### Fresh move to reopen IU

From Our Correspondent JHENIDAH. Feb 23: The understanding committee of Islamic University (IU) has further started their reconciliation move for reopening of the varsity, according to IU sources.

Sources said, a 10 member understanding committee was formed with Foyez Mohammad Sirajul Haque, President IUTA to consult with the students organisation to overcome the deadlock situation of the IU. But the move was reportedly foiled when authority appointed a JCD leader as teacher last month.

Among the ten member understanding committee student adviser Harunur Rashid Askari, Proctor Selim Toha, IUTA secretary Sarwar Jahan, Asst Professor ABM Mokhlesur Rahman and Legal Advisor Abdul Karim Khan were empowered to discuss thoroughly with the students organisations separately, sources said.

The IU was closed since last six weeks following series clashes between two rival groups.

### **Undertrial dies** in Faridpur hospital

From Our Correspondent FARIDPUR, Feb 23: One undertrial prisoner of a murder case, Badal Malo, 38, died in Faridpur General Hospital re-

It was learnt that Badal Malo was an inmate of Ward no-10 of Faridpur district prison. Faridpur Prison authorities shifted him to the hospital when he was reportedly feeling excessive pain in the chest. He died there two hours after admission.

Badal Malo hails from Nagarkanda thana of the district Post-mortem of the body was done in the hospital morgue.

### OC of Betagi thana suspended

From Staff Correspondent BARISAL, Foto 23: Abdul Kuddus Farazi. Officer-in-Charge (OC). Betagi thana of Barguna district was suspended following the directive of Deputy-Inspector General of Police (DIG) of Barisal range Earlier, he was closed to

Barguna police line, now to DIG He was suspended following

his alleged negligence of duty regarding an incident of torturing a woman, Sufia Begum, at Badnikhali village under Betagi thana of Barguna district on February 1.

Police of Betagi thana at that time remained silent about the matter for unknown reasons it is alleged.

### Call to refix fertilizer price From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA. Feb 23: Gaibandha Nagorik Committee protested the fixation of fertilizer retail price as decided by District Fertilizer Monitoring Committee in a press conference held at the local dramatic hall recently.

A written statement of the conference was read out by the convener of Nagorik Committee Aminul Islam Golap. The statement said that ignoring farmers, sentiment the district fertilizer monitoring committee decided to fix up retail price of urea fertilizer at Tk 250 per 50 kg bag. The farmers will be looser and the fertilizer dealers will make more profit beyond the standard sale price. They Tine area naci present location, Fulchhari to e the interest of fertil-

# Paddy procurement drive in progress

# A large number of farmers fail to meet strict govt criteria

From M A Ali Himu

NATORE, Feb 23: Procurement drive of aman rice and paddy for extended period is in operation but a large section of farmers could not sell their grains as they failed to meet the government criteria in the dis-

Some growers while talking to this correspondent during a visit to Baraigram and Gurudashpur thana of the district last week demanded of the government to make the said criteria set for buying paddy easier by designated procurement centres at thana level.

But, officials said, the government's criteria allows two per cent of wilted grains and 14 per cent of moisture content. Paddy having more wilted grains and moisture could not be stored for a long period, they pointed out.

Aman rice-paddy procurement drive this year concluded on January 31. However, considering poor collection of grain the period was extended up to March 31 as the purchasing targets have not been the centre at Banpara, 10 km achieved within January 31.

The procurement target in the six thanas of the district has been set at 750 metric tons of aman paddy and another 750 metric tons of rice.

The government fixed Taka 6.70 and Taka 10.50 per kg of paddy and rice respectively.

Unlike previous years, procurement centres have been opened at thana level. Earlier, government used to open procurement cetres at district level. The District Controller of Food (DCF) told The Daily Star that growers would find it easier to sell their grains within their respective thana areas.

At Nishchintapur village of Boraigram thana, this correspondent talked to a peasant, Md Shahidul Islam, who explained the problems. He said that whenever he visited the local procurement centre to sell his produce, the centre authorities regrets to buy saying his grains contain too much of moisture - and too many wilted

"When we take our produce to away from the village, they

pour a fistful of paddy into a glass of water and examine how many grains float. Then, they refuse purchasing saying the paddy with the many wilted grains is unacceptable," said Sadek, another grower of

Naopara village of the thana.

