

News snaps



Attack on press: The local journalists in Rangpur brought out a procession in the town demanding immediate arrest and punishment to the attackers who assaulted recently the Rangpur correspondent of The Daily Star photo

Rotten rice unloaded from ship

BAGERHAT, Nov 17: Three foreign ships loaded with government imported Indian rice worth about Tk 30.00 crore have remained anchored at Mongla Port for six months as the rice, found to be rotten, was not unloaded, reports UNB.

A Korean ship loaded with 6,517 MTs rice from M/S Fortuna International of India reached the port on March 6 while another ship with 8,325 MTs of rice of M/S Priyali International of India came on April 28. The third ship, an Indian one, with 6,878 MTs of rice of NM/S Naf Cars International reached the port on May 4. Officials said the question of unloading the rotten rice did not arise. The government should penalise the suppliers for sending unwholesome rice.

Dacoity committed

SATKHIRA, Nov 17: A dacoity was committed at three houses of Bagali village under Assasuni thana on Friday, reports BSS.

Police said about 20 armed dacoits entered into the houses of Shaheb Ali, Nur Ali and Abu Bakkar and looted cash, gold ornaments and other valuable goods at gunpoint. Police officials of Assasuni thana visited the places. A case was registered in this connection.

Madaripur Press Club meet

MADARIPUR, Nov 17: The meeting of the executive committee (EC) of Madaripur Press Club was held here in the club's premises recently, reports BSS.

It was presided over by M Anisur Rahman, President of the club. The meeting discussed the overall development activities of the club.

Training for Ansar, VDP men

MADARIPUR, Nov 17: A seven-day training for Ansar and VDP personnel concluded here at the district Ansar and VDP office on Thursday, reports BSS.

According to official sources, a total of 178 Ansar and VDP personnel attended the training. The concluding function was presided over by M Aminul Islam, local district Ansar adjutant. Deputy Commissioner of Madaripur Farhad Rahman attended it as the chief guest.

13 posts of AC (Land) vacant

BARISAL, Nov 17: At least 13 posts of Assistant Commissioner (Land) of 13 upazilas of the division have been lying vacant for a long period, causing difficulties in settling cases in the upazilas, reports BSS.

According to an official source, of the total, four posts have been lying vacant in Bakerganj, Babuganj, Muladi and Banaripara of Barisal district, one post in Bauphal of Patuakhali district, four posts in Sadar, Daulakhan, Tazumuddin and Monpura of Bhola district, three posts in Barguna sadar, Patharghata and Bamna of Barguna district and one post in Kathalia of Jhalakathi district.

Body recovered

GAZIPUR, Nov 17: Police covered the decomposed body of Rubina Akhter, 25, from the River Sitalakha near village Bilasi under Kapasia thana on Saturday, reports BSS.

Police said, she was missing from October 30. The body was sent to Gazipur Sadar Hospital for autopsy. A case has been registered with Kapasia thana in this connection.

Robbery committed

JHENIDAH, Nov 17: Armed bandits swooped on a residence at Nigirat village in Shailakha thana on Wednesday and looted valuables worth over Tk one lakh, leaving a house inmate injured with bullets, reports UNB.

Police said a gang of about 25 robbers stormed into the residence of Probodh Kumar at about 10.30 pm tied up his family members at gunpoint and looted cash and valuables. As Probodh's elder son Shama Prasad Kumar tried to resist the gang, they opened fire at him. He was admitted to Jhenidah sadar hospital in a critical condition.

Three arrested

THAKURGAON, Nov 17: Three people were arrested on Monday on charge of collecting money from unemployed youths promising them jobs in their unauthorised NGO, reports UNB.

Police said they arrested Amirul Islam, Manik and Golam Sarwar for setting up an NGO, "The Security Services Pvt Ltd", without permission at Shantinagar in the town and collecting Taka over one lakh from some unemployed youths. They were sent to jail *hajat*.

Man commits suicide

JOYPURHAT, Nov 17: A man committed suicide in the district on Sunday, reports UNB.

Police said Anjad Hossain, 27, committed suicide by taking pesticide at Ganipur village in Akkelpur thana. In another incident, a boy, Lazu, hailing from Ulipur of Kurigram district, died of unknown disease at Kalai Hospital here. Besides, two young women — Akia Sultana, 21, and Sumon, 18, — took pesticide in an apparent attempt to commit suicide at Mohammadpur village in the thana on the day.

