

One awarded 10 yrs' RI for keeping illegal arms

From Staff Correspondent SYLHET, Feb 11: A man was sentenced to 10 years rigorous imprisonment for keeping illegal arms in his possession. The prosecution in brief was that on a tip off, Kotwali police nabbed Ollur Rahman of Kumarpura in the town from the Deputy Commissioner's office premises on January 31, 1993. Police recovered a pipe-gun along with three rounds of cartridges from his possession. A case was filed with the police. After examining the witnesses and records Additional District and Session Judge and Special Tribunal of Sylhet, Sunil Chandra Paul gave the verdict.

Appearance of shoals, train communication disrupted

JAMALPUR, Feb 11: Train communication between the northern region of the country and the capital city is facing a threat due to emergence of chars in the river Jamuna, reports UNB. Local officials said, railway ferry services between Sirajgonj and Jagannathanj have already been stopped and the Bahadurabad-Tistamoukhi ferry services facing closure due to emergence of new chars. They said the ferry communication between Bahadurabad and Tistamoukhi is on the brink of closure due to the same reason. They ferry services somehow are operating late every day in this route as the ferries are to pass 16 km extra way to avoid risk. According to local railway engineers, during the foggy weather the ferries are sometimes grounded in char areas causing untold suffering to the passengers.

N Bengal Paper Mill incurs losses worth Tk 200cr in 24yrs NATORE, Feb 11: North Bengal Paper Mill has been facing closure due to various problems and incurring continued losses, reports DNB. Official sources said the mill incurred a loss of Tk 200 crore during the last 24 years since it had gone into production in 1970. During the trial production it produced about 2,657 metric tons of paper. But the capacity of the mill is now stands at 15,000 metric tons of paper annually. Exceeding a few occasions, the mill never fulfilled its production target. In 1980-81 it exceeded the production target, mill sources said. Recent years' account shows that the mill incurred loss of Tk 14.45 crore in 1992-93, Tk 17.25 crore in 1991-92 and Tk 10.70 crore in 1990-91. Management sources said high prices of spare-parts, furnace oil and other ingredients, and irregular power supply, water crisis, surplus staff and administrative irregularity are responsible for incurring the losses. If the mill is closed the country will face paper crisis and about 1,000 employees will lose their jobs. The local people demanded the government to take immediate steps to revitalise the mill so that it becomes a profitable one.

Tagore song competition held in Pabna

From Our Correspondent PABNA, Feb 11: Pabna District Rabindra Sangeet competition was held recently under the auspices of Jatiya Rabindra Sangeet Sammelon Parishad Pabna District Branch in the local Annada Govinda Public Library auditorium. On behalf of the central committee three eminent artists of the Tagore song were present on the occasion. They are Nilotpal Sadya, Golam Sanwar Chowdhury and Malibook Ahsan Khan Ruzib (Tabla-player). They acted as judges in the competition which was held in two groups - children's group and general group. About 30 competitors participated in the competitions from Pabna town, Ishurdi and Paksey. In the children's group, Sanjida Islam Sani stood first, Sathi Ray and Shaila Parveen jointly stood second while Asaduzzaman Sajal and Suraiya Begum Liza jointly stood third. In the general group, however, Meheran Mustafa Nipa stood first, Abu Jafar Md Al Masud stood second and Sanzida Khatoun Urmi and Jahangir Alam jointly stood third.



SIRAJGANJ: A bumper production of mustard was achieved in Sirajgonj district this year. Photo shows a mustard field in Ullapara Thana. — Star photo

In first 6 months of 1994-95 FY Taka 171 crore revenue earned through Benapole, Darshana

From Our Correspondent JESSORE, Feb 11: Revenue worth Taka one hundred seventy one crore customs duty, VAT and supplementary duty was earned from Benapole and Darshana land customs check posts by Jessore collectorate of customs excise and VAT during first six months of current fiscal, according to official source. Earnings exceeded record of corresponding period of last fiscal by taka 10 crore. It was also 6.21 per cent up from the last fiscal. Earning during this period was Taka one hundred sixty one crore, the source added. However, the revenue earned fell short of Taka two crore of budget target. Budget target was Taka one hundred seventy three crore. It was also learnt that local revenue earned on account of VAT, excise supplementary duty and turn over taxes, amounted to Taka 44 crore. It was 33.33 per cent up and Taka 11 crore more than that of corresponding period of last fiscal. Earning of this period last year was Taka thirty three crore. Earning from this side exceeded the budget target by two crore. It was Taka 42 crore, said the source. Giving detailed account of revenue, earnings, Jessore collector of customs, excise and VAT, M. A. Kasheem, informed The Daily Star that a total of Taka 15 crore was earned from Benapole and Taka 20 crore from Darshana. He also informed that a total of Taka 17 crore 97 lakh was earned as excise. Taka 12 crore 33 lakh as VAT and Taka 13 crore 64 lakh as supplementary duty and Taka 62 lakh as turn over taxes was earned during the period under review. In reply to a question why there was shortfall of Taka two crore to achieve the budget target from import stage during this period, he said all transactions including imports through Benapole and Darshana points remained suspended during October to November last following break out of plague in India causing heavy losses his revenue earnings. This was the only reason of this shortfall. However, was confident that if the present volume of trade continues unaffected, budget target would be exceeded this fiscal at year end. Giving picture of goods, being imported through these two points, collector customs, excise and VAT, Jessore informed that quite a good number of items are being imported from India. These include printing paper, writing paper, bus, truck chassis, cotton year, fish, flat rice, aluminium ingot, bi-cycle parts, tyres, tubes of truck buses, poultry feed, powder milk and perishable goods including fruits onion, have begun to decline recently, he informed.

