

News snaps



Chittagong University Vice-Chancellor Prof. Abdul Mannan presenting the crest of Chittagong University to Secretary General of the Association of Commonwealth Universities Prof. Michael Gibbons after a recent meeting of the association in London. — Star photo

Katyani puja celebrated

MAGURA, Nov 20: Five-day long Katyani Puja, a religious festival of the Hindu community, was celebrated here in a befitting manner, reports BSS.

Deputy Inspector General of Police of Khulna Range Lutful Kabir, during his stay in the town, visited some 'Puja Mandaps'. Police Super Khan Sayeed Hassan accompanied him.

42,400 VGF cards allocated

RANGPUR, Nov 20: The government has allocated 42,400 VGF cards for the distressed people in eight thanas and one of Haragachha Municipality Pourasaba, in the district, reports BSS.

District relief officer Qader Uddin Mannan said 500 distressed people in each of the 83 unions in eight thanas and 900 in Haragachha municipality area will get 10 KG of rice per head for three months effective from September.

Boy electrocuted

BARISAL, Nov 20: A boy was electrocuted recently when he was flying kite on the roof of a mosque building in New Circular Road area here, reports BSS.

According to police, Roni, 4, climbed on the roof of the Gazibari Mosque and tried to catch the kite hanging with an electric wire. He was electrocuted there. An unnatural death case was lodged with Kotwali thana police in this connection.

Banned pesticides flood markets

BAGERHAT, Nov 20: Substandard Indian pesticides are openly sold in the markets of all 9 thanas here, causing health hazards and hampering production, reports UNB.

Not only the licensed dealers, the grocers are also selling the banned Indian pesticides at lower prices. The contraband insecticides include Scan-50 powder, Naschet, Diadrin, Botafloor, Hildan, Gama-57 Naylorol etc. An expert said the unabated use of such substandard pesticides would reduce fertility of the soil. Besides, it will destroy the fish resources and create ecological problem in the country.

130 projects implemented

KHULNA, Nov 20: Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) has recently implemented 130 projects at a cost of Taka 44 lakh in Dumuria thana in the district, reports BSS.

Of the projects, 58 were implemented in transport and communication sector, 22 in agriculture and irrigation sector, 28 in infrastructure sector and 25 in education sector. The projects were implemented under Annual Development Plan.

Timber seized

COX'S BAZAR, Nov 20: Timber worth about Taka four lakh was seized from Ramu area on Monday, reports BSS.

Acting on a tip-off, a joint team, comprising forest department, district administration and police, raided the area and seized about 1000 cubic feet of stolen timbers from four depots. Officials said, an organised gang of timber lifters have long been involved in stealing valuable trees, including segun, teak and gamari from the reserve forests of Cox's Bazar.

Certificates awarded

COMILLA, Nov 20: A certificate giving ceremony of Dustama Shishu Kalyan Foundation was held here in its premises last week, reports BSS.

The function was presided over by Chowdhury Gelam Mawla, Deputy Commissioner of Comilla. A T M Shamsul Haque, Chairman of Public Administration Reforms Commission, distributed certificates among the participants. Twenty-nine participants attended the function.

744 mts of wheat allocated

HABIGANJ, Nov 20: District Relief and Rehabilitation Department under its Rural Infrastructure Maintenance Programme has allocated 744 metric tons of wheat for Habiganj district, reports UNB.

Officials said the wheat would be utilised for construction and renovation of rural roads, embankment, drain, mosques, madrasahs, temples and churches in Habiganj, Sayestaganj, Madhabpur and Nabiganj pourasavas, and sadar, Azmiriganj, Bahubal, Banachang, Chunarughat, Lakhal, Madhabpur and Nabiganj thanas.

Road dev work progressing

RAJBARI, Nov 20: Carpeting and other development works on six roads of the district were progressing in full swing, costing Tk 68 lakh, reports UNB.

Local Government Engineering Department is implementing the project with financial assistance from Islamic Development Bank. The roads are Pangsha-Goutampur road, Ramdiah-Kamardah road, Matiparah-Bagmara road, Bishnapur-Chhotahakia road, Pangsha-Kalukhali road and Kalikandi-Kamarkhali road. LGED sources said 80 per cent works of the project have already been completed while the rest is likely to be completed by December next.

Tk 2.5 cr irrigation scheme

GOPALGANJ, Nov 20: Water Development Board has taken up an irrigation scheme, involving Tk 2.5 crore, under Tarail-Pachuria Irrigation Project, reports UNB.

