

## Best degree college

**FARIDPUR, Feb 7:** Government Sarada Sundari Mahila College has been adjudged as the best degree college of the country this year, Reports BSS.

This decision of the government has been conveyed by the education ministry to the college authority Saturday on the basis of the performances of the college during the recent past.

For the last five years the students of this college have been making good results in the public examinations both in the HSC and degree levels. The award for the best college would be handed over at a function in February 15 in Dhaka.

## School boy poisoned to death

**COMILLA, Feb 7:** A school child was allegedly poisoned to death following a dispute between the two families at Talagram village in Parura thana, reports UNB.

The victim identified as Sumanta (10) son of Shambhu Nandi and a student of class five of Talagram Primary School was called in and given some fried rice to eat by Rani Bala Datta (45) wife of Hiralal Datta alias Kala on January 17. He was playing near Rani Bala's house, the arch enemy of their family.

After taking the fried rice Sumanta became seriously ill and was rushed to Barura Hospital where he died.

A case was registered with the police. Police arrested Rani Bala and Hiralal Datta. Later Rani Bala was granted bail.

## Two canals to be reexcavated in Chandpur

**CHANDPUR, Feb 7:** A meeting of the Chandpur district canal excavation implementation committee was held here Sunday with Shipping Minister MK Anwar in the chair, reports BSS.

The meeting decided to re-excavate two canals in Chandpur in the current fiscal year and allotted 475 metric tons of wheat for the purpose. The approved canals are, Jhamjhamia canal and Kamta canal. After reexcavation of these canals vast areas under Chandpur sadar, Haziganj and Faridganj thanas will come under irrigation network.

The meeting was informed that about 500 metric tons of wheat had been spent to re-excavate eight canals in Chandpur district during the last fiscal year. It was also informed that 380 metric tons of wheat had been spent to re-excavate six canals in the district in the previous year.

Alamgir Haidar Khan MP, M A Matin MP, Alam Khan MP and the officials concerned were present in the meeting.

Earlier, the shipping minister addressed a meeting attended by the leaders and workers of BNP and its front organisation in Chandpur.

## Because he married second time

**PABNA, Feb 7:** An angry son beat his father to death on Wednesday at village Gae-shpur in Sathia thana for taking second wife, police said, reports UNB.

Father of 12 children 55 year-old Rajab Ali without the consent of the family members married for the second time at the nearby Uttar Vitaduary.

When the news of the second marriage came to light his elder son, Rezaul, 23 got furious and attacked his father with a lethal weapon while he was saying his Magreb prayer. He died on the spot.

On information Police Supar visited the spot. A case was lodged in this connection. Rezaul was absconding.

Another report from Nature adds: A middle-aged man 'was beaten' to death in village Shengah of sadar thana on Friday.

Local people said that a gang of miscreants attacked the victim Abdus Samad, 40 with lethal weapons and beat him to death while he was his on way home.

## Social worker dead

Social worker Kazi Anwarul Islam (80), died at his College Road residence in Sathkhira recently, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, two sons, four daughters and a host of relatives and well-wishers to mourn his death.

Retired as Deputy Police Super, Islam devoted his life in helping the poor and meritorious students of his district. He was the Vice-President of Anjuman-e-Mofidul Islam, Sathkhira, for a long time.



TRIP TO VISIT DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES: James Gustave Speth, UNDP Administrator and Emi Watanabe, Resident Representative, UNDP during their visit to Manikganj on Sunday. The trip has been organised by the United Nations Joint Consultative Group on Policies (UN-JCGP). — Photo by AKM Mohsin

## Cotton production fails to achieve target

From Our Correspondent

**SIRAJGANJ, Feb 7:** Cotton production in Northern Zone, has failed to achieve target for mismanagement in seed distribution and low price of cotton at mill gate during the current season.

It is gathered that there is a bright prospect of cotton production in the northern zone of the country. Normal production of cotton may save foreign currency of the country.

During the current season, target of cotton cultivation was fixed at 10,600 hectares of land in the northern zone.

Out of the total, 3,000 hectares of land in 13 units of Rangpur zone (Rangpur, Gaibandha, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat and Dinajpur districts), 4000 hectares in 14 units of Rajshahi zone (Rajshahi, Natore and Naogaon districts), 2100 hectares in 10 units of Bogra zone (Bogra and Sirajganj districts), 1500 hectares of land in four units of Pabna sub-zone.

The production target was fixed at 10,600 metric tons.

According to the Bangladesh Cotton Development

Board, cotton has been cultivated on 60 per cent of the targeted land in the northern districts.

In 1991-92 fiscal year, purchasing price of cotton at the mills gates was fixed at Taka 710 of per maund and the rate is not enhanced later, even after rise in cost of production which discourages the farmers.

