killing.

Protest against betrayal

JHENAIDAH, Oct 22: Two friends committed suicide together at the same spot as they failed to absorb the shock of their fiances' betrayal at Ullapara village in Kaliganj tharfa on Wednesday, reports UNB.

Villagers said two intimate friends Asma (14), daughter of Babar Ali and Firoza (15), daughter of Sohrab Mollah, of the village had affair with two youths but the relations collapse after their fiances refused to marry them.

The frustrated friends after being rejected committed suicide by hanging themselves from the same branch of a tree at the village to protest the betrayal, villagers said.

Police were haunting the two youths to investigate.

School building lying half-built for 4 yrs

DURGAPUR (Rajshahi), Oct 22: The office building of Ujalkhalshi High School remained half-built for the last four years due to negligence of the concerned authority, reports UNB.

The now-defunct Durgapur Upazila Parishad undertook the construction work in the fiscal 1989-90 at a cost of Taka 2.45 lakh. But after building the walls, the project has virtually been abandoned.

School authorities apprehend that if the building is not completed without further delay, the half-built house will soon be useless spoiling the public money already spent.

The aggrieved teachers said they had been using a community centre far away from the school as their office-cum-commonroom at much inconvenience.

The institution, having good results in examinations, is also facing various other problems

hampering education of the students.

It has science division but no science building as yet. Teaching science without a science building along with laboratory facilities tantamount to doing the impossible," said a teacher.

The school has no commonroom for the students also. Particularly, girl students face vexing problems for want of commonroom. Classrooms and furniture are inadequate to accommodate about 400 students.

It has a playground, but it becomes unfit for use in the rainy season. It needs immediate renovation.

The Model Primary School adjacent to the high school is also smarting under serious problems.

Teachers and guardians urged the Facilities Department to take steps for urgent reconstruction of the office building.

Ban on politics in college

RAJBARI, Oct 22: Political activities in Rajbari Pangsha College has been banned for one year with a view to maintaining congenial academic atmosphere on the campus, reports UNB.

College sources said, normal academic function in the college has been hampered after a Chhatra League (M-I) activist, Sharif, was killed in broad daylight on July last.

Following the deteriorating situation, the college authorities, student organisations, guardians, thana administration in a joint meeting decided to postpone political activities on the campus for a year.

Campus situation is said to be normal after the political restriction.

Another report adds: Unidentified miscreants shot and killed a villager in Balakandi thana of the district on Friday midnight.

Police said a gang of about 10-12 armed miscreants searching for a school teacher raided his house at Beradanga village. They beat up the inmates of the house as school

teacher Abdus Salam managed to escape.

Hearing the hue and cry, the villagers chased the miscreants and caught one of them. They rescued their man by stabbing and shooting at villager Mallik (20). He died on the spot.

The body was sent to Rajbari morgue for post-mortem.

Police said the miscreants did not take away any goods from the house. It was not known as to why they looked for the school teacher.

4 get life term for killing one

RANGPUR, Oct 22: Four persons were sentenced to life imprisonment by the Additional District and Sessions Judge on Sunday for killing a man, reports UNB.

The convicted Abul Kasem, Kafiuddin, Raza and Khairul were also fined Tk 5000 each. In default, to suffer five months rigorous imprisonment more. Another 10 people were acquitted.

Massive afforestation plan in greater Sylhet

SYLHET, Oct 22: The Forest Department has taken up an extensive afforestation programme on 1,730 acres of land covering the districts of Sylhet, Maulvibazar, Habiganj and Sunamganj in the current fiscal year, reports UNB.

Official sources said, the programme undertaken by the Sylhet Forest Division will include the plantation of trees of different rotation on 1,210 acres of land. Besides, an area of 520 acres will be brought under bamboo, cane and murta plantation.

Saplings of rapid-growth trees of foreign and local species including malakana, manzium, akashmani, kadam, eucalyptus, teak, mehagani, garjan, lohakat,

jarul, korol have been raised in the nurseries of different forest ranges of the division.

The Forest Division earned a revenue of Taka 6.16 crore during the last fiscal year from the timber, bamboo, cane and murta against the target of Taka 3.2 crore. In 1991-92, its earnings stood at Taka 3.22 crore, the sources said.

The Sylhet Pulp and Paper Mills purchased bamboo of Taka 1.30 crore while bamboo worth Taka four crore were sold to individual parties. Cane and murta are supplied to the growing local cottage industries which have employed a large number of people.

