

### Two killed in separate road accidents

**From Our Correspondent**  
SHERPUR, Jan 14: Two people were killed in two separate road accidents on Friday last.

According to police sources, Habibur Rahman, 28, son of Hazratullah of Charabua Nayapara of sadar thana was killed when a Dhaka-bound coach struck him. He died on the spot.

Another person met his tragic death when he fell down from the roof top of a coaster. He was crushed under the wheels of a speeding truck. The identity of the person could not be known.

Both the accidents took place in the sadar thana.

### Pedestrian killed in road mishap in Satkhira

SATKHIRA, Jan 14: A 60-year-old pedestrian was killed in a road mishap at Bhadrakhal on Sharnagar-Kaliganj road on Friday last, reports UNB.

Bhombol Mukherjee, a deaf and dumb man of the area was run over by a Kali-ganj bound bus while standing beside the road in the afternoon. The old man died on the spot.

Driver of the bus managed to flee the scene along with his vehicle.

A case was filed with Kali-ganj police.

### Contrabands worth Tk 16 crore seized in 1995

**From Our Correspondent**  
JESSORE, Jan 14: BDR personnel seized contrabands worth Tk 16 crore from different border areas of Jessore and Jhenidah districts during the period from January to December 1995, said official source.

According to reports, a total of 237 alleged smugglers were arrested and 2,438 cases without persons and 151 cases with persons caught were recorded with different thanas of the district during the year.

Reports say that contrabands including Indian sarees, cosmetics, imitations, crockeries, cycle, motor parts, radio parts, computer parts, clothes, blouse prices, garments, woolen wrapper, drugs, sugar, salt watch, phenidyl syrup, whisky, wine, cattle, pesticide, electronics, etc.

All the seized goods were deposited with local customs godowns, the source added.

## Fertilizer, fuel crisis in Jamalpur

# IRRI-Boro output may fall by 40 pc this yr

**From Our Correspondent**  
JAMALPUR, Jan 14: IRRI-Boro production in all the seven thanas of the district is likely to fall mainly due to price hike of fertilizer and diesel crisis.

The production fall by 40 per cent this year due to abnormal price-hike of fertilizer and severe diesel crisis, some farmers informed.

It is learnt, that prices of urea, TSP, zinc, ammonia, sulphate, have risen exorbitantly. As a result, the poor farmers are unable to use required quantity of fertilizers in the fields. Thus the production is likely to be decreased.

According to an official source, a massive programme was taken up to cultivate IRRI-boro crops on about seven lakh acres of land in the all seven thanas of the district during the current season and production target was fixed at 6.50 lakh metric tons. But there is slim chance of achieving the target of production.

Indian fertilizers and pesticides are being smuggled into the country in huge quantity. As such, the markets at border areas of north-eastern districts have become

flooded with Indian fertilizers and pesticides.

It is learnt that locally produced urea (per 50 kg) sells at Taka 250 to Taka 275 while its government fixed rate is Taka 186.50. TSP and zinc are being sold at much higher prices in the markets.

When contacted, a dealer told this correspondent that the fertilizer factories at Jamuna, Ashuganj failed to supply fertilizers as per requirements. Urea fertilizer is regularly imported by Nepal and other countries from Jamuna and Ashuganj fertilizer factory.

It is reported that small dealers could not supply fer-

tilizer from Jamuna Fertilizer Factory. It is alleged that some brokers are buying fertilizer from factories and selling in the black markets.

Meanwhile, frequent disruption of power supply in six thanas under Jamalpur district is causing heavy losses to industrial and agricultural sectors.

Bangladesh Power Development Board (PDB) maintains supply through Jamalpur distribution centre to Bakshiganj, Dewanganj, Sharishabari, Melandah, Islampur and Jamalpur sadar thanas. In all these places many new industrial units have been set up depending on electricity. Most of those units are incurring loss for erratic power failure.

Power supply remains suspended for about 40 to 50 hours every week on average.

The power disruption has forced closure of many power pumps, paddy husking mills and other small industries.

