## News snaps

#### Good harvest of 'Aman' expected

LALMONIRHAT, Oct 31: 'Aman' paddy cultivated on 85,000 hectares, several thousand more than the target fixed by the Agriculture Extension Department, cropped well in Lalmonirhat district in the current season, reports BSS.

The agriculture department had fixed the target at 76,439 hectares but the growers have cultivated 'aman' in more than 55,000 hectares in this northern district. A total of 68,870 hectares were brought under 'ufshi' varieties while 16,200 hectares under local variety. The farmers have been expecting a good harvest of 'Aman' this year.

#### Lone teacher for 300 pry students

MADARIPUR. Oct 31: Believe it or not a government primary school with 300 students is run by only one teacher, reports

According to official sources, Aksa Government Primary School in Naria thana needs at least one teacher for every 50 students, but the lone teacher is teaching the students of different classes degrading the standard of education. Due to lack of adequate number of teachers, no representative of the school can attend the government meetings at the district headquarters or the capital time to time. The guardians urged the authorities concerned to look into the matter and take immediate steps in this regard.

#### Ophthalmia breaks out in Jamalpur

JAMALPUR. Oct 31: Ophthalmia that broke out in an epidemic form has affected several thousands of people of

various ages across the district, reports UNB. An eye expert said, people are being attacked by the disease through infection of one kind of virus that broke out mainly owing to weather change. The eyes of the affected people develop sensitivities and later it turn reddish. The patients suffer two to three days and get rid of the disease automatically. But the disease is contagious, he said. Local people have become panicky with the spreading of the diseases in new areas every

#### Housewife beaten to death

SIRAJGANJ, Oct 31: A pregnant housewife was beaten to death by her cruel husband at Mordia village in Raiganj thana here on Friday, reports UNB.

According to police, Laila, 25, first wife of Ainul Haque when protested his second marriage on the fateful night he became furious and mercilessly beat her to death. He dragged the body to a nearby banana garden and went into hiding. Police arrested the father of the accused.

#### Erosion victims being rehabilitated

NOAKHALI, Oct 31: The river erosion affected people have started constructing their houses in the newly emerged 15 acre Boyar Char in between Hatiya thana of Noakhali and Ramgati thana of Laxmipur district, reports UNB.

Official sources said after the completion of afforestation work of the Forest Department on the char the people of the two thanas are being rehabilitated. The sources said about 20,000 landless people of Sukhchar, Nalchira, Harni, Chanandi area of Hatiya thana and Barakheri and Char Ramij unions of Ramgati thana have started pouring into the char. Most of these people are farmers and fishermen who lost their land and homesteads due to erosion of the river Meghna. They appealed to the government to allot khas land of the char on permanent basis to them for their rehabilitation.

#### 258 pucca roads affected by Habiganj flood

HABIGANJ, Oct 31: A huge number of bridges and culverts including roads across the district have been destroyed by the long lasting recent flood, reports UNB.

Roads and Highways Department, LGED and district Council sources said, the worst ever deluge affected 258-km pucca roads, four bridges and four culverts under the Roads and Highways Department and the extent of damage was estimated at Tk 29.30 crore. The catastrophe also damage 156.54 km pucca roads, 483 km kutcha roads, 86 bridges and culverts under the LGED. Some Tk 20.14 crore and 10,595 mts of wheat will be needed to repair and renovate the damage. Besides, according to official estimate over Tk 11 lakh will be required to repair 60-km semi-pucca roads under the district council.



JHENIDAH: Night Queen in full bloom on October 19 night at the residence of Aminur Rasul, Deputy - Star photo Commissioner (DC) of Jhenidah.

#### Tribal housewife eloped with fiance

RANGAMATI, Oct 31: A tribal housewife eloped with her flance, a Banglai timber trader, on Monday morning following an affair with him for about five months, reports UNB. Police said Shanti Devi, wife of Nirmal Tanchangya of

Kutubdia in Bilaichhari thana of the district, left her husband and two children with Rafique, a business partner of Nirmal. Rafiq along with his friend Jalil have been engaged in timber trading with Nirmal and developed a close relation with the family. Police arrested Jalil following filing of a case by the father-in-law of Shanti in connection with the elopement.

