

News snaps

Rabi farming hampered

NOAKHALI, Jan 30 : Acute scarcity of seed has been hampering the cultivation of various 'Rabi' crops in Hatia thana of the district, reports UNB.

Local farmers said they were not getting adequate and quality seed of the crops including nut, potato and watermelon either from the government agencies or from the vendors in the markets. They feared that the production target of these crops during the current season might not be achieved due to this reason. They also complained that the post-flood agriculture rehabilitation programme undertaken by the government was being implemented here in an unplanned manner. The programme failed to provide the growers with necessary and timely help, they said. The government agencies distributed vegetable seed among 1,000 growers and maize seed and Di-Ammonium Phosphate fertiliser among 200 farmers of the thana almost at the end of the season. Each grower was provided with only 200 grams vegetable seed four-kg maize seed and 12-kg fertiliser. Only 17 kg of wheat seed was distributed among each of nine farmers.

Non-iodised salt floods markets

NAOGAON, Jan 30 : As the authorities look a bit loath to take action against the unscrupulous traders, the non-iodised Indian salt has flooded the local markets, giving a rise to the number of goiter patients, reports UNB.

Sources said the substandard salt, smuggled into the country from neighbouring India, was being sold at Tk 6-7 per kg while the iodised one is being sold at Tk 10-11 per kg at many hats and bazaars in 11 thanas. Health Department and BSCIC were said to be reluctant to solve the problem although they had been directed to take steps in this regard, including campaign to raise awareness level of the poor people to consume iodised salt. Under the existing law of the land, marketing, import and sale of non-iodised salt is punishable offence.

Patuakhali Bar to boycott court

PATUAHALI, Jan 30 : The Patuakhali District Bar Association has decided to boycott the court of the District and Sessions Judge from February 6, reports APB.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the association held recently with its president advocate Md Halim Miah in the chair. About 95 lawyers attended the meeting. When contacted, the district judge said that some lawyers were aggrieved because they had lost their APP position due to a report submitted to the law ministry.

Work on shishu complex to start soon

MEHERPUR, Jan 30 : The construction of a Shishu Palli Complex at a cost of Taka one crore will start soon in Meherpur district town, reports BSS.

According to the Public Works Department, the complex will include a administrative building, a children's hostel, a school building and a training centre. The children complex will have a capacity to house 150 destitute and orphan children. They will be provided with food, shelter, education and vocational training to make them self-reliant. The construction of the Shishu Palli Complex will be completed by December.

Sanction for road dev work

GAZIPUR, Jan 30 : A total 21 development projects have been taken up in the current fiscal year for construction and repair of roads and drains in Tongi Pourasava, reports BSS.

According to Pourasava sources Taka four lakhs has been sanctioned for implementation of the projects. The work of the projects will be completed by March this year.

'Boro' farming on 14,000 hectares

MEHERPUR, Jan 30 : A total of 14,000 hectares has been brought under 'Boro' cultivation in the two thanas of the district in the current season, reports BSS.

Official sources said, about 26,000 tonnes of paddy is expected to be produced in the district. Of the total land 8,000 hectares have been cultivated in Meherpur sadar and 6,000 hectares in Ganggi thana. Agriculture Extension Department sources said, necessary seeds, fertiliser and others agricultural inputs have been distributed among the farmers for the successful implementation of the scheme.

Sanction for school bldg work

MADRIPUR, Jan 30 : The Facilities Department, Madripur has sanctioned Taka 30 lakh for the construction of new buildings of three non-government high schools in three thanas of the district, reports BSS.

Official sources said, the schools are Kalkini High School, Rajoir High School and Shibchar High School. The construction work of the buildings is expected to be completed by March next. After completion of the construction, vocational courses at the SSC levels will be introduced in the schools.

Advocacy meeting held

MOULVIBAZAR, Jan 30 : An advocacy meeting on 'national leprosy eradication expedition' was held here at Moulvibazar sadar thana health complex on January 25, reports BSS.

Presided over by sadar thana health and family planning officer Satya Ranjan Roy, the meeting was addressed, among others, by president of Moulvibazar Press Club Rodhika Mohan Goswami, Sub-Assistant Engineer of the Public Health Engineering Department Wahidur Rahman, representative of BRAC Rafiqul Islam, EPI medical officer Dr Sabir Hussain Khan and representative of HEED-Bangladesh, a NGO. Sukriti Nandi. The advocacy meeting was informed that two leprosy patients were found per 10 thousand population of Moulvibazar district. In Moulvibazar sadar thana 13 leprosy patients are under treatment. A 41-bed leprosy hospital was established in Kamalgonj thana in 1976.

