

## News snaps

### Farmers passing days in panic

**PATUAKHALI, Dec 28:** Police sometimes give protection to *lathials* who forcibly harvest the paddy of marginal farmers at Char Barot in Bauphal thana, some farmers have alleged, reports APB.

When the *lathials*, hired by big landowners, enter into the *char* area, they are sometimes seen accompanied by policemen from the newly set up outpost set up by Borhanuddin thana on the eastern side of the Tetulia river, they alleged. The matter was brought to the notice of Bauphal police, but no action has been taken so far, they said. The farmers told that they are passing days in fear following threats from *lathials*.

### 12 political killings in 13 months

**FENI, Dec 28:** Twelve political activists belonging to both ruling and opposition parties were killed in the district in encounter with their rivals during the last 13 months, reports APB.

Official sources said, eight of them belonged to the ruling Awami League and its front organisations while the rest are the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party and workers. The leaders and activists of Awami League and its front organisations, who were brutally murdered are UP Chairman Rezauul Karim, Sramik League leader Azizur Rahman Milon, Abdul Mannan, Abul Kashem, Didarul Alam, Manjur Hossain Chowdhury Shamlin, Saleh Uddin and Abul Kashem. From BNP the list of those killed comprises Sohanur Rahman Sohan, Nurunnabi, Mohammad Yeakub alias Sabuj and Mizanur Rahman, were murdered by their rivals during the period from November 1997 to December 1998, the sources said.

### Irregular attendance of employees

**KISHOREGANJ, Dec 28:** The normal functioning of the government offices here is being hampered seriously due to irregular attendance of the officers and employees, reports UNB.

Sources said the tendency of irregular attendance is noticeable mostly in the offices of the thana headquarters specially in *haor* areas. Most of them serve here keeping their families at their village homes. A large number of officials and employees are found absent in offices on Thursday when many of them take leave to spend the weekend with their families. The worse situation can be witnessed on Sundays as most of them return late on the day. The attendance rate is the lowest in four *haor* thanas of the district as most of the officers and employees prefer *haor* thanas of the district as most of the officers and employees prefer *haor* areas' job to draw their monthly salaries remaining absent most of the days. Four health complexes in the four *haor* thanas are worse affected by the low percentage of attendance.

### Wheat allotted for FWP projects

**NETRAKONA, Dec 28:** The government has allotted 2,120 tonnes of wheat for the execution of 158 projects under Food for Works Programme (FWP) in ten thanas of Netrakona district in the current financial year, reports BSS.

The projects are being implemented under the supervision of district relief and disaster management department. An official source said, the projects included construction and reconstruction of different *kutcha* roads, road cum embankments and culverts, reclamation of derelict ponds and earth work in different educational and religious institutions. The work on these projects has already been started and is expected to be completed within the month of April next, official source added.

### Sanction in different sectors

**PIROJPUR, Dec 28:** Government has so far sanctioned Tk 56.20 lakh in different sectors to recoup the losses caused by the recent devastating flood, reports UNB.

But the quantity of sanctioned money is quite inadequate to overcome the losses incurred the poor and marginal farmers here, local leaders alleged. Of the allotment, Tk 30 lakh in communication and infrastructure sector, Tk 1.20 lakh in livestock sector, Tk five lakh to rebuild embankments and Tk 20 lakh in agriculture sector. According to the latest statistics, crops on 1,37,000 hectares of land worth about Tk 21 crore have been damaged by the century worst calamity while fishes of Tk 8.11 crore were washed away. Besides, 200km roads, 230 educational institutions, 259 bridges and culverts and 390 mosques and shrines were damaged completely or partially. A total of 12,033 dwelling houses have been damaged completely while 34,867 partially.

### Drug addicts on rise

**NARAIL, Dec 28:** The number of drug addicts has been increasing in an alarming proportion in 10 south-western districts of the country in recent days, reports UNB.

