

## News snaps

### Anti-terrorism meet held

**From Our Correspondent**  
**MOULVI BAZAR, Nov 28:** The newly formed Anti-terrorism committee arranged a public meeting here recently. Held at the west market area of the district town, the meeting was presided over by Mahmudur Rahman, a well known businessman of the town. The meeting was addressed, among others, by the commissioners of Moulvibazar Pourasava, leaders of businessmen community and some political leaders.

### Two stolen motor cycles recovered

**From Our Correspondent**  
**CHUADANGA, Nov 28:** Damurhuada thana police recently recovered two stolen motor cycles from villages South Chandpur and Poranpur.  
 Police arrested Naharul of village Poranpur. Naharul was wanted in connection with a number of criminal cases.

### Blood Donation Day observed

**From A Correspondent**  
**HABIGANJ, Nov 28:** National Voluntary Blood Donation and Posthumous Eye Donation Day was observed in the district recently.  
 Local district Health Department chalked out elaborate programmes to observe the Day in a befitting manner. Programmes include discussion meeting, voluntary blood donation and press briefing. In this connection a discussion meeting was held at the local sadar hospital with Dr Shafiqueuddin, Civil Surgeon, Habiganj in the chair.

### Fodder scarcity in Kushtia

**From Our Correspondent**  
**KUSHTIA, Nov 28:** An acute scarcity of fodder has been prevailing in the district. Different types of fodder including hay are in short supply as the floods had engulfed almost all the areas of the district. Shortage of fodder has caused price hike of hay, grass, oil-cake in different rural markets. Market sources said, the price price of 100 bundles of hay is Taka 100 which is too high for poor farmers. Many villagers said their cattle are getting malnourished day by day.

### Tk. 48 cr REB project in Jhalakati

**From Staff Correspondent**  
**BARISAL, Nov 28:** Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board (BREB) has undertaken a programme for electrification in Jhalakati district with an expenditure of over Taka 48 crore under the fifth phase of this region-based project at Jhalakati.  
 The programme, according to official sources, include two 33/11 kv line power sub-stations one along Jhalakati-Barisal road and the other in Rajapur thana. The programme has been taken up to install 750 lines in four thanas of the district by the year 2004.

### Five outlaws arrested

**From Staff Correspondent**  
**KHULNA, Nov 28:** Dakop thana police arrested five alleged cadres of an outlawed organisation from Kamini bashia village on Thursday morning. A rifle and seven rounds of ammunition were recovered after a cross fire with police for about half-an-hour.  
 The arrested outlaws have been identified as Rahamat Ali, 40, Bibhuti Bala, 24, Brojen, 28, Shibapada, 25, and Santosh Mondol, 27. All of them were later admitted to the thana health complex with severe bullet injuries.

### Body recovered

**From Our Correspondent**  
**SATKHIRA, Nov 28:** The body of an unidentified youth of 20 years old was recovered from Khejurdang road in the Sadar thana recently.  
 Police sources said, local people found the body and informed the matter to the sadar thana police. Police recovered the body and sent it to Satkhira hospital for autopsy. None identified the body.

### Valuables worth Tk 70,000 stolen

**From Our Correspondent**  
**FARIDPUR, Nov 28:** A theft was committed in the rental house of Moshir Rahman Khokon at Ghiluly in the town on the night of November 11.  
 According to family sources, the thieves entered into the house by breaking open the ventilator of the ground floor of a three-storied building and decamped with valuables worth Taka 70 thousand. The valuables include a coloured TV, a VCR, a gas cylinder, a charge light and a wrist watch.

### Woman smuggler gets 5-year RI

**From Our Correspondent**  
**MAGURA, Nov 28:** One woman smuggler, was sentenced to suffer five years' Rigorous Imprisonment (RI). Identity of the convict is Hena Begum, wife of late Joydal Md Enamul Bari, Assistant Sessions Judge of Magura delivered the judgement in absence of the convicted person recently.  
 The prosecution story in brief is, the BDR members arrested the convicted woman with Indian goods from a passenger bus during checking at Parnadul check post of Magura town on June 27, 1995. The police gave charge sheet against her. She was an absconder after getting bail. The judge gave judgement in absence of the convicted smuggler.