Load-shedding hampers mills' output

BHERAMARA, Jan 30 : Frequent power failure and voltage fluctuation has been causing immense sufferings to the people and disrupting production in factories in Bheramara and adjoining areas, reports APB.

Local people complained that the erratic power supply has affected both domestic and commercial consumers. Hardly a day passes without load-shedding. The hardest hit are patients in hospitals and students. Production in mills and factories is disrupted daily, causing losses to the entrepreneurs, they said. Electronic goods like TV, radio and refrigerators get damaged due to fluctuation in voltage. The people also said, power failure also gives scope to anti-social elements to do their activities.

Overbridge construction work shelved

KISHOREGANJ, Jan 30 : A decision to construct an overbridge at the west end of Bherab railway station was taken in 1968, but the project could not be implemented in over 30 years for reasons unknown, reports UNB.

Locals said everyday hundreds of people from Bherab town, Kamalpur, Panchabati, Amlapara, Jagannathpur, Laxmipur have to cross 5-6 stationary trains risking their lives as there was no overbridge at the station. School going children were said to be the most vulnerable to mishaps. Railway sources said the plan to construct the overbridge had been shelved due to non-cooperation by a section of railway officials.

Mushroom growth of brick fields

KISHOREGANJ, Jan 30 : As brick baking has blossomed into a potential business, brick fields in six thanas of the district have sprung up in a mushroom growth, threatening the ecological balance, reports UNB.

According to an estimate, some 1,900 hectares of land in the thanas have gone under the grip of brick fields, leaving an adverse impact on the productivity of their surrounding crop lands. Usually farmers go for farming crops three to four times a year on their crop lands where there is no brick field. But the marginal farmers are being compelled to lease out their lands to the brick field owners affecting the crop out put of their neighbours. Besides, the brick field owners are using logs in baking bricks defying the government ban. In this case too the poor farmers are selling their wood and fruit-bearing trees at a throwaway price. When asked some of the brick field owners said they were burning woods as coal prices much higher than that of logs.

Shishu Mela in Madaripur

MADRIPUR, Jan 30 : A day-long Shishu Mela organised by the district primary education office was held on January 27 at the district primary education office premises here, reports BSS.

ABM Shamsuddin Ahmed, Principal, Madaripur Government Nazimuddin University College inaugurated the mela as the chief guest. About 300 primary school students displayed handicrafts produced by them. The goods were put on sale in 20 stalls.

Rivals clash leaves 20 hurt

GAZIPUR, Jan 30 : At least 20 people were injured in a clash between two rival groups of villagers in Kaliakair thana over land dispute on Tuesday, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the clash took place over the possession of 10 bighas of land at Polashitali village. Five of the injured, Amena, 45, Margina, 40, Jadunath Barman, 35, Jageshchandra Barman, 45, and Barek, 40, were sent to Dhaka with critical wounds.

Admission seekers harassed at RU

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, Jan 30 : Hundreds of students seeking admission into first year honours classes at Rajshahi University (RU) during the academic session 1998-99 are being harassed.

Their guardians have to spend a huge amount of money for their wards due to the unwise decision taken by the university authorities relating to admission.

According to the sources, timetables of Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examination and Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examination issued by the principal of affiliated colleges and mark-sheets of HSC examination supplied by the respective boards are the authorised documents to apply for admission into the first year honours classes. But during this session, the RU authorities invited applications with attested copies of SSC and HSC original or provisional certificates. But these certificates generally reach the respective ed-

ucational institutions three or four years after passing the aforesaid examinations.