Agricultural production in Melandah, Islampur, Dewanganj, Bakshiganj, Sarishabari and Jamalpur sadar thanas have been hard-hit due to continued power suspension.

### Body of young man recovered in Feni

FENI, Jan 14: Body of a young man was recovered from village Chithlia in Porsuram thana of the district on Wednesday last, reports UNB.

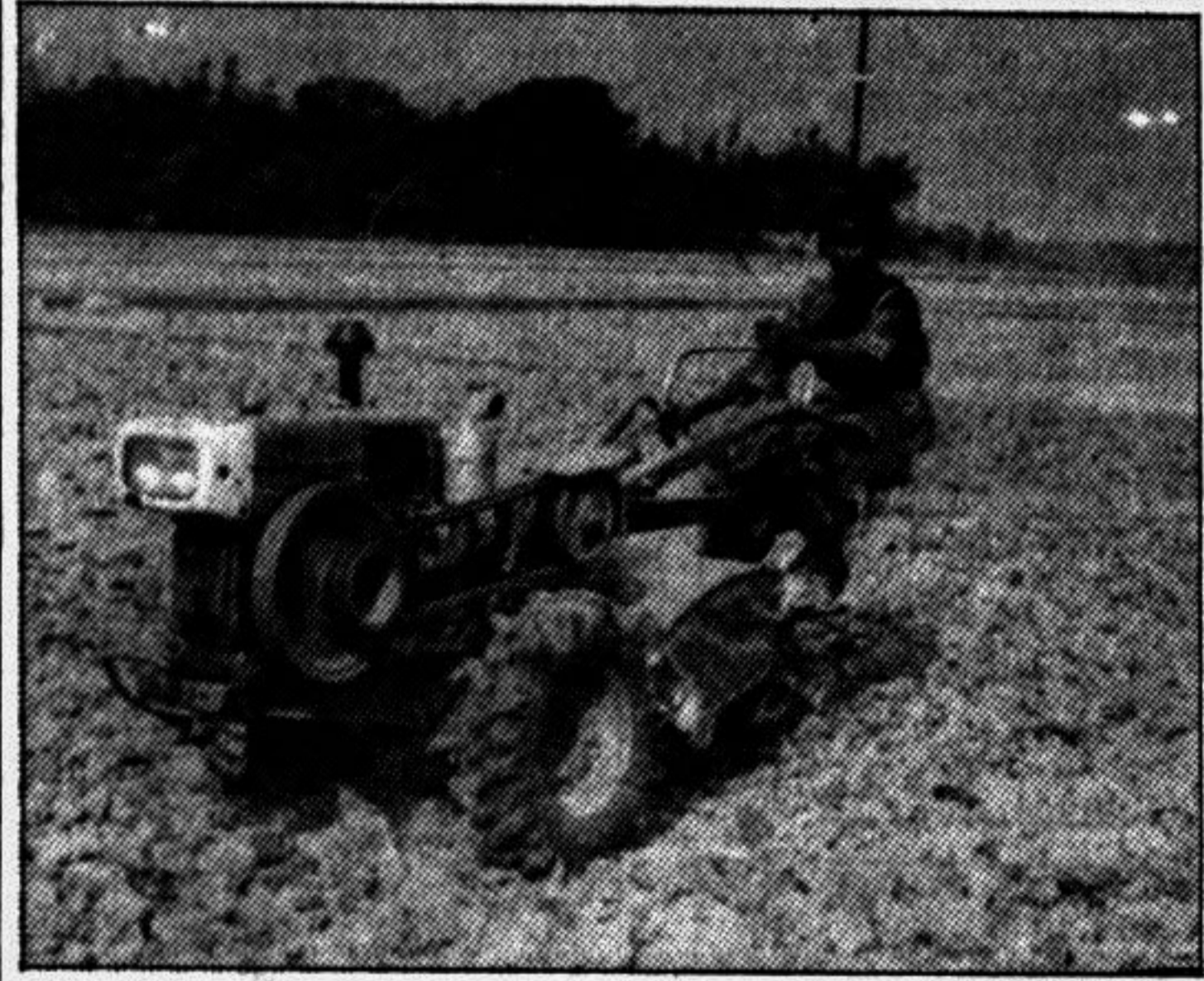
The body of Shahidullah Majumdar, 27, with several cut marks on his throat was found in a bush near a pond in the village.