Talking to the Daily Star the DC of food said, "government can not buy paddy having too many wilted grains and moisture beyond the permissible level. If we buy grains of such quality we will not be able to preserve these in the warehouses." "We already have adequate stock. Still, the government keeps the procurement drive on just to give a 'pricesupport' to growers. We are noticing that because of the drive the open market price of rice and paddy is making a gradual hike to the benefit of the farmers," said the DC of

Karim Pramanik, a grower of Catchkoir village of Gurudaspur thana, acknowledged that in the open market they could not sell a maund of paddy at an improved rate of Taka

230, which was Taka 200 a couple of weeks back. "Still then, it will be more beneficial if the procurement centres buy our produces as they offer Taka 270 for every maund of paddy, Karim added.

Some people at Gurudaspur alleged that although each grower is allowed to sell paddy up to a maximum quantity of one ton, there were some influential people who sell more to the centres.

A school teacher in the thana told this correspondent on condition of anonymity that middlemen and hoarders are very active in the market.

As this correspondent brought the issue of the middlemen to the DCF's notice, he explained that, "it happens sometimes when small farmers sell their quantity of grains to the big farmers, who later resell those to the procurement cen-

Against the backdrop of good harvest of aman - sowing season of IRRI-Boro, round the corner, observers felt, ensuring fair price is a must

# Hatempur Mosque: A silent spectator of sheer neglect

From Delwar Kabir

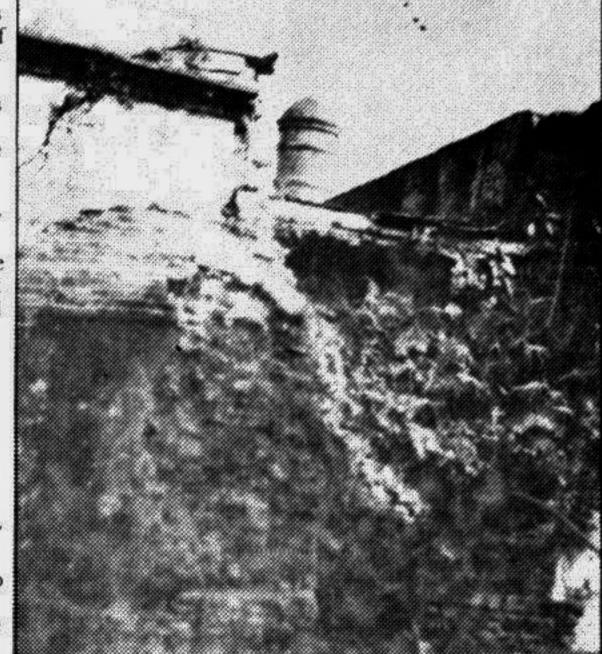
JHENIDAH, Feb 23: The 450-year-old Hatempur Shahi Mosque may collapse and many lives might be lost at any time as the western side of the mosque has already collapsed partially, according to local people.

The age-old mosque was built about 450 years back during the period of Sultan Kutub Uddin Aibok. The wall has collapsed partially from the western side a few weeks back. About 100 'musallees' take weekly jumma prayers and a good number of them say their prayers casually in the mosque daily, local people said.

Local people alleged that they informed the matter to the authorities concerned long ago. But no initiative was taken to repair the collapsed

Regarding construction of the mosque, Moulana Syed Ali Akbar who was the former teacher of Calcutta Alia Madrassah in his historical report noted that the mosque at Hatempur village in Sailkupa thana in Jhenidah district was constructed by Sultan Kutub Uddin Aibek of Delhi as per instruction of his 'Peer' Seikh Kutub (R) who desired to be settled at Hatempur. Before settling at Hatempur the 'Peer' Seikh Kutub (R) came to Sailkupa bazar and was compelled to leave the place immediately due to pressure of some influential persons of the then society. Then the saint 'Peer' sent message to the Sultan desiring to be settled at Hatempur for preaching 'Islam' there. Hearing the news the Sultan carried out the order of the saint and sent sufficient men and materials for construction of the mosque at Hatempur.