Infrastructural and technical problems create hindrances in smooth functioning of the field staffs of Cotton Development Board causing short production of cotton in

the areas.

Election of Bulkuchi thana Central Industrial Co-operative Union Ltd, was held recently with Thana Co-operative Inspector Md Abdus Sobhan in the chair.

Md Emtaz Ali Pramanik and Amir Chand Mia were elected Chairman and Secretary respectively of the nine-member Board of Directors of Thana Industrial Co-operative Union Ltd.

Six months have passed after ending the Degree (Pass) Examination, 1992 under the University of Rajshahi but the authority could not publish the results as yet.

It is gathered that Degree (Pass) examination of 1992 under the Rajshahi University began on June 10, 1993 and ended on August 14, 1993. The practical examination were completed a few months ago. Yet the university authority could not publish the result till now.

Meanwhile, the Degree (Pass & Subsidiary) Examination of 1993 under the newly formed National University is about to be completed.

## Huge property gutted

**PATUAKHALI, Feb 7:** A devastating fire raged through Kaliya Bandar area last week causing huge damages to goods and properties, reports UNB.

The fire, originating from a stove, broke out at 12 noon and burnt down at least 8 shops of the Bandar, incurring a loss of Taka nearly 30 lakh, local people and affected shopkeepers said.

## Only women college in actue crisis

From Our Correspondent

**HABIGANJ, Feb 7:** Habiganj Women College, the only higher educational institution for the women of the district has been facing manifold problems for a long.

The number of students of the college is about 600. The number of students is increasing day by day but the college cannot accommodate them as the college house could not be expanded for want of necessary funds.

The college was established in the year 1985 under the active and sincere initiative of some local elite and government officers namely Abulais Muhammed Mobin Chowdhury MP, Shahid Choudhury present Chairman of Habiganj Paurashava, Golam Mortuza ex-pauro-commissioner, Ali Haidar Khan, Chittagong Divisional Commissioner and Hedayetul Islam Chowdhury former

DC Habiganj. Taka 4 lakh 49 thousand was donated by some gentlemen living in America and London for the interest of higher education facilities of the females of the district.

But after that no further initiative was taken either by the government or by the private corners for its development.

The college has only humanities group with requisite number of teachers. Science and commerce departments could not be started for want of accommodation.

The area of the college is small. Total land of the college is about 103 decimal.

The college has got no hostel facility for which the intending candidates from farflung areas cannot get themselves admitted into the college.

There is no residential accommodation for the teachers even the principal of the college has no official quarter.

The college library has inadequate number of books for want of fund. In absence of necessary books, the students mainly the poor ones are facing difficulties.

There is no auditorium in the college as a result functions cannot be held properly.

The principal of the college told this correspondent that, the college authority is not in a position to solve any of the problems because of the acute fund shortage.

The guardians, students and elite of the locality urged upon the government to nationalise the college immediately so that the female students of the district can continue their higher studies in a proper educational atmosphere.

From Our Correspondent

**Md Abdul Hamid, Professor Md Zairul Abedin Khan, Professor Dr Md Fazlul Awal Mollah, Dr Md Moynuddin, General Secretary, BAU Teachers' Association took part in the discussion.**

Dr Moynus Salam conducted the symposium.

Another report says: Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr Shah Mohammad Farouk stressed the need for adopting crop diversification programme for solving country's nutritional

**AGRI-VARSITY (Mymensingh), Feb 7:** Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr Shah Mohammad Farouk said session jam of the university should be removed through identification and solution of different problems on the campus.

Addressing as chief guest at a one-day symposium on the 'Removal of session jam within existing facilities' held at the Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin Auditorium of the Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) under the auspices of the BAU Teachers' Association, the Vice-Chancellor urged the teachers to play a pioneering role in removing the session jam.

He also stressed the need for preparation of lecture schedule for the teachers and separate academic calendar.

Presided over by Professor Dr Md Monsurul Amin, President, BAU Teachers' Association, the function was addressed, among others, by Professor Dr Abdul Halim.

The key papers were presented by the eminent educationists Professor Dr Mohammad Hossain and Professor Dr Khandakar Sirajul Islam.

Professor Dr Md Abdul Haque, Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, Professor Dr Md Ismail Hossain, Professor Dr



MYMENSINGH Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Shah Muhammad Farouk speaking as chief guest at a seminar on 'Seed Potato Production in Bangladesh' held here recently at the Department of Horticulture of the Bangladesh Agricultural University. — Star photo

## BNP govt believes in politics of peace, progress, development

**BEGUMGANJ (Noakhali), Feb 7:** State Minister for Textiles Major (Retd) Abdul Mannan said democratically elected BNP government had done a lot of development works for the economic emancipation of the common people of the country during the last three years, reports UNB.

The minister was speaking as chief guest at a big public meeting organised by Begumganj thana BNP on Friday.