#### **Body recovered**

FENI, Oct 31: Police recovered the body of an abducted youth from the river Muhuri in Chhagalnaiya thana of the district Monday, reports APB.

Mohammad Siraj, 27, son of Abul Hashem of village Nishcintapur, was abducted from his residence by an armed gang on Saturday. Police said the miscreants, backed by some influential local people, killed Siraj and threw his body into the river. Co-villagers handed over one Jamal Uddin to police for his alleged involvement in the killing. The body was sent to local hospital for autopsy.

#### 'Boro' farming programme in Narail

NARAIL, Oct 31: The Agricultural Extension Department will bring some 600 acres of land in the district under 'Boro' paddy and winter-crop cultivation, reports APB.

AED will disburse a sum of Tk 100 lakh as grant among 4,670 flood-affected farmers of three thanas to purchase agricultural equipment. 'Boro' will be cultivated on 500 acres. The department will supply some 14,856 kg seeds of different winter crops and 48 metric tonnes of DAP and granulated urea fertiliser. Meanwhile, the AED sanctioned three power sprayers to help poor farmers.

#### 15 killers get life-term

JAMALPUR, Oct 31: A court here awarded life term imprisonment to 15 people in the sensational Jahir murder case, reports UNB.

The accused are: Samad, Alamgir, Nazir, Jasim, Hafiz, Asad, Motaleb, Karim, Nazir, Altab, Ratan, Swapan, Abdullah, Fazal and Halim, all are from Sharishabari thana of the district. The prosecution, in brief, was that Jahir Uddin of Taranihata village of the thana was killed by Samad Tarafdar and his accomplices near Batikamari High School on way home from Jagan-nathganj Ghat on April 9, 1989. The assailants also injured seriously four others. The victims were attacked following previous enmity between Jahir Uddin and Samad. After examining the witnesses and records, Additional District and Sessions Judge Monowara Begum after gave the verdict last week.

#### 1,81,700 flood victims get VGF cards

COMILLA, Oct 31: A total of 1,81,700 flood affected distressed families have been given VGF cards here under the post-flood rehabilitation programme of the government, reports UNB. Official sources said each card holder of 179 unions in 12 thanas and of 18 wards in five Pourashavas will receive eight kg of rice and eight kg of wheat per month. Some 2907.200 metric tons of rice and wheat have been allocated under the VGF programme in the district and the distribution has already been started from October 18. Meanwhile, the government has also allocated Tk 2,65,830 as carrying cost of the allocated food-

#### Tea garden employees' money looted

From Staff Correspondent SYLHET Oct 31: Armed miscreants looted an amount of Taka two lakh from the employees of a tea garden in Jain-tapur thana on Wednesday afternoon.

The employees of Lalakhal Tea Estate drew the amount of money for payment of staff salary from a bank at the thana headquarters of Jaintapur on the day. when they were on way to garden, they came under attack of an armed gang of miscreants in the river Sari. The employees were on a boat. They started from Sarighat and after about one hour of boat journey they came under sudden attack of about five masked miscreants at gunpoint.

The miscreants managed to escape after the dacoity. A case has been started, but no arrest has yet been reported, police



MAGURA: Straw crushing in progress following harvesting of early variety of 'Aman' like - Star photo Nayanmoni, IR-50, IT and Ratna.

# Erosion renders one lakh people homeless at Ramgati

RAMGATI (Laxmipur), Oct 31: Continuous erosion over the years by the river Meghna has caused heavy losses to life and property in the thana rendering over one lakh people of about 20,000 families homeless, according to official sources, reports UNB.

People of 1,000 families fell victim of erosion during the current month. Besides, a vast tract of croplands, schools, madrashas, bazars, religious institutions and cyclone shelters have been devoured by the river.

Two cluster villages in the thana - Ananda and Sabuj. built for homeless people, have also been devoured leaving the dwellers homeless again.

