

## News snaps

### 3 gamblers arrested

From Our Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, JULY 20: Haluaghata police arrested recently three gamblers from Joyramkura area.

Following an information police arrested the gamblers with gambling materials while they were engaged in gambling near Joyramkura Missionary Hospital. They were identified as Bijoy, 40, Majibur, 26, and Afazuddin, 35.

### Man beaten to death

NAOGAON, July 20: A man was beaten to death by his rivals over a land dispute in Mohadevpur thana on Wednesday, reports UNB.

Atoar Rahman, 45, of Panditpur village in Chandash union came under attack allegedly by one of his cousins while he was working on a disputed land nearby their residence. Police said his cousin Mokhles aided by his associates beat Atoar as they found him working on the land. They later brought Atoar to Chandash UP premises and left him there in a critical condition, where he died at about 2pm. His wife filed a case against 17 people, including the UP chairman.

### Record in loan disbursement

PIROJPUR, July 20: Pirojpur Krishibank has set a record by surpassing its loan disbursement target by three per cent during the last (1998-99) fiscal, reports UNB.

Officials said the Bangladesh Krishibank (BKB) regional office disbursed Tk 16.48 crore among 18,567 farmers through 21 branches against its target of Tk 16 crore. Of the loans, Tk 91 lakh were distributed for Aus cultivation, Tk 1.33 crore for Aman, Tk 3.95 crore for Boro, Tk 2.29 crore for potato, Tk 56 lakh for banana and Tk 1.64 crore for sugarcane. Besides, Tk 1.86 crore were disbursed for socio-economic sector. Tk 55.72 lakh for buying cattle, Tk 10.66 lakh for dairy farms and Tk 3.24 crore for other sectors.

### 14 shops sealed off

KHULNA, July 20: The authorities sealed off 14 shops in New Market of the city as the owners kept those under lock and key during an anti-smuggling drive on Saturday, reports UNB.

Officials said a joint team of Customs, police and paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) raided the market at about 12 noon on the day. Seeing them, some shop owners closed down their shops forcing the law-enforcers to seal those off. They, however, broke into another shop, Jamdani House and found eight staff and customers locked inside. They recovered 82 pieces of Indian saree from the shop.

### Attack on JCD leader

RANGPUR, July 20: A local leader of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) was critically injured in an attack by his rivals at College road here on Sunday, reports UNB.

Witnesses said Rubel, 22, former General Secretary (GS) of JCD's Rangpur Carmichael College unit, came under attack in front of Grameen Bank when he was returning home at about 2 pm. He was admitted to Rangpur Medical College Hospital (RMCH).

### Seven arrested

MANIKGANJ, July 20: In a pre-dawn swoop police arrested seven people on Sunday while removing a boundary pillar installed during British period in Shibaliya thana, reports UNB.

Police also recovered firearms and ammunition, including a pistol and a pipe gun, from their possession. The arrested were identified as Nur-e-Alam, Rizu Chowdhury, Khalilur Rahman, Babul Ataur Rahman, Shahjahan and Rafiqul Islam. Earlier, a series of clashes between two rival groups of people took place at Muktanagar village over lifting the pillar.

### Workshop concludes

PATUAKHALI, July 20: A two-day workshop on farm system research development concluded here on Sunday, reports UNB.

Directorate of Agriculture Extension (DAE) and Bangladesh Agriculture Research Institute (BARI) in collaboration with Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council (BARC) organised the workshop. The workshop discussed the future plan to raise the country's foodgrains production to 2.5 crore mt and achievements of various agricultural organisations. Officials from DAE, BARI and BARC and Bangladesh Rice Research Institute and Soil Resources Development Institute took part in the workshop.

### 686 uplift projects undertaken

KISHOREGANJ, July 20: District Relief and Disaster Management Department has taken up 686 development projects in 13 thanas of the district under Test Relief (TR) programme in the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the government earned Tk 1,046 tonnes of wheat for implementation of the projects. The work of the projects included reconstruction of rural roads, educational institutions and development of graveyards and cremation grounds. The thana-wise break-up of projects is: Atragram 42, Bajitpur 42, Bhaiarab 130, Hossainpur 22, Itna 55, Katiadi 92, Karimganj 80, Kishoreganj sadar 14, Kuliarchar 84, Nikli 10, Pakundia 32, Tari 40 and Mithamoin 43.

