

## National

## AL confce held in Sherpur

SHERPUR, Jan 21: The biennial conference of Awami League Nalitabari thana unit, was held at local Public Hall auditorium yesterday, reports UNB.

AL General Secretary Zillur Rahman, central leaders Abdul Jalil, Matia Chowdhury and Badiuzzaman Badsha addressed the conference with Advocate Abdus Samad in the chair.

## Valuables worth Tk 4 lakh looted in Satkhira

SATKHIRA, Jan 21: Armed dacoits looted valuables worth about Tk four lakh from six shops of Uzirpur bazar in Kaliganj thana of the district last Friday night, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the gang attacked the bazar by blasting about six crackers and looted valuables including gold ornaments from the shops.

The dacoits decamped with the booties from the shops owned by Niranjan, Abu Bakar, Lilaquat, Rouf, Ni-mai and Upendra.

A case was filed with the police.

## Smuggled goods worth Tk 70,000 recovered

BRAHMANBARIA, Jan 21: The detective police in two separate raids seized smuggled Indian goods worth about Tk 70,000 from Sadar and Akhaura thanas last week, reports UNB.

In one raid police seized white paper, gas cylinder and mats worth Tk 50,000 from the ferry ghat of Majilishpur village in Sadar thana on January 7 last.

In another raid, police recovered 100 bottles of phenesedyl syrup worth about Tk 20,000 from a village in Akhaura.

Separate cases were filed with the police.

## Adulterated fertilizer floods markets in Rajshahi

KUSHTIA, Jan 21: The Compulsory primary education programme undertaken by the government has been facing a serious setback in the district causing concern among the people, reports UNB.

According to Primary Education Department, about one lakh students are being imparted education in 549 primary schools in the district of which 430 are government-managed and the rest are run by the private initiative having no government grant.

But official survey showed that there are no primary schools in 724 villages of six thanas of the district where students are being deprived of any sort of education.

Moreover, the conditions of most of the schools are dilapidated and very often classes are taking place under open sky.

Most of the schools damaged by floods, storms and cyclones over the last few years have not yet been repaired. Cracks have developed on the roofs of some school buildings for which students can not attend classes during the rainy season.

Besides, inadequate furniture and shortage of teachers are hindering the implementation of primary education programme.

## Scarcity of writing paper in Faridpur

## From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, Jan 21: Acute scarcity of all types of writing papers has been prevailing in different markets of the district.

As a result, prices of papers have gone up abnormally causing much inconvenience to the people, specially the students.

The unscrupulous traders are taking advantage of the situation and are selling white paper and newsprint at an abnormally high rate.

In different markets of the district, per bundle of 12 pieces of white paper is selling between Taka 12 and 13. The prices of newsprint is also high.

When contacted, a trader of paper said that due to scarcity supply prices of all types of paper had shot up abnormally a few months ago and the prices were not coming down.

## 900 tonnes of wheat sanctioned for Food for Works

MAGURA, Jan 21: Government has sanctioned 900 metric tons of wheat for implementing 59 schemes under Food for Works programme in the district during current dry season, reports UNB.

Of the total, 328 metric tons of wheat were sanctioned for 21 schemes in Sadar thana, 189 tons for 15 schemes in Sripur thana, 210 tons for 12 schemes in Mohammadpur thana and 173 tons for 11 schemes in CDB.

Cotton production has been gaining its momentum gradually in the country, especially two belts of the Padma and Boral rivers of northern region including Natore district and it is one of the main cash crop. The farmers of this region have taken it as a boon to them and they have been extending their area of production gradually to make more profit.

According to the CDB, 4000 hectares of land was fixed as target for cotton cultivation in 1994-95 and production target was 10 thousand bales in Rajshahi zone while in Natore, 1769 hectares have been cultivated and production target has been fixed at seven thousand bales.

The textile mills of the country require about five lakh bales of cotton. Besides, Moazzam Haque, cotton growers of Dhopail village of Lalpur thana, said that he earned 75 thousand taka by producing cotton on eight



FARIDPUR: A section of participants at the sixth grand conference of Palli Pragati Sahayak Samity held recently. - Star photo

## Large-scale cotton cultivation faces set-back

## From Our Correspondent

NATORE, Jan 21: The prospects for large scale cotton cultivation are bleak this year due to disparity of 'Giner', an international private cotton-purchasing group, absence of convenient marketing policy of government and shortage of manpower in Cotton Development Board (CDB).

