

## News snaps

### HYV paddy growers frustrated

GOPALGANJ, Oct 13: When farmers of local variety of paddy are in an upbeat mood expecting a bumper crop, growers of HYV paddy are getting frustrated with the discouraging signs of a poor harvest, reports UNB.

The HYV paddy growers were supposed to lap up a good harvest, but this year they are surely going to suffer a serious setback, said an agriculture official wishing anonymity. The farmers attributed the poor harvest to low quality seed and short supply of fertiliser and inadequate facility. They said that they collected Alok hybrid seed from local agents and BRAC offices at Tk 200-220 per kg in the hope of reaping a good harvest. "But the agents and the BRAC officials betrayed our trust," in Kashiani thana, some 630 hectares of land were brought under Alok variety. But the farmers are likely to suffer a loss of Tk 4,000 per acre.

### Industrial city in Rangamati soon

RANGAMATI, Oct 13: Work for establishing a BSCIC Industrial City in the district will begin within the current fiscal year, official sources said, reports UNB.

The industrial city will be set up on 12.5 acres at Sapchhari union in Sader thana. In this regard, the Rangamati Hill District Council has approved acquisition of land. District Council Chairman Ching Que Roaza Tuesday visited the proposed industrial site. On completion of the project, the people of the hill district will enjoy the fruits of setting up small-and-medium-sized industrial units.

### Loan for jobless women

BRAHMANBARIA, Oct 13: Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) recently disbursed Taka 56 lakh among 1,150 unemployed women in four upazilas here under the poverty alleviation programme of the government, reports BSS.

A BRDB source said, the loan will be utilised in poultry and dairy farming, cattle fattening, vegetable cultivation and small business. The BRDB loan programme has been playing significant role in the alleviation of rural poverty.

### Schoolgirl raped, killed

JESSORE, Oct 13: A schoolgirl was raped and killed by unidentified miscreants at Durbakpur in Jhikargachha thana on Monday, reports UNB.

The victim was identified as Farzana Yasmin, 13, class VIII student of Dhaniali High School. Police said the miscreants picked up the girl while she was going to the school at about 10 am on the day and killed her after rape at Andulia village. Police later on recovered the body from the village and sent it to hospital morgue for autopsy.

### Teachers' rally

NAOGAON, Oct 13: A rally of Non-government Teachers' Association of Dhamairhat upazila branch was held last week at Dhamairhat last week, reports BSS.

The rally was presided over by Ismail Hossain, president of Dhamairhat Upazila Teachers' Association. The meeting was addressed, among others, by general secretary of the association Abdul Gafur, headmaster Abul Hossain and headmaster Zahurul Islam. The meeting urged the authorities concerned to take necessary measures to meet the 5-point and 15-point charter of demands of the association. Another meeting of the teachers was held at Dhamairhat Mahfuddin Degree College. Principal Mostafizur Rahman presided over the meeting.

### Night guard killed

JHALAKATI, Oct 13: A night guard of the district's main post office, who was beat up by miscreants last week, died at Barisal Medical College Hospital on Saturday, reports UNB.

Police said the miscreants broke into the post office at the dead of night on October 7 and ruthlessly beat up guard Nure Alam, 40. The ruffians ran away when nearby people rushed to the post office on hearing the screaming of Nure Alam. The victim, hailing from Naguli village in Nalchiti thana, was admitted to the Barisal Medical College Hospital, where he died on Saturday. Meanwhile, police arrested a youth, Anwar Hossain, in this connection.

### Serious sound pollution

MAGURA, Oct 13: Unauthorised welding factories have sprung up in the town in an unusual manner, causing serious sound pollution, reports UNB.

The mushroom growth of such factories is mainly seen alongside busy streets and even in residential areas. A local physician said emission of poisonous smoke and radiation of ultra violet ray from welding machines are harmful to eyes. School-going children and pedestrians are the worst sufferers, he said adding that the number of patients with eyesight complaints has increased in recent times. He said the authorities concerned should take immediate steps to evict unauthorised welding factories in the greater interest of public health.