He cited various development works specially in the field of agriculture, education, industry, health and family planning communication, fisheries and livestock including allowing of the publications of so many newspapers in the country. He said his government believed in the freedom of press.

The meeting presided over by the local BNP president Advocate Abdur Rahim was also addressed by MP Barkatullah Bhulo, BNP leader Ali Hossain and Zakir Hossain, an official handout said.

Abdul Mannan also said the present government was the government of the people and it believed in the politics of peace, progress and development.

He called upon the people to be united under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia with a view to materialising the dreams of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman whose dream was to establish a self-reliant Bangladesh.

The minister also advised the BNP workers to uphold the image of BNP through serving the people and maintaining peace and discipline in the society.

## Literate jobless youths increasing alarmingly

**KUSHTIA, Feb 7:** The number of literate unemployed youths is alarmingly increasing in the district, reports UNB.

Official source said, there are about 10,000 literate unemployed youths in the district. Most of them are graduates and post graduates.

Many of them are seen addicted to different drugs and engaged in anti-social activities. Some said they are suffering from utter frustration in life due to lack of job opportunities. They said, they gather every day to the notice boards of different offices and go to the pages of newspapers searching jobs.

Local elite have urged the government to take immediate programmes to employ these youths on self-reliant schemes so that they can lead a decent life in the society.

Our correspondent reports: The Universal Primary Education Programme (UPEP) has been facing a serious setback in the district.

According to Primary Education Department, there are 549 primary schools in the district. About one lakh children are being imparted primary education in these schools run by government or

private initiatives.

It is reported that the condition of most of the schools are in poor shape. Inadequate furniture and shortage of teachers are the main causes hampering education in most of these schools. High prices of papers and other educational appliances, financial crisis and social problems are also hindering the progress.

Moreover, the schools damaged by floods, storms and cyclones over the last few years have not yet been repaired. The shortage of teachers and accommodation problem have aggravated the situation.

Cracks have developed on the roof of the most of the school buildings for which the students cannot attend classes during rainy season. Very often classes are taken under open sky.

Most of the schools have no tubewell and the students are to take impure water from the nearby ponds and canals.

For economic crisis, the students are to help their parents in their daily work. So, a large number of students are unable to attend classes and consequently they are deprived of the education.

## Wine, drugs on open sale

From Our Correspondent

**JESSORE, Feb 7:** Country made wine and various types of drugs are being sold openly at different places of the town.

Many unauthorised shops have been set up at noted areas to carry out the illegal trade. Drugs like, heroin, opium, Mandex tablets, Pathedrine injections, Phenidyle syrup, ganja and many more similar medicines are available at these shops.

Most of the customers are obviously addicts, ageing between 15 and 25. 'Country made wine is also openly sold and buyers of this item range from age 20 to 50,' says an employee of a shop who sells drugs and wine to only known faces.

'The number of addicts, in comparison to a few years back, has shown a remarkable rise especially among the young group,' says a shop

owner. 'Heroin and Phenidyle syrup are very popular, next comes ganja,' he added.

These shop owners or the customers seem to have no fear of being arrested or raided by police. Regular payment of bribe money to senior police officers is said to be the main cause of police cooperation with these shop owners. At times, few are arrested but for temporary interrogation, says another shop owner.

The exact number of such unauthorised shops is hard to tell but according to a source there are over one hundred such shops which only sell drugs. Many temporary shops exist for the purpose of only wine trade. 'Business is booming,' says one dealer of wine bottles.

There are reports of hidden wine producing factories in and around the Jessore town.

## District roundup

FARIDPUR

### Norwegian minister visits project areas

**Feb 7:** Norwegian Minister for Development Cooperation Karl Nordheim Larsen visited greater Faridpur area on Thursday and Friday to see for herself some of the Norwegian assisted development and employment oriented projects, reports BSS.

The minister on Thursday visited one biogas plant at Madaripur set up by Local Government Engineering Department.

The minister on Friday visited a road maintenance project in Nagarkanda thana.

The project is being implemented by women labourers. The minister also visited trees planted along the road and their caretaking by women labourers at Badarpur-Saltha road.

The minister and her twelve member entourage expressed satisfaction over the project performance.

According to an official source, Norwegian government has been providing Taka fifty-six crore as grant for the infrastructure development in greater Faridpur area since 1990. The assistance would continue upto 1995. Project Director of Local Government Engineering Department Abu Taher Khan accompanied the visiting minister.

COMILLA

### Three get life-term for murder

**Feb 7:** Three people were awarded life term imprisonment with a fine of Taka 2000 each, in default, to suffer another year more for murder, court sources said Saturday, reports UNB.

According to the prosecution story, Channu Mia, Bandar Ali and Bachchu Mia along with their accomplices entered the house of Suniti Bala Roy of village Majidpur in Daudkandi thana at dead of night on August 2, 1987. They dragged her out from the room and stabbed to death.