Electrical goods worth Taka 62 lakh stolen from Sirajgonj PBS

From Our Correspondent SIRAJGANJ, Feb 11: Electrical equipment worth Taka 62 lakh have been stolen from Sirajgonj Pali Bidyut Samiti (PBS) at Ullapara in last five years. Consequently, supply of power in different parts and irrigation in crop fields under PBS have turned uncertain. It is gathered that during the period, 464 electrical transformers of different capacities, 23,597 meter wire, three capacitors, seven fuse barrels and other electrical equipment were stolen which costs about Tk 61,7800. According to a source of the PBS theft of electrical goods started from 1990. In that year, 21 transformers and 640 meter long wire were stolen. In 1991, 69 transformers and 334 meters, in 1992, 165 transformers and 7789 meter wire, in 1993, 132 transformers and 2,490 meter wire and in 1994, 77 transformers and 1433 meter wire were, stolen. It is understood that an organised group is involved in theft. It is also alleged that a section of employees of the concerned department are also involved with the thefts. Cases have been lodged with police but no stolen materials were recovered yet. It is learnt that according to the rules of PBS the subscribers are to bear 50 per cent cost of stolen materials. The farmers who use electricity of PBS for irrigation purpose face problem to bear the burden of compensation for stolen materials. Shortage of bullocks, cultivation of IRRI-Boro affected BRAHMANBARIA, Feb 11: Cultivation of IRRI-Boro paddy in eight thanas of the district has been hampering due to the acute shortage of bullocks, reports UNB. According to local people, 50 per cent farmers have no bullocks to cultivate their lands. A vast area of the cultivable land is also left unutilised every year.



PABNA: Eminent journalist Monazat Uddin distributing prizes among the winners of Rabindra Sangeet competition organised recently by the Pabna district branch of the Jatiya Rabindra Sangeet Sammelon Parishad. — Star photo

Conspiracies against shrimp cultivators threaten its prospect

KHULNA, Feb 11: Shrimp cultivation in the district is being threatened due to conspiracies against the prospective shrimp industry, reports UNB. According to informed sources, a vested quarter has been working in a planned manner to undo the shrimp industry and deprive the country from earning huge foreign exchange. They, on one hand, are trying to build public opinion against shrimp cultivation by holding seminars and symposia, on the other hand, instigating the rural people against the shrimp farmers, the sources added. At the very onset of the year, several clashes took place for and against shrimp culture at various parts of the district. One person was killed and about 50 others were injured in these clashes so far. As a result, the farmers are facing problems in releasing shrimp fry at their shrimp enclosures. Due to prevailing uncertainty many shrimp farmers are thinking to leave shrimp culture, it is learnt. If the present situation continues, it is feared that the shrimp cultivation in the district will be seriously hampered causing heavy loss in earning foreign exchange. Mentionable that shrimps worth about Tk 300 crore have been exported through the Mongla Port during the first three months of the current fiscal. Salt is selling at Tk 9 a kg as against Tk 6 to 7 two weeks ago. Muri is selling at Tk 26 a kg. Gram (sola) sells at Tk 25 to 30 a kg. The prices of other lift items are also soaring day by day. One killed, 6 hurt as microbus turns turtle BRAHMANBARIA, Feb 11: A woman was killed, and six other people were injured when a microbus skidded off the road near Ashuganj on Dhaka-Sylhet highway, police said, reports UNB. According to witnesses, the Dhaka-bound microbus turned turtle when the driver lost its control killing Shamsunnessa, 55, on the spot. Seriously injured Abdul Quaiyum, Abdul Mohit, Malu Miah and Joyanal Balaganj, Sylhet, were admitted to Sylhet Osmany Medical College Hospital.