The erosion after the prolonged flood this year along with tidal surge of the sea inflicted irreparable losses to the people of the thana and created a pall gloom for the farmers.

Official sources said 20,000 acres of land were devoured in

VGF rice, wheat

seized from shop

in Gopalganj

From Our Correspondent

lagers of Suagram with the help

of chowkider in Kotalipara

thana recovered five bags of

Krishna Kanta, union

rice and wheat of VGF cards

parishad member of Suagram

misapproriated the aforemen-

tioned VGF goods with the help

of his brothers Tari Madhu and

Akhil Madhu at the time of dis-

tributing the goods to VGF card

holders. He kept the VGF items

in the shop of Sunil on Octo-

ber15 for sale, police sources

the village with the help of

chowkider raided the grocery

shop and recovered the items.

On being informed people of

Later on the villagers in-

formed the matter to Kotalipara

thana and Deputy Commis-

sioner Nasiruddin for immedi-

ate action. Police seized the items. The villagers have filed a

case in the court of First Class Magistrate of Gopalganj. Agitated people are demanding immediate removal of the UP

Two women killed

in Sylhet road

accident

From Staff Correspondent

were killed and eight others in-

jured critically in a road acci-

SYLHET, Oct 31: Two women

eight others had been admitted

into the hospital. However, the

deads could not be identified as

member.

from the shop of Sunil Vakta

GOPALGANJ, Oct 31: The vil-

Char Abdullah union, 600 acres in Char Sagore, 750 acres in Patar Char, 250 acres in Char Gazaria, 750 acres including Ananda and Sabuj cluster villages in Char Krishnapur, 950 acres in Char Alexander, 390 acres in Char Gazi union, 295 acres in Kalkini union, 195 acres in Char Algi union and

Some years back, 19,754 acres of land at the thana headquarters were devoured and the administrative offices were shifted to Alexander.

250 acres in Char Ramiz union.

According to an official estimate, 1.07,317 people of 19.974 families were affected and government and private properties worth about Tk 2,000 crore were damaged.

Flood protection embank ments constructed at a cost of Tk 157 crore were also devoured by the river. Some 54 educational institu-

tions, 291 mosques and 107 temples, seven cyclone centres,

29 bazars and 475-km kutcha roads were also affected.

Unofficial sources, however, put the figure of various losses much higher.

Officials of Poor Development Programme (PDP), an NGO engaged in rehabilitation and development of the erosion-hit people here, said the number of families affected by the erosion will exceed 50,000.

The well-off families have rehabilitated themselves. Many went to the cities and some have taken shelter to the relatives in neighbouring villages and other places.

But the destitute families without any alternative scope to cope with the situation have taken shelter on the embankments and roads and in open places beside the dwelling houses of others.

The number of affected families who need emergency help in Ramgati thana is 35,000. Most of these families have taken

shelter at Char Shevez. Chardua, Char Gazaria, Char Krishnapur, Balur Char, Char Abdullah, Char Bara, Char

Baga and DS Falcon. Some 12,774 families have taken shelter on the embankments. The landless families can not be rehabilitated as the government policy for distribution of khas lands could not be implemented properly, said another source.

Some of the families even remained landless for over 10 years, they added.

Mostafa, a leader of landless people in Bayar Char, told that the influential land owners and terrorist groups have been creating pressure on the landless families who have taken shelter on different khas lands.

Members of the landless families in the char areas of the district told the same tale of their fate and demanded of the government to rehabilitate them for the sake of humanity.

### 20,000 children die of malnutrition in 11 dists

NOAKHALI, Oct 31: Some 20,000 children died of malnutrition in 11 south-eastern districts including Feni, Noakhali and Laxmipur during the last

five years, reports UNB. This was revealed in a survey conducted by some non-government organisations of the area. The survey also said over 10 lakh children of various ages have been suffering from malnutrition.

The report also revealed that about 9,000 children have become victims of blindness due mainly to malnutrition.

The Poor Development Programme (PDP), a local welfare organisation, along with a foreign and 13 other local organisations conducted the survey in Noakhali, Laxmipur, Feni, Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, Khagrachhari, Rangamati, Bandarban, Comilla, Chandpur and Brahmanbaria districts.