When contacted the local people alleged that the mosque had been neglected by the caretakers



JHENIDAH: Dilapidated condition of the western side of Hatempur Shahi Mosque situated at Sailkupa thana in the district. — Star photo

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SYLHET: Alhaj Mubashwir Ali, president, Greater Sylhet Ganodabi Parishad speaking at a discussion meeting here on the occasion of the 13th death anniversary of late General MAG Osmany on Sunday. . - Star photo

# Chakmaghat Irrigation Project a bane of Habiganj people

SYLHET, Feb 23; With commissioning of the Chakmaghat Irrigation Project in the upperstream of the river Khowai in the bordering Indian state of Tripura in the next dry season, vast areas of Habiganj district would be affected badly, it is apprehended widely. Vast tracts of agricultural lands would be turned into barren, due to the withdrawal of waters for the irrigation project, source said.

About 80 per cent works on the project had already been completed and by the end of the year 1997, it would be made fully ready for operation. sources said, adding that the Indian authorities began works on the project in 1980 with a targetted expenditure of 7 crore ten lakh Indian rupees. It was scheduled to be completed within 5 years. But, due to different reasons, it could not be completed in time.

However, the project is ex-

From Iqbal Siddiquee pected to be commissioned by the end of 1997 or by the start of 1998, the source added. Only 10 kilometres works of the total of 48.8 kilometres canal remained incomplete, yet.

The project spendings stood at 35.67 crore Indian rupees till

### Two Sarbahara Partymen arrested

From Our Correspondent FARIDPUR, Feb 23: Two members of the Sarbahara Party were arrested from Boalmari bazar recently.

Acting on a secret information a contingent of police led by Sub-Inspector of Police (SI) Abdul Karim of Boalmari thana arrested them when they were suspiciously moving about in the bazar at night, according to police sources.

rupees was spent for the barrage portion only. Construction of the canal would cost 5 crore rupee more the source said, thus totalling whole project cost at 41 crore rupee.

March 1995. Of this, 13.43 crore

Under the project construction of pillars and 7 gates had already been completed on the river bank in the upperstream. On completion the Chakmaghat Irrigation project would provide irrigation facilities for about 9 thousand hectares of cultivable lands in 40 villages in 8 circles of the Khowai subdivision in Tripura. The region is just across the borders and in the upperstream. Vast tracts of croplands in the district of Habiganj would remain totally barren due to the withdrawal of waters in the upperstream on commissioning of the ambitious project in the Indian state of Tripura.

# Agri loan worth Tk 5.41 cr yet

1000 certificate cases, filed by the Krishi Bank against the defaulter farmers for realisation of Tk 5.41 crore, are yet to be settled, official sources here

The total outstanding agrirepayed by the borrowers even after the expiry of the date.

Unwillingness of a section of

than 13 posts, including the post of junior consultant, are

The vacant posts are: Anes thesist-2, dental technician-1 senior staff nurse-3, supervi-

### NATORE, Feb 23: One person was convicted for taking dowry and sentenced to undergo rigorous imprisonment (RI) for five years and to pay a fine of Taka 2,000 in default to suffer another two months of RI.

Md. Mozammel Haq. Additional District and Sessions Judge, Natore, delivering his judgment on February 12. awarded the above verdict against Md. Raish Uddin Raju. son of Surat Ali of Chandanpur village of sadar thana of the district after convicted him under sections 11 and 14 of Repression on Women and Children Act (Special).

Court Room

One convicted

for taking

dowry

From Our Correspondent

The prosecution alleged that the accused Raju got married with Mosammat Lalbanu. daughter of Zeher Ali of the same village with a dowry of Taka 15,000 including gold ornaments: The accused started repression on her wife demanding another Taka 10,000 as dowry. Later on, he got married again driving out Lalbanu from his house. Banu finding no result at the rural arbitration. filed a case.

Police thereafter submitted chargesheet against the accused person after investigation.