JESSORE: Seized smuggled Indian goods at a local BDR camp. The contrabands were recently seized while being smuggled into the country. — Star photo

## Hard way to earn knowledge

From Tareq Chowdhury



Nilufar tilling land

— Star photo

RAJSHAHI, Jan 14: Nilufar, a student of class XI of Tanore Women's College under Rajshahi District meets up her educational expenses by tilling land of others.

Barendra Multipurpose Development Authority (BMPDA) trained a number of girls of the locality on use of power tillers and its operation recently to encourage the womenfolk to work. BMPDA also provides power tillers on rent basis after completion of training. After

receiving their training some girls have taken the opportunity to seek employment. Nilufar is one of them. She is the 2nd among her five brothers and sisters.

Daughter of a farmer of Mundomala under Tanore Thana of Rajshahi District, Nilufar earns Taka 2 to 3 hundred per month after paying the power tiller rent to BMPDA. She dreams to be an owner of a power tiller one day.

## Shortage of employees hampering smooth works at Barisal passport office

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Jan 14: The passport office in Barisal is beset with numerous problems almost from the very beginning of its in caption in 1982.

The office building is located where different sorts of problems hinder the normal process of the office works.

According to Md Shihab Uddin Khan, Assistant Director, Immigration and Passport, the main problems in the office are the water supply, accommodation and shortage of regular staff. Out of at least 15 required staff we have only 10. Only one office out of two, one UDC out

of two, three LDCs out of five and out of six MLSS there are only five working in the office.

Besides, not less than 130 passports, both special and international are issued per day on an average. Application for new passports are almost same in number everyday. This office was started from 1989 last.

Only one officer cannot carry out operations with huge works of issuing more than 130 to 150 passports, everyday including other works. More officers and staff should immediately be posted informed, sources said.

## HSC examinees observe strike in C'Nawabganj

From Our Correspondent

CHAPAI NAWABGANJ, Jan 14: The HSC examinees of Chapai Nawabganj observed strike in all the colleges of the district on January 11 last protesting the decision of the Ministry of Education to make uniform question papers for HSC examination this year.

They made a large procession in the Nawabganj town with slogans against the Secretary of the Ministry. They rejected the test examination which was supposed to be held on the same date. They demanded immediate withdrawal of the order of the concerned ministry.

UNB from Faridpur adds: The students of Rajendra University College staged an outrageous protest here yesterday against government decision to conduct HSC examination of the four boards with same question-papers, reports UNB.

They paraded the main roads in the town at 11 in the morning chanting slogans protesting the examination system likely to be introduced this year.

The agitating students also stormed into the Sarada Sundari Mahila College in the town, pelted stones and broke windowpanes.

Witnesses said, the rowdy protesters also damaged four vehicles, including the DC's jeep.

## College student crushed to death in Chandpur

CHANDPUR, Jan 14: A college student was crushed under the wheels of a running bus at the local bus stand in the town yesterday, reports UNB.

The dead was identified as Minara Akhter Minu, 17, daughter of Mohammad Ali Khan of Bishnudi village in sadar thana. She was the first year student of Chandpur Government Women's College, police said.

Minara met the tragic end of her life when the Chandpur-bound bus from Comilla knocked her down from behind at about 10 am. She was going to her college.

Police seized the bus, but the driver fled the scene. Later, angry students of the area rushed to the spot and ransacked about 10 buses. They also brought out a procession carrying the body and gheraoed the DC office protesting the mishap.

Meanwhile, students' union of Chandpur Government University College demanded immediate arrest and punishment of the bus driver and measures to check reckless driving.

## Course on rural development starts at BARD

COMILLA, Jan 14: A 26-day course on rural development for the students of Independent University began at the Bangladesh Academy of Rural Development (BARD) on Tuesday last, reports UNB.

