

National

News snaps

Kali Puja celebrated

BARISAL, Nov 16: Kali Puja, one of the religious festivals of the Hindu community, was celebrated here on November 7 in a befitting manner, reports BSS.

About 50 Puja Mandaps were erected here this year. The main Puja "Mandaps" were at Bazar Road Kalibari, Pasanmaee Kalibari, Matathakurani Kalibari, Mukunda Daser Kalibari, Taitala Kalibari, Ramkrishna Mission, Katpatty Kalibari, Bhatkhana Kalibari and Natun Bazar Kalibari. The Hindu community also celebrated the Dwipannita Utsab through lighting candles in the evening on this day.

Golden Crop IPM Club set up

JHALAKATI, Nov 16: A different kind of club, "Sonali Fasal (golden crop) IPM Club" was set up here Thursday in an effort to raise the awareness level of farmers about integrated pest management (IPM), reports UNB.

The 50-member farmers' club was established at Boukhatty in sadar thana at the initiative of local Agricultural Extension Department (AED). "The club will carry out campaign on IPM throughout the year," said an AED official stressing the need for setting up of such clubs across the country. Meanwhile, a daylong farmers' rally was held at Nabogram village in Sadar thana on the day. Over 200 farmers took part in the rally where they were informed about modern cultivation methods and IPM.

Two young men arrested

SATKHIRA, Nov 16: Two young men were arrested from Barodahobazar in sadar thana on Saturday on charge of robbery, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip-off, police arrested Aminul and Nazrul from the bazaar and recovered two gold necklaces, two gold earrings and some heroine from their possessions. The arrested were believed to be drug addicts.

Uplift works progressing

BENAPOLE, Jessore, Nov 16: Various development works including modern truck terminal and bypass road for the use of Benapole land port are going on at a cost of Taka 11 crore, reports BSS.

The truck terminal is being built at Chhoto Achra and Baro Achra on 18.59 acres of land to remove traffic jam in this area. When the terminal will be opened, one thousand trucks will be accommodated. The terminal will have Customs office, port office, driver's canteen, rest house, toilet, telephone booth, and other facilities. A by-pass road is being built between port and terminal for unloading trucks carrying Indian goods. After completion of the by-pass road, Calcutta-Jessore road will be free from traffic jam. This project was taken up in 1996-97 fiscal year. The government has sanctioned Tk three crore for this project in 1998-99.

Discussion on Jibanananda

NETRAKONA, Nov 16: A discussion organised to celebrate the birth centenary of poet Jibanananda Das was held at Durban Goshthi office here recently under the auspices of Netrakona Sahitya Samaj, reports BSS.

Presided over by General Secretary of Netrakona Sahitya Samaj Prof Kamruzzaman Chowdhury, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Prof of Bangla Department of Netrakona Government University College Matindra Chandra Sarker and Vice President of Netrakona Government College Students Union Shamsur Rahman Liton. The speakers discussed various aspects of the literary composition of Jibanananda.

Cooperative Day observed

MANIKGANJ, Nov 16: The 28th National Cooperative Day was observed here in a befitting manner on November 6, reports BSS.

It was presided over by Hassan Imam Azam, Chairman of Manikganj Cooperative union. Advocate Abdul Wahab Khan MP, attended as the chief guest while Sheikh Mozahar Uddin, Deputy Commissioner, and M Mahfuzur Rahman, Additional District Magistrate, as special guests. It was addressed, among others, by MA Wahed, Chairman of Manikganj Cooperative Society, Akhtaruzzaman Raja, Chairman Mulfjan Bagjan Milk Producers' Cooperative Society of Manikganj.

Man gets life term

RANGPUR, Nov 16: A tribunal here on Monday sentenced a man to life term in jail in a rape case, reports UNB.

