

## National

## 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 Walizuzzaman, 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 Ahmadulah 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 Haluagao, about 10 km from the town at a cost of Taka 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' confe

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 Joynal 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 Rijja Khatun wife of one Nizamuzzaman of Boddopara locality, met the death as dacoits strangled her during the robbery at 7:30 pm. Valuables and a licensed rifle were looted. Unconscious Rijja was sent to Sadar Hospital where attending doctors declared her dead. Panic gripped the town, and 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 Mymensingh University as special guest. Among others Principal Md Matiur Rahman, advocate Wazidul Islam, Prof Lutfar Rahman Khan, Abdur Razzak and club secretary Ataul Karim khokan 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 Rabeya 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 razed to the ground five more neighbouring houses, but their inmates came out unharmed. 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 Islam, 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 Motaharul 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 Natlapara 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 Shantanjan and Mintu Mia in connection with the robbery. On the basis of confessional statements, police raided a rice mill of Madhupara in Joydevpur thana of Gazipur district on Tuesday, seized 108 bags of rice and arrested the rice mill owner Moslemdin and robbers Jalaluddin, Nasiruddin, Ashraf Ali and Sanowar 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 when they 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 Bhauapur to Sirajganj launch ghat at about 9 am and looted cash and valuables worth Tk 22 lakh. Twenty-two passengers, including two women, were injured as the pirates beat 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, Nati and Sreerampur centres after counting of votes.

## Actue water crisis in N-dists

NATORE, Dec 7: Cultivation of IRRI-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 (BMDP) in greater Rajshahi district comprising the Barind region from the man-made desertification.

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 Purnabhrav 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.

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 tube-wells in the region has caused a drastic fall in the underground water level of the region.

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

Rotary Club of Sylhet Surma organised the discussion at Kodomtoil 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.

## 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 Parbattya Chittagong 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 Shantibhagini 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 Alifat Hossain, Prof KAM Shadat 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.

Advocate Ruhul Kuddus Talukdar Dulal, 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 agreed the accord.

Jamaat-e-Islami leader Dewar Hossain termed the accord as 'black and illegal'.

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