### Three killed by lightning

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, July 20: Three persons were killed by lightning in separate incidents at Nachol and sadar thana recently, reports BSS.

Witnesses said Lokman Uddin, 20, of village Amline died by lightning while he was working in a paddy field. He died on the spot. Two other victims were killed as thunderbolt hit them when they were collecting mango in a garden during rains.

### Indian smuggled goods seized

JOYPURDH, July 20: A special squad of anti-smuggling taskforce seized a huge quantity of Indian goods worth about Tk 18 lakh from Panchbibi thana, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip-off, the team, comprising DC, BDR commander and a magistrate, recovered 219 sacks of sugar from a truck at Fikchar ghat on Panchbibi-Kamidia road and six bags of onion from a bus in Miroti area. The haul was deposited with Hili Customs Office, according to officials.

### Tragedy of a rickshawpuller's family

NARISINGDI, July 20: Worn down by poverty, a rickshawpuller killed his wife and then took his own life at village Asmandi char in sadar thana recently, reports UNB.

Villagers said Ratan, 35, and his wife Paribin, 30, had a brawl after shopping on the day. At night, Ratan hacked his wife to death and then committed suicide by hanging himself. Paribin was asleep when Ratan swooped on her. The bodies were sent to hospital morgue for autopsy.

### Uplift project progressing

MADRIPUR, July 20: A development project, involving Tk 53.79 lakh, is being implemented in sadar thana with financial assistance from Local Government Engineering Department, reports UNB.

The project works, including construction and reconstruction of roads and schools, are expected to be completed this month.

### Saplings distributed

MANIKGANJ, July 20: British-American Tobacco, Manikganj Leaf Regio distributed saplings of different trees among the tobacco growers and farmers at a function held here recently, reports BSS.

Manikganj Leaf Region Manager Ahsanul Karim and Kushtia Leaf Region Manager Golam Faruq Nayon were, among others, present on the occasion. Saplings of Mehgany and other plants were distributed free of cost among the tobacco growers under the social afforestation programme of the company.

### Loan for poor men, women

BARISAL, July 20: The Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) disbursed a sum of Tk 10,46,22,000 among 5,962 poor men and women in 10 thanas as loan in the 1998-99 fiscal, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the loan was disbursed for creating employment opportunity and socio-economic development of the marginal farmers and poor people. Of the total amount, Tk 41.90 lakh was disbursed among 1,052 members of 96 samitis, Tk 68.32 lakh among 1,463 women members of 68 samitis and Tk 9.36 crore among 3,447 members of 1,105 samitis of the BRDB.

# Telephone service in shambles

From Abdul Monayem Khan

COX'S BAZAR, July 20: Telephone subscribers of Cox's Bazar auto-exchange and Chokaria, Ramu, Moreshkhali and Teknaf exchanges have been suffering much due to several disorders of telephone sets, inaudible sounds, cross-connection, connection to the wrong number, pending of bills, inflated bills without any specific data and negligence of duty of the employees.

A total of 700 out of 3,200 telephone sets of the above mentioned five exchanges have gone out of order since May 1999 causing untold sufferings to the subscribers. In spite of lodging complaints by the affected telephone owners, the telephone officials are seemingly quite indifferent to put their telephones in order.

When contacted an official of the telephone exchange said that most of the phone sets had gone out of order as the underground cables were cut by public health workers and pourasabha contractors while placing underground pipes for supplying water.

Many subscribers complained, in most cases their sets transmit inaudible sounds.

Cross-connection is another problem that is annoying most of the subscribers as they simultaneously hear two persons speaking from two different sets.

Mobile phones are not regularly supplied to the subscribers. It is alleged, the subscribers are not getting telephone bills for four to five months. Some others complained that they had received

months together due to lack of maintenance.

Four card phone booths were installed by the Telephone and Telegraph department in the town and five in different thanas in 1996 to provide better telephone service to the people.

Local users said the service of the booths was satisfactory at the beginning, but it deteriorated as the time passed due to negligence by the Telegraph and Telephone men in maintaining the lines and machines.

They complained that the technicians responsible for maintenance of the card phone booths are not always available even after repeated reminders by the officials.

Some of the sets have turned into 'unit eating machines', they said adding that these are now eating up more units when they made call. Even valid cards are being rejected by some machines as out of order, they said.

Moreover, some machines reject the cards as soon as the respondent receives the call and the card is shown as 'used up.'