The convict was identified as Montagir, 24, son of Mofazzal Hossain of village Shukurahat in Mithapukur thana. The case history in brief: Montagir raped a 14-year-old girl of his neighbouring house in her reading-room on April 11, 1997. After examining the witnesses and records, the judge found Montagir guilty of rape under section 6(1) of Child and Woman Repression Prevention Act 1995 and handed down the verdict.

Man gets 2-yr RI

KUSHTIA, Nov 16: A court here has sentenced a man in absentia to two years' rigorous imprisonment (RI) in a deception case, reports BSS.

The convict, Amirul Islam, of Bheramara has also been fined Tk 2,000, in default, to suffer two months' more RI. Court sources said Amirul borrowed Tk 3 lakh from businessman Monirul Islam of Mathurapur village in Daulatpur thana on Aug 7, 1995, promising him high interest. But Amirul went into hiding paying Monirul only Tk 40,000. A case was filed against Amirul in Dec 1995. After examining the witnesses and documents, magistrate Azam Ali Khan pronounced the verdict on Nov 2.

Edn instt's work completed

MAGURA, Nov 16: Construction and renovation works of 37 educational institutions have been completed at a cost of Tk 3.44 crore, reports BSS.

Officials said Facilities Department of Education Ministry implemented the projects under the annual development programme. The projects include construction of six primary school buildings, academic buildings of 11 high schools, three madrasa buildings and two multistoried college buildings.

Shingra College peon arrested

NATORE, Nov 16: Police arrested a peon of Shingra Gol-e-Afzoe Govt College Saturday on charge of drawing Tk 80,000 faking the signature of its principal, reports UNB.

College sources said the forgery came to the notice of Principal Shamsul Alam while he was verifying different accounts of the college at Shingra branch of Sonali Bank Wednesday. Police said peon Babul Akther confessed his crime to them.

Eye camp in Rangamati

RANGAMATI, Nov 16: A five-day eye camp begins at Rangamati General Hospital on Friday, reports BSS.

Rangamati Hill District Council Chairman Ching Que Roaza will open the camp to be organised by Bangladesh Blind Welfare Association in cooperation with the council.

Man succumbs to injuries

JHENIDAH, Nov 16: A day-labourer, who was critically injured in an attack by unidentified miscreants on Thursday, died at Sadar Hospital on Sunday, reports BSS.

Police said the hoodlums beat up Nazrul Islam, 30, with iron rods at his Hasan Hati village in Kaliganj thana due to past enmity. Son of Chand Ali, Nazrul was rushed to Jhenidah Sadar Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries on Sunday morning. A case was filed.

Prisoner escapes

CHANDPUR, Nov 16: An under trial prisoner escaped and another was caught by police while trying to run away from the hands of police on the judge court premises here Wednesday, reports BSS.

Police said Bachchu, an accused of a theft case, and Jahangir Alam, arrested on charge of possessing forged currency, slipped away from the clutches of police while they were being escorted to a prison van at about 6 pm. However, Bachchu managed to flee, but police with the help of local people captured Jahangir Alam. Another case was filed against them in this connection. Meanwhile, a departmental investigation has been launched against the four policemen who were responsible to bring the prisoners.

Voter ID cards distributed

PIROJPUR, Nov 16: Local election office with the help of administration has so far distributed 3.17 lakh voter ID cards out of 5.72 lakh in six thanas of the district, reports BSS.

Officials said the remaining 2.35 lakh would be distributed soon. They said 31,589 ID cards were distributed in Bhandara thana, 58,813 in Nesarabad, 21,311 in Kaukhali, 82,253 in Mothbaria, 64,450 in Nazirpur and 59,460 in sadar thanas.

Tk 123.16 cr Coastal Green Belt Project undertaken

FENI, Nov 16: Forest Department has undertaken a Coastal Green Belt Project involving over Tk 123.16 crore in a bid to protect coastal people from cyclone, tidal surge and alleviate their poverty, reports UNB.

Officials said Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Norwegian donor agency Norad will provide funds for implementing the project.

