

News snaps

Immunisation drive faces setback

NETRAKONA, Nov 21: The immunisation drive here is unlikely to achieve the target as its phase programmes suffered a serious setback due to massive irregularities by a section of field-level health workers, reports UNB.

Although the nation observed the National Immunisation Day (NID) for the sixth time, unfortunately a large number of children in 10 thanas here could not be vaccinated against six killer diseases. Like previous years, health officials submitted a report on the first day programmes of the 6th NID, claiming cent per cent success. But there have been allegations that most health workers and doctors during the drive did not perform their duties properly. Local elite urged the authorities concerned to restore discipline in the health department to make the government's health for all programme a success.

Win for BCL

BRAHMANBARIA, Nov 21: The election of Brahmanbaria Government College Students' Union has been completed recently, reports BSS.

The panel nominated by the Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) has won the election, party sources said. The newly elected Chhatra Sangsad was undoubtedly a success of Awami League of Brahmanbaria district unit. According to party sources, the leaders of the District Awami League of Brahmanbaria have described it as the victory of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

UP chairmen's role lauded

KISHOREGANJ, Nov 21: Deputy Speaker Abdul Hamid Advocate has said, Union Parishad Chairman are the real guardians of the villagers. They play a vital role in the implementation of family planning activities, reports BSS.

The Deputy Speaker was addressing, as the chief guest, a meeting organised to create awareness on family planning among the UP chairmen in the local Shilpakala Academy on Wednesday. He said, awareness of the rural people is essential to implement family planning programmes in the country. Fifty-nine UP chairmen were present in the meeting.

Minister exchanges views

KHULNA, Nov 21: Minister for Health and Family Welfare Al-Hajj Salah Uddin Yusuf said here that the present government is pledged to bring health care service to the doorsteps of common people after eradicating the accumulated problems created in this sector during previous regimes, reports BSS.

The health minister was exchanging views with doctors and staffs of Khulna Medical College here recently. Principal of Khulna Medical College Dr Prof MA Hannan presided over the meeting. It was also addressed by Director of Health Khulna Dr Lutfur Rahman, Superintendent of Khulna Medical College Hospital Dr Mohammad Saifuddin Mondol, Associate Prof of ENT department Dr Mohsin and intern Dr Kausar Sarder.

Acid thrown on mother, baby

HABIGANJ, Nov 21: A mother and her 18-month baby sustained severe burn injuries when hoodlums threw acid on them at Gorgaon in Chunarughat thana on November 13, reports UNB.

Police and family sources said the face and other parts of Rahena and her infant son Jihan were burnt after the gang threw acid on them through the door of midnight while they were sleeping. They were immediately rushed to Sadar Hospital. Family sources said the miscreants have been disturbing Rahana, wife of Abu Miah, with ill proposal for the last couple of days. A case was filed with Chunarughat police.

Two with contraband arrested

THAKURGAON, Nov 21: Narcotics Control Department officials arrested two people with contraband drug from the town on Wednesday, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of the department raided different parts of the town and arrested Sahidar Rahman Ludu from Khalpara and Kausar Ahmed from Ashrampara, and recovered 14 gms of heroin from their possession. Two separate cases were filed with the police. Besides, the team recovered 100 gms of hemp from Tikiapara area in the town on the same day. A case was filed against three people in this regard.

Tubewells installation

KHULNA, Nov 21: Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) has taken up a programme to install 36 deep tubewells in five thanas here to ensure supply of pure drinking water, reports BSS.

The thanas are: Digholia, Dumuria, Rupsha, Koyra and Batiaghata. The programme will cost Taka seven lakh forty thousand. The work of the project will start in December next. About 10,000 people of the thanas will get the supply of pure drinking water after implementation of the project.

Reconstruction of bridge sought

NAOAGANJ, Nov 21: A bridge, near Noorpur cluster village at Sapahar thana has been damaged because of heavy rain fall, reports BSS.