Murta is used for making a "special Sylheti sital pati", a local mat liked by the people at home and abroad. The Forest Division also earned Taka 9 lakh by selling this variety of cane only in 1992-93.

The Forest Division has submitted a Taka 130 crore master plan to the government that includes reed plantation on an area of 58,000 acres of low-lying land, said the Divisional Forest Officer Ghulam Habib.

The area was handed over to the Sylhet Pulp and Paper Mills for plantation in 1962. But it failed to implement the programme.

Also among the projects of the master plan are a Taka 34 crore game sanctuary project in wild life scheme and four bamboo development projects on 10,000 hectares of land involving Taka 32 crore.

6 killed, 40 hurt as coaches collide

HABIGANJ, Oct 22: At least six people were killed and some 40 others injured when two passenger coaches had a head-on collision on the road in the hilly Kamaichhara area this afternoon, reports UNB.

Police said the accident occurred when a Dhaka-bound coach from Sunamganj hit a Sylhet-bound coach from Comilla.

Diarrhoea claims 4 more in Pabna

PABNA, Oct 22: Diarrhoea claimed four lives and attacked 53 people in two villages of Sujanagar thana in 24 hours till 10 am today, official sources said, reports UNB.

With this, the death toll from the disease rose to 13 and the number of the attacked to 184 in Natunpara and Satbaria villages in last 48 hours.

The dead were identified as: Sayeda Khatun, 40, Jobeda Khatun, 35, and Aklima, 5, of village Natunpara and Mansur Ali, 50, of village Satbaria.

Farmers get low prices of their output

BARISAL, Oct 22: Thousands of farmers of different districts of the Barisal division are facing problems as they are not getting fair prices of their products, reports UNB.

The farmers of these districts are compelled to sell their various products and crops in advance to some unscrupulous money lenders at a nominal price to maintain their daily expenses.

Meanwhile, the money-lenders are doing brisk business by giving credit at a high interest rate against security of standing crops.

So the helpless peasants eventually are becoming ridden as they cannot repay their loans taken earlier due to

low prices of their products in the markets. They said they are forced to sell their crops at throw away prices round the year due to lack of marketing facilities.

The farmers alleged that in the absence of purchasing centres for procuring paddy by the government they are to sell the crop below the production cost.

Sharbahara member seriously injured

A group of angry people gauged the eyes of a Sharbahara man at Hosnabad village in Muladi thana Sunday.

Police said villagers armed with sticks and other lethal weapons gheraoed a gang of the outlawed Sarbahara Party and nabbed one of them and gauged

his eyes.

Muladi police rushed to the spot and rescued the victim, Anul Bepari, and recovered one pipe gun and two bullets from his possession.

Anul was sent to Muladi Thana Health Complex for treatment in police custody.

The gang of the outlawed party entered into the village to collect toll, witnesses said.

Winter crops cultivation plan

BSS reports add: A total of 3,14,420 hectares will be brought under different winter crops in 11 southern districts under Barisal Agriculture Extension Zone (BAEZ) during the current season.

The districts are Barisal, Jhalakati, Bhola, Pirojpur, Patuakhali, Barguna, Faridpur, Rajbari, Gopalganj, Madaripur and Shariatpur.

According to an official source, the crops to be cultivated are: Boro, wheat, potato, sweet potato and maize.

The Agricultural Extension Department will arrange 3,495 demonstration plots for these crops in these districts to educate farmers the modern methods of cultivation.

Of the total, 2,05,050 hectares will be brought under boro cultivation, 56,290 hectares under wheat, 6,580 hectares under potato, 22,000 hectares under sweet potato, 1,600 hectares under maize and 22,900 hectares under different vegetables cultivation, the source said.

Two killed, one run over

One Habibur Rahman (80) was run over by a Dhaka bound passenger bus on Dhaka-Barisal highway at Mahilara under Gournadi thana recently.

Police seized the bus. The driver of the bus has been absconding, police source said.

Besides, two persons were allegedly killed and three others were injured critically in a collision between two passenger buses on Jhalakati-Barisal



Ronald Grafe, Deputy Head of Mission of the German Embassy in Dhaka supervising the distribution of CI sheets among the flood hit families of Bahubal thana under Habiganj district. The German government donated 500 bundles of CI sheets for the flood victims.