

SYLHET: National Professor Dewan Mohammad Azraf speaking at the reception accorded to him by the Sylhet Loke, Sangskriti Parishad and Gabeshana Kendra recently. —Star photo

JCCI office bearers

JAMALPUR, Dec 30: Jamalpur Chamber of Commerce and Industries (JCCI) has elected a 14-member executive committee on Sunday, says UNB. Mizanur Rahman and Sayed Mahbul Gant were elected president and senior vice president while Ataur Rahman Mukta, and Anwarul Haq came out as junior vice-president. Other officer bearers are: Lavu Anwar, Javed Ali, Raja Mia, Rezaul Karim, Abu Sayed Lablu, Ashraf Ahmed, Ramchandra Khan Ramu, Siddique Ahmed, Helal Uddin and Hossain Kabir Shahin. Election was held at JCCI auditorium with the chairmanship of Rezaul Karim.

Contraband seized in Brahmanbaria

BRAHMANBARIA, Dec 30: Police recovered a huge number of phensidyl and liquor bottles valued about Tk 1.07 lakh from Shahpur village under Kasba Police station on last Tuesday (December 20). Tipped off, police raided the village and recovered 143 bottles of phensidyl and 215 bottles of wine of different brands. A case has been filed with Kasba police station in this connection.

Diarrhoea claims four lives in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, Dec 30: Diarrhoea claimed four lives and attacked 30 people in Tarash thana during the last 12 hours till 1 pm Friday, reports UNB. The dead were identified as Abdul Hamid (8) and his sister Hamida (6) of Malshin village Khaiban (2) of Talamporpara village and Mantu (2) of Shibpara village. A medical team was working in the affected areas to combat the water born disease. Doctors attributed the outbreak of the disease to consumption of adulterated food and paucity of drinking water.

Dispute over land leaves 2 killed

JHENIDAH, Dec 30: Two persons were killed in clashes over land dispute in Saikupa thana of the district early this week, says UNB. Police said, Balayet (40) of Nawapara village was axed to death by some miscreants when he was returning home from Saikupa Bazar on Wednesday. The other victim Lutfar Rahman (32) of Basantapur village of the thana was stabbed to death by rival group three days earlier. Two cases were filed with the local police. Another report said a van driver was ranover by a speeding car at Khayertala in Kaliganj thana on Jhenidah-Jessore road on last Tuesday. Eye-witness said, Babar Ali (45), the van driver of village Bejpara was killed after a private car knocked him down while he was on his way to Kaliganj. The driver fled away and a case was lodged with the Kaliganj police in this connection.

Taka 4.4 crore sanctioned for uplift

BHOLA, Dec. 30: The government has sanctioned an amount of Tk 4.447 crore for five development projects taken up in Monpara thana in the current fiscal year, says UNB. Projects included repair of cross-dam and construction of bridges. The project-work was taken here under annual development plan. It is expected to be completed by June next year, official sources here said.

Demand for construction of a bridge over river Padma

FARIDPUR, Dec 30: The network of roads and communications are one of the pre-condition for all round development of a country and to make this network of roads successful bridges get top most priority due to their linking services. The construction of a bridge over the river Padma locally called 'Padma shetu' is not a far cry rather it is a reality in this age of science and technology - the speakers mentioned this in a meeting held here recently at pourashava auditorium under the auspices of the district limit of the Padma shetu implementation committee, Faridpur. A series of public meetings under the auspices of respective district unit of the committee have already been held at different district headquarters of South and south-western zone of the country with the spontaneous co-operation of the member of the public. Moreover, road blockade, strike and hartals have been observed in the zone to press home the demand for construction of Padma shetu. All these meetings have proved that the demand of Padma shetu is the demand of three crore people of the zone. However, truly speaking the Padma shetu will directly link the south, south-western zone of the country comprising greater districts of Faridpur, Jessore, Khulna, Barisal and Kushtia with the capital city. The Padma shetu, if completed will save time by at least one hour and ferry service on the Padma will not be needed. As a result, a huge amount of public and private money will be saved. Traffic jam is an acute problem at Aricha and Daulatdia ghats on Dhaka-Khulna highway. Sometimes hundreds of trucks loaded with katcha commodities like fruits, vegetables etc are stranded at the above mentioned ghats for days together owing to insufficient ferry services causing damages to the commodities. Moreover, some transports carrying patients in critical condition on their way to the capital city for emergency treatment are also stranded for several hours resulting in sometimes the patients death. It is only the construction of Padma shetu that can bring the solution to this traffic jam. Gas is one of the natural gift in Bangladesh. The people of this south and south-western zone can have access to gas connection only through the 'Padma shetu'. The extension of the gas connection to this zone will undoubtedly help to develop mills, factories and industries. Besides gas will be used in the brick-field, in lieu of fuel