The bridge was the only link between Sapahar thana and Tilna Union, Sadar union as well as some parts of Forsha thana. Thousands of people are facing problem as traffic over the bridge has totally stopped. Some young boys have built an alternative makeshift bridge with some trees which were built along the road side, and they have been taking toll forcibly from the drivers of microbus, motor cycle, rickshaw, van pullers, and carters. Inhabitants of the areas have demanded immediate reconstruction of the bridge to the concerned persons.

Sugarcane crushing begins

RANGPUR, Nov 21: The Thakurgaon Sugar Mills started sugarcane crushing from November 19 in the current season, reports BSS.

The mill has target to produce 10 thousand seven hundred eight metric tons sugar by crushing one lakh thirty metric tons of sugarcane, official sources said. The recovery of sugar has been fixed at 7.40 per cent.

Loan distributed

MAGURA, Nov 21: Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) distributed loan totaling Tk 4.40 crore under its poverty alleviation programme, reports UNB.

Of the amount, Tk 50 lakh was given for poverty alleviation programmes, Tk 3.75 crore for development of small and cottage industries while Tk 15 lakh for self-employment schemes, officials said. They said some 5,000 poor and unemployed people received the loan.

Shortage of seeds

NETRAKONA, Nov 21: Shortage of seeds hampers the cultivation of various winter crops in 10 thanas, reports UNB.

Some 20,000 hectares of land are expected to be brought under cultivation of winter crops this season. But the growers comprehend that their all efforts will go in vain unless the government provides them with necessary seeds. They attributed the seed crisis to occasional rainfall for the last two months.

Good Boro output expected

PATUAKHALI, Nov 21: As the weather seems to be favourable, Agriculture Extension Department (AED) expects intensive cultivation of Boro and Rabi crops here during the coming winter season, reports UNB.

Officials said some 79.77 thousand hectares of land will be brought under Boro and cereal crops with an output target of 16.07 lakh metric tons. AED sources said high yielding variety of paddy will be cultivated on 390 hectares of land, while local variety on 13.96 thousand hectares with a production target of 17.88 thousand metric tons of Boro paddy.

Tk 7.50 cr loan for poor

RAJBARI, Nov 21: In an effort to develop the socioeconomic condition of rural poor, Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) has taken up a Tk 7.50 crore loan disbursement programme here, reports UNB.

The board under its 'Employment Generation Project' has already distributed Tk 1.63 crore among its 2,900 distressed and poor members in the last four months in four thanas of the district. The thanas are Sadar, Pangsua, Goulanda and Balikandi. Board sources said the loan would be utilised in various employment generation activities like small trading, farming, pisciculture, poultry and dairy farming, cottage industries and rural transportation.



Now is the harvesting season of transplanted Aman paddy. Farmers of Magura district are also busy in harvesting paddy. Photo shows three stages from harvesting to processing in mill. (From left to right) Farmers carrying paddy home from field, thrashing paddy at home and finally labourers drying up boiled paddy at a rice mill in Magura. — Star photo

Tributes paid to Mir Mosharraf Hossain

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Nov 21: The 152nd birth anniversary of Mir Mosharraf Hossain, a legendary Bangla Muslim litterateur of the 19th century, who became famous for writing Bishad Shindhu, was observed here fittingly.

On the occasion a two-day function was arranged at village Lahinipara, five miles away from Kushtia town. The programmes concluded on November 14. The function was organised by the district administration as well as by Mir Mosharraf Hossain Memorial Committee.

Speakers paid rich tributes to the great writer who wrote was many as 37 books. Out of those Ratnabali (novel), 1973 Basanta Kumari (drama), 1973 Zamindar Darpan (drama) 1869, Gari Bridge (poem) 1973, Er Pal Keel 1876, Bishad

Sindhu (historical novel) 1885-91, Sangeet Lahori 1887, Prem Parijat, Bibi Kulsom, 1910 and Gazi Mir Bostami are worth mentioning.

