

News snaps

Killer elephant killed

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Jan 25: At last the wild elephant had been killed. A Police Party from the Kulaura thana went to the Merina Tea estate area and found the elephant at a nearby jungle area. Police fired 33 rounds of gunshots to kill the wild elephant. Owner of the elephant, the newly-elected chairman of the Fultala Union Parishad of Kulaura thana also accompanied the police party.

The wild elephant had killed three persons including father and son during the last one year. Sajjadur Rahman, 26, was crushed to death recently. The same elephant also killed its mahout Abdul Latif in the month of December last while Abdul Latif's father who was also the mahout in the previous year was also killed.

Al-Quds Day observed

KHULNA, Jan 25: The holy Al-Quds Day was observed here on January 23 as elsewhere in the Muslim World for the liberation of the holy Al-Quds from the domination of the Zionists. Khulna city Al-Quds Observance Committee sponsored a function on the occasion, reports BSS.

A big procession was brought out in the city after the juma prayers which paraded the city streets and later held a rally at the city's ferry ghat square. The meeting was presided over by the vice-president of Talimul Millat Rahmatia Alia Madrasa Moulana Nazmus-Saud. The meeting was also addressed, among others, by former secretary general of Khulna Bar Association and joint convenor of Al-Quds Day Observance Committee advocate Moslem Uddin, Editor of Dainik Hijbulah Advocate Zakir Hossain, Principal Moulana Syed Ibrahim Khalil Rizvi and Secretary Al-Farooq Society advocate Shaikh Abdul Kashem, joint secretary of Khulna Bar Association advocate Munshi Abdul Hamid, secretary of Khulna Metropolitan Union of Journalists Shaikh Belal Uddin, Abdul Khaleque Azizi, advocate Kaiser Thakur and Moulana S M Hafizur Rahman.

Jessore journalists' threat

JESSORE, Jan 25: Local journalists of BFUJ unit have given a threat to stage a token hunger strike on the Eid day if their outstanding salary and festival bonus are not paid immediately, reports UNB.

The warning came after a meeting held at the district Press Club premises on Saturday. They called upon the managements of the local newspapers to pay their all arrears and current dues including festival bonus by January 26. They said after the expiry of the date they would be forced to go for action programme including token hunger strike. Presided over by Ahim Bose, the meeting was addressed by a number of journalists.

Sajeda distributes warm clothes

FARIDPUR, Jan 25: Environment and Forest Minister Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury has said the government would always remain beside the people in fighting natural calamities, reports UNB.

She was addressing a gathering at Nagarkanda here on Saturday while distributing winter clothes among the cold-stricken people. The minister said the Prime Minister's initiative to spend all the money of her life for the cold-stricken people should inspire the well-off people in humanitarian activities. She stressed on the need for maintaining ecological balance as well as rehabilitation of the distressed people stricken by natural calamities. The Minister called upon the well-off section of the society and non-government and voluntary organisations to come forward to help the cold-hit people. She also visited some development projects in the area and inaugurated the newly-constructed Bhadrakhal bridge on Nagarkanda-Bhabukdia road.

Christian GBC Samity's discussion

NETRAKONA, Jan 25: Minister for Post, Telecommunications and Housing Mohammad Nasim said on Saturday that the Garo Hazong aborigines of the district like CHT Chakma tribals are living fearfully for decades in the country with their own culture, civilisation and heritage, reports UNB.

The Minister was addressing as chief guest at a discussion meeting organised by Garo Baptist Convention under the auspices of Christian GBC Samity on the occasion of its centenary here at Birshiri. Recalling their role in the Liberation War the minister said the aborigines are under various untoward pressure and deprived of their rights after the murder of the Father of the Nation. The previous governments failed to take pragmatic steps to change the lot of the aborigines, he said adding that the present government after signing the CHT peace treaty amply proved that the country belongs to all and the existing government is government of the people.

Hemp plants recovered

GAIBANDHA, Jan 25: Detective Branch police recovered 35 hemp plants and 10 kg finished hemp from Anger Char and Dakatari Char in Fulchhari thana and arrested four people in this connection on Thursday, reports UNB.

The value of the contraband item has been estimated at Tk 3 lakh. Official sources said Sub-Inspectors of DB Abdul Jalil and Ashok Sinha conducted the drive as per instruction from Police Super Wallur Rahman. The arrested were identified as Amir, Ala Boks, Aked and Abu Sayeb. A case was filed against them.