Frustrated youths, students, activists of different political parties and their front organisations are the majority among the addicts. Drugs like heroin, hemp, phensidyl, opium, cocaine and injections are being sold everywhere in the region, said the witnesses. The drugs are entering into the country through different border points of Sathkira, Jessore, Kushtia, Meherpur and Chuadanga districts. Some organised gangs in connivance with a section of dishonest officials and employees are allegedly involved in the illegal trade.

### Teachers' confce in Rangamati

**RANGAMATI, Dec 28:** Chairman of the Task Force on Repatriated Tribals and Internal Refugees Rehabilitation Affairs, Dipankar Talukder, MP urged the members of the teachers' community to discharge their responsibilities with dedication terming them as the architects of the future leaders of the country, reports BSS.

He was addressing as the chief guest in a conference held at Shahid Abdul Ali Academy recently. Organised by Chittagong Hill Tracts Teachers' Association, the conference was presided over by president of the district teachers' association, Shantimoy Chakrabarti, Chairman of Rangamati Hill District Local Government Council, Ching Kew Roazza attended the conference as the special guest.

### 15 sex workers arrested

**RAJSHAHI, Dec 28:** Police on Thursday in a raid arrested 15 sex workers along with 17 customers from two residential hotels of the town here, reports UNB.

A team of police led by an Assistant Commissioner conducted the raid in Metropolitan hotel and Surjamukhi hotel at Kurupara and detained the anti-social elements, flesh traders from remote areas come to the residential hotels of the town and engage in illegal activities vitiating the atmosphere, the sources said.

### UP chairman's bail petition rejected

**JAMALPUR, Dec 28:** A magistrate court here recently rejected a bail petition of a UP chairman and sent him to jail hazard, reports UNB.

Abdur Rashid, chairman of Noapara Union Parishad in Islampur thana, was arrested on Sunday night for alleged misappropriation of VGF wheat and violating the chastity of a female member. Two cases were filed against Rashid. Last week the government had temporarily suspended the chairman of Jorokhali Union Parishad Ziaul Haq for his alleged misappropriation of relief goods.

### Traffic jam common in Natore town

**NATORE, Dec 28:** Traffic jam in the town has turned quite acute, as a result of which pedestrians do not find it safe to move along the main thoroughfares, reports APB.

The Natore bus terminal, Madrasah crossing, Chhayabani Cinema Hall crossing and the *kutcha* bazar road are said to be the worst-affected. Besides, sufferers say, the old hospital crossing, rail station, Ekotar square and railgate areas experience nasty traffic congestion more often than not. Traffic policemen said that indiscriminate parking of vehicular traffic, loading and unloading of trucks by waysides and encroachment of the roads by vendors and shopowners caused most of the traffic jams.

### Open sale of rectified spirit

**KISHOREGANJ, Dec 28:** The number of drug addicts are on alarming rise in the district giving rise to anti-social activities, reports UNB.

Most of the addicts are student, transport workers, rickshaw-pullers and sweepers. Local people alleged that they use rectified spirit and phensidyl syrup almost openly as these items are available in medical stores, stationary, grocery shops and some other points of the town. Some dishonest homeopathic doctors are selling spirit to the addicts at exorbitant price, they alleged. As per the government rule, licenses for rectified spirit are only issued to the bonafide homeopathic practitioners and homeopathic medicine manufacturers. To meet the need of their drugs the addicts are engaged in various anti-social activities including illegal trade, smuggling, theft and hijacking.

### Timbers recovered

**RANGAMATI, Dec 28:** The Chittagong Hill Tracts Forest Department (North) on special drives recovered about 13,300 cubic feet timbers worth Tk 70 lakh from different ranges of the district in last one month, reports UNB.

Of the recovered timber, 4,000 cft were recovered from Paklakhali range while 600 cft from Shishak, 5,000 cft from Baghalahat, 2,000 cft from Narachhara, 700 cft from sadar and 1,000 cft from Kachalung Zuhk ranges. Apart from this, the Forest Department also seized a truck, a jeep and 25 boats and filed 110 forest cases with the Rangamati court.



JHENIDAH: A 'gachi' engaged in cutting a date tree at village Gobindapur in Jhenidah municipal area. — Star photo

## Card phone system in Jamalpur in shambles

**JAMALPUR, Dec 28:** Card phone system in the district is on the verge of closure due to lack of maintenance and care causing sufferings to the users, reports UNB.