Twenty-eight undergraduate students of the university are taking part in the course jointly organised by BARD and Independent University Bangladesh.

The main objective of the course is to conduct survey in the rural areas and prepare reports on the socio-economic life of the rural people by collecting and analysing data.

Director General of BARD Muhammad Abdul Quaddus presided over the inaugural function.

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

### Office of the Executive Engineer

#### Facilities Department, Ministry of Education

#### Barisal Zone

# TENDER NOTICE

No. 31/IDB/BZ/FD/95-96 Dated: 04-01-1996, 21-09-1402

Sealed tenders in Bangladesh Form No. 2911 are hereby invited from the enlisted A-1 & A-2 Contractors of Facilities Department for the Reconstruction of following Madrasha under the Project "Reconstruction/Extension of Madrasha under the Loan Assistance of Islamic Development Bank (IDB)".

Group No.	District	Thana	Name of Madrasha	Remarks
11 (Eleven)	Jhalokati	Kathalia	Chonauta Senior Fazil Madrasha & Lillah Boarding	2nd Call

- Tender documents may be purchased from the office of the Executive Engineer, Facilities Department, Barisal, Jessore, Khulna, Patuakhali, Bagerhat Zone & also from the office of the Assistant Engineer, Facilities Department, Barisal, Bhola, Jhalokati district up to 23-01-96 Eng. on all working days during office hours on cash payment of Tk. 400/00 (Taka four hundred) only (non-refundable).
- Tenders will be received by the Executive Engineer, Facilities Department, Barisal, Jessore, Khulna, Patuakhali, Bagerhat Zone and also by the Deputy Commissioner, Barisal, Bhola, Jhalokati district on 24-01-96 Eng. up to 1-00 PM & will be opened on the same day at 1-15 PM in presence of the tenderer, if there be any. No tender will be entertained after the expiry of the receiving time as mentioned above.
- Time allowed for completion of the work is 06 (six) months.
- Each tender must accompany a Bank Draft/Pay Order issued from any scheduled bank of Bangladesh for the amount 02% (Two per cent) of the total quoted amount as earnest money in favour of EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, FACILITIES DEPARTMENT, BARISAL ZONE.

THE authority reserves the right to accept any or reject all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

### SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

- Bidders will have to quote itemwise rate and this rate will include all types of Taxes and VAT etc.
- The tender form may be purchased by the contractor himself or his authorised representative on submission of authorised letter in the contractor's letterhead pad bearing the signature of the representative duly attested by the contractor.
- The Contractor will have to produce attested copy of Registration Book & VAT registration during purchasing and submission of tender documents.
- The Contractor who fails to complete the work allotted earlier to them in the stipulated time without valid ground is not eligible to participate in this tender.
- If it is necessary to change the site (before layout of bidg.) for any reason for which no additional financial benefit can be claimed by the contractor.

DFP-710-11/1 G-92  
**Md. Ali Azzam**  
Executive Engineer

## Prospects and Problems of Balancing

Continued from page-8

production techniques for problem areas. BRRI has already developed T. Aman varieties (BR22, BR23) suitable for late planting. These varieties may be transplanted as late as the end of September without much loss in yield. There are salt tolerant breeding lines in the pipeline.

ii. The International Rice Research Institute is about to develop a new category of rice varieties named "Super Rice" which on the average can give 25% higher yields than the HYVs. Hybrid varieties of rice have been successfully introduced in China and India. More than 50% of rice area in China is now covered by such varieties. Hybrids also give much higher yields than the normal HYVs. We have the prospect of introducing both Super and Hybrid varieties to enhance the yields. Ground work for producing hybrids has already been started.

iii. We have not yet exhausted our water resources for irrigation. Plenty of underground water still remains untapped. At present only 31% of our cultivable land has irrigated facilities. Irrigated area can be increased considerably. Experiments have shown that supplemental irrigation in Aus and T. Aman which are generally grown under rainfed conditions raises the yields sharply. Through improvement in the water distribution system the command areas of the existing tubewells can be increased. More area can be brought under HYVs by means of small drainage projects

iv. Yield of rice can also be increased substantially by developing appropriate farming/cropping systems that ensure sustainability in addition to higher production. BRRI has already recommended 12 improved cropping systems.