### Body recovered

**From Our Correspondent**  
**BRAHMANBARIA, Nov 28:** Police recovered one unidentified young girl aged about 25 from the railway side ditch near Neaz Muhammad High School in the district town on November 16.  
 According to eyewitness and police sources, the body was clothless and floating in water. People assumed that the victim had been raped and then killed.

### Eye camp concludes

**From Our Correspondent**  
**RANGAMATI, Nov 28:** A 3-day long eye camp concluded here recently at Rangamati General Hospital. It was organised by Bangladesh National Blind Society in association with the local government council, Rangamati district authority and social workers.  
 Eye patients was admitted and treated free of cost.

### Deforestation affecting ecology

**From Our Correspondent**  
**GAIBANDHA, Nov 28:** Trees are being uprooted largely in the northern districts causing adverse effect on ecological balance.  
 Everyday a number of trees are consumed in brick fields, cooking food and manufacturing domestic appliances and construction works. Meanwhile, afforestation programmes are not progressing smoothly in the northern districts. As such flood, drought and different natural calamities are happening frequently in the area.

### Cattle trader killed

**From Our Correspondent**  
**JHENIDAH, Nov 28:** A cattle trader of village Nischintapur in Mohepur thana was allegedly stabbed to death in the night of November 17, according to police sources. The dead was identified as Abdul Kuddus, 38.  
 Police said, a group of miscreants called Kuddus from his house on the fateful night and killed him brutally on the spot. Family feud may be the cause of the killing, police apprehended.

### Eight hurt in Mymensingh road accident

**From Our Correspondent**  
**MYMENSINGH, Nov 28:** At least eight persons were injured in a road accident at Kazir Shimla in Trishal thana on November 12.  
 According to police sources, the accident occurred when a Dhaka bound passenger bus coming from Netrokona fell into a road side ditch as the driver lost control.  
 Of the injured three were admitted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital in a critical condition. They were identified as Nurul Islam, 50, Mohanganj of Netrokona district, Poritosh, 45 and Amena Begum, 50, of Barhatta thana of Netrokona district. Others were given first aid. The driver of the vehicle managed to flee scene.

### Pro-AL candidate wins UP byelection

**COMILLA, Nov 28:** A pro-Awami League candidate won the UP chairman election to Debbar Union on Monday, unofficial sources said, reports UNB.  
 Abdul Kashem Sowdagar came out successful in the byelection bagging 5,467 votes beating pro-BNP candidate Anwar Hossain Hudu who was polled 4,606. Five candidates joined the fray for the UP chairman post.

## Each flood victim of Rajshahi div to get Tk 500

**NATORE, Nov 28:** The government has sanctioned Tk 4.67 crore as grant for Rajshahi division for reconstruction and repair of houses damaged by the recent flood, reports UNB.

Official sources said each of the affected families in all the districts of the division except Panchagarh would receive Tk 500 for the purpose.

The officials said Tk 10 lakh was allocated for Natore district while Tk 30 lakh for Rajshahi, Tk 10 lakh for Naogaon, Tk 75 lakh for Chapainawabganj, Tk 60 lakh for Pabna, Tk 75 lakh for Sirajganj, Tk 17 lakh for Bogra, Tk 15 lakh for Joypurhat, Tk 60 lakh for Kurigram, Tk 70 lakh for Gaibandha, Tk 10 lakh for Rangpur, Tk 5 lakh for Lalmonirhat, Tk 15 lakh for Nilphamari, Tk 10 lakh for Dinajpur and Tk 5 lakh for Thakurgaon.



MYMENSINGH: Aman harvesting progressing at village Rupashi in Phulpur thana. — Star photo

