

### Two killed in Jessore

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Nov 8: Two members of the same family were killed and one was seriously injured in bomb blast during an attack of Samad Master's house at Malanchi of Kotwali thana in the district by some armed miscreants at around midnight recently.

Local villagers said that when a group of armed miscreants attacked the house, some inmates of the house came out to see what was happening. At this stage, the miscreants hurled a powerful bomb towards them causing serious injuries to three of them. They were Amena Begum, 28, Bhanu Bibi, 58, and Akkel Biswas, 50. Amena Begum and Bhanu Bibi succumbed to injuries on way to hospital. Bhanu Bibi was the mother of Samad Master while Amena was his niece. Akkel Biswas was his cousin. The reason behind the incident could not be known. Police visited the spot in the morning but none was arrested yet. A case has been registered with Kotwali thana.



WHAT COULD BE WORSE? The recent drought situation in the northern part of the country has destroyed aman crops on vast areas affecting thousands of farmers. This picture shows farmers carrying dry aman plant to sell at the local market in Chilmari area in Lalmonirhat district. — Star photo

### Relief operation in Sirajganj intensified

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Nov 8: Relief operation in Sirajganj district have been intensified by the government, it is observed.

According to the Office of the District Relief and Rehabilitation, 458 metric tons of wheat as Test Relief (TR), Taka 2,50,000 as General Relief (GR), Taka 2,50,000 as house building assistance, 250 metric tons of wheat as General Relief (GR) and 500 bundles of CI sheet have been sanctioned for nine thanas and three municipal area of the district.

Meanwhile, house building assistance amounting to Taka 2,50,000 and 500 bundles of CI sheet sanctioned for the erosion affected people of Kazipur, Sirajganj Sadar, Belkuchi, Chowhali and Shahzadur have been disbursed.

When contacted, Syed Abdul Malek, Deputy Commissioner of Sirajganj told The Daily Star that unemployed workers of the district are provided with wheat under Test Relief of which works are going on in the nine thanas of the district.

### Aman production likely to reduce this year

DINAJPUR, Nov 8: Aman production is likely to reduce in the northern districts this year due to drought and high price of agriculture inputs, farmers observed, reports UNB.

They disclosed this at a meeting with Food Minister Mir Shawkat Ali who visited some drought-hit areas of greater Dinajpur and Rangpur recently. He visited these places to discuss with growers for fixing a reasonable price for their produce.

The farmers also informed the minister that production cost has increased in this region due to non availability of fertilizer at government price.

During his visit to the districts of Dinajpur, Thakurgaon, Rangpur and Kurigram, the Minister held separate meetings with officials of district administration, and food and agriculture departments.

### Four schools threatened by river erosion

MADARIPUR, Nov 8: Four government primary schools in Shibchar thana are being threatened by the river Arail Kha due to continuous erosion, reports UNB.

The schools are Magurkhanda Primary School and Tarpasha Primary School at Kathalbari union, and J K Primary School at Charjanzat union.

Meanwhile, necessary steps have been taken by the concerned authorities to shift one of these institutions. However, fates of two others are uncertain.

### Heroin worth Tk 60 lakh seized

BRAHMANBARIA, Nov 8: Police rounded up a student from Ashuganj Ferry Ghat and seized 500 gram heroin worth Tk 60 lakh from his possession recently, reports UNB.

He was identified as Joyal Abedin, a resident of village Chanderkandi in Raipura thana of Narasingdi district and 3rd year, honours student of Islamic Studies of Jagannath University College.

Joyal in a confessional statement admitted that he was assigned to hand over a packet of 500 gram of heroin to a person in Dhaka. He also received an amount of Taka 10,000 for performing such an assignment.



Machines worth crores of taka are left in an open field inside the farm. — Star photo

### Cattle lifting creates panic in Manikganj

MANIKGANJ, Nov 8: About 496 cattle were stolen and skins of 28 other flayed during the last fortnight in six thanas of the district, causing panic among the poor farmers, reports UNB.

The farmers alleged that cattle lifters slaughtered the animals and flayed their skins at Harirampur, Shibhalaya, Daulatpur, Shaturia, Shingair and Sadar thanas of the district to sell in the local market.

