

News snaps

Certificate awarding ceremony

GAZIPUR, Dec 7: The certificate awarding ceremony of a week long short course on 'diagnosis of faults and environmental pollution control of automotive engines' was held at Islamic Institute of Technology here on Wednesday, reports BSS.

Prof Dr KM Waliuzzaman, head of Computer Science and Information Technology Department, distributed the certificates among the participants who included senior teachers of Directorate of Technical Education, BMET, related fields, senior professionals from Roads and Highways, BRTA and BSEC. Dr M Hassan Siddique, head of the Department of Mechanical and Chemical Engineering, presided over the function and Ahmadullah Bhuiyan, the course coordinator gave an evaluation of the course.

Foundation laying ceremony

SUNAMGANJ, Dec 7: Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad laid the foundation stone of Sunamganj district jail construction project, reports BSS.

The jail will be constructed on 10 acres of land at Haluargan, about 10 km from the town at a cost of Tk 16 crore. When completed, the jail will meet the requirements of the district. Deputy Commissioner of Sunamganj Md Iqbal Hossain Khan, police super Mustafizur Rahman, president and general secretary of district Awami League and elite of the town were present.

Krishak League workers' confce

FENI, Dec 7: State Minister for Land and Bangladesh Krishak League (BKL) president Alhaj Rashed Mosharraf has said the present government has continued its all-out efforts to supply fertilisers and other agri-inputs to the farmers at fair prices, reports UNB.

The state minister was addressing the workers' conference of BKL at the local circuit house on Friday. He said the government has continued the process of supplying fertilisers through the dealers to ease the sufferings of the farmers. The conference was also addressed, among others, by Joynt Hazari MP, Joint Secretary of the BKL MA Wadud and its central leaders.

LGED engineer killed in road mishap

BANDARBAN, Dec 7: A diploma engineer of the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) of Bandarban hill district was killed when he was run over by a speeding taxi on Friday at Rajbila under sadar thana, reports BSS.

Police said the victim Chingnu Mong, 35, died on the spot. Three others were injured in the incident. A case has been filed with sadar thana but none was arrested.

Dacoits kill sexagenarian woman

PIROJPUR, Dec 7: A sexagenarian woman was killed in a daring dacoity at a house in the town on Saturday, police said, reports UNB.

Family sources said Rijia Khatun wife of one Nizamuzzaman of Boiddopara locality, met the death as dacoits strangled her during the robbery at 7:30 pm. Valuables and a licensed rifle were looted. Unconscious Rijia was sent to Sadar Hospital where attending doctors declared her dead. Panic gripped the town, and a case was filed with Sadar police.

Cultural programme concludes

MYMENSINGH, Dec 7: A three-day literary and cultural programme of Mymensingh Press Club concluded on Saturday, reports BSS.

State Minister for Land Alhaj Rashed Mosharraf inaugurated the programme on Thursday. Presided over by deputy commissioner and ex-officio president of Mymensingh Press Club Md Rafiqul Islam the inaugural function was attended by Syed Ahmed, Syndicate member of Dhaka University as special guest. Among others Principal Md Matru Rahman, advocate Wazedul Islam, Prof Lutfar Rahman Khan, Abdur Razzak and club secretary Ataul Karim khokon spoke on the occasion.

Workshop on use of pesticide

COMILLA, Dec 7: A day long workshop on the use of pesticide was held recently at the teachers training college here, reports BSS.

Sponsored by the Integrated Pesticide Management Project the workshop was participated by 320 farmers from five unions of Comilla sadar thana. Additional Director of Agriculture Extension Department M Fazlul Huq was present at the inaugural session as chief guest.

Massive potato farming scheme

NETRAKONA, Dec 7: About 1700 hectares have been brought under potato cultivation in 10 thanas of Netrakona district in the current season, reports BSS.

An official source said the target of potato production has been fixed at 20,400 metric tons. Bangladesh Agriculture Development Co-operation (BADC) will supply seed, fertiliser to the farmers and the field workers of the Agriculture Extension Department will render field level service for making the potato production programme a success.

3 roasted alive

RAJBARI Dec 7: A woman and her two children were killed in a fire at a village in sadar thana on Monday night, reports UNB.

Police said Babeya Begum, 27, her daughter Nahar, 7, and son Rajan, 2, were roasted alive in the fire that originated from lamp in their house at village Gobindapur. The flame also raged to the ground five more neighbouring houses, but their inmates came out unhurt. Villagers estimated the loss of property at about Tk 6 lakh.