AGRI-VARSITY, Mymensingh: Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr Shah M Farouk distributing certificates among the participants on the concluding day of a higher training course on administration, office management and communication organised by the Graduate Training Institute of the Bangladesh Agricultural University. —BAU photo

'Teachers can play vital role in education sector'

HOMNA (Comilla), Dec 30: Shipping Minister M K Anwar Thursday said spread of education and qualitative development of education is imperative to turn the vast masses into human resources, reports BSS. Addressing a teachers conference here organised by local political and social leaders, Anwar said the teacher community has the most significant role to play in this regard. The conference discussed the problems hindering spread and development of education. The conference, held for the fourth time at Homna was attended by about nine hundred teachers of all the 172 educational institutions of 16 unions of Homna and Daudkandi thanas. Presided over by Dhaka University teachers and independence day medalist Professor Aminul Islam the conference was addressed, among others, by one of the chief patron of the conference Sirajul Islam, primary and high school and college teachers Abdul

4 arrested for being involved in prostitution

SATKHIRA, Dec 30: Police nabbed four people including two women for their alleged involvement in prostitution at a hotel here on Friday night, reports UNB. The arrested were identified as Hasina, 20, Amana, 22, Sultan Ahmed, 30 and Mozaffar 22. Later on, they were sent to the district jail and a case was filed with the Satkhira police. Auto-rickshaw spare parts seized. BRAHMANBARIA, Dec 30: Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) here seized spare parts of Indian auto-rickshaw worth Tk one lakh from a country boat, says UNB. On receiving secret information, a BDR patrol party raided some boats on December 22 (Thursday) and recovered the contraband - item from a boat plying across the river Titas. Later on, the seized goods were deposited to the Akhaura Custom godown.

Student politics to resume in Islamic University

KUSHTIA, Dec 30: Student politics will resume in the Islamic University campus from January 1 next year, reports UNB. The decision was taken at an emergency meeting of the Syndicate with the Vice Chancellor of the university in the chair on Sunday. However, some pre-conditions have been imposed, which include, meetings of the student bodies should be held before 11-30 am, provocative slogans are prohibited and no procession can be brought out in the campus without prior permission of the Proctor. Student politics was banned on the campus since October 19, 1993 to curb campus violence, varsity sources said.

Diarrhoea claims two in B'baria

BRAHMANBARIA, Dec 30: Diarrhoea claimed two lives and attacked about a hundred people in three unions of Bancharampur thana in the district in the last fortnight, reports UNB. According to doctors consumption of adulterated food and taking of impure water are the main reasons behind the outbreak of the disease. With the passing of days, the disease is spreading fast in Sonarampur, Durgapur, Bancharampur, Ayubpur, Dash Ani and Chai Ani villages. Three medical teams have been working in the affected areas, official sources said. Another report adds: Scarcity of fish has been persisting throughout the district for the last two months. According to a report, the pisciculture in the district has largely been affected by massive siltation in river Titas as well as beels, haors and canals. The unplanned and indiscriminate use of chemical fertilizers and insecticides in crop fields further aggravated the problem. Meanwhile, the existence of hundreds of professional fishermen are at a stake for not only scarcity of fish but also shortage of fishing materials and increase in their prices. Many of them left their profession while some others migrated to elsewhere for their survival.