## Good 'Aman' harvest expected in Sylhet region

**From Staff Correspondent**  
**SYLHET, Nov 28:** A good harvest is being expected in Sylhet region this season. In some areas, farmers have, already started harvesting the early varieties of 'Aman' paddy.  
 However, it will take a few weeks more to start fulfilled harvesting in all the four districts of the division.  
 An official said that, Transplanted 'Aman' paddy was cultivated on 2 lakh 86 thousand hectares of land in four districts of Sylhet division this year. The target of production was earlier fixed at 5.76 lakh metric tonnes. The cultivation during the season was hampered due to repeated floods this year. Besides, crisis and high price of seeds and fertilisers and pest-attack in many areas hampered the 'Aman' farming in the region. Even then, the farmers in general are now expecting a good harvest with the start of harvesting in some areas. The paddy is being sold at Taka 260 to Taka 310 per maund now in the rural markets.  
 Meanwhile, the government has decided to procure 5,650 tonnes of foodgrains in the division. It includes 1,800 tons of paddy and 4,050 tons of rice. The Department of Food has fixed the buying price at Taka 760 for one quintal of paddy and Taka 1,200 for one quintal of rice from the farmers.  
 Officially the government has started the foodgrain procurement drive since November 1, but not a single grain has yet been procured in any of the four districts, official sources confirmed this.  
 An official of the Food Department said, purchase of grains could not be started in Sylhet region yet as only about 20 to 25 per cent paddy has been harvested. Besides, due to a comparatively higher price in the open markets, it would be hard for us to buy rice or paddy at the rate given by the government.

## Incidents of illegal toll collections up along highways in N-districts

From Our Correspondent

**RAJSHAHI, Nov 28:** Illegal tolls are being collected from the passenger and goods carrying vehicles for a long time at different points on the national highways in the northern districts.

Toll collectors are harassing the owners of vehicles and goods and the passengers openly every now and then. But the members of the law enforcing agencies do not play their due role, rather, it is alleged, police personnel also collect tolls from the vehicles showing different reasons.

Businessmen allege that the traffic posts of the crossings and turning points of the highways are the main sites of toll collection. Sometimes police personnel themselves collect tolls and most of the times they do it through their agents.  
 A few businessmen of Rajshahi, unwilling to be identified, said that the trend of collection of illegal tolls on the highways had increased during the last two years.

They also informed, a large number of vehicles carry goods everyday from the landport of Soná Masjid in Chapainawabganj, Hill in Joypurhat and Burimari in Lalmonirhat to different parts of the country. The number of vehicles playing on the roads to and from the land port are increasing day by day with the increase of free-trades with India. Illegal toll collections are also increasing parallelly at the same rate.

When contacted, some truck drivers informed that tolls were being collected at 10 to 20 places in each route. As for example, an inter-district truck driver of Rajshahi said that they had to pay tolls at about 11 places along the Soná Masjid-Nagarbari or Soná Masjid-Sirajganj routes. According to him the rate of illegal tolls being collected at those points are: Taka 50 at Shibganj, Taka 30 near Mohananda Bridge, Taka 50 at the traffic island of Bishwa Road in Chapainawabganj town, Taka 50 at Daingpara crossing in Godagari thana, Taka 20 at Kathalbaria in Rajshahi, Taka 100 at Bindur crossing in Rajshahi City, Taka 20 at Talaimari Shahid Sarani crossing in Rajshahi city, Taka 20 at Natore Rail gate, Taka 30 at Kashinathpur in Pabna district and Taka 20 at Nagbari ghat. Similarly, a truck running from Burimari of Lalmonirhat district has to pay illegal tolls amounting to Taka 100 at the starting point, Taka 50 at Dhaperhat in Rangpur district, Taka 50 at Gobindaganj crossing, Taka 50 at Mohasthan crossing, Taka 20 at Bogra, Taka 30 at Chandaikona in Sirajganj and so on.

Almost all these unauthorised tolls are directly collected by police personnel of the traffic posts and islands. Besides, musclemen who give their identity as 'men of police' also collect such tolls at some places. Somewhere, illegal tolls are also collected in the name of transport workers' unions.  
 Businessmen and truck drivers said, whoever might be the unauthorised toll collectors, we cannot refuse them. Once refused, the illegal toll collectors harass them and damage their goods in the name of searching contrabands and even manhandle innocent drivers and helpers, they said. They also alleged that they find no authority who can save them.  
 A businessman of Rajshahi said that the carry cost of their goods increased due to such illegal toll collections at random. As a result, price of the goods also increase proportionately, they said.

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BAGERHAT: Makoto Taneda, former parliament member of Japanese Diet and chief patron of Japan Friendship Education Fund opened at Japan-Bangladesh Friendship Auditorium in Sreefaltola High School, Rampal here on November 24. State Minister for Relief and Disaster Management Talukdar Abdul Khaleque was present on the occasion as the chief guest. The auditorium has been built under the supervision of Bangladesh Friendship Education Society.

