

## News snaps



**A precious coin ?** The coin is claimed to have been recovered during an excavation of an old pond belonging to the zamindar of Teota village under Shibaloy thana of Manikganj. The collector of the coin is M R Mahfuz Chowdhury of Parnanduali village of Magura Sadar Thana. The picture shows both sides. —Star photo.

### Rains wash away soil of road

RANGAMATI, Oct 24: Five days of incessant rain has washed away soil in different places of Rangamati-Khagrachari road threatening traffic movement, reports UNB.

Locals said Mahalchhari area of the road has become vulnerable to landslides, which is a common phenomenon in the hill districts. Carpeting on the road, particularly in Kutubchhari, Bogachhari and Betchhari areas, had been washed away by rainwater in last few days. Soils on the returning wall of the road at Badanala in Mahalchhari area have been displaced due to low quality work, locals alleged. Transport workers apprehended that road communication between the hill district and the port city of Chittagong might be snapped if the authorities fail to repair the road immediately.

### Anti-smuggling steps tightened

CHUADANGA, Oct 24: Anti-smuggling measures have been tightened along the border following secret reports of a plan for smuggling into Bangladesh explosives and drugs, reports UNB.

Besides regular patrol by BDR, plain clothed intelligence officials are roaming in border villages of Rajapur, Sultapur, Phulbari, Charulia amidst tension among the people. Bomb panic also gripped Darshana following secret information which leaked that bombs from across the border have been planted at certain places.

### IRRI-Boro procurement drive fails

RANGPUR, Oct 24: The IRRI-Boro procurement drive here fell short of target this season due to low government price, reports UNB.

Officials said some 4,290 mts of paddy and 23,811 mts of rice were procured through nine purchasing centres here till Sept 30 as against the target of 5,000 mts of paddy and 24,000 mts of rice respectively. Officials said they procured rice at Tk 13 per kg while paddy at Tk 8.25, lower than the market price. The wheat procurement drive here also failed to achieve the target this season. Officials said some 14,614 mts of wheat were procured through nine procurement centres till July 30 against the target of 16,350 mts.

### Chinese yarn seized

BENAPOLE (Jessore), Oct 24: The 32 battalion of the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) in a raid recently seized Chinese yarn worth Taka 3.75 lakh from Laajani under Jhikargachha upazila, reports BSS.

A BDR source said, the BDR seized the yarn from a Benapole bound private car on Jessore-Benapole road. The yarn was to be smuggled to India through Puthkholi border. One person named Mosifur Rahman of village Tengra under Sharsha Upazila was arrested in this connection.

### Ashmina UZ AL council meet

PATUAKHALI, Oct 24: A council meeting of Ashmina Upazila Awami Juba League was held recently at Dashmina Government Primary School premises, reports BSS.

State Minister for Textile AKM Jahangir Hossain attended the conference as the chief guest. The conference was inaugurated by convenor of Patuakhali District Awami League Milan Miah. Advocate Sikdar Golam Mostafa, convenor of Dashmina Upazila Awami Juba League presided over the conference. A 36-member new committee of Dashmina Upazila Juba League was formed in the conference.

### Uplift schemes progressing

RAJSHAHI, Oct 24: A total of 671 small development schemes have been taken up under the rural infrastructure development programme of the government in the four upazilas here in the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

According to an official source, 186 schemes are being executed in Goalundo, Pangsa, Balakandi and Rajbari Sadar upazila under the Food for Work Programme (FFWP) at an allocation of 2,790 tons of wheat. A total of 488 small schemes have been taken up under the Test Relief programme in four upazilas. 1,128 tons of wheat was sanctioned for implementation of the schemes. Besides, seven schemes are being executed at an allocation of seven tons of wheat in Pangsa Pourasabha and six schemes in Rajbari Pourasabha at an allocation of 13 tons of wheat.

### Loan for cooperators

KISHOREGANJ, Oct 24: Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB), Kishoreganj, disbursed a total of Taka 75,70,000 as loan among 1,514 members of different co-operatives in August 99, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the loan was disbursed under BRDB's programme to alleviate poverty of the rural landless people. BRDB, Kishoreganj also recovered Taka 80,05,000 arrear during the period. The percentage of recovery is 98.

### Workshop on modern farming

CHANDPUR, Oct 24: A two-day workshop organised by Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for the farmers was held on October 11 in the auditorium of Matlab ICDDR, reports BSS.

The workshop was inaugurated by the Chairman of BWDB, AKM Shamsul Huq. The workshop was presided over by Khondkar Helaluddin Alam, Executive Engineer, BWDB, Chief Engineer of BWDB Abu Taher Chowdhury. Additional Deputy Commissioner, Chandpur Sardar Abdul Bashir, Thana Nirbahi Officer Matlab Shahidullah Khondkar and Abdul Kuddus, a farmer, among others, spoke on the occasion. The farmers of Tk 100-crore Matlab-Dhongona Irrigation Project area had been imparted training on modern method of cultivation in the workshop.