### Timbers seized

HABIGANJ, Oct 13: Huge smuggled timbers worth about Tk 10 lakh were seized from various saw mills and furniture shops in the sadar thana on Saturday, reports UNB.

Officials said members of an anti-smuggling taskforce conducted the drive in the thana and recovered the timbers from five saw mills and seven furniture shops. The haul was deposited with Chunarughat forest office.

### Two killed in road mishap

NAOGAON, Oct 13: Two people were killed and seven others injured in a road accident on Abadpur-Raninagar road in Raninagar thana on Sunday, reports UNB.

One of the dead was identified as Majir, 40, of Sinagpara village in Raninagar thana. Of the injured, three were admitted to sadar hospital in a critical condition.

### Man chopped to death

JHENIDAH, Oct 13: A man was chopped to death at Belat Doulatpur village in Kaliganj thana on Sunday night, reports UNB.

Police said a group of miscreants stormed into the room of Rabiul Islam, 45, and killed him in his sleep. The victim, hailing from L chali village in sadar thana of Jessore, had been living in Kaliganj thana for the last 12 years after his second marriage.

### Body recovered

NARSINGDI, Oct 13: Police recovered the body of an old man from Baniachal area in the town on Tuesday, reports UNB.

The body was later identified as Abdul Aziz Khan, 65, a tailor. Who had been working for long in a tailoring shop in the area. The cause behind the killing of the tailor could not be known immediately. The body was sent to Narsingdi Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

### Bridge nearing completion

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Oct 13: Roads and Highways Department sanctioned an amount of about Taka 13 crore for the construction of Mokrapur Bridge on the River Mahananda during the last fiscal year.

The length of the bridge is 1200 feet. The construction of the bridge was started last year and the work is going on smoothly. About 80 per cent construction of work of the bridge has already been completed. Rest work is expected to be completed by the next June.

After completion of the bridge, rural road communication would be improved.

### 97 puja mandops in Jhalakati

JHALAKATI, Oct 13: Durga Puja, the greatest Hindu festival, will be celebrated October 16-20 with much enthusiasm and religious fervour here as elsewhere in the country, reports UNB.

There will be 97 puja mandops in four thanas here this year — 43 in Sader, 13 in Nalchiti, 15 in Rajapur and 26 in Kakhalia. Adequate police forces will be deployed at each puja mandop to ensure peaceful observance of the festive occasion.

### Loan for Boro farming

JHENIDAH, Oct 13: Sonali Bank has taken a programme to disburse over Taka 14 crore as loan for Boro cultivation in 16 south-western districts of the country in this season, reports BSS.

Official sources said, Taka 1.75 crore will be disbursed in Jessore district, Taka 1.25 crore in Jhenidah, Taka 65 lakh in Magura, Taka 95 lakh each in Narail, Kushtia and Chuadanga, Taka 50 lakh in Khulna, Taka 40 lakh in Bagerhat, Taka 1 crore in Satkhira, Taka 85 lakh in Meherpur, Taka 1.85 crore in Barisal, Taka 60 lakh in Jhalakathi, Taka 25 lakh in Bhola, Taka 70 lakh in Pirojpur, Taka 1.25 crore in Patuakhali and Taka 58 lakh in Barguna district. The loan will be given for preparation of land and purchase of seeds, fertilisers, pesticides and other agricultural inputs for boosting Boro production.

## HYV Binasail paddy farming gains popularity

From Aminul Islam

MYMENSINGH, Oct 13: The cultivation of Binasail paddy is gaining popularity among the farmers here day by day.

The farmers are showing their interests in cultivating Binasail due to its high yield. It produces 15 to 20 per cent higher yield than Nazirail, official sources said. It can be grown in Aman season and it is also good as post flood crop.

But the production target is not hampered though it is cultivated as a late variety.

Binasail, developed by Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture (BINA) irradiating the variety of Nazirail with 300 Gy of Gamma rays. It was released as a commercial variety in 1987.

The other characteristics of this variety are, it matures two

to four weeks earlier than the parent variety, Nazirail, it requires lower inputs than other High Yielding Varieties (HYVs), it is sustainable for late transplanting (up to the first week of October) which is very much helpful in the rehabilitation programme for the flood prone areas.