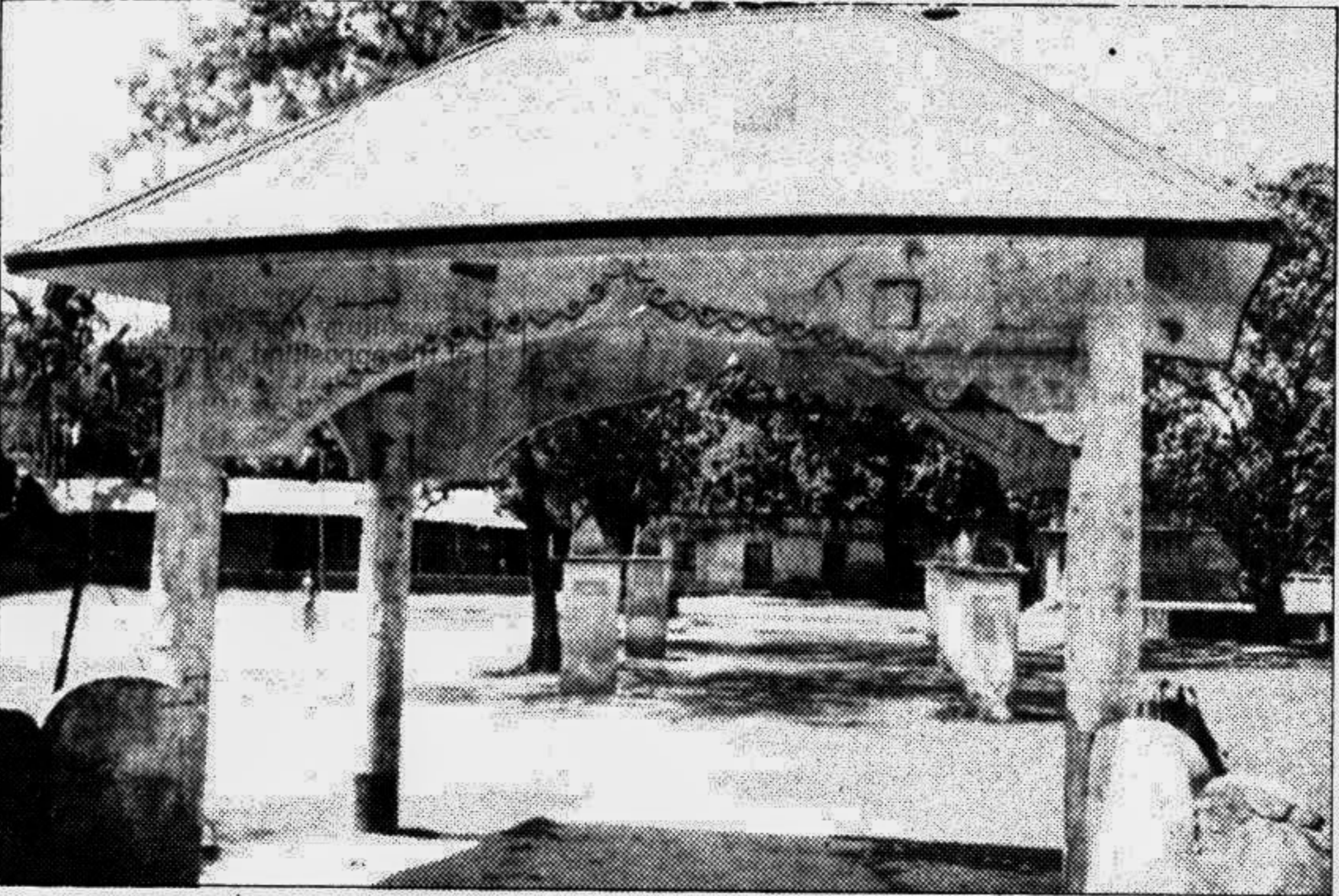
Born in an aristocratic Muslim family of village Lahinipara in Kushtia on November 13, 1847, his father Mir Moazzem Hossain and mother Daulatunnesa did much for him which helped him become a powerful writer.

According to his family history his forefather Syed Sadullah served in the Mughal Army who married a Brahmin girl and settled at village Padami in Faridpur district. Mosarraf's father was the landlord in their native village. He began his early education at his village school named Kumarkhali M N High and Padami school. Later on he had his college education in Calcutta.