It said ignorance of parents and lack of treatment facilities are the main reasons for the sufferings and death. Apart from this parents ignorance has also caused for birth of 10,000 children with different kind of deformity at remote, slums and char areas of

the districts. Besides, 13,000 children have become physically re-tarded after birth due to lack of

proper diet and medical facili-

These malnourished children belong to poor families and landless farmers living in riverside and cross-dam in an unhygienic environment who hardly get proper diet during their childhood.

The study also revealed various causes for the malnutrition including less practice of breastfeeding and malnourished mother of the babies, ignorance, negligence of health department and other concerned people.

The report also said 11 char areas of Noakhali and Laxmipur districts have no maternity and health care centres causing suffering to more than 2 lakh inhabitants.

### Amartya Sen invited to visit RU during convocation

From RU Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, 31:the Rajshahi University (RU) authorities have congratulated this year's Nobel laureate in Economics Dr Amartya K Sen and invited him to be the speaker in the ensuing Seventhth RU Convlocation scheduled to be held on November 29.

The congratulation and invitation letter, signed by Vice-Chancellor, (VC) Prof Abdul Khaleque, has already been sent to Dr Amartya Sen at Trinity College, Cambridge in the United Kingdom. The letter congratulated Dr

Sen as saying, "we all the Bengalees are proud of you. May God give you a long active life," a press release issued by the Press, Publication and Public Relations Department said.

The VC said in the letter that

the presence of Dr Amartva K Sen in the university, on the occasion of Seventh RU Convocation, will open a historic chapter in the achievements of the university.

The university will bear all the expenses of his visit along with his entourage.

Meanwhile, the university authorities have invited the Egyptian Nobel laureate Nagib Mahfuz and former United Nations Secretary General Butros Ghali on the occasion of Seventh RU Convocation.

However, the university authorities are yet to receive any response from them. It is mentionable, Justic Shahabuddin Ahmed, President of Bangladesh has agreed to be present at the university on this occasion.



CHANDPUR: Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, State Minister for Planning recently distributed agricultural loan of Janata Bank among the flood affected farmers of Palakhal in - Star photo Kachua thana.



FARIDPUR: A rally was brought out in the town recently on the occasion of White Cane Safety Day. - Star photo -



CHANDPUR: A colourful procession was brought out here recently on the occasion of Natural Disaster Reduction - Star photo Day.



JHENIDAH: Dr Sardar Badar Uddin, Civil Surgeon, held at Hamdah stand in the town recently. Robert Jenkins, Deputy Chief of UNICEF,

Coordinator of UNICEF, Jhenidah are also seen. - Star photo

## With beginning of 'Aman' harvesting season

## Musclemen establish supremacy in shoal areas of Laxmipur

LAXMIPUR, Oct 31. With the beginning of 'Aman' paddy harvesting season, the hired musclemen have established their supremacy in different char areas of the district creating panic among the genuine farmers, reports UNB.

Local people apprehended bloodshed in different char areas as both the poor farmers and musclemen backed by influential land owners are going to face each other.

Poor farmers alleged that a section of big land owners try to grab the newly emerged chars by hiring armed goons although the government allocated some of the land to the landless families. Taking due permission as per law from the government poor and marginal farmers have cultivated the char lands. But the influential quarters sometimes demand the possession of chars as successors producing fake documents in connivance with a section of dishonest officials and employees of the Revenue Department and claim the crops of the char land during the harvesting season.

They alleged that the musclemen have already started brandishing arms at Char Bara, Char Gazaria, Char Bagya, Char Abdullah, Char Sevej, Char Kalakopa and cluster villages in Ramgati, Char Ramonimohan, Char Manasha, Char Uvuti, Miarveri, Andharmanik and Jhaudogi and Sadar and Char Bangshi, Char Pata, Char Kaichha and Char Laxmi in Raipur thana.

among the farmers and musclemen are common in the char areas during paddy harvesting season claiming a number of lives every year. The armed hooligans first demand toll or a portion of the

Clashes and bloodshed

harvest from the farmers. If refused, they attack the farmers and unleash a reign of terror by setting on fire their houses, fil ing false cases against them and attacking other family mem-Poor farmers have de-

manded of the authorities appropriate measures including sending magistrates and setting up police camps in the troubletorn char lands to avert the bloodshed.