Workshop on 4th fisheries project

RAJSHAHI, Dec 7: A day-long workshop on 'proposed fourth fisheries project' jointly organised by the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock and the World Bank was held in Postal Academy conference room with deputy director, fisheries Rajshahi division Rafiqul Islam Chowdhury in the chair, reports BSS.

Shafiqul Alam, team leader of consultant group of the project presented the keynote paper at the workshop while Md Nasiruddin Ahmed, director of the project, deputy commissioner, Rajshahi, Kazi Farid Ahmed and district fisheries officer Motaaharul Hoque, among others, spoke on the occasion. Mohammad Liakat Ali, director general, department of fisheries, attended the function as the chief guest.

7 alleged hijackers arrested

TANGAIL, Dec 7: Police arrested seven miscreants for hijacking a rice-laden truck on Dhaka-Tangail highway on Tuesday and recovered 108 sacks of rice, reports UNB.

According to police, a gang of about 10 dacoits put barricade by placing a small truck on the road while the rice-laden truck reached at Natiapara in Delduar thana on Monday night. The dacoits tied the driver and the helper of the vehicle, threw them into a roadside ditch and took away the truck. On receiving information, police took immediate measures and caught Shantiranjana and Mintu Mia in connection with the robbery. On the basis of confessional statements, police raided a rice mill of Madhyapara in Joydevpur thana of Gazipur district on Tuesday, seized 108 bags of rice and arrested the rice mill owner Moslemuddin and robbers Jalaluddin, Nasiruddin, Ashraf Ali and Sanwar Hossain.

Dacoits kill 3

COMILLA, Dec 7: A gang of dacoits stormed a shop at Companiganj bazar in Muradnagar thana at dead of night, killed three people and decamped with valuables worth about Tk 5 lakh, police said, reports UNB.

According to police, on the night of November 27 the dacoits entered the shop, Bandhu Traders, murdered the three who were asleep inside the shop and decamped with cash and valuables. The deceased were identified as shop manager Narayan Chandra Saha, 35, employees Billal, 15, and Korban Ali, 32. A case was filed with the police. Senior police officials visited the spot.

Valuables worth Tk 22 lakh looted

SIRAJGANJ, Dec 7: Pirates in guise of law-enforcers halted a mechanised boat in the river Jamuna and robbed of passengers in day light on Tuesday, reports UNB.

Police said the robbers wearing army and police uniforms halted the engine-boat coming from Bhuapur to Sirajganj launch at about 9 am and looted cash and valuables worth about Tk 22 lakh. Twenty-two passengers, including two women, were injured as the pirates beat up them when they refused to surrender their belongings. When contacted Police Super of the district confirmed the incident.

UP elections

39 more injured in post-polls violence

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Dec 7: Elections held so far in 20 unions under four, out of eight thanas in the district have left at least 39 persons injured, five of them severely.

In all the violent incidents, supporters of the defeated candidates resorted to retaliatory acts inviting counter attacks from the other side. According to eyewitnesses and various reliable reports including police, houses of some election agents of both the winner and defeated candidates were not spared from the attacks and counter

attacks. It resulted in damages of household goods. In these violent incidents, illegal arms and hand grenades were used.

Digholia thana tops the list in violence. It was followed by Terokheda, Phultala and Rupsha thanas. Gun fires and bomb explosions continued to create panic in some of the unions under Digholia and Rupsha thanas in the post election violence till writing of this report. In Terokheda thana where elections were held on December 1, Awami League captured four and BNP captured two posts of

chairman. The Phultala thana where elections were held on December 3, JP got two posts, while AL got one and the other seat went to independent candidate. In Digholia thana, BNP won in three unions, while the two others go to Workers Party.

Results of elections held in five unions under Rupsha thana on Saturday could not be received till 6 pm. But police sources confirmed incidents of fierce clashes at Rajapur, Nihat and Sreerampur centres after counting of votes.

Actue water crisis in N-dists

NATORE, Dec 7: Cultivation of IRR-Boro paddy for the next season may be hindered as acute water crisis has been prevailing in the northern districts, reports UNB.

Water experts have reiterated the need for immediate implementation of the North Rajshahi Irrigation Programme (NRIP) to save the Barind region from the man-made desertification.

To combat the desertification caused mainly by the adverse effect of Farakka Barrage, the government had launched Barind Multipurpose Development Project (BMDDP) in greater Rajshahi district comprising Rajshahi, Natore, Naogaon and Chapainawabganj district in 1982.