An official source said, a total of 10 telephone booths have been set up so far in the district of which, six have been set up in sadar thana while the rest at three thana headquarters — two in Sarishabari and one each in Melandah and Bakshiganj thanas.

In the town, two booths set up at telegram office and railway station remained inoperative for long and the other four also go out of order most of the time.

It is impossible for an employee of the telephone department to work to two districts — Jamalpur and Sherpur and to

inspect and repair the faults of card phone booths simultaneously.

Local people alleged that they can not avail the card phone facilities as most of the phones that are operative remain stopped due to closure of market and head post office where the booths were set up.

The sufferings of the users are being intensified due to lack of regular technical surveillance system to remove the technical faults.

Local people also alleged that a section of unscrupulous people is selling cards at high prices taking advantage of its scarcity.

Local leaders urged the government and concerned authorities to take necessary steps to repair the booths and take necessary measures for its maintenance and care.

## Rice-paddy procurement drive failing in Sherpur

From Our Correspondent

**SHERPUR, Dec 26:** The target of rice-paddy procurement drive is failing miserably in the district as the market price is higher than the procurement price fixed by the government.

The District Food Department failed to procure any rice or paddy in the current Aman season since November as against its target of 3,000 mts rice and 1,000 mts paddy.

Rice and paddy are being sold at Tk 600 per maund and Tk 400 per maund in different hat-bazars but the government rate is Tk 480 and Tk 304.

Thana-wise break-up of procurement target is as follows: 1,200 mts rice and 210 mts of paddy in sadar, 800 mts of rice and 288 mts of paddy in Nalitabari, 300 mts of rice and 152 mts of paddy in Nakla, 330 mts of rice and 152 mts of paddy in Sreebordi and 370 mts of rice and 200 mts of paddy in Jhenidah thanas, according to official sources.

The procurement drive starting from the last month will continue till February 28. The food department has taken a decision to directly purchase paddy from the farmers and rice from the millers.

Meanwhile, the mill owners alleged they are facing acute

## Performance of satellite schools far from satisfactory

**SYLHET, Dec 28:** The performance of the satellite schools here, set up to expedite the implementation of universal primary education programme, is far from satisfactory, reports UNB.

According to local elite, the number of school is not increasing, rather a stagnant situation is prevailing in the existing ones due to lack of pragmatic steps of the authorities concerned.

Sources said, a total of 81 schools had been established in eight thanas of the district from 1993 to 1997 and the number of student enrolment now stands at 4,031.

No new school was set up in the last one year and there is no such institution in the rest three thanas.

Academic atmosphere is being disrupted at the satellite educational institutions as the teachers are found reluctant to their duty with a very low honorarium of Tk 500 per month.

Malpractice has been reported in distribution of books among the learners along with lack of supervision, added sources.

Local leaders urged the authorities concerned to take sincere initiative to solve the existing problems of the schools immediately.

## In Faridpur dist Date juice extraction yet to start in full swing

From Our Correspondent

**FARIDPUR, Dec 28:** Faridpur district is famous for date molasses or 'patali' from time immemorial. This molasses or 'patali' is made from juice extracted from date trees during the winter season from November to February.

The extractor locally called 'gachi' bring the grown up date trees under process for extracting juice in late November or early December. But this year hundreds of date trees are reportedly lying unprocessed.

It is learnt from the owners of the date trees that extractors or 'gachis' are hardly available, if available, they are reportedly very much reluctant to do their juice extraction job.

When contacted several 'gachis' namely Arshad, Chandu

Mia and Kalam Mia of different areas told this correspondent that this seasonal job once profitable is now a losing concern. They also added that unruly and terrorist boys of the locality forcibly take away the juice with 'pot' locally called 'Hart' every now and then at night. So, they do not dare to take the risk of processing date trees. They also alleged that they have no so much cash money as required to invest initially for purchasing necessary instruments such as billhooks, 'chhenies' of pest quality and other things which are needed to process the trees. On the other hand, they as day-labourers are earning Tk 70 to Tk 80 a day, they said.