Cop receives stab injuries

KURIGRAM, Nov 17: A police sub-inspector was injured in an attack with a sharp weapon when he went to round up an accused in Chandipur Venditari village under Nageshwari thana recently, reports UNB.

The accused, Joyal Abedin, hit Paresh Chandra Sarker with kitchen knife when the sub-inspector along with five constables tried to arrest him and his son Abu Sayeed. Paresh was rushed to Rangpur Medical College Hospital.

Novel way of smuggling

MYMENSINGH, Nov 17: As carrying of phensidyl bottles has become risky due to increasing police raid, new techniques are being applied in supplying the Indian drug across the country, reports UNB.

Witnesses said instead of carrying the drug in bottles, now smugglers are supplying it in containers with labels of various goods. DB police here recently seized such a consignment of phensidyl syrup from the rooftop of a bus. Acting on a tip-off, a DB team halted the town-bound bus from Ishwardi on Patgudan Road at about 11pm and recovered 20-litre phensidyl from two containers covered with polythene. None was arrested.

10 hurt as villagers clash

MANIKGANJ, Nov 17: Rival villagers clashed at a village in Sadar thana leaving 10 people injured on Thursday, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the clash ensued when a group of people of Varai Vikura village equipped with lethal weapons attacked their rivals while they were preparing to till a disputed land. The injured people were admitted to Manikganj sadar hospital. Conditions of three people were said to be critical.

Life term for killer wife

NATORE, Nov 17: A woman was condemned to life term in jail by a court here on Monday for killing her husband in 1994, reports UNB.

Additional District and Session Judge Mujibur Rahman also fined the convict, Meena Khatun, 30, Tk 5,000 in default, to suffer one year more RI. The court, however, acquitted three other accused — Maksudur Rahman, Swapan and Abdus Salam — as the charges brought against them could not be proved "beyond doubt." Court sources said Meena, a mother of three, killed her drug addict husband Nurul Islam with a sharp weapon on the night of July 7, 1994 in their residence at village Nolkola in sadar thana following a family feud.

Power crushers threaten sugar production target

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Nov 17: Defying government ban a huge number of power crushers are in operation to produce molasses in sugar mill zone areas in the northern districts, threatening sugar production.

Crushing of sugarcane has started in several sugar mills in the region amid uncertainty of adequate supply of sugarcane. Growers are keen to produce gur, or molasses, as it is more profitable than supplying cane to the mills, local people said.

At present, molasses sells between Tk 22 and Tk 24 per kg in markets and a mound of sugarcane produces up to four kg of molasses. But the mill authorities give only Taka 37-38 per mound of sugarcane to growers.

Besides, delay in payment, bureaucratic hassles and malpractice in weighing cane by a section of corrupt staff of mills discouraged them to produce molasses in mill zone areas defying ban, some farmers in Gaibandha district said.

However, prolonged water logging in crop fields and massive pest attacks have also contributed to decline in sugarcane production in the region.

In Rangpur Sugar Mills zone

area, comprising seven thanas under Gaibandha district, Pirganj thana under Rangpur district and Shibganj thana under Bogra district, a total of 11,642 acres of land were brought under sugarcane cultivation this season. The target of cane production was fixed at two lakh metric tons. Of them, 1.35 lakh metric tons of sugarcane will be crushed to produce sugar.

A total of 12,716 acres of land were brought under the cultivation in Thakurgaon Mills zone area. But the sugarcane production target was not achieved as a vast tract of crop field came under massive pest attack. Mill authorities can expect the supply of only one lakh metric ton cane. The mill will face serious setback to achieve production target.

Under Joydevpur Mills zone area, this year 14,100 acres of land were brought under sugarcane cultivation. A huge number of power crushers are in operation under the zone, casting an adverse impact on sugar production.

In Natore Sugar Mills, crushing began on October 25 with a target to produce 16,910

mts of sugar from 210,000 mts of sugarcane in 120 crushing days.

But the recovery percentage of sugar is remarkably less this season due to water logging in crop field and pest attacks.

BSS from Khulna adds: About 2,70,000 metric tons of sugarcane have been produced in non-mill zone areas of Khulna division during the season.