The main objective of the project was to bring back balance in the environment of the Barind region by using the underground water, tree plantation and excavation of the derelict ponds.

In certain cases, the effects of the project proved fruitful. In many areas of the Barind region, where the people reaped only one crop round the year, are now harvesting three crops.

But the success of the project is threatening the environment of this region in another way. Operation of about 3,000 deep tubewells and shallow tubewells in the region has caused a drastic fall in the underground water level of the region.

Since 1982, use of underground water for irrigation purpose has been doubled then the recommended limit of a foreign expert team working on environment in the region.

In the recent years, water level of the Barind region reached below 30 feet than the normal depth during the lean period.

To solve the water crisis in the region and to stop the depletion of underground water layer, the Water Development Board, Rajshahi, proposed the NRIP.

In 1988, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) prepared the feasibility

study of the project, and in 1994, the project was submitted to the government for approval which suggested utilisation of surface water instead of underground water.

The project will include the irrigation on 51,200 hectares of land in 15 thanas of greater Rajshahi district with three pump houses near Kasba in the Padma river, near Baraipara in the Mohananda river and near Porsha in the Punarbhaba river.

The JICA report says additional foodgrains worth about Tk 200 crore would be produced annually by using Tk 40 crore for the prospective project.



SYLHET: A colourful rally was brought out in the town recently in observance of World AIDS Day.— Star photo

90 RU teachers demand repeal of CHT accord

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Dec 7: A total of 90 teachers of Rajshahi University (RU) on Friday strongly called upon the government to repeal the peace agreement signed between the government and Parbatyia Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) immediately.

The signatories to the joint statement also protested and condemned the accord. They said that the government signed the agreement with the so-

called Shantibahini mainly on the basis of one party decision bypassing the parliament. They further said that the government also violated the constitution through the agreement.

They further said that due to signing of this peace treaty the integrity of the state has been threatened. The treaty is detrimental to greater national unity and interest of the country.

The signatories to the statement, among others, are Prof Altaf Hossain, Prof KAM Shadhat Hossain Mondal, Prof Abdul Hamid, Prof Abbas Ali.

Our Natore correspondent says: Local leaders of major political parties and socio-cultural organisations have expressed their mixed reactions over the signing of CHT peace accord.

BNP and its front organisations denounced the peace accord when Awami League and its front organisations hailed it.

The convenor of district BNP

Advocate Ruhul Kuddus Talukdar Dulu, MP, told The Daily Star correspondent that the CHT peace agreement was a conspiracy against Bangladesh. The district Awami League president Advocate Sajedur Rahman hailed the peace accord.

General Secretary of local Awami League Advocate Hanif Ali Sheikh also expressed his satisfaction.

Natore pourashava chairman Jubayer Hossain also greeted the accord. Jamaat-e-Islami leader Delwar Hossain termed the accord as 'black and illegal'.

Show cause notice on Rajshahi Board

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Dec 7: The court issued a show cause notice on the Rajshahi Education Board authorities to explain why they would not be compelled to publish the results of some HSC examinees of 1997 withheld earlier on different allegations.

Rajshahi district Sadar Senior Assistant Judge issued the notice following filing of a case by examinees Fahim Ismail and others on Nov 30.

Publication of results of a few hundred HSC examinees have still been kept withheld by the education board. The board earlier published withheld results of a few thousands of examinees being ordered by the court.

The complainants in their prayer said that they had appeared in the last HSC examination from the concerned colleges, but the Board authorities had not raised any question about it till the publication of the results. Schedules for admissions in the graduation courses will soon be announced. Then they would be deprived of getting admissions if their results were not published soon, they argued and prayed for courts order for immediate publication of their results.

Workshop on poll monitoring programme

TANGAIL, Dec 7: A daylong workshop on election monitoring programme organised by the Fair Election Monitoring Alliance (FEMA), an NGO, was held last week in the auditorium of the Society for Social Service here, reports BSS.

Thirty local journalists took part in the workshop. Advocate Shamsunnahar, programme officer and Borhanuddin, programme coordinator of FEMA were the resource persons.

Abdus Sattar Khan, Deputy Commissioner, Tangail inaugurated the workshop presided over by Harun-or Rashid.



JESSORE: Inaugural ceremony of Rotary Health Centre, Jessore.

— Star photo

Rotary health centre opens

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Dec 7: Rotary Health Centre, an indoor section of Rotary Ahmed Ali order Health Complex was inaugurated by Minister for Health and Family Welfare Salahuddin Yousuf recently. He attended the ceremony as chief guest.