Though now is the high time to process the date trees, acute shortage of 'gachis' has been prevailing in the district especially in and around the town.

The owners of the date trees are of opinion that the concerned authority should come forward to sanction small loan for the 'gachis' to encourage them to stick to the profession to uphold the date molasses industry in the district resulting in the continuity of normal market price of the molasses.

At present new date molasses or 'patali' is being sold at Tk 30 to Tk 35 a kg in different markets of the town. It is expected that the price of the molasses of 'patali' will come down if most of the date trees are brought under process, they said.

### Pabna Free Day observed

## Renewed pledge to establish human rights

From Ranesh Maitra

**PABNA, Dec 28:** With renewed pledge to establish women's rights and universal human rights in Bangladesh, the 28th anniversary of 'Pabna Mukta Dibash' was observed here with great enthusiasm on December 19.

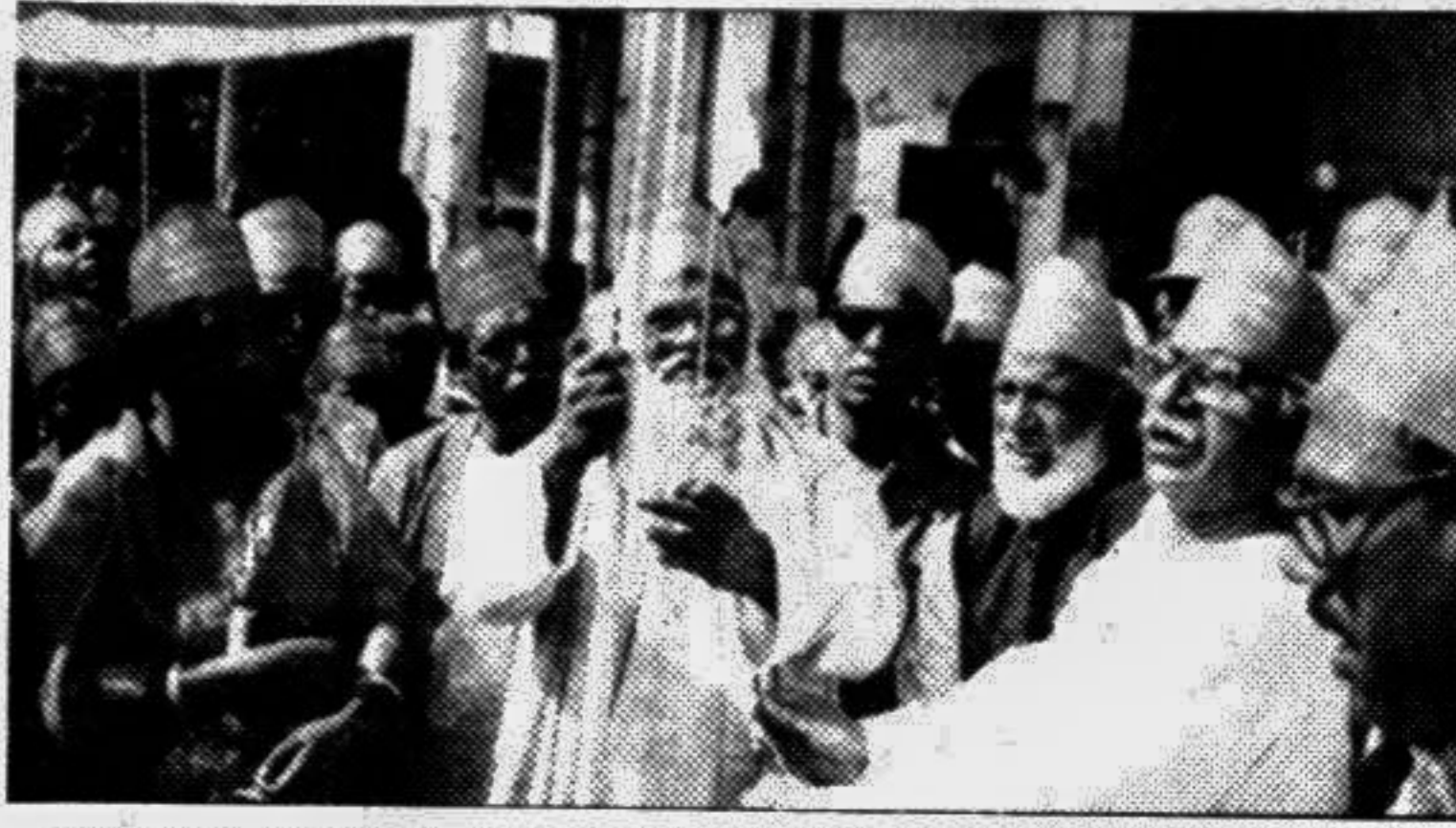
A total of 600 men and women participated there. The day was observed under the auspices of Pabna Mukta Dibash Uddhapan Sanjukta Parishad.