Before this, he studied at Krisnanagar Collegiate School. In his professional life, he worked as Manager of Gazari Estate of Tangal district where he spent a few years. He was a proud father of five sons and 10 daughters.

He breathed his last on December 19 in 1911 at village Pangsua. During early years of his life, he used to write in Gram Barta Prakashika of Kagal Harinath Mozumdar and Sangbad Provakar of Poet Iswar Gupta. Later on he published a weekly newspaper 'Hitakar'.

It is a national shame that no befitting monument was built in his memory till now. Authorities concerned should come forward to build such a memorial.



Main entrance of the village home of Mir Mosharraf Hossain at Lahinipara, five miles off Kushtia town. — Star photo

Massive winter crops farming programme in dists

A massive winter crops cultivation programme has been taken up in districts, report agencies.

A report from Barisal says: The Agriculture Extension Department (AED) of Barisal region has undertaken a massive programme for the cultivation of winter crops in 11 southern districts under the region during the current season.

The districts to be brought under this programme are — Barisal, Jhalakathi, Bhola, Pirojpur, Patuakhali, Barguna, Faridpur, Madaripur, Gopalganj, Rajbari and Shariatpur.

Intra-party clash President of BCL CU unit beaten up on campus

From Our Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Nov 21: A tense situation is prevailing on Chittagong University campus after the president of the university unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League was beaten up in an intra-party clash on Saturday afternoon.

The clash ensued when a BCL faction led by Shafigh brought out a procession demanding removal of CU BCL president Shahajahan Chowdhury.

Shahajahan Chowdhury and some of his supporters tried to resist the processions. At that time, some activists of 'Mamun group' attacked the BCL president and fired at least five gun shots.

Police later rescued the BCL president. Till writing this report in the evening he was under 'police protection,' police said.

Three persons were arrested in connection with the incident. They are Nurunnabi Azmal, Ehsanul Huq Kaniz and Parosh. Hathazari police said.

Resentment is prevailing among CU BCL activists as no committee was formed after 1994. sources on the campus said.

According to an official source, a total of 7,70,057 hectares will be brought under different crops cultivation with the net production target fixed at 22.95 lakh metric tons in this season.

The crops to be cultivated are: Boro, wheat, potato, sweet potato, maize, mustard, groundnut, pulses, chilli, onion, garlic, ginger, turmeric, coriander seed and sugarcane.

Of the total, 2,48,640 hectares will be brought under Boro cultivation with the production target of 9,65,685 metric tons of paddy, 81,840 hectares under wheat cultivation with the production target of 1,87,086 metric tons, 2,100 hectares under potato cultivation with the production target of 25,200 metric tons, 12,150 hectares under sweet potato with the production target of 1,45,380 metric tons, 2,800 hectares under maize cultivation with the production target of 11,200 metric tons, 78,500 hectares under mustard cultivation with the production target of 70,650 metric tons, 12,700 hectares under groundnut cultivation with the production target of 24,130 metric tons, 2,52,847 hectares under pulses cultivation with the production target of 1,22,300 metric tons, 64,130 hectares under spices with the production target of 97,500 metric tons and 14,350 hectares under sugarcane cultivation with the production target of 6,45,750 metric tons.

Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) will supply seeds, fertilisers, insecticides and other necessary inputs to the farmers for making the programme a success.

Besides, BADC will install 10,810 power pumps, 217 deep and 19,973 shallow tubewells, 471 hand driven pumps and 7,340 other mechanism for irrigation.

A total of 75,000 hectares has been brought under winter vegetable cultivation in seven thanas of Manikganj district in the current season.

The thanas are — Manikganj

Sadar, Ghior, Daulatpur, Shibhalaya, Harirampur, Singair and Satoria.

The production target has been fixed at 1,12,500 tonnes. Agriculture Extension Department has already distributed vegetable seeds among the farmers.

Some 3,000 hectares of land have been brought under vegetable cultivation in Madaripur this season.