Local people said that the panic-stricken peasants have been passing their nights in the cowsheds to guard their cattleheads. They alleged that an organised gang backed by some influential quarters are engaged in cattle lifting.

The farmers further alleged that sometime the cattle lifters demand ransom for releasing their cattle.

They urged the concerned authorities to take immediate measures to check cattle lifting.

### Review meeting at Mongla Port

KHULNA, Nov 8: Deputy Minister for Shipping ABM Zahidul Huq called for dedicated efforts to turn the Mongla Port into a modern port in order to accelerate the pace of development of the country, reports BSS.

The Deputy Minister was speaking at a review meeting at the Mongla Port recently held at the chairman office. He said that the importance of port would further rise with the completion of Jamuna Bridge and Rupsa bridge and Dhaka Mawa road connecting the port.

He also expressed his confidence that this port would be able to fully cope with the increasing economic activities of the country. The deputy minister also urged the official and employees of the port authority to put in their best for developing the port.

### Young girl stabbed to death in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, Nov 8: A 20-year-old girl was gang raped and killed at a village in Royganj thana of the district Sunday night, police said, reports UNB.

Nur Mahal, worker in a garments factory in Dhaka, came to her home at Khamargachha village on November 2. She was kidnapped by miscreants, numbering 6 to 7, from her house at about 11 Sunday night.

Police, who recovered her body from a paddy field at Kayra mouja Monday, said that Nur Mahal was gang raped and stabbed to death.

She was buried after autopsy at the local hospital.

### 284 development schemes in progress in Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Nov 8: Works on a total of about 284 development schemes are in progress in Sylhet district under the 'Food for Work' Programme during the current season. The government have sanctioned a total of 512 metric tonnes of wheat for execution of these schemes.

When contacted, an official source informed this correspondent that the programmes began from September and expected to be continued till the end of November 30 this year. The schemes include construction and reconstruction of roads, improvement of playgrounds of educational institutions, excavation of derelict ponds and others. Of the total, 46 metric tonnes of wheat have been sanctioned for 24 schemes in Beanibazar thana, 57 metric tonnes of wheat for 27 schemes in Balaganj, 44 metric tonnes for Gowainghat, 45 metric tonnes for 29 schemes in Kanaighat, 53 metric tonnes of wheat for Golapganj, 30 metric tonnes for 14 schemes in Companyganj, 33 metric tonnes for 19 schemes in Jaintapur, 30 metric tonnes for 19 schemes in Fenchuganj, 89 metric tonnes

for 43 schemes in Sylhet sadar, 49 metric tonnes for 30 schemes in Biswanath and 45 metric tonnes for 26 schemes in the Jakiganj thana.

About 50 per cent of the works on these schemes have been completed, the source added. The schemes are being executed under the Test Relief Programme.

### Shaikupa Degree College closed for seven days

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Nov 8: The Shaikupa Degree College has been declared closed for seven days from Sunday last following a clash between the supporters of BNP-backed Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Awami League-backed Chhatra League.

The clash between the two student organisations originated from a brawl between two activists of the parties in which the BCL activist Bachchu was stabbed Saturday afternoon.

### Sirajganj sadar hospital in poor condition

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Nov 8: The morgue of Sirajganj sadar hospital is in a deplorable condition and may collapse any time.

The morgue situated at Goshala near Shaheed Shamsuddin stadium, was established in an area where few people lived. Now, a large number of dwelling houses have been set

possible here due to many reasons. The roof of the morgue was not replaced ever since it was blown away. Numerous cracks have developed on the walls and major portion of a wall on the north side has collapsed. The cement-made bench is used to accommodate the bodies for autopsies. When



SIRAJGANJ: The dilapidated morgue of Sirajganj sadar hospital. — Star photo

up in the surrounding area. Construction of new houses and business establishments are on increase in the area.

The existence of the morgue in densely populated area have been creating problems in the neighbouring houses.

Besides, autopsy work, in the morgue have turned im-

any body arrives works inside are revealed to the out siders as there is no shutters of the door.

When contacted, a source of the civil surgeon office told this is correspondent that the higher authorities are informed about the deplorable condition of the morgue.