### One gets life term for violating a teen

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Feb 23: District and Sessions Judge of Women and Children Cruelty Deterrent Punishment Special Court, Jessore, Mahahbobur Rahman has convicted and sentenced one Abdul Halim, 32, of Nareudrapur of Kotwali thana in the district to suffer life imprisonment for violating a teenaged girl of the same village in her learned judgment delivered on

### 46 lakh road ev scheme n Faridpur DPUR, Feb 23: Faridpur rishad will implement

rojects in the communi sector at an estimated Taka 46.26 lakh in the fiscal year, reports BSS rding to an official under the Annual Deent Programme (ADP) ght traffic (LT) bridges ir roads will be conand improved in difarts of the district. 24 metres long LT bridge

ion under Nagarkanda one 15 metres long LT t a cost of Taka 9 lakh e constructed in hali union under r thana and one 12 mebridge will be conat a cost of Taka 7 lakh anga thana.

constructed at an esti-

ost of Taka 15 lakh in

les, four roads will be d at an estimated cost 15.26 lakh during the

# vo held for ossessing

Our Correspondent DPUR, Feb 23 : Receiv cret information police two persons and recovbottles of phensidyl om their possession at village under Rajoir Madaripur district reaccording to police

se was registered against Rajoir thana. e have been taking es to round up drug ad-Madaripur district, the

# Work order without tender: Rly CE, DC Gaibandha sued

From K M Rezaul Hoque

GAIBANDHA, Feb 23: Two enlisted contractors of Western Railway filed a case with Senior Sub-Judge Court, Gaibandha against Chief Engineer, Western Railway, Rajshahi, Deputy Commissioner, Gaibandha and six others for opening earth work of 10 kilometres Trimohoni-Balashi low level railway track without any tender no-

The allegation said that railway ferry services between Teestamukh ghat and Bahadurabad ghat remained snapped as ferry route along Brahmaputra basin lost its usual navigable depth. Railway authority however, decided to sult reestablished That nom'ths -- t. 6 -- tite pration ther a case "-tion or the steening without rurne"

gramme is being formulated to

ensure protection of environ-

ment from the hazardous effects

The outline of the pro-

With the continued increase

in the demand for chemicals by

the industrial, agricultural and

consumer sectors, and conse-

quent spurt in the generation of

chemical and hazardous waste.

it is necessary to initiate a

chemical safety programme in

order to meet the national

needs and international obliga-

tions, Environment and Forest

Secretary Ahbab Ahmed told

tions for the programme was

placed for deliberations and

comments by the environmen-

tal, health, chemical and agri-

cultural experts present at the

sive inventory of toxic and haz-

ardous chemicals, environmen-

tal quality standard, chemical

management, inter-ministerial

coordination, setting up of na-

tional information exchange

network and poison control

nclude necessary amendment

of the existing legislation on

chemicals and enforcement of

the laws, rules and standard by

an appropriate authority.

The recommendations also

These include a comprehen-

A number of recommenda-

the briefing session.

briefing.

gramme was given at a day-long

briefing session on 'chemical

safety held at a city hotel yes-

of chemicals, reports UNB.

According to earlier decision of authority, a 16-kilometre low level track was to be constructed from Baharatkhali to connect Balashi. Accordingly authority called for a tender for the work. Later the authority again decided to construct 10 kilometre low level track from Trimohoni to Balashi considering it more feasible. But on February 15 reportedly in presence of Chief Engineer, Western Railway and Deputy Commissioner, Gaibandha opened the earth work of said project with out calling any fresh tender.

Seeking temporary injuncwith lower court of Gaibandha.

### Road mishaps claim 3 including minor girl-From CHT Correspondent

RAMGARH (Khagrachhari). Feb 23: Three persons, including a minor girl, were officially listed as killed and 29 others injured Sunday in three separate road mishaps at different places in Ramgarh thana of the

A passenger-carrying jeep over-loaded with about 100 passengers on rooftop turned turtle at Islampur in the thana killing one and injuring 24 others Sunday noon at 1:00 pm. The deceased was identified as Obaidul Hague, 30. The injured were rushed to a clinic at Andharmanik.