According to Agricultural Extension Division (AED) sources, the sugarcane was cultivated on about 14,932 hectares in 10 districts of the division during the season as against the target of 14,150 hectares. Sugarcane was cultivated on 729 hectares in Jessore, 1,570 hectares in Jhenidah, 300 hectares in Magura, 950 in Narail, 1,050 hectares in Khulna, 1,071 hectares in Bagerhat, 2,555 hectares in Satkhira, 2,850 hectares in Kushtia, 3,144 hectares in Chuadanga and 363 hectares in Meherpur district. The sugarcane which is produced in non-mill zone areas is generally used for the preparation of sugar and molasses locally.



Hazipur-Nandina Bazaar Road is an important road of Kendua union in the Sadar thana of Jamalpur district. The road which runs through Mollah Para was damaged by flood in 1988, but it is yet to be reconstructed. Pedestrians and vehicle drivers suffer a lot due to very bad shape of the road. The picture was taken recently by our correspondent recently.

BSF personnel handed over to Indian authorities

NETRAKONA, Nov 17: Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) formally handed over two personnel of Indian Border Security Force (BSF) to the Indian authorities following a battalion commanders level meeting between BSF and BDR held here on Monday on the zero line near border pillar number 1,172 of the district, reports BSS.

Commandant of 46 Battalion of BSF led the Indian side while Commandant of eight battalion BDR led the Bangladesh side in the three-hour long flag meeting.

The BSF commandant said, an official inquiry has already started against the two BSF personnel who allegedly tried to rape women in a drunk condition. He assured that legal action would be taken against them.

Two flee *hajar*: Two cops suspended

From Our Correspondent.

SIRAJGANJ, Nov 17: Two constables were suspended and closed to police line after two arrested people fled Sirajganj thana *hajar* on Thursday morning.

The suspended cops were Abu Taher and Abdul Wahab. Police on Wednesday raided two passenger buses near the town and arrested two alleged smugglers — Alam Hossain, 28, and Yusuf Ali, 28, — along with 181 Indian sares and 75 bottles of phensidyl syrup.

The two alleged smugglers urged the on duty constables to allow them to respond to call of nature. The cops agreed and were taking them to nearby toilet. Taking the advantage Alam Hossain and Yusuf Ali fled the scene, running. They were not handcuffed at that time.

Jail Killing Day in Feni

From Our Correspondent

FENI, Nov 17: Jail Killing Day was observed here by Awami League and its front organisations on November 3.

Discussions and 'milad mahfil' were held on the occasion. The discussion recalled the memories of the four national leaders and demanded punishment to the killers.

Presided over by Feni district Awami League president Aziz Ahmed Chowdhury, the meeting was addressed, among others, by party leaders Jaynal Hazari MP, Liakat Ali, Abdur Rahman, Advocate Hafiz Ahmed, Advocate Jaheed Hossain and Mahfuzul Haque.

The four national leaders — Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmed, AHM Quamruzzaman and Mansur Ali — were killed inside Dhaka Central Jail on November 3, 1975.

10 hurt as villagers clash

From Our Correspondent

GOPALGANJ, Nov 17: At least 10 people were injured in a clash between two rival groups at Begram under Sadar thana recently.

The villagers locked in clash over fishing in Begram beel. They used sharp weapons during the clash.

Seriously injured Aminur Rahman, 25, Noor Mohammad Molla, 62, and Palash Molla, 16, were admitted to hospital.

International Health Fair in Joypurhat in March 2000

JOYPURHAT, Nov 17: In a major step towards consolidating healthcare campaign, the district Civil Surgeon office is going to organise an international health fair here in March 2000, reports UNB.

District Civil Surgeon Dr Anwar Ali has taken the initiative to organise such a big event in collaboration with UNICEF, WHO and various local and international pharmaceutical companies.

The main objectives of the fair, the first of its kind in this subcontinent, is to make people aware about healthcare by providing health tips.

Over 100 medicine stalls will be set up in the two-week fair to be held at Joypurhat Stadium.

A 125-member managing committee, seven subcommittees and an 11-member executive committee, have been formed for successful holding of the fair, "Health Fair 2000."

To provide health tips to the people through entertainment, arrangements have been made to stage drama, folk songs, magic and film shows.

Specialist physicians from home and abroad will also examine patients test their bloods and conduct ECG and ultrasonography at nominal cost.