2 Sharbahara Party men arrested

KHULNA, Jan 25: Police arrested two activists of outlawed Sharbahara Party with arms and ammunition from Hadda village in Koira thana on Thursday, reports UNB.

Tarun Kumar Mandal, 25, and Nazrul Islam, 24, were rounded up when they were demanding toll of Tk 50,000 from a farmer in the village. Police recovered one shot-gun, one pipe gun and two rounds of bullets from their possession. A case was filed with Koira police. Another report says: Armed dacoits looted gold ornaments worth of Tk 56,000 from a house at Lohardanga village in Dumuria thana on Thursday night. Police said some 15 dacoits entered into the house of Sachindranath Biswas and decamped with ornaments and other valuables from the family members. A case was filed with the Dumuria police.

Zillur distributes warm clothes

KISHOREGANJ, Jan 25: LGED and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman distributed warm clothes among poor and distressed people living in Mirer Char, Gazaria, Bathakhali and Bhairab of the district on Saturday, reports UNB.

The Minister also distributed money, sarees and different kind of clothes as government grant among them on the occasion of holy Eid-ul-Fitr. Administrative officers, local Awami leaders and Union Parishad Chairmen accompanied the minister, said an official handout.

34 uplift projects undertaken by LGED

SUNAMGANJ, Jan 25: Dera thana Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) has taken up 34 development projects under the Annual Development Programme at a cost of Taka 25 lakh, reports BSS.

The LGED sources said, the work includes repair and reconstruction of roads, culverts, tubewells, repairing of school buildings.

CARITAS distributes chaddar

MYMENSINGH, Jan 25: CARITAS, a non-government organisation, has distributed 1950 pieces of chaddar among the 1225 cold-stricken distressed poor families of eight thanas in their project areas, reports BSS.

The thanas are: Kalmakanda and Durgapur of Netrakona district, Halaugahat and Dhubura of Mymensingh district, Sreebordi, Jhinaighati and Nalitabari of Sherpur district and Machupur of Tangail district. Albert Mankim, regional director 'CARITAS' Mymensingh region, with the help and cooperation of local union parishad chairman, and members distributed the clothes. Local elite were also present on the occasion.

Call to revive constitution of '72

BARISAL, Jan 25: The tri-ennial district conference of the Bangladesh Hindu-Buddha-Christian Oikya Parishad was held here at the Aswini Kumar Town Hall premises on Saturday, reports BSS.

Organised by the Barisal district unit of the parishad, the function was presided over by elderly politician Debendra Nath Ghose. Among others, Major General (ret'd) C R Dutta, president of the Central Committee of the Oikya Parishad, Dr Nim Chandra Bhowmik, General Secretary Shrii Sikdar, presidium member, Bhadanta Sumangal Theer, Mihir Lal Dutta and Shyamal Acharya spoke on this occasion. The speakers called upon the government to revive the 1972 constitution of the country for safeguarding the interest of the minority community. A 51-member committee of Barisal district unit of this parishad was formed in the meeting for a three-year term.

BAU professor dead

MYMENSINGH, Jan 25: Dr Aminur Rahman Khan, a professor of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) died of a heart attack on Saturday at his residence here, university sources said, reports BSS.

Prof Khan left behind his wife, two sons and a number of students, friends and admirers to mourn his death. His *namaz-e-janaza* will be held at the Ananda Mohon College ground at 11:30 am on Sunday. Another *janaza* will also be held at the university campus after the *zohr* prayers.



CHAPAI NAWABGANJ: A three-day Cub campy concluded recently at Palsha Government Primary School here. Nawabganj Thana Education Office (primary) arranged it. — Star photo

Cold wave multiplies woes of common men in Brahmanbaria

From Our Correspondent

BRAHMANBARIA, Jan 25: Woes of common people multiplied due to cold wave that has been sweeping throughout the district for several days.

The main affected areas are: Kasba, Louttamura, Taltola, Charnal, Akhaura, Nasiragar, Sarail, Shahjadapur, Malaish, Nabinagon, Gupon, Paharpur, Gusaipur and Mukandpur of the district.

In the village areas people are seen sitting around the fire to save themselves from the biting cold. The sun could seldom be seen during day time. Dense fog was visible in the whole areas of the district causing road accidents on the highway.

Business establishments were closed most of the time. Passers-by and rickshaws-pullers could seldom be seen on the road after 7 pm. The farmers did not open their doors before 10 am.