This paddy is relatively less sensitive to photoperiod. It is tall and it produces more straw.

The yield of this paddy is 4 to 4.5 tons per hectare in normal transplantation time and three to four tons per hectare during late transplanting time. Moreover, the grains contain more protein.

After releasing Binasail as a commercial variety in 1987, the farmers are able to cultivate

this variety as the seeds are available in the local markets. As it can be cultivated as early and late variety, the farmers can choose this variety without any hesitation.

Md Abdul Khaleque, a farmer of village Suhila in sadar thana, has cultivated Binasail this year. He has obtained a good production. He told The Daily Star that to meet up the crisis time this variety is very helpful. He also added that he would cultivate Binasail on more lands in the next year.

The scientists of BINA are very hopeful about the cultivation of Binasail in large scale to meet up the food crisis and build up our national economy through much agricultural production.



A happy farmer of village Suhila in the Sadar thana of Mymensingh district smiling observing a bumper production of Binasail paddy in his field. — Star photo

## Chandpur-Shariatpur ferry service to be started soon

From Shirin Akhter

CAHNDPUR, Oct 13: Chandpur-Shariatpur ferry service along the River Meghna, a long felt demand of the people of both Chandpur and Shariatpur is expected to be started very soon.

According to official sources Tk 22 crore have already been allotted for the purpose. Alubazar in Haimchar thana about 8 kilometres south of Chandpur town has been selected as the suitable site of ferry ghat in Chandpur side.

Bhidergonj of Shariatpur district has been selected as the suitable ferry ghat in Shariatpur side.

The width of the River Meghna between Alubazar and Bhidergonj will be about 10 kilometres long from the East to the West. The construction work of the 8 kilometres long connecting roads between two ferry ghats have already been started.

If the scheme is implemented, it will usher in a new era in the economic development of the southern districts

of the country. As a result the distance will be reduced by 150 kilometres from Khulna to Chittagong. At present vehicles from the eastern districts have to play a long way through Dhaka city to reach Khulna and other southern districts of the country. This creates traffic jam in Dhaka city.

The proposed ferry service will greatly help ease the traffic congestion in Dhaka. The ferry service will again reduce fuel consumption to a great extent. If the ferry service is implemented, it will greatly improve the economic development in the districts of Chandpur and Shariatpur.

Moreover, communication between the southern districts and the eastern districts will be more ease. Besides, new industries and more mills factories will be established in the area and new job opportunities will be increased for thousands of people.

According to the Roads and Highways Department, Chandpur office, the existing

roads in between Chandpur and Shariatpur ferry ghats will be widened to facilitate easy communication.

According to Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC), the ferries of Aricha ghat will be placed in these ferry ghats. Because some ferries at Aricha ghat have become useless after the opening of Bangabandhu Bridge.

It is further learnt that necessary steps have already been taken to acquire five acres of land for each of the ferry ghat at Alubazar and Bhidergonj.

People are eagerly waiting to see the implementation of the long cherished dream of direct ferry service between Chandpur and Shariatpur.

Alhaj Md Yunus Mia, President, Chandpur Chamber of Commerce and Industries welcomed the move to introduce the new ferry service. He said that the economic activities of these areas will further be developed if the scheme is implemented.



Jatiyo Sangsad Speaker Alhaj Humayun Rashid Chowdhury handing over a television set to the winner of a boat race which was held on Thursday in the River Surma in Sylhet town. — Star photo

## Nat'l complex in every union soon: Alamgir

KURIGRAM, Oct 13: State Minister for Planning, Dr Mahiuddin Khan Alamgir has said the present government is committed to expanding all service oriented activities across the country along with socio-economic development of the common people, reports BSS.

"A national complex comprising different offices will be set up in every union to ensure service to the rural people," he said while inaugurating a newly built Jatrapur Union Parishad (UP) building.

Chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on the Ministry of Planning HN Ashiqur Rahman, MP, Awami League leader Fulu Sarkar and Deputy Commissioners of Rangpur and Kurigram districts, spoke on the occasion.