Nasrin Akhtar, 8, was reportedly crushed to death instantly by a bus bearing number Chatta-Metro-Cha 568 at Borabill in the same road of the thana at 4 pm Sunday. When the driver of the tim-

ber-loaded truck lost his conkilling a worker and injuring 5

## Hunters preying on guest birds in garo hills birds. Some of the migratory

NETRAKONA. Feb 23: Migratory birds, our flying guests in winter, have been flocking at the northern parts of Netrakona district.

Flocks of different kinds of birds locally known as Dighari, Khaligari, Sarails, Balihas and Pankouri in hundreds or thousands have been pouring in the marshes and swamps in the region around the garo hills under Durgapur thana, about 25 kms north of here.

According to the naturalists, the migratory birds fly to the garo hilly region during the winter season from the ice: fields in Siberia, thousands of kms north of here, to escape the biting cold.

While making a day-long trip to the garo hill region on February 18, BSS Netrakona corespondent witnessed that the area had now turned into a heavenly abode of the guest garo hill region

birds were seen sauntering on the sands banks on the river Sumeswari and some cateling small fishes from the water below. Others were seen cattering or flying up in the air from the row of trees at the top of garo hills. The scene was adding attractions to the travelers and local people. Talking to the BSS corre-

that natural movement of the guest birds were being hindered by the hunters. People complained that a section of hunters used to catch the guest birds daily for selling them at the local hats and bazars despite the government ban on bird hunting.

spondent local people alleged

They underlined the need for intervention of law-en-forcing agencies to ensure the safe stay of these guest birds in their withter the hard pretter and tourth class em ployees-3.

# to be realised MADARIPUR, Feb 23: Over

said, reports UNB. loan of the bank so far stood at about Tk 34.26 crore. Twothirds of the loan has not been

borrowers was the main reason for the repayment of the loan, bank officials complained. Another report adds: More

lying vacant at sadar hospital here for a long time, official sources said.

sor-2, junior metron-1, radios-

The judgment was given in absentia trial as the accused was absconding since the date of occurrence. The prosecution case was conducted by Special Public Prosecutor, Advocate Shamsur Rahman while Advocate Shamsul Haque was the appointed state defence lawyer.

# 3-yr RI for cheating

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, Feb 23: One person was convicted for denying to marry a girl when she gave birth to his baby son and sentenced to undergo rigorous imprisonment (RI) for three years. The accused Osman Gani

alias Fardu was also fined Taka 2,000, in default to suffer another three months of RI.

The prosecution alleged that Osman Gani, son of Acher Uddin of Mohishmari village of Shingra thana developed illegal relationship 'with Rashida Khatun, 16, daughter of Eshar Uddin of the same village and as a result, Rashida gave birth to a baby son. But Osman Gani, on September 6 '95, declined to

Shingra police submitted Bengal. Venue: Seminar room of the Institute, House: 330B, Rd: chargesheet against the accused person after investigation while Rashida filed a case with Shingra PS.

> trate Sheikh Toiyabur Rahman, after examining witnesses and evidences, convicted the accused under the section 493 and delivered the verdict.

# Metropolitan

### Britain to provide aid 'Chemical safety programme being for city corporations formulated' A chemical safety pro-

Britain will provide sustainable technical and project assistance for improving the management skill of the city corporations and municipalities of the country, reports UNB.

for coordinating the activities of service organisations as well as for the construction of physical infrastructures in the ma-This was disclosed in a meet ing between the visiting fivemember British delegation led

by Birmingham City Mayor

It will also give assistance

Marion Arnot Job, and LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman at his office yester-The minister apprised the British delegation of the integrated development programmes of the service organisations of four city corpora-

tions which were introduced by the government for ensuring civic amenities including health, education and environment preservation. In this regard, he sought British assistance for improv-

ing sewerage and waste-recycling systems in the divisional cities of Bangladesh. The team assured the minister of assisting preservation of environment in Dhaka city.

They stressed the need for joint efforts of the two countries in expanding the programmes, particularly the education programme, for resolving the socio-economic problems of the

citymen. The delegation showed interest in providing technical

and project assistance, in collaboration with World Health Organisation, for the cure of diseases like TB, diabetes and heart complications in the big

They informed the meeting that Birmingham city authorities would launch satellite education programmes in Sylhet and Moulvibazar that would be extended to Dhaka City in

phases. State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Alhaj Syed Abul Hossain, Local Government Division Secretary A H M Abdul Hye and high officials of the minister were present in the meeting.