Agriculture officials said vegetables on 500 hectares of land will be cultivated in sadar thana while 700 hectares in Kalkini, 800 hectares in Rajoir and 1,000 hectares in Shibchar thanas.

The production target has been fixed at 7,500 mts in sadar thana, 10,500 mts in Kalkini, 12,000 mts in Rajoir and 15,000 mts in Shibchar thanas.

Another report adds: The government under its Food-for-Work Programme has allocated 1,291 mts of wheat for four thanas here for the current financial year.

Of the total, 337 mts were allocated for Sadar while 263 mts for Rajoir, 316 mts for Kalkini and 375 mts for Shibchar thanas.

Seminar on reserved seats in parliament

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Nov 21: A seminar styled 'Reserved Seats for Women in the Parliament', jointly organised by FEMA (Fair Election Monitoring Alliance) and Gaibandha Development Network, was held here recently.

In the seminar, which was presided over by FEMA Gaibandha unit Vice President Gobinda Lal Das, keynote papers were presented by Shamsunnahar, lecturer, Gaibandha Government College and Jaharul Quayum, lecturer, Sadullapur Degree College.

Feni DIARY

Death anniversary of Bhasani

From Our Correspondent

FENI, Nov 21: The 23th death anniversary of Moulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani was observed here on November 17.

A discussion was held in Zila Parishad building premises on the occasion. Presided over by Abdul Hai, it was addressed, among others, by Abdul Wadud, Advocate Kazi Ahmed Karim, Jashemuddin Muee, AKM Fazul Karim, Zahidul Hai Ronty, Iqbal Hossain, Md Dulal, Shamsul Alam, and Jashimuddin Karim.

Two get 10-yr RI

Two people were awarded 10 years' rigorous imprisonment and fined Tk 1,000 each, in default to suffer one year more RI, in arms case last week.

Special tribunal court judge Ranjan Kumar Saha found Abu Taher and Mizanur Rahman guilty and pronounced the verdict.

According to prosecution story, police arrested Abu Taher and Mizanur Rahman when they were making equipment of firearms in 1996 in Sonagazi Bazaar area in the district.

Water treatment plant progressing

Work of water treatment plant at a cost of about Tk 30 crore at Tublabari in the municipality area has been progressing.

Department of Public Health and Engineering (DPHE) is implementing the project under its Urban Water and Sanitation Programme. At least 70 thousand people in the municipality area will get pure drinking water after completion of the project, which is being implemented with the financial assistance Danish government.

80-yr-old man marries 20-yr-old girl

An eighty-year-old man married a twenty-year-old woman. The marriage ceremony was held at village Tetpur under Sonagazi thana last week.

Villagers said Mannan, who is commonly known as Mannan Member, married Parvin, daughter of Abdullah Khan, 70. The wedding ceremony was attended by a large number of villagers.

Man arrested

A man was arrested on Wednesday on charge of supplying liquor to the district jail.

Police, acting on a tip-off, arrested one Sabuj, 22, of village West Selonia under Sadar thana, when he was trying to supply liquor to an inmate. The arrested person was sent to court.

Dist coordination meeting held

District Development and Coordination Committee meeting was held at Deputy Commissioner's conference hall last week.

Jaynal Abedeen Hazari MP presided over the meeting. Deputy Commissioner Deveshesh Nag, Police Super Manwar Hossain, TNO's and other officials attended the meeting, which reviewed the development activities of the district.

Loan disbursed among women in Netrakona

From Our Correspondent

NETRAKONA, Nov 21: Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) recently disbursed Taka 62.16 lakh among 1,250 unemployed women under poverty alleviation programme of the government.

According to BRDB sources, Tk 12.64 lakh was disbursed in Sadar; Tk 6.43 lakh in Purbadhala; Tk 7.65 lakh in Durgapur; Tk 8.13 lakh in Mohanganj; Tk 6.40 lakh in Barhatta; Tk 6.50 lakh in Atrpar; 3.34 lakh in Kendua; Tk 2.27 lakh in Madan; Tk 7.05 lakh in Kalmakunda and Tk 1.75 lakh in Khalajayur. The loan will be spent in poultry and dairy farming, cattle fattening, vegetable cultivation and small businesses.