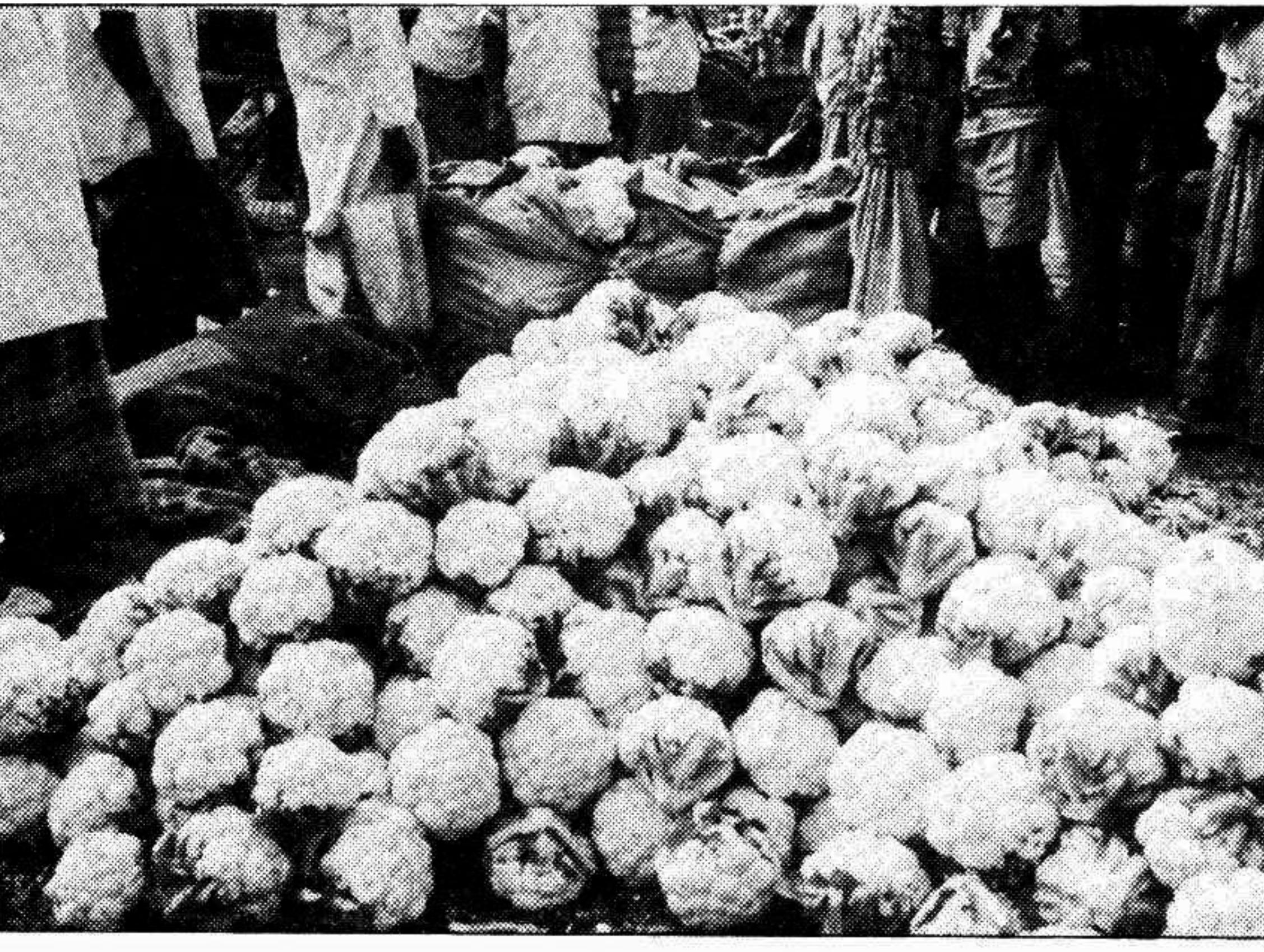
Some admission seekers trying to get themselves admitted into the classes at the university told this correspondent that hundreds of candidates rushed to the Dhaka Board office in the capital city for collecting their SSC and HSC provisional certificates. They had to stay there for five to seven days for taking delivery of the certificates. They had to pay good tips to the concerned clerks, not to speak of hotel and other charges.

The RU authority thought informed the admission seekers through readvertisement in the national dailies a few days before the closing date that the attested copies of the certificates would not have to be submitted, the concerned applicants in the meantime collected their provisional certificates.

Some concerned guardians alleged that the cost for collecting necessary papers to apply for admission into the university even before going to appear at the written test stands at several thousands taka. They said in utter despair that higher education is not possible for the students coming from the middle class families, not to mention of the poor.

It is worth mentioning, the sale proceeds of the admission forms of the university during this session reportedly stand at Taka one crore and thirty two lakhs, the price of each form being Taka 75. The guardians opined that each admission form should be sold at Taka five to 10 only to cover the price of paper and printing charges, adding that admission forms were once distributed among the applicants free of cost.

The government should look into the matter and stern measures should be taken so that the admission forms are sold at minimum rate at all the universities in the country.



JHENIDAH: An abundant supply of cauliflower at Sailkupa bazaar in this season.