Farmers of the district alleged that Robi crops, winter

vegetable and IRRI-Boro seedlings and seed beds were severely affected.

Day labourers, shelterless people and rickshawpullers were badly affected. They have no money to buy warm clothes while the middle class people are seen visiting the old cloth shops. But the price of warm clothes are very high. As a result, poor and middle class people are suffering from want of warm clothes.

Besides, child labourers who perform odd jobs in different places are worst sufferers as they have no warm clothes.

Their masters do not provide them with requisite number of warm clothes. A large number of beggars are also seen coming from different parts of the district and begging warm clothes from door to door.

When this correspondent visited an agro-based village Shahjadapur he saw that except

one or two families all other families of the village are suffering a lot. Due to bitter cold day labourers could not be able to go to IRRI field. As a result, IRRI cultivation is being delayed. Maximum number of day labourers are passing their days starving. Shortage of fire wood is also seen in the villages.

An ideal farmer named Sk Md Nurul Islam Sarder said that due to dense fog and absence of sun light they could not dry their late harvested wet Aman paddy and its straw. As a result, those are being damaged.

Information of 11 cold related death have been received till writing of the report.

According to district hospital sources, cold related disease like whooping cough, asthma, cold cough, bronchitis and pneumonia are on increase due to cold wave. About 100 such patients were given treatment so far. Children are worst sufferers.

Tk 3.50 cr alternative dam to be built at Choira

BERA (Pabna), Jan 25: Water Resources Minister Abdul Razzak on Saturday visited the Jamuna river erosion affected areas of Nakalia, Harirampur, Choira, Baghabari and Saturia, reports BSS.

Razzak, accompanied by the Minister of State for Information Prof Abu Sayeed, also visited the Kaitola pump station of the Pabna Irrigation Project.

During the visit to the Kaitola pump station, the water resources minister assured a cross section of people who gathered there spontaneously that the government would construct a 500-metre long 'block pitching' and an alternative embankment at Choira at an estimated cost of Taka three and a half crore.

When completed, the project area under Pabna irrigation and rural development within the Mujib embankment, would protect about two lakh hectares of land from floods and another about 1.5 lakh hectares of land from water-logging under 12 thanas of Pabna, Sirajganj and Natore districts.

As a result, an additional foodgrains and other crops of worth about Taka one hundred 20 crore are expected to be produced in the project areas.

Members of the district administrations and engineers of the Water Development Board, and local Awami League leaders were present during the visit.

Addressing a public meeting at the premises of Nakalia Bateria Islamiya Dhakhil Madrasa, the water resources minister said that the present government under the able leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was working relentlessly to establish justice, consolidate democracy,

strengthen the economic infrastructure and materialise the true spirit of the War of Liberation.

He called upon the people to come forward unitedly for implementation of various programmes of the government for developing the country and bringing welfare to the people towards establishing an exploitation-free happy and prosperous society as dreamt by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Speaking on the occasion Prof Abu Sayeed pointed out that Bangabandhu and constructed the Mujib embankment in greater Pabna district for protecting the dwelling houses of the large number of people and crops of vast tracts of land in 1972.

But, he said, that no government in the past 21 years had taken any measures for repairing and preserving the embankment. The present government, he said, has so far taken a Taka 3.20 crore project for the construction of an alternative embankment from Harirampur to Haturia kutcha road. Construction of the project has substantially been carried out.

During the current fiscal year, Prof Sayeed said, another 1.4 kilometre long embankment would be constructed at the cost of Taka 1.11 crore.

UP election in Mansurnagar union Feb 14

MOULVIBAZAR, Jan 25: The Union Parishad (UP) election of Mansurnagar union under Rajnagar thana will be held on February 14 next, reports BSS.

Election of this union was suspended by an order of the court recently. The court has given final order to hold election in this union.

Meanwhile, on the last date of submission of nomination papers on January 14, four chairman candidates, 36 member candidates for general seats and 11 member candidates for reserve seats of women submitted nomination papers.

Chairman candidates, who submitted nomination papers are Abdul Karim Tutu, Sadique Rahman Sadique, Abdul Bari and Milon Bakth.

Production target of Rabi crops won't be achieved in 10 S-W dists

KUSHTIA, Jan 25: Production target of Rabi crops is likely to be hampered greatly in 10 south-western districts under Khulna division due to various reasons, reports UNB.