Farm labourers passing hard days in Gaibandha

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Nov 21: Agriculture labourers in the district are passing hard days as heavy rainfalls and flood have played much havoc with Rabi crops farming this season.

According to a survey conducted by local NGOs, nearly five lakh landless day labourers, who depend on agricultural farmlands, remain jobless this season.

The survey said many of day labourers are leaving for adjacent districts, where better crop production is visible, in search of work. Most of the farm labourers of the flood-affected areas have lost their homesteads.

Moreover, absence of food for work programme of the government has also been contributing to the crisis.

All the seven thanas of the district are flood prone areas and every year flood water damage crops, including Aman paddy, on a vast tract of land. Farmers here hardly harvest crops up to their expectations.

Major portion of the labour force in the district remains busy for only six months during the dry season. During off period, they pull rickshaws and rickshaw vans.

Jubo Dal activist shot dead at Pabna

PABNA, Nov 21: A Jubo Dal activist was stabbed to death in Kacharipara area of the town Saturday, reports UNB.

Police and witnesses said Sujauddin, 23, was stabbed indiscriminately by a group of 10 to 12 youths at a tea-stall at Kacharipara Crossing at about 1 am.

He was admitted to Pabna Sadar Hospital and died while being shifted to Dhaka.

BNP brought out a protest procession blaming Awami League for the killing.

Good output of Aman likely in Comilla

COMILLA, Nov 21: A bumper production of Aman paddy is expected here this year due to favourable climate, reports UNB.

District Agriculture Extension Department sources said additional 57,000 metric tons of paddy would be produced, as 15,000 hectares of additional land were brought under Aman cultivation.

The department took an integrated autumn crop cultivation programme in 12 thanas here with a production target of 2.21 lakh metric tons of paddy from 1.33 lakh hectares of land.

Of the total, some 72,130 hectares of land were brought under high yielding variety of Aman paddy with production target of 58,683 metric tons while the rest were brought under local variety with production target of 2,216 metric tons.

Besides, about 50,500 hectares of land were brought under broadcast Aman cultivation with a production target of 50,000 metric tons of paddy.

BSS from Cox's Bazar says: The Agriculture Extension Department (AED) has taken up a massive cultivation programme of Rabi crops in the current season.

The programme will be implemented in seven thanas.

Boro paddy, wheat, pulse,

sweet potato, potato, groundnut, maize, winter vegetables and different varieties of spices will be cultivated under the programme.

According to AED sources high yielding variety of Boro paddy will be cultivated on 36,640 hectares and local variety on 160 hectares.

A total of 3300 hectares has also been brought under winter vegetable cultivation in this season.

AED has launched a comprehensive programme to set up 137 demonstration plots to encourage the farmers to boost agricultural production in the current Rabi season.

Old man crushed under wheels of train

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Nov 21: An old man was crushed under the wheels of train in Shaghatta rail bridge area recently.

The dead was identified as Khoka Mondal, 80, of village Dakhin Ullaphara under Fulchhari thana.

Witnesses said the train hit the old man from behind when he was crossing rail track. He died on the spot.

Events of districts in picture



A two-day long photographic exhibition on "Children and Environment" was held recently at the Chittagong Shishu Academy auditorium. Chittagong University Vice Chancellor Prof Abdul Mannan inaugurated the exhibition on November 17. Children Leukaemia Assistance and Support Services organised the show during its first founding anniversary. — Star photo



UNICEF and Patgram thana administration have jointly taken up a programme to distribute rings of sanitary latrines among the inhabitants of Dahagram enclave under Patgram thana in greater Rangpur district free of cost. The programme has been taken up to bring the entire Dahagram union under total sanitation network. — Star photo



This is a bamboo bridge of Janpur Dakhinpara in Sirajganj town. The bridge should be made a pucca one immediately as it runs through Manik Mia Road, an important road of the district town. — Star photo