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bighas of land. This year he cultivated 20 bighas of land and expected to get minimum 2 lakh taka by selling his high yielding cotton.

Farmers said that production cost is about Taka 3000 per acre and about Taka 15,000 can be earned from selling the produce.

According to experts, 30 square miles of two belts of Baral river of Natore and its adjoining districts, about 10 lakh acres of land, are suitable for high yielding cotton.

On the contrary, the ginners procure seed cotton at higher rate than the rate fixed by government.

Faulty government's marketing policy has also been affecting the production of cotton, a cotton expert said.

Manpower shortage is also one of the main problems for large-scale cotton cultivation. Inadequate staffs cannot cope with the gradual expansion of cotton cultivation. New post at the grassroots level of the CDB should be created as early as possible for the greater interests, according to CDB expert.

## One lakh hectares for IRRI-boro in Faridpur

KISHOREGANJ, Jan 21: About 1,00,200 hectares of land of four districts of greater Faridpur have been brought under IRRI-boro cultivation in the current season, reports UNB.

Police said, the arrested was an accused of JCD leader Helaluddin Torab murder case.

Police earlier recovered the motorcycle used in the snatching.

## One arrested in Kishoreganj

MADARIPUR, Jan 21: Police on Friday arrested one Ershaduzzaman Mithun, 24, from the town in connection with a murder and snatching case, reports UNB.

Police earlier recovered the motorcycle used in the snatching.

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Agricultural Extension Department sources said, of the total land, 33,400 hectares including 25,300 hectares for high yielding variety will be cultivated in Gopalganj district.

In Faridpur district, 29,300 hectares have been fixed for the IRRI cultivation with a production target of 87,590 metric tons.

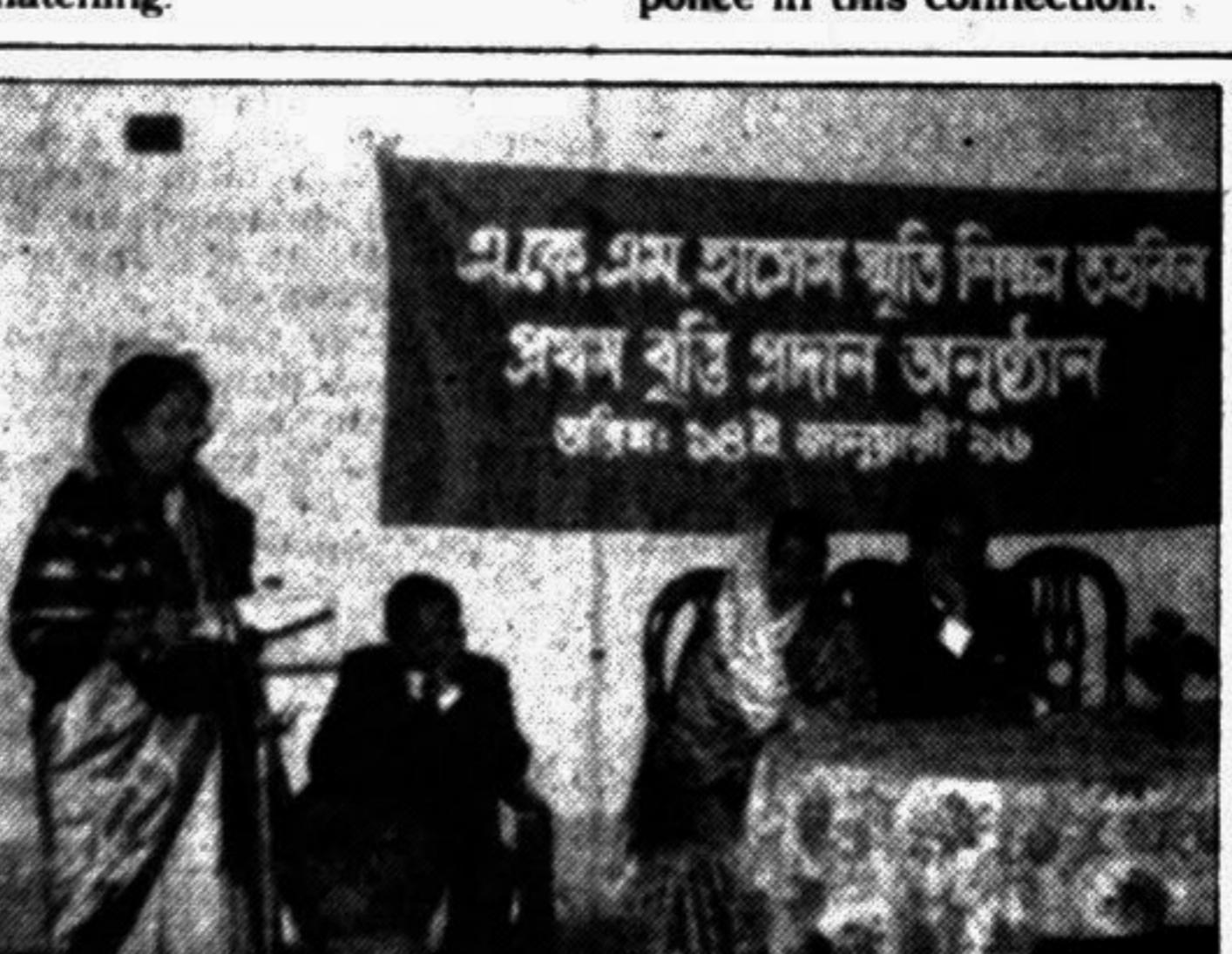
About 21,500 hectares land have been brought in Madaripur district while 16,000 hectares in Sharifpur district.