## Aricha ghat, a safe transit point for smugglers

From A Correspondent

**MANAIKANJ, Nov 28:** Aricha ghat has become a safe transit point of smugglers and den of anti-social elements.

As such, the markets of the district are being flooded with Indian contraband items. According to reliable sources, smugglers use bus routes as safe ways for the movement of contrabands. Huge quantity of such items are being smuggled into the Bangladesh territory through Hill of Joypurhat, Fulbari of Dinajpur, Lalmonirhat, Naogaon, Rajshahi, Maherpur, Kushtia and Jessore. Later the goods reach Aricha ghat and adjacent districts including capital Dhaka.

Smugglers generally use coaches, buses and trucks specially those which run at night time. Many of the night coaches and trucks carry huge contraband items to the capital city. All such things happen allegedly under the secret contact with the members of the law enforcing agencies. Occasionally police recover a little quantity of such smuggled goods as and when contract fails between the members of law enforcing agencies and the gang of smugglers, it has been alleged several times by the local people.

The contraband items include sarees, lungi, spices, sugar, onion, pulses, cutpieces of clothes, bicycles, its spare parts, cattles, drug, oil, crackers, cosmetics and rice.  
 Smugglers supply Indian saree, blouse piece and cloth at random in many shops in Aricha river port areas. Later on a big number of women of different areas are engaged in collecting Indian contrabands from these shops. Nearly 65 per cent women of Shibbalaya thana areas and many others throughout the district have been using Indian saree. According to the opinion of housewives, they prefer Indian saree for its attractive colour and design. Moreover, those are available at a very low price against the high price of country made saree. So the Indian sarees are being used in the remote village areas and are being sold almost openly. The names of some Indian variety sarees well-known to women folk are Radhakrishna, Indian katan, Saddam Katan, Joy Jagodish, Kajal, Kearia Katan, Ganga-Jamuna, Orgendi, Akash, Sree Devi, Kinnu silk, Cheek-minu, Plainminu and Chicken minu.

Meanwhile so many mini markets have emerged in and around the Shibbalaya thana area where wholesale trade of Indian items are being done in the morning and evening. Local influential marchants are controlling the markets. Everyday whole-sellers and retailers throng in this area for collection of Indian items.



'Try Shantibahini men for killing 30000 in 22 yrs' RANGAMATI, Nov 28: Parbatya Gano Parishad, an organisation of Bengalees living in the hills, Monday demanded trial of the killings of what it claimed 30,000 people by Shantibahini in 22 years of CHT insurgencies, reports APB.  
 The parishad, in a memorandum to the Prime Minister, also called for repeal of the 'black' CHT agreement in the name of peace overtures which, it asserted, was contrary to the country's Constitution and national interest.  
 The now-defunct Shantibahini laid down their arms at a function in Khagrachhari on February 10 last.  
 The parishad leaders submitted the memo comprising an 11-point demand,

## Adult education programme progressing

From Our Correspondent

**BRAHMANBARIA, Nov 28:** Pacificare, a non-governmental organisation has been entrusted with the task of implementation of adult education programme in 30 adult education centres under project 2 in Nabinagar thana undertaken by Non-Formal Education Directorate of the Government of Bangladesh.  
 Pacificare has been implementing the programme from March 7 this year. In each centre there are 30 students. A total of 900 students are studying there. A total of 16 centres are for ladies, while 14 centres are for males. According to a survey, 80 per cent students have become literate.

Thana Nirbahi Officer of Sujanagar thana and a representative of Concern Bangladesh and the financial assistance of GTZ distributed 30 kg rice, four kg pulse, six kg biscuits for each family among 500 destitute families of Ahmedpur union in Sujanagar thana on November 19.

Thana Nirbahi Officer of Sujanagar thana and a representative of Concern Bangladesh and the General Secretary of Trinomul were present there. It is worth mentioning, Pacificare has extended its activities in Dhaka, Chittagong, Nabinagar, Nasirnagar, Kulara and other remote areas.

## Trinomul distributes relief among 500 destitutes

From Our Correspondent

**PABNA, Nov 28:** Trinomul Manobik Unnayan Sangstha, a non-governmental organisation in collaboration with Concern Bangladesh and with the financial assistance of GTZ distributed 30 kg rice, four kg pulse, six kg biscuits for each family among 500 destitute families of Ahmedpur union in Sujanagar thana on November 19.