Meanwhile, a tender has been floated for the government-sponsored project, officials said. A vast track of croplands under the project would be saved from recurring floods upon its completion, helping the farmers to produce additional crops about one lakh ton from 500 hectares of land.

Life term for killer husband

HABIGANJ, Nov 20: A man has been condemned to life term imprisonment by a court here recently for killing his wife in 1992, reports UNB.

According to prosecution, Rajab Ali of Konargao village in Chunarughat thana slaughtered his wife Khosbanu on Aug 13 in 1992 and fled a case with the local police saying that she was murdered by unknown assailants. Ali later confessed to police his crime. Additional District and Sessions Judge Miazuddin Miah after examining the records and witnesses pronounced the verdict on Nov 10.

Tk 1.60 LGED project

NARSINGDI, Nov 20: Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) has taken up a scheme under its Rural Infrastructure Maintenance Project to develop 25 kilometre of roads and to construct 42 bridges and culverts in the six thanas of the district in the fiscal 1999-2000, reports BSS.

The project would cost of Taka one crore sixty lakh. Official sources said the work will start in the first week of December '99 and is expected to be completed within March 2000.

Farmers find papaya farming profitable

As it is nutritious and profitable, cultivation of papaya is gaining popularity in districts, including Gopalganj and Netrakona, reports agency.

In Gopalganj, agriculture officials said the farmers became interested in cultivating papaya as it is more profitable than other crops.

Farmers said as papaya could be produced during the whole year with a minimum cost and the return is handsome, they brought more land under its cultivation.

An expert said, soil condition and climate of the district are suitable for farming of papaya. The prospect of its cultivation is bright.

The saplings are to be planted in the highland and there is a very little possibility of any harm to plants by storm

or rain, besides pest attack is hardly noticed in the papaya field, said an agriculture official.

Some farmers said due to lack of knowledge of modern farming and improper application of fertiliser its desired production is being hampered.

An agriculturist said excessive use of fertiliser and application of spurious fertilisers might hamper production of papaya.

Our Netrakona correspondent reports: As the cultivation of papaya has become profitable in recent days, peasants are showing more interest to bring more lands under the farming.

Both winter and summer seasons are favourable for the cultivation of papaya. Soil and climate of the district are also

suitable for papaya cultivation. Growers cultivate papaya on high lands round the year. According to papaya growers, there is very little possibility of any harm to the plants by storm and rain. Besides, pests attack is hardly noticed in papaya fields.

Agriculture officials said mainly fluctuating temperature and excessive rains affect papaya farming. There is a bright prospect of papaya cultivation in drought affected areas of the country, they opined.

Farmers said they are not aware of the proper use of fertilisers and the modern techniques of the cultivation.

Besides, indiscriminate use of spurious fertilisers is also affecting the farming to a great extent, agriculture officials said.

BNP's mass contact march in Pabna

From Ranesh Maitra

PABNA, Nov 20: A 20-kilometre mass contact march was organised by the Pabna district unit of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) on November 16.

BNP was demanding immediate resignation of the Awami League government.

Led by Rafiqul Islam Bakul MP, president of the unit, the march started from Pabna town

and ended at Ataikula.

It was widely participated by the leaders and workers of BNP and its front organisations. A large number of BNP women activists also joined the march.

During the programme, the BNP leaders addressed eight wayside meetings near Mujahid Club, New Bus Terminal, Rajapur, Jalapur, Pushpapara,

Madhapur, Kuchiamora and Gangarampur.

After reaching at Ataikula, the marchers held a big public meeting in the local madrasa ground. They called upon the people to join the movement actively and unitedly to fall the present government. They also urged people to compel them to announce the date of mid-term poll immediately.



Rafiqul Islam Bakul MP, President of Pabna district unit of BNP leading the 20-km mass contact march from Pabna town to Ataikula. — Star photo

Bamboo production in Greater Kushtia down

KUSHTIA, Nov 20: Production of bamboo in greater Kushtia district is declining due to lack of proper maintenance, nursing of clusters and planned plantation, reports UNB.

Inadequate supply and high cost of bamboo is affecting the bamboo-based cottage industry and construction of kutcha houses in the region.

Kushtia, Chuadanga and Meherpur districts were once rich in bamboo. But most of the clusters are decaying now. The price of bamboo showed marked rise due to short supply. People are least interested in

planting bamboo saplings while the owners of clusters are ignorant about the methods of plantation.

The roots, which remain underground after cutting bamboo are lifted at random and later on sold in the open market as firewood. Even tender bamboo plants are not spared.