### 73,957 bales of jute produced

NETRAKONA, Oct 24: Over 73,957 bales of jute was produced in 10 upazilas this year, according to the agriculture department sources, reports BSS.

Of the total jute produced in the district, 71,033 bales jute was of olitorious variety and 2,924 bales of jute was of capsularious variety. A total of 10,330 hectares were brought under jute cultivation in 10 upazilas this year. 10,000 hectares were brought under olitorious variety while 330 hectares under capsularious variety.

### Loan for poor villagers

NETRAKONA, Oct 24: Social Welfare Department under its poverty alleviation programme has disbursed interest free loan totaling Tk 2.7 lakh among the poor villagers in Sadar thana, reports UNB.

Unemployed people from five villages of the thana have taken the loan to undertake small but income generating programmes like cattle rearing and dairy farming. The villages are Chandracona, Bashati, Kangsha, Faridpur and Polashhati.

### Housewife commits suicide

BARGUNA, Oct 24: A young housewife allegedly committed suicide by taking pesticide in Betagi thana on Monday, reports UNB.

Police said Ranu, 25, wife of Malek Molik of village South Karuna, took poison following a feud with her husband. She was rushed to Banama Health Complex where the attending doctors pronounced her dead.

### Slum development programme

RANGAMATI, Oct 24: Development works of 20 slums under Slum Development programme, involving Tk 93 lakh, are likely to begin by the current fiscal, reports UNB.

The project works, including development of sanitation and drainage systems and setting up of primary schools, are expected to be completed by 2001. Officials said several thousand people would be benefited upon completion of the scheme.

## National

# Poor price of jute frustrates Mymensingh farmers

From Our Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, Oct 24: Jute growers are not getting fair prices of their products throughout the district.

Mymensingh region was once famous for growing a huge quantity of jute. But now the scene is totally different. This is because of poor price of jute than the production cost.

This situation is prevailing for the last couple of years. Farmers lost their interest in cultivating this crop which was once the main cash crop of the country.

Now jute is being sold between Taka 250 to 320 per maund which is not reasonable, said some farmers at Shambhuganj Bazaar in the Sadar thana. They also informed that due to price hike of fertilizers and other agricultural materials the production cost of different crops including jute have increased in the recent years in comparison to the market prices.

Abul Hossain, a farmer of village Rashidpur told this correspondent that due to continuous low price of jute in the last few years, jute cultivation has gone down sharply in the district.

The present market price is not honourable to continue jute cultivation. Due to long draught this year, the production has also affected in many areas here, said Abed Ali, another farmer.

Some farmers of village Char Horipur told The Daily Star that following closing down of Shambhuganj Jute Mills, the local demand of jute has decreased here. They also said that due to lack of sufficient jute purchasing centres, the middlemen are taking full advantage by depriving the farmers of fair prices.

Farmers are now continuing jute cultivation to meet up their household demands including fuel and fencing material in many cases, it is also observed.

the jute cultivation target had not been achieved in the last few years.

According to Agriculture Extension Department (AED) sources, 28,600 hectares of land were brought under jute cultivation in 1997, but 16,057 hectares were cultivated. In 1998, a total of 30,716 hectares were brought under this cultivation, but 13,720 hectares were brought under cultivation.

Out of total 30,716 hectares of targeted land, 10,000 hectares were brought under jute cultivation in 1999.

If such trend continues, following the poor price, people will forget jute cultivation which has already lost its past glory as golden fibre of Bangladesh, said an official.

Farmers are now continuing jute cultivation to meet up their household demands including fuel and fencing material in many cases, it is also observed.

## Outbreak of Hepatitis-B virus disease in Cox's Bazar

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, Oct 24: A large number of people are suffering from Hepatitis-B virus disease here and the number of victims are constantly on the increase, according to the local health department.

When contacted some physicians here told this correspondent that the number of victims of Hepatitis-B virus have increased now compared to those in the previous years in this region.

If steps to stop further spread of the disease is not taken immediately things may go out of control, they said.

They also said the pain from the liver becomes extreme. There are five types of viruses which are responsible for this disease. These are ABCD and E types of virus. Of these, B is the most serious. If at any moment a B virus infects the body, they immediately attack the liver crippling the entire system of body's metabolism.

If the virus is detected in the preliminary stage, treatment

materials of the patient, such as cloth, glass, shirt. If any mother is attacked with B virus and feeds her baby breast milk, the baby too may be attacked with the same virus.

On the other hand, viral fever has also been spreading.

A large number of viral fever patients have been pouring in the hospitals and health complexes of different thanas every day for treatment.

Some viral fever patients informed that they have been experiencing high temperature, spasmodic pain, severe headache, cough and pain all over their bodies.