Massive plan to cultivate mustard in Jhenidah

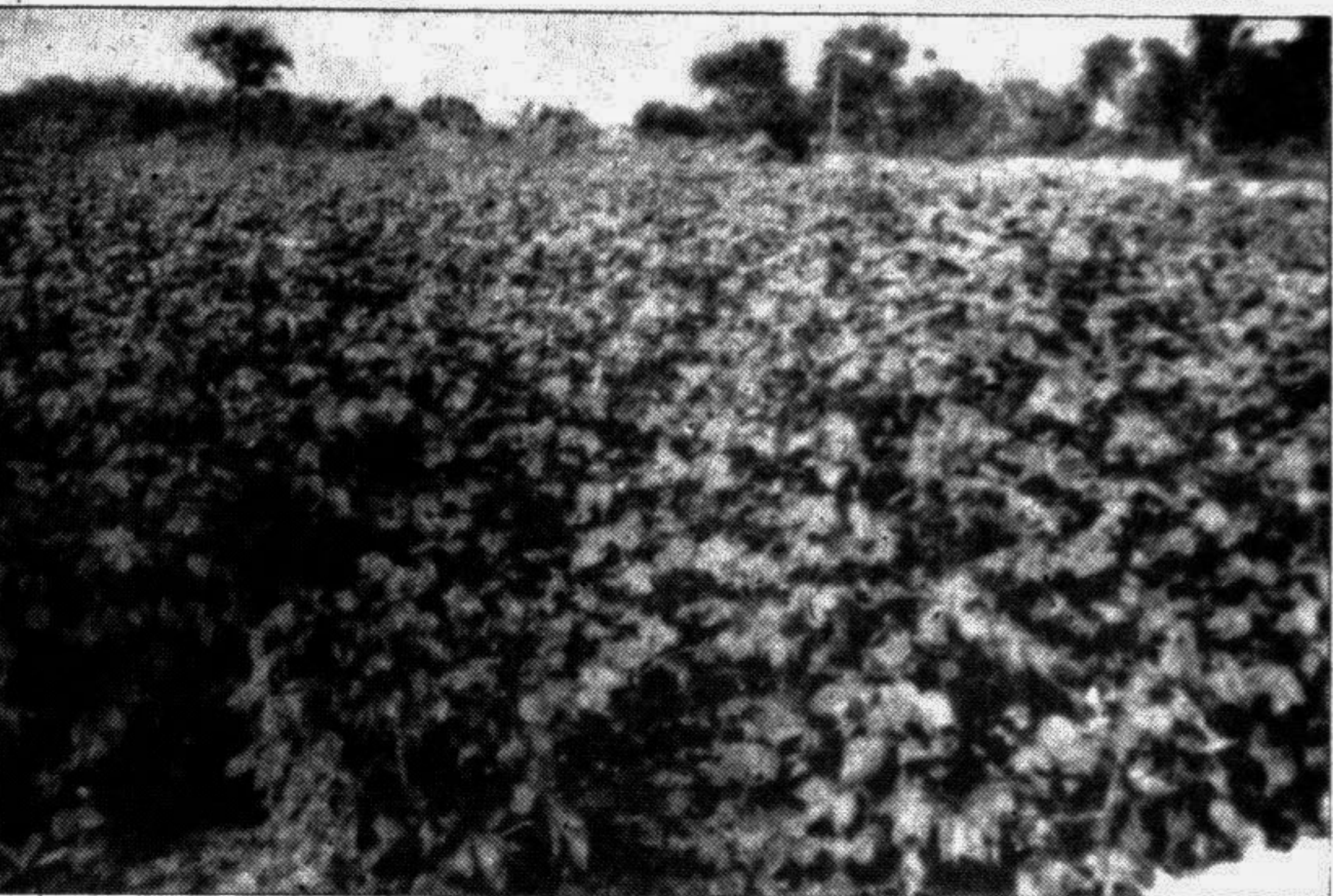
JHENIDAH, Dec 30: The district Agriculture Extension Department has taken up a programme to cultivate mustard in six thanas of the district in the current rabi season, official sources here said, reports UNB. About 8,000 hectares of land with a production target of 5,635 metric tons have been brought under the programme officials of the Agriculture Extension Department said. Last year's production of mustard was 5,070 metric tons. Thana-wise breakup of the cultivated land (in hectares): Sadar-2,550, Shailakupa-1,400, Harinakunda-725, Kaliganj-900, Kotchandpur-575 and Moheshpur-1750. Meanwhile, necessary measures have been taken to supply seeds, pesticides, loans and other agricultural inputs to the farmers. Another report says, Belyat Hossain alias Salok, 32, was chopped to death at village Naopara in Saikupa thana in the night of December 21. Police said that Salok was returning home from a local hat. At about 7.30 pm when he reached near Hariana Pashchimpara, a group of people numbering 10 to 12 attacked him with randa, chapati and hit him on his head. He was rushed to Jhenidah sader hospital in critical condition and succumbed to his injuries. A case was lodged with Saikupa thana but no arrest was made so far. Previous enmity might be the reason behind the killing, police said. On previous day Lutfar Rahman, 30, of village Basan-

Boats collide head on, one killed

BRAHMANBARIA, Dec 30: A young man was killed and three people were injured when two mechanised boats collided at Ulchapara ferry ghat in Sadar thana on Saturday, reports UNB. Witnesses said Jakir Hossain (25) was critically injured as the boats collided at the ghat. He was rushed to Sadar Hospital and succumbed to his injuries soon after admission. A case was filed with Brahmanbaria police.