Agriculture experts said that proper nursing would enable one plant to grow at least 20 tender plants. At present only two to three tender plants are grown in a year.

The bamboo production is not enhancing as per require-

ment. This has created an adverse effect on both day labourers as well as bamboo based cottage industry.

Repair and construction of kutcha houses in rural areas are being hampered badly for want of bamboo. Traditional cottage industry that depended on bamboo is also facing extinction.

About 95 per cent houses in the rural areas are kutcha in which bamboo materials are used for construction.

One bamboo is now sold at Tk 80 to 120. Most peasants do not have buying capacity.



Most of the rural roads in Mymensingh district are in very bad shape. As a result the villagers have to suffer a lot. Photo shows a dilapidated road of village Char Kalibari in Mymensingh Sadar thana. — Star photo

Steps to combat paddy looting in shoal areas of Barisal divn

BARISAL, Nov 20: The police administration of the division has been taking adequate precautionary measures to combat the apprehended looting of Aman paddy from the fields in the shoal areas by the members of so-called 'lathials' bahinis during the harvesting period, reports BSS.

The harvesting of paddy is expected to start toward the end of this month.

According to DIG Police office sources, a total of 31 police camps have been set up in 1,000 shoal areas, out of 45,000 shoals in the division, which are vulnerable to attack by the armed 'lathials'.

four in Jhalakati, five in Pirojpur and two camps each in Bhola and Patuakhali districts. Besides, 18 new camps, one in Barisal, three in Pirojpur, 10 in Bhola and four in Barguna districts, are expected to be set up to check the looting of Aman paddy during the harvesting period.

Additional Deputy Inspector General of Police SN Baroi directed the six police superintendents of the members of the armed 'lathials' in the sensitive shoal areas. The leaders of these 'lathials' would be arrested, if necessary, for the security of the poor farmers, the sources said. Each camp will be provided

with Regular reserved Forces and Armed Police Battalion personnel to combat the attack by the 'lathials' hired by the landlords who in the past looted crops creating a reign of terror.

Besides, one magistrate would also be posted in each camp for direct supervision of the situations.

Another report from Faridpur says: A meeting of Faridpur district law and order committee was held on November 11 in the conference room of the Deputy Commissioner of Faridpur.

The meeting, presided over by Deputy Commissioner, Atiqul Islam Chowdhury,



Assistant Chief of Air Staff Air Commodore Rashid Ahmed giving away a trophy to the best all-round recruit AC-2 Shamim Ahmed at the recruit passing out parade at Recruits' Training School at the BAF Base Zahurul Haque in Chittagong on Thursday. — ISPR photo

Price of seed onion up

MADARIPUR, Nov 20: Seed crisis, attributed to last year's prolonged flood, appears to take its toll on onion output this season, reports UNB.

Farmers alleged that price of seed onion in local hats and bazars of Madaripur, Tekerhat, Charnaguri and Utrail has climbed unreasonably and it's now selling at Tk 3,000 to Tk 4,000 per mound while Indian seeds at Tk 600 per kg and the local variety at Tk 1000.

Agriculture officials said over 1,000 hectares of land in the district would be brought under onion cultivation with an estimated output target of 10,000 tons in the current season. But the present seed crisis

may seriously hamper the output target.

They said onion would be cultivated on 910 hectares of land in Shibchar thana with a production target of 9,100 tons.

In the last season, onion cultivation and procurement of seed onions in Shibchar thana, reputed for onion in greater Faridpur, was seriously hampered due to flood.

Farmers in Laxmiganj village in sadar thana said they would be able to cultivate only on 50 per cent of land this year as against the last year due to high price of seeds.

They urged the concerned authorities to provide the growers with seed onions and thus boost its production.

Our Netrakona correspondent adds: Acute shortage of onion seeds has been prevailing in the district, hampering the farming.

The seed is being sold at Tk 300 a kg in local markets as against Tk 170 in the last year, farmers said.

Farmers at Jugirnaga village under Atpara thana told this correspondent that frequent hailstorms and foggy weather damaged onions-seed lands last year, causing severe seed crisis this year.

Farmers have urged the authorities concerned to take immediate steps distribute quality onion seeds among growers to help address the crisis.

Sirajganj DIARY

Terrorist held

From Our Correspondent
SIRAJGANJ, Nov 20: One of the top terrorists in the district was arrested from Ajuga village under Belkuchi thana recently.

Police, acting on a tip-off, arrested Hasan Ali, 30, who hails from village Khaga under Sadar thana.

Hasan Ali had been wanted in several criminal cases. He is also a convict. In 1993, he was sentenced to 10 years in prison in absentia.