The parishad was constituted comprising of 12 organisations in the district namely, Shiksha-O-Sanskrit Charcha Kendra, Samata Samaj Kalyan Samity, Bachtay Chai, Mahila Parishad, Young Women's Christian Association, Nari Forum, Pratyasha, Hard, Pragati, Rovers and Boy Scouts Association and Sammilita Manabdhikar Parishad.

Rafiqul Islam Bakul, MP, a valiant freedom-fighter of Pabna inaugurated the programmes by hoisting the national flag in Pabna Town Hall.

Later on a colourful rally with all wearing caps, carrying banners, festsongs and singing songs of the Liberation War paraded the main thoroughfares of the town. Convenor of the Parishad Advocate Ranesh Maitra, Rafiqul Islam Bakul MP, Ex-MP Advocate Amzad Hossain, Prof Shahana Begum,

They believe that it was compulsory for them to celebrate the 'Nabanna' festival. One who eats new rice before taking the 'Nabanna' food, runs the risk of being a loser during the following season, they say.



PABNA: Rafiqul Islam Bakul MP, inaugurating the programmes of Pabna Free Day by hoisting the national flag. — Star photo

### BSCIC training course ends

**MADARIPUR, Dec 28:** A two-day training course on unemployed male and female youths for creating self-employment opportunities, organised by Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC), concluded here at BSCIC office on December 24, reports BSS.

BSCIC office sources said, a total of 58 unemployed male and female youths from different areas of the district took part in the course.

The training programme was aimed at creating employment opportunities for the downtrodden at the grassroot level through income generating programme. After the completion of the training course these youths would be given loan for small industry.

## Abducted girl yet to be rescued

**NAOGAON, Dec 28:** Police could not recover a teen-age girl after six months of her abduction from Coachpara village in Raninagar thana, reports UNB.

Family sources said Arzina Banu, 14, daughter of late Ayeazuddin, was abducted by some miscreants of the same area on July 7, this year while she was returning home from her school.

Mother of the victim filed a case with the local police. Subsequently, police arrested one of the accused, but could not get any information about the victim from him.

They even could not arrest any other accused though the local people said many of them are staying in the locality and the main accused has been serving in an office in the neighbouring Atrai thana.

The family members of the victim sought intervention of the high police officials into the matter.

## Septuagenarian killed in land related clash

**SATKHIRA, Dec 28:** A septuagenarian was killed and four others were injured in a land related clash between two rival groups at Thana Ghata village in Asasuni thana on Monday, reports UNB.

The victim was identified as Surjakanta Gain, 70. The injured were rushed to the Asasuni thana health complex.

Witnesses and police said the clash erupted following the altercation between Surjakanta and his rivals on the demarcation of a disputed plot of land.

The postmortem of the body was performed in the district General Hospital on Tuesday. Police arrested one Ranjit Mandal in connection with the murder.

Another report says: Three motor cycles were stolen from a house in Kaliganj thana on Sunday. Police said the thieves broke the grills and doors of the house open and took the motor cycles away.

Police said the hoodlums were going to Uzailpur by a motor cycle for committing a robbery.