## Medicare for 10,000 people of Nijhum Dweep is a distant hope

NOAKHALI, Oct 31: Medicare for nearly 10,000 inhabitants of Nijhum Dweep in Hatiya thana of the district is still a distant hope as there is no government or private health centre in the island apart from a medicine shop, reports UNB.

dent on Wednesday afternoon near Srimangol on Dhaka-Syl-Populace of this small isle. het highway. The injured had most of whom are landless and been admitted into Sylhet MAG fishermen, cannot even avail Osmani Medical College Hospithemselves of modern health services going to either district A group of people came to or thana headquarters simply Sylhet from Mymensingh by a because of poor communication microbus for visiting the shrine

systems. of the great saint Hajrat Shah-There is only one mechajalal (RA). On their way back nized-boat in the island which the vehicle rammed into a ferries people only two times a day, leaving its helpless inhabispeeding truck from the opposite direction on a bridge near tants on the mercy of Quacks Matiganj, about eight kilomeand Ayurved physicians, and tres off Srimangol thana headthe high charging medicine quarters. Two women died on way to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital while According to official statistics, 18 people died of diarrhoea

and other water-borne diseases

this year alone, a figure contra-

RANGPUR: A large number of boys and girls gathered recently on Teesta Flood Control

Embankment at Gangachhara in the hope of relief goods.

dicted by unofficial sources.

They said that the number of deaths is much higher than the official one.

Nijhum Deep is no exception.

Our correspondent from Comilla adds: Thousands of people in 33 unions under 10 thanas are being deprived of medicare facilities as there is no health and family welfare centre there. The unions are Durgapur

(north and south), Zorkaran in sadar thana, Kalikapur in Chowddagram, Uttarda, Gobindapur, Hasnabad, Laxmanpur, Sarashpur, Uttar Hawla and Bipulasar in Laksam

The unions also include Madhabpur, Sidlai, Chandala and Shashidal in Brahmanpara thana, Purba Dhaior, Paharpur, Kabpur and Zahapur in Muradnagar, Bhani, and north and south Gunaighar unions in Devidwar, north Daudkandi,

- Star photo

Karikandi, Bhitikandi and Iliatnanda in Daudkandi thana, Mathabhanga, Chandanpur, Garmora in Homna and Mokra and Adra in Langalkot.

#### Diarrhoea: 7 die in Habiganj

HABIGANJ, Oct 31: With the recession of flood waters, diarrhoea situation turned grave in the deluge affected areas of the district, reports UNB. Over 2,000 people of eight

thanas fell victim during the last one month and official sources put the death toll to seven so far. Civil Surgeon office sources said, 375 in sadar thana, 595 in

Madhabpur, 175 in Chunarghat, 350 in Bahubol, 348 in Nabiganj, 260 in Baniachang, 55 in Ajmiriganj and 150 in Lakhai thanas were affected by the disease, most of whom are children and old. . Local people said shortage of

oral saline and necessary medicine aggravated the situa-In absence of medical teams

people have been facing difficulties to get proper treatment, it is learnt. The villagers are forced to go to the village quacks for treatment and are buying saline

at the field level the affected

## Best Scouts

packets at high prices.

FARIDPUR, Oct 31- Faridpur High School Scouts' group was adjudged the best scouts' group in the district. This was decided at a district-level competition held here recently in obser-vance of National Education Week' 98.

group and Muzaffar Hossain, scout teacher of the school were adjudged the best scout and the best scout teacher respectively in the district.

## in Faridpur From Our Correspondent

Enamul Hasan, a member of Faridpur High School Scouts

It is mentionable that Enamul Hasan is the recepient of the President's Award of Bangladesh Scouts.

Jhenidah inaugurating a programme of folk song session Dhaka and Khulna and Mohammad Barkatullah, Project