Two commit suicide

Two people, including a girl, committed suicide here recently.

In the first incident, Idris Ali, 40, son of Belayet Hossain of village Boalia under Raiganj thana, hanged himself to death. In the second incident, Kalpona Khatun, 12, daughter of Jalaluddin of village Chaknur under Raiganj thana, also hanged herself to death. The reason of suicide could not be known immediately. Two separate unnatural death cases were lodged with Raiganj thana.

Husband kills wife

A husband stabbed his wife to death recently in the town.

Police said Krishna Pada, resident of Kalibari Road area, stabbed his wife Mina Rani, 30, to death following an altercation. The victim died on her way to hospital. Neighbours said the husband often tortured her physically to bring dowry from her father's house. Local people caught Krishna Pada and handed him over to police.

Workshop on history teaching

JHENIDAH, Nov 20: A day-long workshop on history teaching was held at Government KC College here on Friday, reports UNB.

A total of 60 history teachers from different colleges of Jhenidah, Chuadanga, Kushtia and Magura districts took part in the workshop chaired by the college Principal Prof. Abdus Sattar.

Prof. Muntasir Mamun of Dhaka University History Department addressed the function as chief guest.

He said history should be included in curricula as a compulsory subject up to higher secondary level, or else, the future generation would not be able to know the real history of the nation.

"It's our moral duty to let the students to know the real history," Prof. Mamun said emphasising the need for inclusion of the understudied history of post-1947 period in curricula up to HSC level.

Imran Hossain elected CU syndicate member

From CU Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Nov 20: Professor Dr Imran Hossain, Dean of Social Science faculty of Chittagong University, on Thursday was elected unopposed syndicate member of the university from dean category for two years.

Dr Imran Hossain is the professor of the Department of History.

Cash, rice worth Tk 40,000 looted from boat

GAIBANDHA, Nov 20: Armed pirates swooped on a rice-laden boat in the river Jamuna and looted cash and rice worth about Tk 40,000 from traders recently, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the bandits attacked the boat when it reached Babupia area in Fulchhari thana.

Meanwhile, ASP Rezaul Karim visited the Fulchhari thana and closed Officer-in-Charge of the thana Abdus Samad to the district police lines.

BSS from Thakurgaon adds: Five inter-district dacoits were caught by the local people near Kachubari board office on Thakurgaon-Panchagarh Highway recently.

According to eyewitness, five dacoits near Kachubari boards office were allegedly taking preparation to commit dacoity in night coaches.

A group of people, while passing through the place, found the dacoits and caught them.

The dacoits were brought to the local Union Parishad office where chairmen of Aulapur and Salandar Union Parishads were present.

Being informed a police contingent, led by OC Thakurgaon thana, reached there and arrested the dacoits.

The dacoits were identified as Ripon, son of Atabur Rahman, Bachchu, son of Mozammel Haque and Mamun, son of Abdul Majid — all of village Shantinagar and Shuja Mia, son of Dula Mia of village Agram under Palashbari thana of Gaibandha district and Tayeb Mia, son of Shaheb

Mia of village Rampur under Gaibandha district.

Police recovered some weapons including saws from their possession.

A case was lodged with Thakurgaon police station.

Another report from Narayanganj says: An attempt to loot a container carrying garments cloths has been foiled in Siddhirganj thana here on Monday.

Police said five men got into the container coming from Chittagong at Shimral at about 4 am telling a false story of their danger.

After running a while, the bandits forced the driver to drive the vehicle towards Jalkuri area at gunpoint.

They held the driver and the helper inside a godown at Jalkuri and tried to loot the goods with the help of about 35 other people by breaking its lock.

Girl raped

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Nov 20: A 12-year-old girl was raped allegedly by a 50-year-old man at village Tantirpara under Bagha thana in the district on Sunday. Villagers said Abdur Rashid of the village took the victim forcibly to a nearby sugarcane field in the afternoon and raped her.

Local people rescued the girl from the cropland in critical condition and sent her to thana health complex.

Abdur Rashid went into hiding soon after the incident. A case was filed.

Events of districts in picture



A three-day long Abbas Uddin Fair concluded recently at Rangpur Central Shaheed Minar in Rangpur town. Photo shows visitors thronging at a book stall of Avijatrik, a book publishing house at the fair for books on the life and activities of celebrated singer Abbas Uddin Ahmed. — Star photo



Celebration: Child artists rendering songs at the altar of 'Gaibandha Shaheed Minar' on the occasion of the 27th founding anniversary of Awami Jubo League. — Star photo