## Poor sugarcane supply may hamper production

From Our Correspondent

KUSHITIA, Nov 8: The sugar production target in this fiscal year may not be achieved due to poor supply of sugarcane to the mills by the growers as they are encouraged to manufacture large scale molasses which will bring more profits to them.

This situation has hit the Kushtia Sugar Mills has fixed its target production of 18816 M tons of sugar by crushing 2 lakh 24 thousand M tons of sugarcane this year.

But only 1 lakh 82 thousand M tons of sugarcane will be available in the Mill Zone area and the rest 42000 M tons of sugarcane are to be brought from Chuadanga Carew & Co Sugar Mills area.

Kushtia Sugar Mills started sugarcane crushing from October 28 but the crushing is being hampered as the local farmers are resisting to bring sugarcane from Chuadanga, it is learnt. If the normal flow of sugarcane from Chuadanga is disrupted, the production target will not be fulfilled, the mills authority said.

While inaugurating the crushing season, Minister of State for Industries Md Lutfor Rahman Khan warned all concerned against the losses the Kushtia Sugar Mills has been incurring.

Kushtia Sugar Mills had incurred loss of Taka 2 crore 67

lakh last year, Taka 5 crore 13 lakh 37 thousand in the year 1992-93, Taka 4 crore 34 lakh 26 thousand in 1991-92 and Taka 2 crore 82 lakh in 1990-91.

Similarly Sugar Corporation had incurred a total loss of Taka 350 crore since independence while the last year's loss was 22 crore Taka.

The corporation has fixed its target production this year

2 lakh 18 thousand tons. Last year its target was 2 lakh 2 thousand tons but production was 2 lakh, 22 thousand tons. Production cost per kg was Taka 37 but the market price was Tk 27 per kg.

In current season, the corporation has a stock of 5 thousand tons from last year's production and 15 thousand tons from import.

Top heavy administration,

lack of skill, unnecessary expenditure, corruption and huge number of extra labourers are blamed for this situation.

The Kushtia Sugar Mills also have the similar problems.

### Youth Day observed

KUSHITIA, Nov 8: National Youth Day was observed here in a befitting manner. A day-long programme was held by the Juba Unnayan Directorate, Kushtia, on the occasion on November 1.

The programmes included rally, seminar and cultural functions. The rally was held at the Kushtia Zilla School premises where the chief guest was Alhaj K M Abdul Khaleque MP.

A colourful procession was also brought out. A seminar was held at the Zilla Parishad Hall with M. Nazrul Islam, Deputy Commissioner, in the chair.

K M Abdul Khaleque said that main objective of the observance of the National Youth Day was to create social awareness about the potentiality of the youth and the government's programme to involve them in nation-building activities. He urged the youth community to participate in the income generating activities to raise the standard of living.

### Irregular power supply hits production sectors

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Nov 8: Irregular power supply has become a regular phenomenon for months in the six southern districts of Barisal, Patuakhali, Bhola, Barguna, Jhalakathi, and Projpur under Barisal division. Erratic power supply, has also hit the production sectors of these districts.

At least 38 megawatt electricity is required for eleven southern district areas under Barisal PDB zone. But power supply is not being increased more than 20 to 25 megawatts. Thus 10 to 15 megawatts remain short for months together in these areas. PDB sources said power

supply could not be increased and regularised due to production problem in different power generation units of Goalpara, Ghorashal and of other places.

Bhola, Patuakhali and Barguna are the worst affected areas as the supply of power is too irregular in these areas, people of these districts alleged.

Due to shortage of power supply, small or large industrial units are facing acute problems, owners of some industrial units said. Production of these units are being greatly hampered and thus they incurred heavy losses.

## Success story of Savar Dairy Farm

From Our Correspondent

SAVAR, Nov 8: The Central Cattle Breeding and Dairy Farm at Savar has so far inseminated some 13.34 lakh cattle, registering a 103 per cent success of the target during 1993-94.

Some 371,688 cows have given birth to 207,588 male and 164,104 female calves through artificial cross breeding.

According to official sources, Semen is being collected from 52 bulls mainly Shahiwal and Freisian species, for Savar headquarters while some 168 bulls are supplying semen for 22 other research centres of the farm.

Usually, semen is collected once a week from each bull which helps crossbreeding of 200 to 500 cows.