Sources said many farmers of Kushtia, Chuadanga, Meherpur, Jhenidah, Jessore, Magura, Narail, Bagerhat, Satkhira and Khulna districts cultivated their land below the target due to high price of seeds and unfavourable weather condition.

As a result, not more than 55 per cent of the production target of Rabi crops of which sowing season has already been over may be achieved in these districts.

In the current season, only 7,920 hectares of land have been brought under musur pulse cultivation in Kushtia district but the target for its production was 17,000 hectares.

The breakup of other districts also showed that 5,095

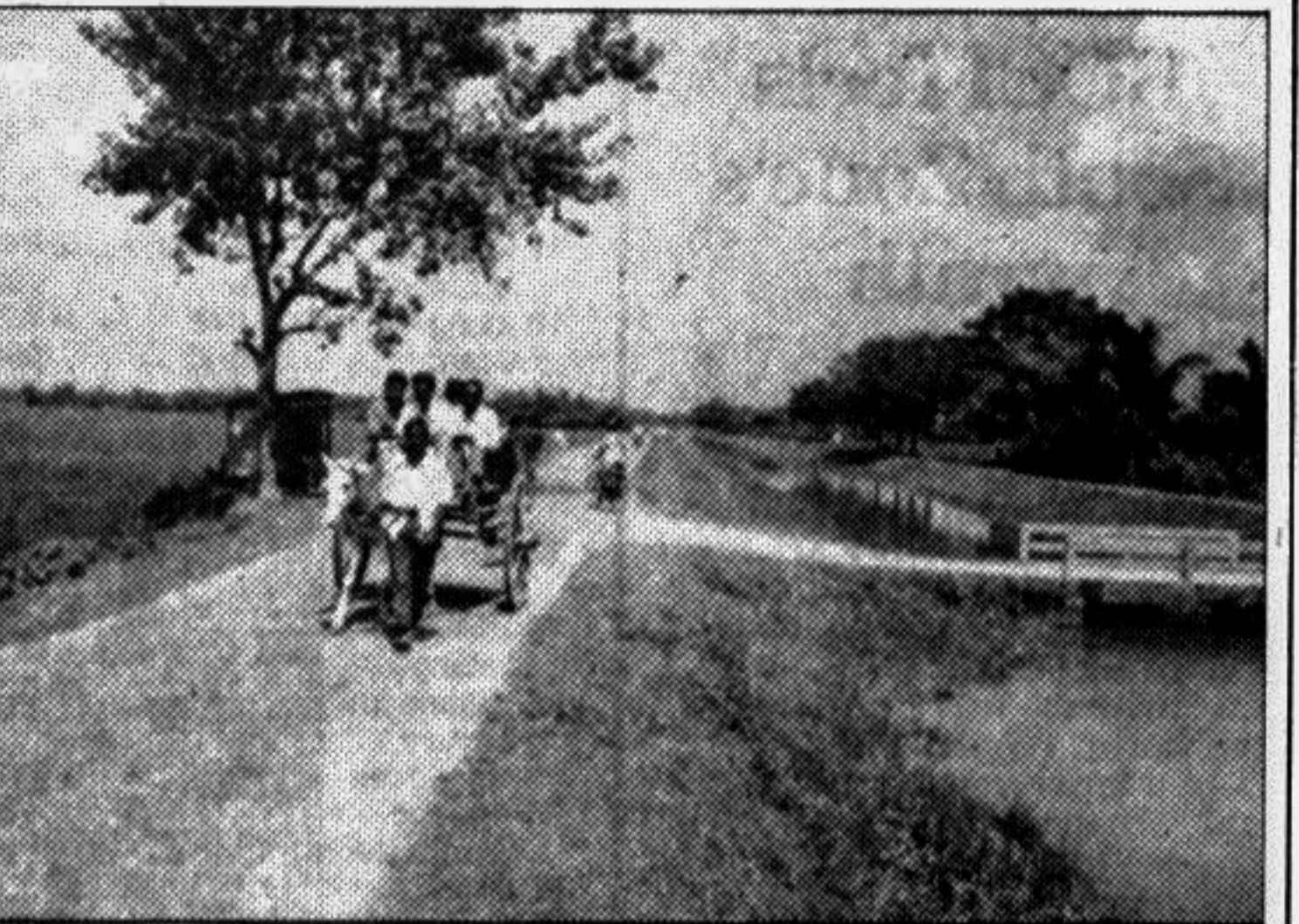
hectares land have been brought under the cultivation of the crop against 9,000 hectares target in Meherpur, 9,035 hectares against 11,000 hectares in Chuadanga, 10,838 hectares against 22,000 hectares in Jessore, 6,525 hectares against 11,000 hectares in Magura, 2,050 hectares against 4,000 hectares in Narail, only 160 hectares against 8,000 hectares in Khulna, 1,180 hectares against 2,500 hectares in Satkhira and 50 hectares against 600 hectares in Bagerhat.