Man beaten to death in B baria

From Our Correspondent
BRAHMANBARIA, Jan 30: One person was beaten to death by his elder brother and nephew in a hotel at Nagor para of Bhadugor in the sadar thana on January 23.

According to police sources, on the fatal day Ali Ahmed, 35, son of Sumuz Ali of Bhadugor Moholla of Brahmanbaria Pourasava was taking tea in a local hotel. At one stage his elder brother Ali Mia and nephew Sadon Mia entered into the hotel and started beating him indiscriminately. As a result he died on the spot. The reason of beating could not be known till writing of the report.

In this connection Sham-sunnah, wife of the victim filed a case against them at Brahmanbaria sadar thana. Autopsy of the body was done at the local sadar hospital.

From Our Correspondent

BARISAL, Jan 30: The government has already sanctioned Taka 78.60 crore for construction of the 918-metre long and 10-metre wide bridge over the Gabkhan river in the Sadar thana of Ghalakathi district in this financial year.

According to the Roads and Highways Department here, the fifth Bangladesh-China Friendship Bridge is being constructed with the financial and technical assistance of the Government of China.

Construction works of this bridge will be started soon and it will be completed by the year 2001.

Spurious mosquito coil factories unearthed

JAMALPUR, Jan 30: A number of factories, producing spurious mosquito coils that cause health hazards to residents here, was unearthed in the rail-gate area of the town, reports UNB.

Such alleged manufacture of mosquito coils using false trade marks by some unauthorised and unregistered factories also deprive the government of a huge revenue.

43rd confce of CMAB held at Barisal

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Jan 30: The 43rd annual conference '99 of Christians Medical Association of Bangladesh (CMAB) was held here recently at the Baptist Mission Girls' High School at Bund Road.

The conference was held here after 12 years.

It was presided over by the Barisal unit President of the association Ashrafat Chowdhury, while Dr Rajen Raje Singha from Sree Lanka, Dr SM Chowdhury, CMAB's National President and General Secretary Dr Nian Anupam Munshi and Dr Arul Ankitel of Sree Lanka who is the southeastern promoter of International Health Care Christian Fellowship (IHCF) were present as special and chief guests respectively. Dr Duke Chowdhury delivered the address of welcome at the outset of the conference.

In the orientation session, Dr Nian, Dr SM Chowdhury and Latika Biswas, Headmistress, Baptist Mission Girls' High School also addressed.

The three-day programme was also addressed by Yahia Mollah, Divisional Commissioner as special guest, Monamra Mitra of Catholic Church, Father Edmund, Dr Apu Laurence Biswas and others.

The chief guest and the special guest distributed prizes among the best members of CMAB. A souvenir was also published.

IRRI-Boro farming on over 2 lakh hectares targeted in 10 dists

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Jan 30: A total of more than two lakh seventy seven thousand hectares of land have been targeted to cultivate IRRI and Boro paddy including high yielding variety (HYV) and local variety in 10 south western districts of the country during the current season.

Body recovered

From Our Correspondent

BRAHMANBARIA, Jan 30: Police recovered the body of a young boy from a mustard field at village Hazipur in Nabinagar on January 23.

According to family and police sources, a young boy namely Mohammad Alam, son of Abdul Jalil of Hazipur village in Nabinagar thana, went out of his house for business purpose on January 21. But he remained missing from that day. The family members did not know his whereabouts. At last on January 23, police recovered the body from a mustard field which is in the middle of villages Bhangura and Hazipur.

He has a shop at Bangura bazaar family sources said.

these districts and accordingly assurance has been given to the farmers of these areas to produce substantial quantity of rice to meet the requirement of food.

A source of AED informed that 2,21,567 metric tons of paddy is targeted to be produced 89,526 hectares of land in Jessore, 126,941 metric tons of paddy on 50,803 hectares of land in Jhenidah, 19,688 metric tons of paddy on 19,875 hectares of land in Magura, 23,081 metric tons of paddy on 9,460 hectares of land in Narail, 26,440 metric tons of paddy on 6,460 hectares of land in Khulna, 97,290 metric tons of paddy on 38,917 hectares of land in Sathkhira, 26,440 metric tons of paddy on 13,202 hectares of land in Bagerhat, 42,376 metric tons of paddy on 16,972 hectares of land in Kushtia, 22,027 metric tons of paddy on 8,866 hectares of land in Meherpur and 52,018 metric tons of IRRI-Boro paddy production is expected on 23,205 hectares of land in Chuadanga district.

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