The district-level research centres are located in Dhaka, Mymensingh, Tangail, Fariপুর, Chittagong, Jamalpur, Noakhali, Comilla, Khagrachhari, Bandarban, Rangamati, Rajshahi, Thakurgaon, Rangpur, Bogra, Pabna, Sylhet, Khulna, Jessore, Kushtia, Patuakhali and Barisal.

The technique of breeding



Local and foreign species of cows and bulls in the farm's grass field. — Star photo

is done by crossing indigenous cow with Freisian species. Shahiwal species with Freisian species, Shahiwal species with Shahiwal species and Freisian

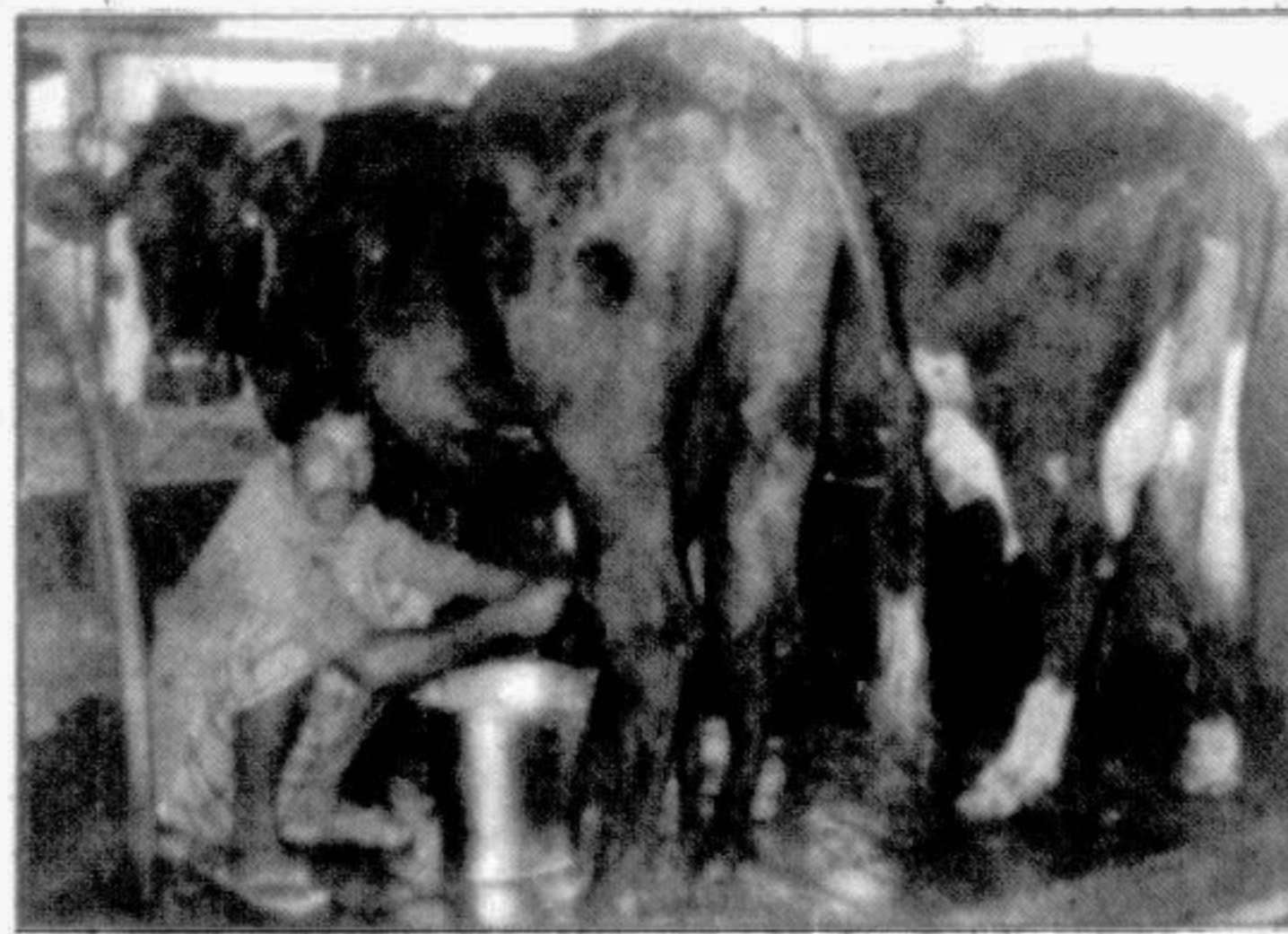
with Freisian in order to increase milk production. Established in 1959, the central farm has so far set up a total of 841 sub-centres of cattle-breeding in all the 64 districts to expand hybrid cattle throughout the country.