Unfavourable weather condition was also stated to be responsible for the less cultivation of musur pulse.

Among other pulses, the cultivation of mug has reached near the target as 3,470 hectares of land were brought against the target of 3,850.

The production target of other pulses like mashkolai, khesari, chihola, mustard and potato will also not be achieved.

Official sources said mashkolai have been cultivated on 6,064 hectares land against the target of 7,570 hectares, khesari on 18,050 hectares against 23,400 hectares, mustard on 45,490 hectares land against 61,265 hectares, potato on 6,225 hectares against 13,200 hectares and vegetables on 30,564 hectares against 50,000 hectares in the region.



MAGURA: Horse driven carts are still the traditional mode of transport throughout the district. Usually people of low income group avail of such type of transport facility at comparatively cheaper rate. — Star photo

Warm clothes distributed among poor men

NAGARKANDA, Jan 25: Minister for Forest and Environment Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury said here on Saturday that the government would always stand by the side of the people in facing natural calamity, reports BSS.

Speaking a rally while distributing warm clothes among the distressed people here, the minister narrated the ongoing government programmes for the people, shivering with cold.

Sajeda said that the initiative of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for spending the money instead of arranging for the people would inspire the people having human feelings.

The minister urged the affluent sections of the people and the non-government and voluntary organisations to come forward in aid of the distressed.

She also laid stress on maintaining ecological balance side by side with the rehabilitation process for the distressed.

Inaugurating the newly-built bridge over the Badakhali canal on Nagarkanda-Bhabukdia road, the minister said the main objective of the ongoing development process was to improve the lot of the people.

She also asked the newly-elected chairman and members to help implement the development programmes in their respective areas.

About one thousand workers and supporters led by local BNP leader M Keramat Ali joined the Awami League, lending support to the ongoing development programmes of the government.

Stealing of shallow pump machines up in Magura dist

From Our Correspondent

MAGURA, Jan 25: At least 12 shallow pump machines have been stolen in crops land of Shalikhtha thana in the district during the first week of the current month, according to the owner sources.

It was reported that shallow pump machine and motor have been stolen frequently from the field of Hallhatta, Bayra, Deluabari under Shalikhtha thana of the district.

According to the family sources, IRRI-Boro paddy cultivation on 40 bighas of land would be hampered due to stealing of motor pump of Mashar Rahman at Deluabari under Shalikhtha thana.

On the other hand, IRRI-Boro cultivation of 250 bighas land would be also hampered due to stealing shallow machine and motor of Nimai Das, Anwar Ali, Sarwar Ali, and others from the field at Bayra in the same thana, family sources said.

Meeting to exchange views

NARSINGDI, Jan 25: The divisional commissioner of Dhaka, M Nizam Uddin said here on Thursday that the present government under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been working relentlessly for poverty alleviation, eradication of illiteracy and massive generation of employment opportunities, reports BSS.

The divisional commissioner was speaking as chief guest in an exchange of views meeting held at Deputy Commissioner's conference room.

Deputy commissioner, Narsingdi, Rafiqul Islam presided over the meeting.

Divisional Commissioner Nizamuddin exchanged views with government officials, local elite and political leaders regarding local problems and development work.

306 murdered last year in Khulna

KHULNA, Jan 25: Some 306 murders were reported in Khulna division in last year and a huge number of illegal arms and ammunition were recovered during the period, reports UNB.

Police sources said they recovered 19 rifles, 113 guns, 105 revolvers, 83 pistols, 739 pipe guns, 160 knives, 221 bombs and 4,231 bullets from the ten districts of the division from January 1 to December 31, 1997.

Police filed 338 arms cases and arrested 457 people on various charges in last year.

Some 449 women torturing cases were filed with the police during the period, sources added.

Doarabazar now Indian arms trading centre

SUNAMGANJ, Jan 25: Frontier Doarabazar thana of the district has turned into an Indian arms trading centre as an organised gang of smugglers are selling arms here openly, reports UNB.