Rotarian M Jamaluddin, District Governor, Rotary International District 3280 was the Guest of Honour.

Rotarian Dr Ameer Hossain Chairman, Rotary Health Centre, Jessore and Rotarian Shahid Alam Shohel, President, Rotary Club of Jessore were also present on the occasion.

Discussion on AIDS

SYLHET, Dec 7: Speakers at a discussion here have laid emphasis on public awareness to check the fatal AIDS disease which is sweeping the Asia region, reports UNB.

They said disciplined life based on ethics of traditional religions could help avert the cruse of the killer disease.

Rotary Club of Sylhet Surma organised the discussion at Kodomtoli Primary School on Wednesday, marking the World AIDS Day.

It was addressed, among others, by district civil surgeon Abdur Rashid, Dr AKM Shariful Islam of Sylhet Osmany Medical College Hospital and Rotarian Dr Manzoorul Haque.

Birth anniversary of Thakur

From A Correspondent

COMILLA, Dec 7: The 110th birth anniversary of Thakur Anukulchandra will be celebrated on December 11 and 12 at Mahesangang, Iswar Path-sala, in Comilla.

Befitting programmes have been arranged on the occasion. The programmes include kirtan, reading from the books written by Sree Thakur, and other books, Binoti prayers, kishore mela, matree sammelan and discussion meetings.

The programmes will start from 6-27 in the morning and will continue till 7 in the evening.



RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY: A dance sequence of a cultural function held here recently on the occasion of 11th founding anniversary of RU Press Club.

— Star photo

290 killed in 11 months in Kishoreganj

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Dec 7: A total of 290 people were killed in separate incidents in 13 thanas of the district from January one to November 30 this year.

According to Kishoreganj Sadar Hospital source, 55 people were killed in Kishoreganj sadar thana, 29 were killed in Pakundia thana, 9 were killed in Hossainpur thana, 27 were killed in Kotiadi thana, 20 were killed in Kuliarchar thana, 22 were killed in Bajitpur thana, 57 were killed in Bhairab thana, 8 were killed in Tarail thana, 6 were killed in Astogram thana, 6 were killed in Itna thana, 7 were killed in Mitthamthan thana, 30 were killed in Mandali thana, and nine were killed in Nikli thana.

The murders were committed due to clash over disputed land, previous enmity, non-payment of dowry, personal interest, clash between two rivals, clash over fisheries and rape.

Massive HYV wheat farming programme in 10 S-dists

BARISAL, Dec 7: The High Yielding Varieties (HYV) of wheat will be cultivated in 80,087 hectares in 10 southern districts under Barisal Agriculture Extension Zone (BAEZ) during the current winter season, an official source said, reports BSS.

The districts are: Barisal, Jhalakathi, Bhola, Pirojpur, Patuakhali, Faridpur, Madaripur, Gopalganj, Rajbari and Shariatpur.

The production target of wheat has been fixed at 1,54,285 metric tons this year in this region.

Of the total 2,403 hectares will be brought under perfect display of fertilisers, 2,609 hectares under irrigation and 75,075 hectares under intensive rabi crops cultivation programme, the source said.

The district-wise breakup is: 1,056 hectares in Barisal, 18 hectares in Jhalakathi, 33 hectares in Pirojpur, 6,167 hectares in Bhola, 160 hectares in Faridpur, 15,800 hectares in Rajbari, 8,427 hectares in Madaripur, 5,793 hectares in Gopalganj, 15,800 hectares in Shariatpur and 33 hectares in Patuakhali.

The Agriculture Extension Department will set up 65 integrated demonstration plots in these districts to teach the farmers the scientific methods of wheat cultivation.

Besides, Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) will sell over ten thousand metric tonnes of HYV wheat seeds to the farmers to make the wheat cultivation programme a success.

Another report adds: Maize will be cultivated on 865 hectares of land in 11 southern districts under Barisal Agriculture Extension Zone (BAEZ) in the current season.

The districts are: Barisal, Jhalakathi, Pirojpur, Bhola, Patuakhali, Barguna, Faridpur, Rajbari, Gopalganj, Madaripur and Shariatpur.

According to an official source, the production target of maize has been fixed at 2,162 metric tons this year in the zone.

One hundred hectares will be cultivated in each district of Barisal and Shariatpur, 50 hectares in each district of Jhalakathi, Pirojpur, Bhola, Barguna, Rajbari, and Gopalganj, five hectares in Patuakhali, 60 hectares in Faridpur and 300 hectares in Madaripur.

Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) will sell 21,625 kgs of high yielding varieties of maize seed to the farmers this year.

A total of 25,000 metric tons of maize is expected to be produced on 10,000 hectares of land in 64 districts of the country this year.

Kushtia Newsletter

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Dec 7: One Indian BSF Jawan was killed and another sustained injuries when a gang of armed dacoits hurled a powerful bomb on them near Bangladesh border pillar No. 127, 128 recently, according to a report.

Informed sources said that when the BSF patrol party was guarding the border at Ilamari near Bangladesh pillar 127 and 128 they faced a gang of armed dacoits. They challenged them, but the dacoits hurled powerful bombs which killed on BSF Habildar and injured another.

The victim was identified as Shantoo Dev. The dacoits looted one SMC and 20 rounds of ammunitions. When contacted BDR sector commander, Kushtia confirmed this.

BSF claimed that dacoits are Bangladeshis. A flag meeting in company level was held between BDR and BSF at the middle point of Rudrangar border point and Ilamari in Meherpur Sadar thana.

Clash over tearing of poll poster

Tearing of poster in connection with UP election in Mirpur thana led to a clash resulting in injury of 4 persons recently.

Poster of female member candidate Monjura Khatun were torn up by her opponent. As a result clash ensued between Khabiruddin Biswas group and Abu Bakkar group. As a result Abu Taleb, 25, Ahmed Ali, 38, Ator Ali, 65, and Mohammad Biswas sustained serious injury. Abu Taleb and Ahmed Ali have been admitted to Kushtia General Hospital while two others have been admitted to Mirpur Health Complex.

18 absconders arrested

Kushtia Police have arrested 18 absconding accused in different cases from three thanas of the district recently.

Police source said that Daulatpur thana police have arrested notorious dacoit and terrorist Kabil. Police also arrested his accomplices Rashedul Kalam and Rawshan. On the other hand Bheramara thana police have arrested 10 absconding accuseds and Kumarkhali thana police arrested 4 absconding accuseds. Notorious Kabil has got many cases pending against him in Bheramara police station.

Bheramara pourashava office gheraoed

People of village Nawardapara under Bheramara Pourashava Ward No. 1 gheraoed the Bheramara Pourashava office recently.

They were demanding development of roads and other essential constructions. During the programme a discussion meeting was held with Tajbar Hossain, an Awami League leader as president. Others who

spoke were Haji Mohiddin, Habibur Rahman Habib Abu Hasan Tipu, Jahangir Hossain, Selimur Rahman Nasu, Sajjal and Shahidulla.

After the discussion a procession was brought out which paraded the main streets of the town and a memorandum containing 21-point demand was submitted to TNO Bheramara.

2 girls raped

Two girls were raped recently under Sadar thana, but no person were arrested till now.

It has been reported that on November 17, a group of armed terrorists abducted one young girl, aged 16 and raped her one after another in village Hatia under Sadar thana in day light. They left her in a critical condition.

In another incident happened in village Kaburhat where a group of armed terrorists picked up an orphan young girl and took her to the house of Sahadat Ali, son of Saken Ali. They raped her one after another and left her in an unconscious state. Later they were rescued by villagers who informed the police.

Two separate cases were lodged with Kushtia police station, but nobody was arrested in this connection.

Shop looted

Terrorists raided a grocery shop at BIDD market of Jagoti near Kushtia Sugar Mills recently. They snatched away the cash and later locked up the shop.

Eyewitnesses said, armed terrorists drove away the shopowner Azmat Ali, son of Aziz Shaikh of village Chechua under Jagoti Union at gunpoint. They took away Taka 1500 cash and other valuables in day light. On getting information SI, Mashur along with his force visited the place of occurrence. Nobody was arrested.

Youth commits suicide

One young person committed suicide by jumping under the wheels of running shuttle train bound for Poradaha at Millpara recently.

The victim was identified as Liton. His body was severed from the head. The cause of his suicide was stated to be family feud. A case has been registered with the Railway Police Station at Poradaha.

Motorcycle recovered: hijacker arrested

Daulatpur thana police has recovered a hijacked motorcycle and arrested the hijacker. A motorcycle was hijacked from Mostafa of Taragonia by Rezaul Huq of Kallayanpur recently.

Mostafa filed a case with Daulatpur police station in this connection. Police arrested Rezaul Huq and recovered the motorcycle.



Rural girls attending schools in large number now-a-days due to government's compulsory free education programme.

— Star photo by A K M Mohsin