Her son, Narayan Chandra Roy filed a case with the police.

After examining the witnesses and records Additional Sessions Judge of their court Md Nurul Wadud awarded the punishment to Channu Mia, Bandar Ali and Bachchu Mia and acquitted five others.

Advocate Shamsul Alam Khan conducted the prosecution while Advocates Ali Imam (I), Abul Hossain and Harun-Al-Rashid appeared for the defence.

JAMALPUR

### Property worth Tk 3 lakh gutted

**Feb 7:** Property worth about Taka two lakh was gutted in two separate fire incidents in the district recently, reports BSS.

Sources said that fire originating from the house of one Kamrun Begum rapidly spread to other areas and gutted fifteen houses incurring loss of one lakh taka.

Another source said that property worth about Taka one lakh was gutted in fire incident at Bhatarafazur under Sarishabari thana.

Another report says: District council has undertaken three schemes against a total cost of Taka 32,00,000 this year.

Official sources said that the schemes are construction of bridge for Taka 19,25,000 culvert for Taka 6,85,000 in Sarishabari and union parishad office in Tulshichar union under sadar thana.

Sources said that work on the project will start soon.

MAGURA

### One killed, two injured in road mishap

**Feb 7:** A housewife has killed and another two people were injured in a road accident on Magura-Kamarkhali road, police said Saturday, reports UNB.

The victim was identified as Nurunnahar (25) wife of Asmaul Islam of Parmonduali village in sadar thana.

According to witnesses, a baby taxi coming from Nakail was run over by a truck on January 28 injuring three passengers of the taxi seriously.

They were rushed to the sadar hospital where Nurunnahar died. The condition of Taizul Islam (25) of Basudebpur village in the sadar thana and Saboor Mollah (50) was stated to be critical.

A case has been lodged with the police.

TANGAIL

### Flower show

**Feb 7:** Tangail rose society held a flower show recently at the local Shaheed Smriti Paura Uddan. A total of 40 individual and flower organisations took part in the show, says BSS.

Prizes were given to the best growers of flowers. Mahbubrahman, Secretary of the samity placed his report on the occasion while Abdur Razzaque Miah, President of the society presided over the function.

KHULNA

### BSCIC chairman reviews working situation

**Feb 7:** Chairman of Bangladesh, Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) Matur Rahman called upon the BSCIC officials to spread the working of the corporation to the furthest corner of the country with a view to expanding job opportunity, reports BSS.

The BSCIC chairman was speaking at the half yearly review meeting of the overall working of the corporation of Khulna and Barisal divisions at the conference room of the BSCIC regional office recently. The Director (Project) Khurshed Ansar and General Manager Mulla Sahidul Huq were present in the meeting. Khulna Regional Director of BSCIC Ruhul Amin informed the meeting about the achievement of the corporation in Khulna and Barisal Divisions during the last six months. He also informed that about five crore and fifty lakh taka were invested in ninety-nine industrial units while eighty-nine lakh and twelve thousand taka were invested in four hundred and ninetyone small industrial units with total provision for employment of two thousand nine hundred and seventy-eight persons during the period under review.

The BSCIC chairman during his visit to Jessore and Khulna visited some of the projects under BSCIC in this region.

MYMENSINGH

### Huge boro cultivation programme

**Feb 7:** A total of 4,94,200 hectares of land will be brought under boro cultivation in the five districts of Mymensingh zone during the current season, says BSS.

The districts are — Mymensingh, Jamalpur, Sherpur, Netrokona and Kishoreganj.

About 42,6000 hectares of land will be brought under high yielding variety including pajam and the rest under local variety.

About 1316400 metric tons of boro paddy are expected to be produced in the current season, an official source said.

COMILLA

### Quran can help lead peaceful life

**Feb 7:** Works Minister Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mia Saturday said the teachings of the Holy Quran could help the country and its people to survive in this trouble-torn world and lead to the path of peace and happiness, reports UNB.

The minister was speaking as chief guest at a conference of teachers and students of madrashas held at the Companigonj College maidan in Muradnagar thana of Comilla district.

He said, 'If we could follow the teachings of the Holy Quran, we could establish a society free from exploitation and injustice and make a welfare-state.'

The minister advised the participants to lead their life in accordance with the teachings to Islam and follow the ideals of the Holy Quran, said a PID handout.

NAOGAON

### College yet to open B Ed course

**Feb 7:** Naogaon Government College in yet to open B Ed course and the proposed new science building of the college, reports UNB.

The college, now a great seat of learning in the 11 thanas of the district, has been facing the problems of inadequate accommodation, transport facilities, absence of honours and masters degree courses and boundary walls of the college.

The construction of the proposed first science building of the college is yet to be implemented for which a tender of Taka 44 lakh has been reportedly held last year.