Local leaders said that the arms are being sent in different parts of the country including the capital city.

They also alleged police inaction to check the open arms business due to mysterious reasons. But they said BDR have launched some successful drive against the smugglers.

On December 21, BDR Javans arrested a man along with 11 Indian revolvers. Later, he was handed over to the police.

New UP chairmen asked to discharge duty honestly

NETRAKONA, Jan 25: A reception was accorded to newly elected union parishad chairmen of Netrakona district under the auspices of Awami League Netrakona district unit in Mohua auditorium here on Friday, reports BSS.

Former food minister and Awami League presidium member Abdul Monim MP attended the reception as the chief guest while a member of the central working committee of Awami League Fazlur Rahman Khan MP was in the chair.

Some newly elected union parishad chairmen, local elite and district level leaders of Awami League including general secretary Awami League, Netrakona district unit advocate Amirul Islam and general secretary of Netrakona district Bar Association advocate Anwarul Islam spoke on the occasion.

Monim urged upon the newly elected union parishad (UP) chairmen to discharge their duties with utmost sincerity, honesty and devotion for improv-

ing the socio-economic condition of the rural people. He called upon them to strive to build the country as 'Sonar Bangla' (golden Bangla) as dreamt by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Turning to the country's present political situation, Monim made a call to the main opposition party to come back to Jatiya Sangsad for giving the democracy an institutional shape.

Parliament is the place where all national issues could be discussed and national problems could be resolved through parliamentary process, he said.

He further said in a democratic system the role of the opposition parties in the parliament is very vital. So the people of the country expect that the opposition party in the parliament is very vital. So the people of the country expect that the opposition MPs will play their role in the parliament, he added.

Bright prospect of good potato harvest

MUNSHIGANJ, Jan 25: Potatoes have been sown in 26,776 hectares in six thanas of the district this year as against the target of 25,000 hectares. The prospects for a good harvest is also bright, according to district agriculture extension sources, reports BSS.

There was no scarcity of seeds, fertilizers and other inputs during the sowing season and the growers were blessed with 16.37 mm of rain on December 9 and 10 as natural irrigation of land under potatoes, the sources said.

Production of potatoes in the district covers more than 50 per cent production in the country.

Official sources informed that precautionary measures against any possible outbreak of late blight disease of potatoes have been taken following the spell of foggy weather. The personnel of the agriculture extension department have so far given training to 570 growers in combating crop disease and pest attack by holding 29 training sessions at different places

of the district this month.

Knowledgeable persons related to potato growing have expressed apprehension that price slumps caused by bumper production of potatoes may render potato cultivation here unremunerative.

Abducted housewife rescued

From Our Correspondent

BRAHMANBARIA, Jan 25: Brahmanbaria sadar thana police rescued one abducted housewife namely Jesmin Begum from the nearest district town Narsingdi recently.

Police sources said, Jesmin Begum of Mourail area of Brahmanbaria district town was married with Akther Hossain of Bhairabazar. The new couple came to Narsingdi for some purpose on November 24. Jesmin Begum was abducted one day after their arrival there.



RAJSHAHI: Cracks are frequently developed at Ramchandrapur point on Rajshahi-Dhaka highway. Temporary measures are taken always to save the road. But again it cracks after sometime threatening smooth road communication. — Star photo

Future of Sunamganj fish farming uplift project bleak

SUNAMGANJ, Jan 25: The future of the district's lone fish farming development project looks bleak as its activities have slowed down due to non-payment of salaries of its employees, reports UNB.

An officer of the project, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said 19 staff, including four officers, were not getting their salaries and other allowances for five months as the money earned by the project could not be included in revenue.

The project was set up on 25 acres of land at Shantiganj alongside Sunamganj-Sylhet road, 20 km from the district headquarters, in 1989 involving Tk six crore. But it started fish production in 1997.

Source said the project is divided into two units — fish Production Extension Unit and Fish Farming Management Unit in the flood-prone area.

The units are engaged in motivating the people in fish cultivation, fish exhibition and release of fish fry in haors and beels.

With this end in view, four officers and 15 employees had been appointed in 1989, but the production in the farm was being hampered as the employees cannot raise their salaries.

The farm earned Tk 1.50 lakh selling 60 kgs of fry in the current season. But its future hangs in the balance due to mismanagement and reluctance of the employees.



FARIDPUR: A seminar on "Unity Builds Future" was recently arranged by Faridpur Lions Club at the local chamber building. — Star photo