Cotton farming becoming popular in Jessore region

JHENIDAH, Dec 30: About 74 thousand 6 hundred 85 acres of land was brought under cotton cultivation scheme out of targeted 78 thousand 8 hundred 40 acres in 62 cotton units of 27 thanas of four cotton cultivation zones of Jessore region this season. The Cotton Development Board (CDB) sources said that Jessore region consists of Jhenidah, Kushtia, Chuadanga and Jessore districts. Where there are several units. In Jessore district there are 19 cotton development units under 11 thanas, in Jhenidah district 15 cotton units under six thanas, in Kushtia district 11 cotton units under 5 thanas and 17 units under five thanas in Chuadanga district. Talking to an expert of Agriculture Extension Department and a high official of Cotton Development Board, they said cotton cultivation is becoming very popular in the region. It is more profitable specially for the cultivators. The sources also said that four cotton seeds oil and cake producing industrial units were established in these districts. In Chuadanga and Kushtia zones, CB-3 (Deltapine-50) and in Jhenidah and Jessore zones CB-1 (Deltapine-90) varieties of cottons are produced. From CB-1 varieties 38 per cent to 40 of fibre cotton is produced. From CB-3 varieties 33 to 37 per cent cotton fibre is produced. The quality of these two varieties is very good, the traders say. Medium level land means neither low nor high land are suitable for cotton cultivation. More intensive measures might be taken to cultivate cotton, the Cotton Development Board authority added. The source also said that in last season the farmers produced 20 to 25 maunds of cotton seeds per acres of land. They sold their cotton seeds at the rate of Taka 11 hundred per maund which earned Taka 22 thousand to 25 thousand from an acre of land. Manirul Islam a cotton cultivator of village Khalispur in Mohespur thana of the district said at least 15 maunds of cotton seeds are produced from an acre of land which brings at least Taka 16 thousand 500. If he cultivates older crops like paddy, wheat, sugarcane etc he would earn maximum of Taka 8 thousand to 9 thousand per acre of land. The expert of Agricultural Extension Department expressed if the motivation of cotton cultivation is extended among the farmers, it may meet the national demand.



JHENIDAH: A cotton field at village Baraipara in Jhenidah district. —Star photo

Seven killed in separate incidents in Jhenidah

JHENIDAH, Dec 30: Seven persons were killed within 4 days in separate incidents in Jhenidah recently. According to reports on December 19, Shameem Akter Rantu and Nazmul Islam 29, were travelling on a motor bike no. Dhaka Uma 9583. A truck no. Jessore Ta-1134 from behind dashed them near Camppara. They were rushed to hospital and succumbed to their injuries. The helper of the truck was driving the vehicle, local people alleged. A case was filed with Mohespur thana in this connection, police could not arrest anybody. According to another report, Tipu Sultan, a boy of about 9 years of age was burnt to death in a paddy boiling chatal at village Ghugri in Mohespur thana on the same day. Report says, the ill-fated boy died when he came to enjoy fire for protecting himself from cold. Another report says, Belyat Hossain alias Salok, 32, was chopped to death at village Naopara in Saikupa thana in the night of December 21. Police said that Salok was returning home from a local hat. At about 7.30 pm when he reached near Hariana Pashchimpara, a group of people numbering 10 to 12 attacked him with randa, chapati and hit him on his head. He was rushed to Jhenidah sader hospital in critical condition and succumbed to his injuries. A case was lodged with Saikupa thana but no arrest was made so far. Previous enmity might be the reason behind the killing, police said. On previous day Lutfar Rahman, 30, of village Basan-

It's too much for them

KURIGRAM, Dec 30: Excessive fees, more than the fixed one, are being realised from the examinees of the Secondary School Certificate Examination under Rajshahi Board, it is alleged. It may be mentioned here that by violating the board order the different school authorities like River View High School, Kurigram Girls High School, Khaligonj High School, Belgacha High School, Kanthalbari High School, Chilmari High School, Rowamari High School, Rajibpur High School, Ulipur High School, Rajarhat High School, Fulbari High School, Nageswari High School, Bhitbarbandh High School, Bhurungamanri High School etc under Rajshahi Board are realising excessive fees from students. As a result, the examinees will not be able to sit for the examination, it is apprehended. An examinee is required to pay a total of Taka 350 and Taka 380 for Arts and Science Group respectively for appearing in the examination. But the school authorities are realising Taka 1,100 and Taka 1,200 from each student, it is alleged. The guardians of SSC Examinees are being compelled to sell their property to pay examination fees. Due to financial crisis at least 30 per cent students could not pay fees. While contacted the guardians told this correspondent that education now a days has become a commercial business. The guardians for their said that most of the teachers of schools and colleges do not carry out their duties properly and sincerely.



JAHANGIRNAGAR UNIVERSITY: The Vice-Chancellor of the University Professor Aminul Islam Chowdhury speaking as chief guest at the reception function of the freshers of Mathematic and Physics Departments of the University. —JU photo