Some on-duty doctors of the hospital said the viral fever patients suffer for one week to three weeks in severe cases. No effective medicine has been found for this type of viral fever.

Only anti-biotics, antipyretics and anti-allergic drugs are generally prescribed for the treatment of the viral fever patients.

The virus normally spreads from the body of another victim. It may spread from useable

control, they said.

They also said the pain from the liver becomes extreme. There are five types of viruses which are responsible for this disease. These are ABCD and E types of virus. Of these, B is the most serious. If at any moment a B virus infects the body, they immediately attack the liver crippling the entire system of body's metabolism.

If the virus is detected in the preliminary stage, treatment

materials of the patient, such as cloth, glass, shirt. If any mother is attacked with B virus and feeds her baby breast milk, the baby too may be attacked with the same virus.

On the other hand, viral fever has also been spreading.

A large number of viral fever patients have been pouring in the hospitals and health complexes of different thanas every day for treatment.

Some viral fever patients informed that they have been experiencing high temperature, spasmodic pain, severe headache, cough and pain all over their bodies.

Some on-duty doctors of the hospital said the viral fever patients suffer for one week to three weeks in severe cases. No effective medicine has been found for this type of viral fever.

Only anti-biotics, antipyretics and anti-allergic drugs are generally prescribed for the treatment of the viral fever patients.

The virus normally spreads from the body of another victim.

It may spread from useable

control, they said.

They also said the pain from the liver becomes extreme. There are five types of viruses which are responsible for this disease. These are ABCD and E types of virus. Of these, B is the most serious. If at any moment a B virus infects the body, they immediately attack the liver crippling the entire system of body's metabolism.

If the virus is detected in the preliminary stage, treatment

materials of the patient, such as cloth, glass, shirt. If any mother is attacked with B virus and feeds her baby breast milk, the baby too may be attacked with the same virus.

On the other hand, viral fever has also been spreading.

A large number of viral fever patients have been pouring in the hospitals and health complexes of different thanas every day for treatment.

Some viral fever patients informed that they have been experiencing high temperature, spasmodic pain, severe headache, cough and pain all over their bodies.

Some on-duty doctors of the hospital said the viral fever patients suffer for one week to three weeks in severe cases. No effective medicine has been found for this type of viral fever.

Only anti-biotics, antipyretics and anti-allergic drugs are generally prescribed for the treatment of the viral fever patients.

The virus normally spreads from the body of another victim.

It may spread from useable

control, they said.

They also said the pain from the liver becomes extreme. There are five types of viruses which are responsible for this disease. These are ABCD and E types of virus. Of these, B is the most serious. If at any moment a B virus infects the body, they immediately attack the liver crippling the entire system of body's metabolism.

If the virus is detected in the preliminary stage, treatment

materials of the patient, such as cloth, glass, shirt. If any mother is attacked with B virus and feeds her baby breast milk, the baby too may be attacked with the same virus.

On the other hand, viral fever has also been spreading.

A large number of viral fever patients have been pouring in the hospitals and health complexes of different thanas every day for treatment.

Some viral fever patients informed that they have been experiencing high temperature, spasmodic pain, severe headache, cough and pain all over their bodies.

Some on-duty doctors of the hospital said the viral fever patients suffer for one week to three weeks in severe cases. No effective medicine has been found for this type of viral fever.

Only anti-biotics, antipyretics and anti-allergic drugs are generally prescribed for the treatment of the viral fever patients.

The virus normally spreads from the body of another victim.

It may spread from useable

control, they said.

They also said the pain from the liver becomes extreme. There are five types of viruses which are responsible for this disease. These are ABCD and E types of virus. Of these, B is the most serious. If at any moment a B virus infects the body, they immediately attack the liver crippling the entire system of body's metabolism.

If the virus is detected in the preliminary stage, treatment

materials of the patient, such as cloth, glass, shirt. If any mother is attacked with B virus and feeds her baby breast milk, the baby too may be attacked with the same virus.

On the other hand, viral fever has also been spreading.

A large number of viral fever patients have been pouring in the hospitals and health complexes of different thanas every day for treatment.

Some viral fever patients informed that they have been experiencing high temperature, spasmodic pain, severe headache, cough and pain all over their bodies.

Some on-duty doctors of the hospital said the viral fever patients suffer for one week to three weeks in severe cases. No effective medicine has been found for this type of viral fever.

Only anti-biotics, antipyretics and anti-allergic drugs are generally prescribed for the treatment of the viral fever patients.

The virus normally spreads from the body of another victim.

It may spread from useable

control, they said.

They also said the pain from the liver becomes extreme. There are five types of viruses which are responsible for this disease. These are ABCD and E types of virus. Of these, B is the most serious. If at any moment a B virus infects the body, they immediately attack the liver crippling the entire system of body