## Pottery industry sinking

RAJSHAHI, Oct 13: Just 10km north off Chatmohar thana near Chalanbeel there is a village which was once thrived with pottery business, reports UNB.

Those hey days are now sweet memories to the villagers. Potters of the impoverished remote village, Belgacchi Kumarpara, are now giving up the idea to stick to their ancestral profession as they see their future bleak.

Lack of raw materials and government patronisation, have brought the pottery industry close to extinction. Arun Pal, now at his 70s recalled once the number of families involved in pottery was over 3,500 in their area, now it stands at 100.

Most of the families, he said,

either have given up the profession or migrated to other places in search of livelihood.

Arun said price hike of raw materials like soil, firewood and straw is forcing the potters to search their livelihood in other professions.

"There was a time when we could procure clayey soil from different places without any cost, but now we have to buy it at Tk 1,000 per boat," Arun said in a sad voice.

One boat of sandy soil is now selling at Tk 700-800 while firewood at Tk 80-90 per maund and straw at Tk 70-80 per bundle.

The potters, known as Pal,

urged the government to take necessary steps to save the sinking pottery industry.



The River Brahmaputra devoured recently many houses near Kamajani River Port in Gaibandha district. — Star photo

## Community policing system to be introduced in Bandarban

BANDARBAN, Oct 13: Amidst deteriorating law and order in the municipal area here, it has been decided to introduce community-policing system to help the law-enforcing agencies, reports UNB.

### CHT minister meets local representatives

DIGHINALA (Khagrachhari), Oct 13: Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Affairs Minister Kalpa Ranjan Chakma urged the local leaders to come forward for boosting the pace of government's development initiatives and appealed to them to make the on-going programme successful, reports BSS.

He was exchanging views with the union parishad chairmen, members, headmen and local elite of Dighinala thana at a local auditorium here on Monday.

The minister participated in a similar occasion at Panchhari thana auditorium last Sunday.

The decision came after reviewing the law and order situation at a meeting at the conference room of the Deputy Commissioner on Tuesday with DC Mohsin Ali Sardar Bir Pratik in the chair.

Speakers at the meeting expressed concern over the sharp rise in theft, dacoity and other anti-social activities.

The DC stressed the need for people's participation to improve the law and order, saying it was not possible for the administration alone to combat the situation.

He said the community policing system is not an alternative to the existing police forces, rather, it will supplement the activities of police in maintaining law and order. Those who will be working under the community policing system will be paid their salaries and allowances from public subscription, the DC informed.

To implement the decision to start community policing in Bandarban municipal area, a committee headed by Additional District Magistrate

Moksed Ali was formed. Sadar Thana Nirbahi Officer Aparup Chowdhury will act as member-secretary.

The committee comprises leaders of different political parties, public representatives and government officials.

### Kanakshor UP by-election today

MUNSHIGANJ, Oct 13: The by-election to the post of Chairman of the Kanakshor Union Parishad under Louhajang thana will be held tomorrow (Thursday), reports BSS.

Necessary preparations have already been completed for the smooth and peaceful holding of polls, according to the district election office sources.

The seat of UP chairman fell vacant following the death of Alhaj Moslemuddin Dhali, who was elected chairman of Kanakshor Union Parishad in December, 1997.

### Misappropriation bid foiled

GAIBANDHA, Oct 13: Local people seized 500 KG of rice allocated for the flood victims when Darbasta Union Parishad chairman aided by a member was allegedly selling it in black market at Katakhalia Balia Bazaar in Gobundaganj thana on Monday night, reports UNB.

On information, police rushed to the bazaar and seized the rice, but the chairman and the member fled the scene. When contacted Darbasta UP Chairman Tajnur Rahman denied the allegation.

Following a written complaint, the Thana Nirbahi Officer (TNO) asked the Assistant Commissioner (Land) to probe the matter.

### 1,000 illegal notebooks seized: 4 held

GOPALGANJ, Oct 13: Four people were arrested along with over 1,000 illegal school notebooks from six libraries in the town on Monday, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided Nabaputhighar, Chhatra Bhandar, Bichinta, Ananda, Geyan Bikas and School Library and recovered over 1,000 notebooks of various subjects from class three to eight and Bengali notebooks of higher secondary level.