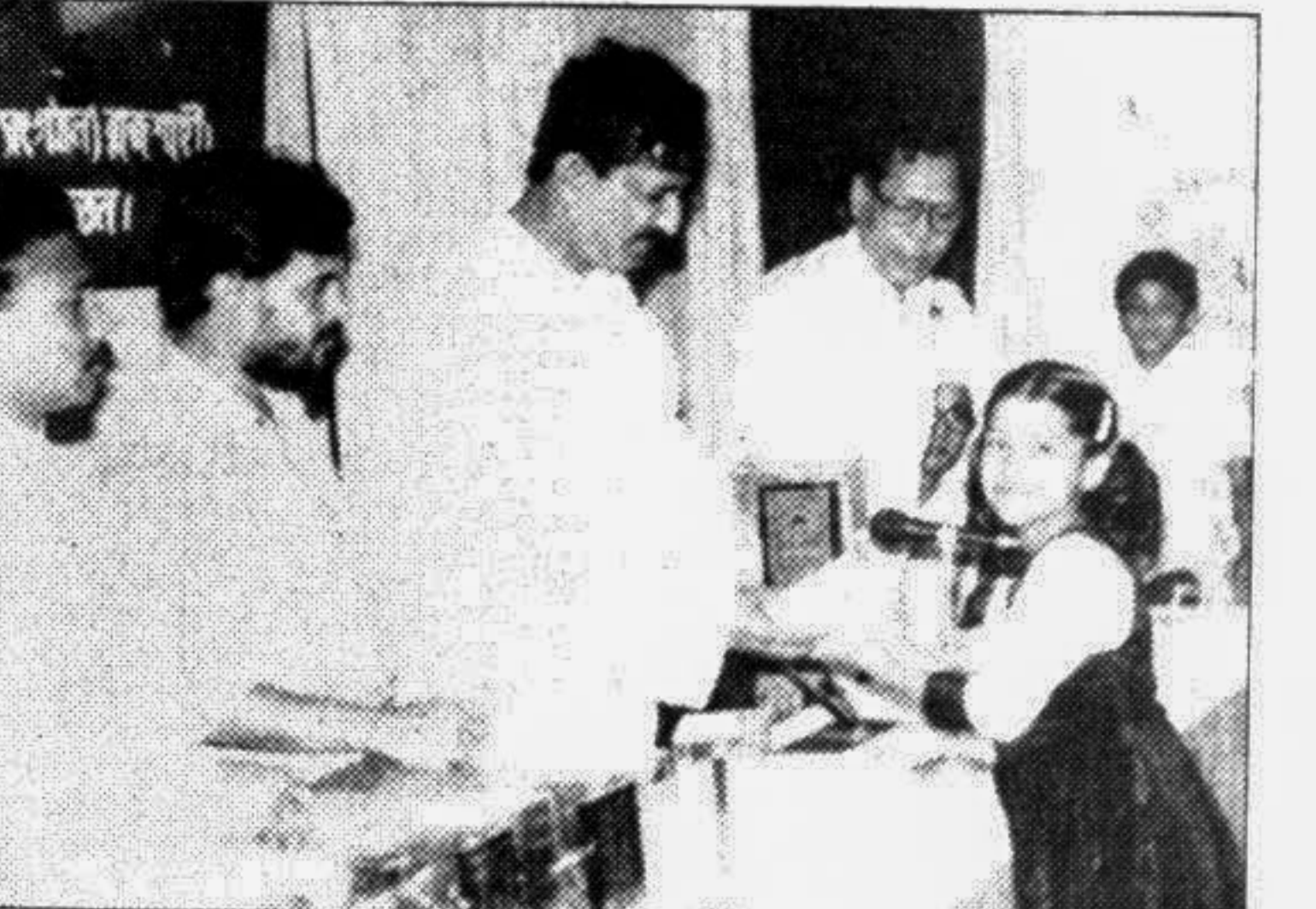
Civil Surgeon Dr Anwar Ali said a 15-member team of American physicians, who are now in India, has shown keen interest to participate in the fair. Bogra and Rangpur Medical Colleges are also willing to join the fair.

He said country's reputed pharmaceutical companies were making contact with them to set up their stalls in the fair, the proceeds of which will go to poor patients.