Sharp rise in prices of essentials in Faridpur

From Our Correspondent FARIDPUR, Feb 11: With the arrival of the month of Ramadan, the price hike of essential commodities has also given another jump up in the local markets putting the consumers especially the fixed income earners in a great difficulty. Fine rice is selling at Tk 15 to 16 a kg, as against Tk 14 to 15. Coarse rice is selling at Tk 12 to 13 as against Tk 11 to 12. IRRI rice sells at Tk 12.50 as against previous price of Tk 12. Coarse flour (atta) is selling at Tk 12.00 a kg as against Tk 11.00. Flour sells at Tk 13.00 a kg instead of Tk 12. Hilsha is selling at Tk 90 to 100 a kg as against Tk 50 to 60 two weeks ago. Shing or Magur (big size) is selling at Tk 100 to 150 per ten as against Tk 70 to 90. Eggs of hen or duck sell at Tk 12 per four. Garlic is selling at Tk 80 to 100 a kg. Beef sells at Tk 60 a kg as against Tk 50. Meat is selling at Tk 100 as against Tk 80. Chicken is selling at Tk 100 to 130 a kg.

Wheat worth Tk 1.5cr stolen from godowns

From Our Correspondent JESSORE, Feb 11: Wheat worth Tk one and half crore has been stolen from Central Food Godown (CSD) at Moheshwarpasha last year. Local Food Inspectors have been held responsible for it. According to sources, during the period from January to December 94 there has been shortage of 1038,156 metric tons of wheat whose cash value comes to Tk one crore fifty six lakh. This has been detected during stock verification in the CSD recently. It is learnt, pilferage of wheat from the godown is a regular affair. Huge quantity of wheat is found missing in the godowns while verifying stock position every year-end. Surprisingly, it has never rocked concerned authority to unearth secret of the occurrence nor preventive steps have ever been taken to stop recurrence, for reasons unknown. It is reported that departmental action is taken against local Food Inspector if and when any shortage in stock is found in any godown under his control. And since long, it has been normal practice of the department. Besides Anti-Corruption Department takes up cases and their job reportedly ends with submission of charge-sheets. And the poor Food Inspectors have to bear brunt for the entire situation and nobody else. In fact, Food Inspectors take key from godown managers during office hours and return it to them again after sealing the lock when office hour is over. It is also learnt, Food Inspectors work during daytime while the wheat pilferage is committed reportedly at night. Despite all these facts, godown managers are never brought to the scene nor called for explanations.

Power crisis affects industrial production

NATORE, Feb 11: Insufficient power supply in the 16 northern districts of the country has been causing heavy loss to the industrial units, reports UNB. According to officials, on an average 60 megawatt electricity is required in these districts but the supply is about 30 megawatt. Industrial towns Bogra, Rajshahi, Rangpur, Sayedpur and Pabna are the worst hit areas due to the poor supply of electricity. Many industries have already been closed due to continuous loss sustained for erratic power supply. Besides, thousands of low lift pumps and deep tubewells for irrigation purpose in the boro season cannot function properly threatening the production. Bogra gets 4 megawatt electricity against the need of 15 megawatt daily.

CCC plans to introduce CPE programme in 400 madrassahs

CHITTAGONG, Feb 11: A delegation of the Campaign for Mass Education (CME) yesterday exchanged views with city Mayor Alhaj A B M Mohiuddin Chowdhury at the corporation conference room here today, reports BSS. The delegation led by CME director and eminent educationist Dr Abdullah Al Muti Sarfuddin apprised the city mayor of his organisation's different activities in the country. Chowdhury told the delegation that enrollment of the students in primary schools run by the city corporation is remarkably increasing and the dropout has reduced in comparison to the previous years. But "the schools we have here are inadequate to meet the demand of the growing number of the school-going students," the mayor said. He said the city corporation is planning to introduce the programme of Compulsory Primary Education (CPE) in about four hundred madrassahs in the city to achieve the government's target "education for all" by the year 2000. He urged all non-government organisations to come forward to supplement the government efforts. The Campaign for Mass Education has agreed on principle to set up ten primary schools in the ten slum areas of the city to make the mass education programme a success. Executive director of Gana Sahajya Sangstha Dr Mahmood Hasn, chief executive officer of the corporation Abdul Wahab, additional deputy commissioner Iqbal Mahood, assistant district primary education officer Sumon Barua, ward commissioners Sabiha Musa and Nurul Islam also spoke on the occasion. Low quality Indian pesticides flood markets MADARIPUR, Feb 11: Smuggled low quality Indian pesticides have been adversely affecting the standing crops and cultivable lands in the district, local agri-specialists alleged, reports UNB. According to them, a section of well-organised smugglers led by influential local people have been engaged in marketing Indian pesticides for a long time. The smuggled pesticides are being sold to the farmers at a comparatively cheaper prices than that of local pesticides, local farmers said. Local specialists said, most of the smuggled Indian pesticides are substandard and harmful for the crops as well as for the cultivable land. They also said the substandard pesticides are again adulterated by the traders before marketing. They called for massive campaign against the use of Indian pesticides all over the country explaining its adverse effect on crops and land.

Advertisement for 'Daka Goyasa' (ঢাকা ওয়াসা) featuring a logo and text about a competition or event.

Advertisement for 'Gangprajata' (গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার) regarding a competition or award.

PWD Tender Notice No. 44/1994-95 (2nd Call) regarding a tender for construction work.