## Dacoity in Madaripur

MADARIPUR, Jan 21: A daring dacoity was committed at the residence of Eskander Ali Mia of village Nisabadi under Sadar thana recently, reports BSS.

A gang of 10 to 12 dacoits entered the house by breaking open the door and decamped with cash, gold ornaments and cloths worth about Tk. 1,50,000.

A case was filed with local police in this connection.



JHALAKATHI: Begum Shahzadi, Chairperson of A K M Hashem Smriti Shikkha Tahabil, addressing the stipend award ceremony at Jhalakathi Circuit House recently.

## Stipend award ceremony in Jhalakathi

JHALAKATHI, Jan 21: The stipend award ceremony of A K M Hashem Smriti Shikkha Tahabil was held recently at Jhalakathi Circuit House, says a press release.

The function was attended by Ambassador A K M Farooq as special guest and Addl. Deputy Commissioner Monir Hossain Mia as chief guest. Begum Shahzadi, chairperson of the organisation, presided.

Syed Hafiz Ahmed and Hasina Akter was awarded the stipends at the function.

## Fish trader killed in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, Jan 21: A fish trader was killed at village Gopalpur in Belukuchi thana of the district on Thursday night, reports UNB.

The victim was identified as Siraj Mia, 45. Some unidentified miscreants stabbed him to death while he was returning from Gopalpur bazar.

Police on Friday recovered the body, with several cut marks on the throat and other parts of the body, from a roadside ditch. Previous enmity might be reason behind the murder.

A case was lodged with Sirajganj thana. Both the drivers of the tempos managed to flee, police sources said.

## Confce of Palli Sahayak Samity held in Faridpur

## From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, Jan 21: The sixth grand conference of "Palli Pragati Sahayak Samity" was held at Kamarpur Abdul Aziz institution on January 1.

Akbar Kabir, chairman of the Samity, inaugurated the conference which was attended by about ten thousand delegates from different sectors of the samity.

In his speech, Kabir elaborately discussed the activities of the samity for the uplift of the rural areas.

The day-long conference was rounded off with staging of the drama entitled "Nirjataner Obasan" (End of oppression).

## Arms, ammunition recovered, 109 persons held

NAOGAON, Jan 21: Naogaon police in raids in several thanas recovered large quantity of unauthorised arms and ammunitions recently, reports BSS.

The recovered articles included one revolver, on pistol, for pipe-gum, one grenade, 437 Indian-made bombs and some Slr bullets some 109 persons were arrested during the period.

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