v. The system of production of rice in Bangladesh is still primitive in some ways, specially in the method of land preparation and post harvest handling. The yield of rice will increase and post harvest loss will decrease if the system is at least partly mechanized through the introduction of tractors and tillers (for timely and better tillage) and threshers.

vi. There is good opportunity for increasing yield and reduce cost of production through development of varieties having resistance against insects, diseases and environmental stresses. Some progress has been made in this regard both in Bangladesh and other countries.

vii. In different parts of Bangladesh, vast areas of land belonging to absentee owners are not used in a productive way. Better use of such lands should be ensured through a rational system of land reform.

curricula and supported by practical steps to increase the production of non-rice food items, specially vegetables are taken up nationally. Our aim should be to create a healthy nation, not just to keep the people alive by filling up their stomachs with cereals.

### 3. Control of the population

Over-population is the root of the problem of shortage of food. Unless this basic problem is solved, there is hardly any chance of satisfactorily tackling other problems. A disaster in the food front is unavoidable if the rate of growth of population is not reduced to zero with a period of 10 to 15 years.

The task of increasing rice production in Bangladesh is really very difficult. All research and development activities on rice during the past 25 years led to an yield increase of only about 0.67 tons per hectare. More than 80% of all investments made in research, extension and input supply for the development of the entire crop sector was used for rice alone to achieve this success. One can easily imagine how much more resources will be needed to raise the average yield of rice further.

Since the production of rice and other foods is linked with the survival of the whole nation, the problem should be taken up nationally and on a war footing. Strategies and tactics of solving the problem should be discussed and debated at all levels including the parliament. Unless timely actions are taken, a disaster will probably be inevitable in the not too distant future.

### 2. Reducing the consumption of rice

We can reduce the per capita consumption of rice if other kinds of foods are made available in adequate quantities and at reasonable prices. This will also improve the nutritional status of the people. A slow but positive change in the food habit will come if programmes for improving consciousness of the people about nutrition through mass media and educational

## Two killed in road mishaps

SIRAJGANJ, Jan 14: One man and a girl-child was killed in two separate road mishaps in Kamarkhand and Raiganj thanas of the district last Thursday, police said, reports UNB.

Ashraf Ali, 45, an employee of Roads and Highways Department, died instantly when a Strajganj-Pabna bound bus ran over him at Chondidagati in Kamarkhand thana on New Dhaka road at 2:00 pm.

In another incident, Rubina, 8, was crushed under the wheels of a speedy truck at Bhuiyagathi in Raiganj thana while she was crossing the road at 2:30 pm.

Two separate cases were filed in this connection.

## Property worth about Tk 1 lakh gutted in Bhola

BHOLA, Jan 14: Property worth about Tk one crore was gutted in a fire at Char Fession Bazar in the district in last week, fire service sources said, reports UNB.

The fire broke out at 8:30 pm and soon engulfed the entire market. Fire Service sources said adding that some 20 shops were destroyed.

However, fire fighters reached the spot two hours after the incident as the only fire station is situated at Bhola sadar, 70 kilometres away from Char Fession.

Meanwhile, local people of seven thanas including Char Fession have urged the concerned authorities to set up more fire stations in the district.

## 963 bottles of phensidyl seized, 4 held

FARIDPUR, Jan 14: Police arrested four people and seized 963 bottles of phensidyl in different raids in the district on Wednesday last, reports UNB.

Year	Estimated Population million	Demand for rice (million tons)	Available land (million ha) estimated	Required yield (t/ha) to meet demand
1995-96	121.48	20.11	10.25	1.96
2000-01	134.30	22.25	10.00	2.22
2005-06	148.50	24.61	9.75	2.52
2010-11	164.19	27.21	9.50	2.86
2015-16	181.55	30.08	9.25	3.25
2020-21	200.74	33.26	9.00	3.69
2025-26	221.96	36.78	8.75	4.20