The officials further add, the farmer has been taking massive programmes for the production of hybrid cattle. Under its cattle breeding programme, the farm exchanges both, semen and hybrid cows and bulls from foreign countries.

The local of the original variety of milk cows used to give 10 to 28 litres of milk per day while crossed variety give five to 15 litres of milk. The local variety of milk cows, however give only one to three litres of milk a day.

The farm at Savar was established on 2,620 acres of land to produce crossbreed cows and develop a local hybrid variety through cross breeding.

The area of the Savar farm, however, was reduced to only 797 acres as different structures were established inside the farm area. These include



Extraction of milk is now done manually at the farm. Automatic machines are no longer used to extract milk. — Star photo

Radio Bangladesh transmission centre, Military Farm, Power Development Board and Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute (BLRI).

The farm has a total of 2,554 cattle, out of which 1,050 are milch cows, 1,761 calves and 793 bulls. Some 250 cows along with calves are being distributed among the farmers every year from the farm.

The farm, situated beside the Dhaka-Aricha Highway, has 35 sheds for accommodation of the cattlehead and 699 grassland to feed them.

A reliable source at the farm alleged that machinery worth about Taka two crore were lying unutilised. In addition to that, the farm remains unclean creating health hazard to the cattlehead, it was alleged by a number of employees of the farm.

Local people also alleged that a section of dishonest employees of the farm set up small farms in the same compound unofficially for their own benefits.

### Salam underscores need for human resources development

JAMALPUR, Nov 8: Minister for Local Government Rural Development and Cooperatives Abdus Salam Talukder has underscored the need for developing human resources through education and proper training, reports BSS.

A skilled manpower could help boost production and contribute to socio-economic development. Talukder told the biennial conference of Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal, Jamalpur district at the town hall here. Talukder, who is the Secretary General of Bangladesh Nationalist Party, said though the country may not have sufficient resources, it is blessed with adequate human resources.

The LGRD Minister said the present government was making all-out endeavours for the welfare of the peasants and workers and the improving of the socio-economic condition of the masses.

Presided over by chairman of Jamalpur pourashava and convener of Jamalpur Zila Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal, the conference was addressed among others by Deputy Minister for Health and Family Welfare Serajul Haq, Begum Rahima Khandakar MP, Secretary General of Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal Nazrul Islam Khan and President of Jamalpur district BNP Shah Md Khairul Bashar Chisti.

Referring to the various steps taken by the government for the welfare of workers and farmers since assuming power Talukder mentioned waiving of agricultural loan up to taka 5,000, land tax up to 25 bighas and raising the age limit up to 30 from 27 years for government services. Besides, minimum wages to workers had been fixed at Taka 950 per month against the previous

amount of Taka 550 and announcement of minimum wages for government workers in 14 sectors, he added.

The minister assured that retrained workers would be provided in other enterprises. He however made it clear that it is not possible for the government to arrange subsidy to mills year after year which were running at loss. No mill could be made profitable with excess labour force, he pointed out.

The Deputy Minister for Health and Family Welfare Serajul Haq called upon the workers to unitedly resist the evil forces attempting to foil democracy and development activities.

Later the LGRD Minister went to Halpara village under Sreebardi thana in Sherpur district to offer prayer at the grave of Dr Serajul Haq MP who died recently in a road accident. The minister also visited the deceased's house and consoled the members of the bereaved family.

### Contraband seized in Rajshahi

RAJSHAHI, Nov 8: Members of 20 rifle battalion seized Indian goods worth taka about 50 lakh during the last month and arrested nine smugglers in this connection, reports BSS.

The seized contrabands included sarees, cattle heads and heroin.

The goods were deposited with Rajshahi Customs Authorities and Narcotics Control Department. The arrested persons were handed over to the concerned thanas of the district.