Under the project, programme will be taken to plant saplings alongside embankments, roads, highways, railways, vacant places of dwelling houses, educational institutions and government and non-

organisations in the coastal area.

To gear up this social afforestation programme, provisions have been made to involve local people in the project on the basis of profit-sharing process.

Under the project, the Forest Department will bring some 26,000 hectares of land of 10 coastal districts — Feni, Noakhali, Laxmipur, Patuakhali, Barguna, Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, Bhola, Pirojpur and Bagerhat — under afforestation in five years.

Coconut trees would be planted on 1,400-km cross

dams while palm, betelnut, date and other trees on 1300-km cross dams. Various fruit-bearing and wood-producing trees will also be planted on 4,720-km roads, highways, link-roads and railroads.

Besides, 150 nurseries will be set up on 500 hectares of land under the project area while coconut trees will be planted in the coastal belts on experimental basis.

Some 2.80 crore quality saplings will be distributed free among the coastal people to plant on vacant places alongside dwelling houses, educational institutions, cyclone

shelters, mosques and government and non-government organisations.

The department has already taken measures to ensure participation of the people and their due shares.

They said planters will receive 50 per cent share of the money to be saved after selling trees in addition to consuming fruits while the landowner will get 15 per cent, Forest Department 20 per cent and NGOs implementing the project 15 per cent.

Meanwhile, 10 NGOs have been selected for implementing the project.

Mukit's way of boosting food production

From Iqbal Siddique

SYLHET, Nov 16: The lands on which farmers usually grow single crop may produce crops thrice a year.

This has happened by dint of the tireless efforts of a agriculture scientist named M A Mukit. He is the owner of 'Bijganj Agri-Firm and Industries', a commercial firm situated in Jobeda Market of Zindabazar area in Sylhet town.

Mukit, who is also a freedom fighter, has acquired good knowledge on agriculture from Agricultural Extension Department, BADC (Seed), Crop Diversification Project, Agro-based Industries and Technology Development Project (ATDP) and Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). An educated and enthusiastic person, Mukit, 50, is always eager to acquire knowledge about agriculture whenever he gets any chance.

About 20 acres of land in Tukerbazar area on the outskirts of Sylhet town were used for cultivating only a crop a year. He initiated the use of lands for three crops. At first he cultivated Aus paddy named BR-3. Its harvesting has begun where the yield per acre will be about 60 maunds, Mukit hopes. The farming has been delayed for a few days due to drought. Now he prepares for cultivating winter vegetables. He is also planning to launch another project in Ausha area. It will be bigger with an estimated budget of Taka Seven lakh, he said. Earlier, he cultivated different summer vegetables and other crops.

Mukit does not own the lands, rather he took lease

from the owners for a period of three years. Confident Mukit informed that a number of people like the Deputy Director of Agriculture and other officials encouraged him in this regard.

An amount of Taka Three lakh has been spent for the programme which also provided job for 45 persons, said Mukit. He also added that job for more people would be created. He also hopes to launch another project in Ausha area. It will be bigger with an estimated budget of Taka Seven lakh, he said. Earlier, he cultivated different summer vegetables and other crops.

Mukit hails from village Silam in the Sadar thana.



— Star photo

Steps to make Rabi crops farming scheme a success in Natore

From Anwar Ali

NATORE, Nov 16: An extensive Rabi crops cultivation scheme has been taken up in six thanas this season.

According to local Agriculture Extension Department (AED) sources, 57,400 hectares of land will be brought under High Yielding Variety (HYV) Boro cultivation with a target to produce 1,65,000 tons of rice, 24,000 hectares of land to produce 54,000 tons of wheat, 12,000 hectares of land to produce 14,000 tons of potato, 15,000 hectares of land to produce 13,900 tons of mustard, 8,475 hectares of land to produce 13,420 tons of various species of pulse, 1,200 hectares of land

to produce 12,000 tons of onion, 2,000 hectares of land to produce 11,500 tons of garlic, 500 hectares of land to produce 1,000 tons of green chilli and 3,400 hectares of land will be brought under winter vegetable cultivation with the production target of 51,000 tons during the upcoming winter season.

Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) has stockpiled 30,000 tons of urea, 10,000 tons of TSP and 9,000 tons of DAP in the buffer stock.

Besides, almost 38 dealers have been asked to sell a 50-kg bag of urea at the maximum rate of Tk 285.

Moreover, trainings on modern cultivation and technology transfer are being conducted for farmers in batches.

As part of the co-ordinated programme, Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) has increased its reserve in three regional oil depots in Natore for ensuring supply of fuel to the growers considering the peak irrigation period.

Natore Horticulture Centre has also produced about five lakh saplings of quality vegetables including cabbage, cauliflower, tomato, brinjal, bean, and cucumber to distribute among the growers.

Moreover, trainings on modern cultivation and technology transfer are being conducted for farmers in batches.

On the occasion, a two-day function will begin at Bon Bihar on Thursday. Renowned religious leader Sadhananda Mahastabir Bon Bhante will conduct the function.

A fair is also underway on the Bihar premises marking the festival.

Showcause on OC, SI for violating court order

CHITTAGONG, Nov 16: A Metropolitan Court directed the officer-in-charge and a sub-inspector of Chandgaon thana to show cause why proceedings would not be drawn against them for violating the court's order and willingly delaying the judicial process, reports UNB.

They were asked to appear in person before the court on January 2, 2000.

The court on March 3 this year ordered the police officials to submit a detailed report on various crimes committed by accused Mohammad Shafi alias Hassan who was arrested with firearm on February 17, 1997, and thrown into jail *hajat*.

Despite reminders for four times, the officials failed to comply with the court order.

The court in its order also expressed dissatisfaction with the activities of the police station.

The copy of the court's order was also sent to IGP, DIG, Metropolitan Sessions Judge and CMP Commissioner.

Festivity at Rangamati Bon Bihar

RANGAMATI, Nov 16: Rangamati Bon Bihar wore a festive look as members of Buddhist community from different parts of the country began to assemble there ahead of Kathin Chibar Dan Utsab, reports UNB.

Kathin Chibar Dan Utsab is one of the largest religious festivals of the Buddhist community when cloths made within 24 hours in their traditional handlooms are distributed among monks as a symbol of purification.

On the occasion, a two-day function will begin at Bon Bihar on Thursday. Renowned religious leader Sadhananda Mahastabir Bon Bhante will conduct the function.

A fair is also underway on the Bihar premises marking the festival.

Two killed in Gaibandha road accidents

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Nov 16: Two persons were killed in separate road accidents on Rangpur-Bogra highway recently.

In the first incident, Majeda Begum, 7, of village Seerampur of Rangpur district, was run over by a passenger bus at Palashbari on the highway. The girl was crossing the road.

Following the incident, local people put up barricades on the road, halting vehicular movement for one and a half hour. Later police brought the situation under control.

In the second incident, a man was crushed under the wheels of a passenger coach at Katakhal on the highway. The victim, identified as Azol Huq, 55, of village Maria under Gobindanagar, died on the spot.

BINA distributes soil health cards among farmers

From Our Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, Nov 16: Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture (BINA) distributed Soil Health Nursing Cards among 80 farmers recently.

D S M Rahman, Director (Research) of BINA and head of Soil Health Nursing Project, distributed cards among the selected farmers of Phulpur thana of Mymensingh and Nakla thana of Sherpur districts at two separate functions.

Md Rejaul Islam, Agriculture Officer of Phulpur, and Md Tariful Alam Kahn, Agriculture Officer of Nakla thana presided over the functions.

The functions were addressed, among others, by Faizul Haque, Deputy Director of Agriculture Extension Directorate and Dr Moinul Ali, senior scientific officer of BINA.

1,25,000 children immunised