The card phone users here said the Telegraph and Telephone men have been showing reluctance in maintaining the booths as their illegal earning decreased substantially with the introduction of the card phone system.

Besides, cards have become scarce in the post offices. But the users said, these are available in black market at a rate higher than the actual price.

Card phone users have urged the authorities to take measures to fix the phone and stop black marketing of the cards to ensure easy telephone services to the people.

### Two killed in road mishaps

By Staff Correspondent

Two people were killed in separate road accidents in Jessor and Comilla.

UNB from Jessor says: An aged man was killed in a road mishap at Gopalpur square on Jessor-Khulna highway on Monday.

The victim was identified as Shyamapada Adhikari, 77, of village Ghoshnagar in Bagerpara thana in the district.

Police said the mishap occurred when an autorickshaw on which Adhikari was traveling hit a roadside tree while giving side to a microbus coming from opposite direction at Gopalpur square in the morning.

Police recovered the body and sent it to hospital morgue.

### Three killed in road mishap

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, July 20: Three people were killed and ten others injured in a road accident at Bagal on Faridpur-Jessore highway in the morning recently.

A young woman was found dead at village Menda on January 15. The victim was identified as Fatema, 22. Police recovered the body and arrested her husband Badsha. Besides, one Moksed Ali, 35, was beaten to death at village Shengur on January 16.

A burglary was committed at Pali Eidgah Complaint Centre on March 5 night. Miscreants broke into the complaint centre and stole a motor cycle.

Cow lifting is increasing day by day in Char Nandina, Char Chunia, Potol, Char Adra, Char Jamira, Char Rouha, Char Sataria and Boira areas. At least 300 cows were lifted in the areas recently.

A section of unscrupulous traders are running illegal business of phenisidyl syrup and ganja in Jagannathganj Ghat and Pighna areas.

The seriously injured Jibin Ghose, 35, Shuchitra Rani Biswas 30, Shubhash Chandra Shatra Dhar, 35 and Abdul Khalique, 50, were admitted to Madhukali Health Complex.

## Law & order worsens in Sarisabari thana

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, July 20: Law and order situation in Sarisabari thana of the district has deteriorated with the incidents of terrorist activities increasing alarmingly.

Free movement of armed terrorists, clash between rivals, murder, rape, kidnap, mugging and toll collection have become the common feature in the thana.

At least 12 killings and about 20 clashes between rival groups occurred during the last six months in the Sarisabari thana.

At least 30 people were injured in a recent clash at Jamuna Fertilizer Factory.

A gruesome murder was committed at Jamuna Fertilizer housing complex on June 5. Housewife Tania Rahman allegedly killed her domestic help Shamim, 10. Late police arrested the housewife and her husband.

One Mahabur Rahman was robbed of taka three lakh at gun point at Jagannathganj Ghat area on June 3. In another incident, one Monjurul Alam was robbed of Tk 55,000 on May 30 in Bhataria area.

A clash occurred at Sarisabari on May 5 over the governing body election of a local organisation. In the clash one Moinzat Ali, 28, was killed and over one hundred were injured, including TNO (Thana

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Usually banana starts in the Bengali month of Falgun and continues up to the month of Ashwin. However, many varieties of banana are available in the markets throughout the year.

Local people have urged the authorities concerned to take steps to set up fruit processing plants in the northern districts, the main source of various kinds of fruits in the country.

Asir Uddin's death anniversary tomorrow

By staff Correspondent

Death anniversary of Asir Uddin Ahmed, noted education and former headmaster of Nilphamari Model High School (now government boys' high school) will be observed tomorrow (Thursday).

Marking the occasion, a *milad mafihil* will be held at the Sabujpara house of the late educationist in Nilphamari town. Former students, friends and relatives of the celebrated teacher, have been requested to attend the *milad mafihil* and pray for the peace and salvation of the departed soul.

Asir Uddin was the first Bangalee Muslim headmaster of the century-old school, formerly named as Nilphamari High English School.