Events of districts in picture



Many faces of child labour: Five children of village Nayabad in Kaharol thana of Dinajpur district have set out for collecting cowdung in the Kantajir Temple area. Cowdung is still used in the northern districts as fuel and other domestic purpose. — Star photo by Delwar Kabir



Rajshahi city mayor Mijanur Rahman Minu distributing prizes recently among the winners of a cultural and sports competition held on the occasion of the third death anniversary of journalist Saiful Islam Makhon. — Star photo



The Debating Society of Magura arranged a discussion meeting recently at Magura Asaduzzaman Auditorium in observance of the society's founding anniversary. — Star photo



Joy of childhood days: This is an irrigation canal at village Jalsuka in Saikupa thana of Jhenidah district. Some innocent rural children playing in the canal with a raft unaware of any danger. — Star photo by Delwar Kabir

Bumper Aman output likely in 11 southern districts

BARISAL, Nov 17: Bumper Aman production is expected here in 11 southern districts under Barisal Agriculture Extension Region (BAER) in the current season as the climate and the seasonal rainfall were favourable for cultivation, reports BSS.

A total of 7,85,547 hectares were brought under Aman cultivation this year in this region which exceeded by 36,992 hectares over the target.

The target of production was also fixed at 19,26,990 tonnes of Aman paddy in this region this year, which is ever largest here breaking all the previous records in Aman production.

The districts covered by this programme are: Barisal, Jhalakati, Bhola, Pirojpur, Patuakhali, Barguna, Faridpur, Gopalganj, Madaripur, Rajbari and Shariatpur.

District-wise break-up of the land is as follows: Barisal-1,28,008 hectares, Jhalakati-46,550 hectares, Pirojpur-73,400 hectares, Bhola-1,70,880 hectares, Patuakhali-2,21,234 hectares, Barguna-1,02,000 hectares, Faridpur-7,653 hectares, Gopalganj-2,060 hectares, Madaripur-17,036 hectares, Rajbari-7,059 hectares and Shariatpur-3,667 hectares.

Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) distributed as many as 68,254 kgs of high yielding varieties of Aman seeds from its own resources.

BADC installed 10,810 power pumps, 121 deep and 19,973 shallow tubewells, 471 hand driven pumps and 7,340 other equipments for the purpose of irrigation. Besides, BADC sold fertilisers, insecticides and other necessary inputs for making the programme a success here.

Report from Netrakona says:

Good communication network for uplift suggested

FARIDPUR, Nov 17: Chairman of the Privatisation Board Kazi Zafarullah said, good communication network is a major prerequisite for the overall development of the country, reports BSS.

He was inaugurating the carpeting work of Pulla-Shimul-bazar road at Azimnagar union of Bhanga thana under Faridpur district on November 12.

Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) is implementing the project at a cost of about Taka 35 lakh.

The chairman also laid the foundation stone of three bridges on the same road, which will be constructed by LGED at a cost of Taka 51 lakh.

The carpeting and the construction of the bridges are scheduled to be completed in the current financial year.

Later on, Kazi Zafarullah inaugurated the re-construction of Nishchintapur Registered Non-government Primary School at Kawlibera union. The project is also being implemented by LGED and will cost about Taka six lakh.

Earlier, the Privatisation Board Chairman distributed radio sets among some field workers of Proshika.

The function, organised by Bhanga Unit of Proshika, was a part of Bangladesh Integrated Nutrition Programme.

Addressing the functions, Kazi Zafarullah called upon the people, particularly the guardians, to rear up their children properly through providing them adequate nutritious food and good education. He said, children are the future leaders and work forces of the nation. So, they must be taken care properly.



Farmers of Village Beltia in Sadar thana of Jamalpur district have achieved bumper production of high yielding variety 'Nazirshail' Aman paddy this year. Photo shows happy farmers are engaged in harvesting. — Star photo

Poultry farming in Kushtia facing setback

KUSHTIA, Nov 17: Poultry farming in the district is facing a setback due to various reasons, including the absence of cold storage for preserving eggs and broilers, reports UNB.

Besides, there is hardly any treatment facilities for the poultry birds, farm owners alleged.

There are nearly 2,000 poultry farms in the district, but eggs and broiled chickens cannot be preserved for long in the absence of a cold storage.

This often forces the farm owners to sell eggs at throw-away prices incurring huge loss.

Also a large number of hens die every month for want of proper treatment facilities.

An official of the district Livestock Department said they are unable to provide timely treatment to the diseased poultry birds for want to adequate medicines.

Balanced feed is essential for proper rearing of poultry birds, but there is acute shortage of quality feed in the district. The locally produced feeds are highly adulterated and often cause deaths of many poultry birds.

Besides, lack of marketing facility is a major reason that hinders poultry farming. The district is yet to establish adequate marketing outlets for lack of proper communication network.