The arrested were identified as Sajal Shah, Basude Bakshi, Gobinda Majumder and Subal Sarker.

## Jamalur DIARY

### Vaccination programme

JAMALPUR, Oct 13: A two-day Hepatitis-B vaccination programme concluded at the Rotary Club Bhaban here recently.

Abul Basher, Deputy Commissioner, inaugurated the programme by taking first dose of the vaccine. Some 300 persons took first dose of the vaccine during the programme.

### Spurious liquor: Homeopath dies

A homeopath at village Pachim Far Digul under Sadar thana died after he took spurious liquor recently.

Local people said the homeopath, Hatem Ali, 52, used to make liquor and sell it. A case was lodged in this connection.

### Two commit suicide

Two people committed suicide in separate incidents recently.

Hafizur Rahman, 16, a student of class ten of Narikeli High School of village Johar Para under Kendua union in Sadar thana committed suicide by taking pesticides. Reason behind the suicide could not be known. In separate incident, Jabul, 40, of village Dehlibari of Tipalah union under Sadar thana committed suicide also by taking poison allegedly following a quarrel with his wife.

### Literacy Day observed

International Literacy Day was observed here in a befitting manner recently.

District administration and various organisations chalked out different programmes. The programmes included discussion meetings, rallies and essay writing competition.

### Man killed as rivals clash

A young man was killed and 25 others were injured, nine of them critically, in a clash between rival groups at village Jahugora of Malendah thana recently.

The dead was identified as Haider Ali, 25.

Villagers said supporters of Abdul Qudus and Roushan Ali locked in clash over land dispute. Both sides used firearms and sharp weapons. Of the injured, Golum Mostafa, 45, Mofazzal Hossain, 40, Roushan Ali, 42, Zakir, 25, Boduazzaman, Shahidul Islam, 40, Qudus, 35, and Idris Ali, 40, were rushed to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital.

### Arms recovered

Two pipe guns were recovered in separate drives recently.

Acting on a tip-off, police recovered a pipe gun along with one round of bullet from the house of Riazuddin at village Mirzapur under Sadar thana. In another incident, Malendah thana police recovered one country made pipe gun from the house of one Suja.



What is the future of the two children? No future at all. Recently the Child Rights Week was observed throughout the country. Seminars, symposiums, discussions, painting shows, cultural functions were arranged by different government and non-governmental organisations. But the fate of scores of children like them remains bleak. This photo was taken recently from Islampur Railway Station in Jamalpur district. — Star photo

### 123 police men punished in 6 months

From Abdul Matin Fakir FARIDPUR, Oct 13: A total of 123 police personnel of different status were awarded punishment for their involvement in different offences during January to June this year.

Three Sub Inspectors (SIs), two Assistant Sub-Inspectors (ASIs), one sergeant and 15 constables were given severe punishment and 17 SIs, 10 ASIs, one havildar, two naiks and 72 constables were given soft punishment.

After departmental investigation the district police authority found them guilty of offences of different kinds and awarded them punishment according to the gravity of offences.

The offences include negligence of duties, opening fire on political processions without order of the magistrate, road dacoities during patrol hours, inactive attitude to arrest the dacoits and getting involved personally in criminal cases.

### They desert homes to avoid arrest

FENI, Oct 13: Hundreds of people of five villages in Sonagazi thana deserted their homes to avoid police arrest after an accused person was snatched away from the hands of the law enforcers recently, reports UNB.

Police said a group of people snatched away Jamaluddin alias Taku from them while he was being brought to police station by a pickup van after arresting him from Kuthirhat on September 30.

The mob stopped the vehicle in front of Char Moslishpur UP office, forced them to give the key of the handcuff and took away Taku Jamal, they added. Following the incident police filed a case accusing some 150 people of neighbouring villages in the area.

Jamaluddin is the organising secretary of Bagdana Union Awami League and an accused of a number of dacoity, looting and extortion cases.