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## Water-logging a threat to 'Rabi' cultivation

**NOAKHALI, Nov 28:** Water-logging in different thanas of greater Noakhali following the prolonged flood have threatened cultivation of 'Rabi' crops, reports UNB.  
 In some shoal areas of the region, floodwater remained stagnant on cultivable lands due to various reasons.

An engineer of Water Development Board (WDB) said the main cause of stagnations is due to accumulation of silt in drains, canals and river beds.  
 He said only one canal known as Rahmatkhal river is now carrying water but the other three canals — Nayakhal, Bagadhola and Bhulua can not work due to accumulation of huge silt.

The affected thanas include Rangati, Chatkhil and sadar thana of Laxmipur district and Noakhali sadar and Begumganj. The worst affected areas are Char Gaji, Char Ramji, Char Badam, Char Kadira unions of Rangati and Jahajmara, Char Jabbar and Underchar unions of Noakhali Sadar.

Local farmers and agricultural sources said the cultivation of 'Rabi' crops on 20,000 acres of land has been hampered due to this problem.  
 While visiting some affected areas here, many farmers told that usually their lands become cultivable within 15th of Bengali month of Kartik, but this year there is still knee-deep water in many lands in the area.  
 Stagnation in some places is over 1.5 feet, said the farmers who feared that they would have to suffer again due to the problems after heavy loss of crops during the recent flood.

## Housewife receives acid burn injuries in Jhenidah

**JHENIDAH, Nov 28:** A housewife who received serious acid burn injuries on Monday night is fighting for life at Kali-ganja thana health complex here, reports UNB.  
 Police said the victim Anjara, 23, wife of Alauddin Ektepur village was thrown acid by co-villager Kalam, 35, when she protested his illicit relation with her nearest relative.  
 Kalam caught red handed by the villagers was handed over to the police.  
 Meanwhile, Mohepur police arrested a member of Sarbahara Party from Gopalpur village near the border in the district on Sunday.  
 The arrested Mohiur Rahman Moshia alias Ratan hailed from Ragunathpur village of the thana was engaged with various anti-social activities like dis, snatching, smuggling and toll collection in the border areas.  
 Another report from Sathkhira adds: Members of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) arrested 44 people including 24 children and 18 women from Debhatta border while illegally entering into Bangladesh. They allegedly went to India from Bagerhat in search of livelihood.

## RHD Auction Notice

1. Auction Notice No	: 2/EE/RHD/Netrakona/1998-99 (3rd Call).
2. Name of work	: Auction for different houses, shops & trees at Jangail Mouza & PS: Durgapur, Dist: Netrakona for construction of Jaria Bridge approaches road at 15th KM of Pirisial-Susong-Durgapur-Purbadhala-Shyamgonj road.
Description of Auction	: Houses, shops, trees
Book value	: 11,82,414/=
Security deposit	: 10% of (quoted amount)
Time limit	: 7 (seven) days of work order
Eligibility of bidder	: Persons/org-anisation
Rate of schedule	: 520/= (five hundred twenty)
3. Name of office of availability of auction documents	: Office of the Divisional Commissioner, Dhaka/Executive Engineer (RHD) Road Divn, Netrakona/Mymensingh/Tangail/Jamalpur/Sherpur/Kishoregonj/Dhaka/Planning (Roads & Bridge) Divn, Dhaka/Procurement (Civil) Divn, Dhaka/Sub-Divisional Engineer (RHD), Road Sub-Divn, Netrakona/Kendua/1st Line Workshop Sub-Divn, Netrakona.
4. Name of office to receive auction documents	: Office of the Divisional Commissioner, Dhaka/Addl Chief Engineer (RHD), Dhaka Zone, Dhaka/Superintending Engineer (RHD), Road Circle, Mymensingh/Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation Circle, Dhaka/Monitoring & Evaluation Circle, Dhaka/Dhaka Road Circle, Dhaka/Executive Engineer (RHD), Road Divn, Netrakona/Mymensingh/Tangail/Jamalpur/Sherpur/Kishoregonj.
5. Last date of selling auction documents	: Up to 6-12-98 during office hours.
6. Last date of receipt auction documents	: Up to 12-30 PM on 7-12-98.
7. Date & time of opening auction documents	: At 2-00 PM on 10-12-98.
<b>Md. Shah Alam</b> Executive Engineer (RHD) Road Division, Netrakona.	
DFP-24835-24/11 G-2686	