## দি সিকিউরিটি প্রিন্টিং কর্পোরেশন (বাংলাদেশ) লি:

গাজীপুর-১৩০১ তারিখ: ২৭/১২/৯৮ইং

এসপিএল/০৫/০৫/০৫/৯৮-৯৮

সংশোধনী বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বিষয়: প্রেস বিজ্ঞপ্তির দক্ষিণ দিকের জমি সমতলকরণ ও

দেয়াল (সীমানা প্রাচীর) নির্মাণ (আংশিক) কাজ।

উপরোক্ত বিষয়ক দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং এসপিএল/০৫/০৫/৯৮-৯৮ তারিখ ২১/১২/৯৮ইং এর প্রথম অনুচ্ছেদে "প্রেস বিজ্ঞপ্তির দক্ষিণ দিকের জমি সমতলকরণ ও দেয়াল (সীমানা প্রাচীর) নির্মাণ (আংশিক) কাজের" জন্য সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র আহবানের পরিবর্তে মুদ্রণ প্রমাণভিত্তিক কারণে "প্যাকিং বাস্তব (কার্টের বাস্তব ও কার্ট) মজুত রাখার গোড়াইন নির্মাণ কাজের" জন্য সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র আহবান করা হয়েছে, যা নিম্নোক্ত ভাবে সংশোধন করা হলো:

"পি. ডব্লিউ.ডি. এম. ই. এস. ফ্যাসিলিটিজ ডিপার্টমেন্ট ও অন্যান্য সরকারী ও আধা সরকারী স্বায়ত্তশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠানের তালিকাভুক্ত পূর্ত নির্মাণ ও রক্ষণাবেক্ষণ/মেরামত কাজে অভিজ্ঞতা সম্পন্ন ঠিকাদারদের নিকট হতে প্রেস বিজ্ঞপ্তির দক্ষিণ দিকের জমি সমতলকরণ ও দেয়াল (সীমানা প্রাচীর) নির্মাণ (আংশিক) কাজের জন্য সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র আহবান করা যাইতেছে।"

এছাড়া সিডিউলের মূল্য হবে প্রতি সেট টা: ৫০০.০০ (টাকা পাঁচশত)

মাত্র (অক্ষেরতথ্যগো)।

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তির অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী অপরিবর্তিত থাকবে।

জিডি-১০৭৬ উপ-প্রধান প্রকৌশলী

## সড়ক ও জনপথ দপ্তর কর্তক দরপত্র আহবানের বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলাদেশ ফরম নং ২৯১১-এর মাধ্যমে সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র আহবান করা যাইতেছে।

১। দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং -৩১/নিগ্রঃ/সওজ/নেত্রকোনা/১৯৯৮-৯৯ইং।

২। ব্যয়ের বাত ৪ গ্রুপ তালিকা অনুযায়ী।

৩। কাজের নামঃ এ

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### গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বহিঃ প্রচার অনুবিভাগ

পররাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়

ঢাকা

নং-৩(২৮)/৯৮-ইপি-৩/১৬৭১ তারিখ ০৯-০৯-১০৫০বাং

২৩-১২-১৯৯৮ইং

ভিডিও প্রামাণ্য অনুষ্ঠান নির্মাণ

সংক্রান্ত দরপত্র আহবান

আনন্ড জাতীয় দিবস '৯৯ উপলক্ষে বিদেশস্থ বাংলাদেশ মিশনসমূহের

মাধ্যমে বিদেশে প্রচারের লক্ষ্যে ২২ থেকে ২৫ মিনিট ব্যতিকালের একটি

ভিডিও প্রামাণ্য অনুষ্ঠান নির্মাণের জন্য ব্যতিমান প্রামাণ্য ভিডিও অনুষ্ঠান

নির্মাণকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহ হতে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহবান করা

যাচ্ছে। প্রয়োজনীয় তথ্যাবলী

২০০/- (দুইশত) টাকা মূল্যে (অক্ষেরতথ্যগো) নিম্নবাক্যসমূহের দরপত্র থেকে

দরপত্র দাখিলের পূর্বদিন পর্যন্ত ক্রয় করা যাবে। দরপ