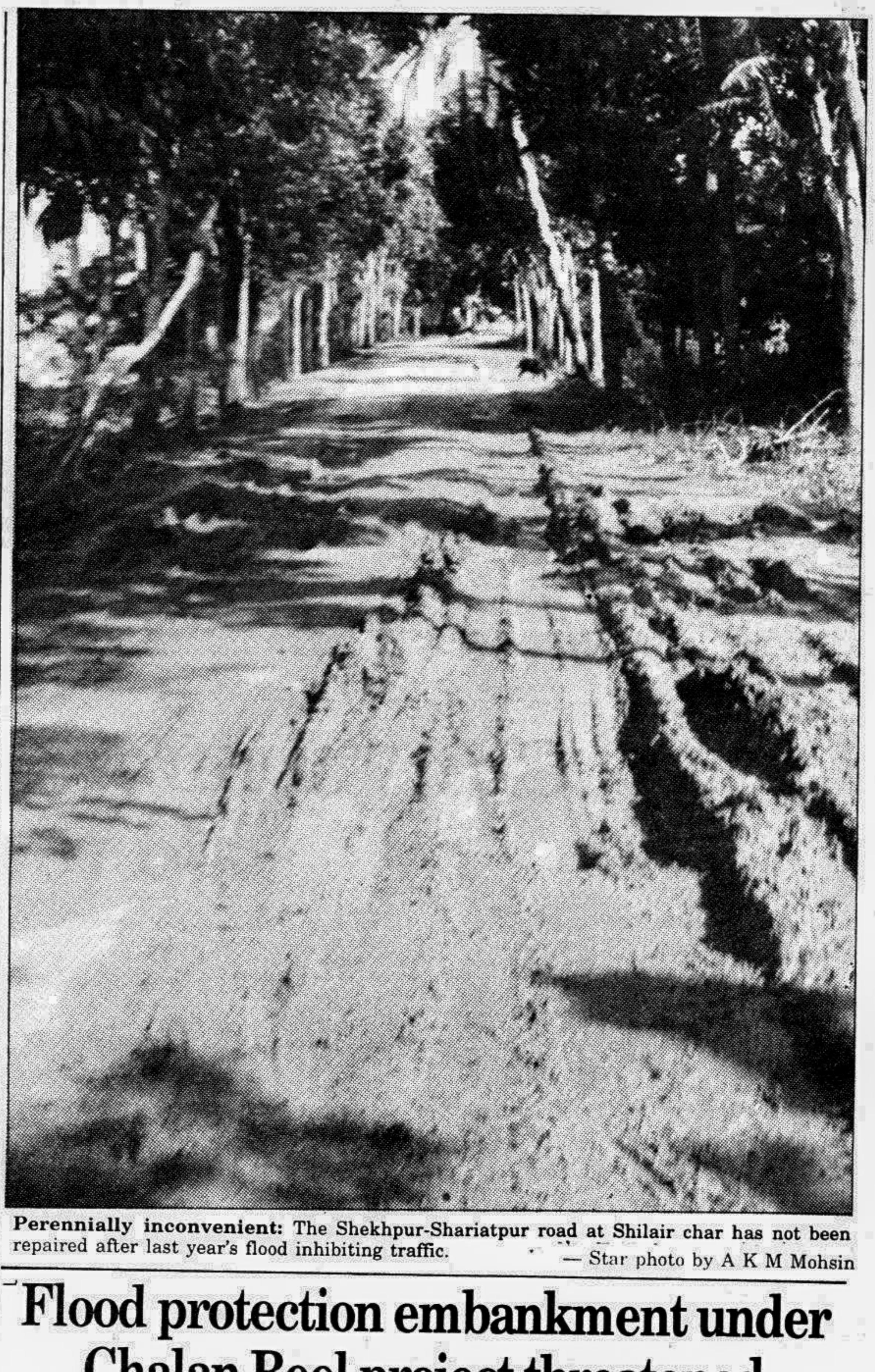
During his tenure of service, he extended a grand opportunity for free study to many poor but meritorious students. The school flourished as an ideal institution in various spheres including sports and culture during his period.

His second child Shaheed Captain Bashar was martyred in the Liberation War.

Youngman strangulated

NARSINGDI, July 20: A youngman was strangulated to death by miscreants at village Kararchar in Shabupur thana on Monday, reports UNB.

The victim was identified as Eskandar Ali, 38.



Perennially inconvenient: The Shekhupur-Shariatpur road at Shilair char has not been repaired after last year's flood inhibiting traffic.

— Star photo by A K M Mohsin

## Flood protection embankment under Chalan Beel project threatened

ATRAI and Manda of Naogaon districts.

Bangladesh take food below 1800 kilo calories a day.

WFP Country Representative Dr Werner Kiene disclosed this at a day-long workshop in Rajshahi on Monday.

The workshop title, "Policy and Technique of Food Aid in Bangladesh for the year 2001-2004" was jointly organised by