# Seminar on agri

research A two-day seminar on "Agri cultural Research and Development in Bangladesh" begins at the International Conference Centre in the city today, reports

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to inaugurate the seminar as chief guest, while Agriculture and Food Minister Begum Matia Chowdhury will be present as special

UNESCO Professor o

Ecotechnology Swaminathan

will deliver the keynote address

in the inaugural session while

Agriculture Secretary AMM

Shawkat Ali will preside, says a

press release.

### ROK envoy makes farewell call on Samad Azad Ambassador of the Republic

of Korea (ROK) Jong Kyou Byun made a farewell call on the Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad at the foreign ministry yesterday, reports BSS.

The foreign minister thanked the ambassador for his contributions to expansion of bilateral relations, particularly in investment and economic matters.

### Project-launching workshop

The Local Government Engineering Department (LGED). in cooperation with the World Bank and Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), will hold a projectlaunching workshop of 'Second Rural Roads and Markets Improvement and Maintenance Project' on February 24, 25 and

The first leg of the workshop will be held at LGED headquarters in Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, in the city for two days, beginning today, and the concluding workshop will be held in Rajshahi on Feb 27, says a press release. Zillur Rahman, Minister for

Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives, will be the chief guest at the inaugural session at 9 am today. while Syed Abul Hossain, State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives and Pierre Landell Mills Chief of Resident Mission, World Bank will be special guest.

# • What's on today . . . .

BEA lecture: Bangladesh Economic Association (BEA) has organised a lecture on 'Exchange Rate Management: Cross Country Experience." Speaker: Prof John Williamson, Chief Economist for South Asia, World Bank. Venue: Academy for Planning and Development, Nilkhet. Time: 3:30 pm.

Rights' will be held. Venue: USIS auditorium, Jiban Bima Bhaban, 10 Dilkusha C/A. Time: 7:30-8:30 pm. Reception: Akkharbritto will accord a reception to Abdul Gaffar Chowdhury, lyricist of 'Amar Bhaiyer Roktey Rangano Ekushey February....'. Chif guest: Obaidul Qader, State Minister

for Cultural Affairs. Venue: Muktijuddha Jadughar, Segun

Worldnet dialogue: A Worldnet dialogue on 'Women's

Bagicha. Time: 3:30 pm. Liberation War Museum: Anil Bhatacharya, a renowned journalist of Tripura, will give a talk on 'Liberation War: Tripura Context,' while Shubashish Talapatra, a lawyer of Agartala, will speak on 'Tripura-Bangladesh Relationship' Venue: Museum premises, 5, Segun Bagicha. Time: 5:30 pm. The talks will be followed by presentation of Tagore songs by Tithi

Deb Burman. Nat'l consultation session: A day long national consultation session on 'Rio plus 5' will be held. Chief guest: State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10 am.

Discussion meet: UBINIG has arranged a discussion

meeting on 'Bio-diversity, nutrition and environment.' Keynote

speaker: Steve Minkin, Centre of Natural Resource Studies. Venue: WVA auditorium, Rd No. 27, Dhanmondi. Time: 3 pm-Lecture: Nazrul Institute has arranged a lecture on 'Problems in research and practice of Nazrul works.' Speaker: Dr Badhan Sengupta, a renowned Nazrul researcher of West

Rotary Club of Gulshan: The weekly meeting of the club will be held. Venue: Sajna Restaurant, Gulshan. Time: 5.30

28 (old). Dhanmondi. Time: 3:30 pm.

Bangabandhu Parishad: An emergency meeting of the Bangabandhu Parishad Supreme Court Lawyers' Unit will be held. Venue: Supreme Court Ainjibi Samity Bhaban. Time: 4

The prosecution case in brief is that when the victim was returning home alone at 8 pm on September 14, 1995, she was kidnapped and taken to a nearly bush when she was violated by the accused.

# One awarded

take Rashida as his wife.

Additional District Magis-

FAR Zila Pa seven p cation cost of current Acco

ply servizer deal

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