

News snaps

Aman harvesting begins

CHUADANGA, Nov 29: Harvesting of transplanted Aman paddy of the current season in all the four thanas here has begun, reports BSS.

The thanas are Sadar, Alamdanga, Damurhuda and Jibannagar. According to an official source, during the current season a total of 34,465 hectares of land were brought under transplanted Aman cultivation here. Over one lakh tons of transplanted Aman paddy are expected to be produced here during this season. With the arrival of new rice the price has also come down in markets.

Work progressing

NARSINGDI, Nov 29: The work on 13 Middle Town Development Project under the Post-flood Rehabilitation Programme in Narsingdi Poursabha is progressing satisfactorily, reports BSS.

The project costs Taka 65 lakh. According to the pourasabha sources, 75 per cent work has already been completed and the rest is expected to be completed by December this year. After completion of the project, road communication in the pourasabha will be improved. Narsingdi Poursabha has also completed 18 development projects at a cost Taka 80 lakh under ADB.

Khash land distributed

KISHOREGANJ, Nov 29: A total of 19,727 acres of agricultural khash land have, so far, been distributed among 7,361 landless people of 13 thanas here, reports BSS.

The thanas are Sadar, Pakundia, Hossainpur, Tarail, Karimganj, Katiadi, Bajitpur, Kuliarchar, Bhairab, Nikli, Itna, Ashtagram and Mithamon.

Man electrocuted

RANGPUR, Nov 29: A man was electrocuted and two others suffered injuries as they came in touch with a live-wire while fitting window grills in a building here Saturday, reports UNB.

They were working at an under construction three-storied shopping complex at Station Road. The deceased was identified as Sona Mia, 40. A pedestrian, Sumon, was also injured in the incident as a grill fell on him slipping from the hands of the victims. Of the injured, Abdul Jalil and Ajmal Mia were admitted to Rangpur Medical College Hospital in critical condition. A case was filed.

Training on rural uplift

COMILLA, Nov 29: A two-week long training course on Social and Technical Aspects of Rural Development concluded here on November 25 at BARD, Comilla, reports BSS.

Twenty-five local government officers attended the course. BARD Joint Director and Course Director Kamrul Ahasan and Assistant Course Director Milan Kanti Bhattarai addressed the participants in the concluding session.

Moulvibazar BMA poll held

MOULVIBAZAR, Nov 29: Election of Moulvibazar district unit of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) was held here recently at local Sadar Thana Health Complex, reports BSS.

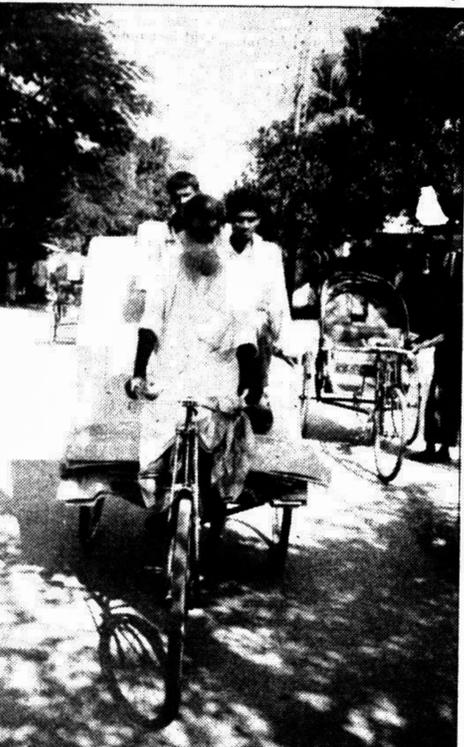
Dr. Shamsuddin Ahmed and Dr. Sabir Hussain Khan were elected president and general secretary respectively. A total of 106 voters cast their votes in the election.

Evaluation workshop

RANGAMATI, Nov 29: A two-day workshop to evaluate the activities of the first phase of Integrated Food Assisted Development Project (IFADAP) concluded here on Monday, reports BSS.

Chief Technical Adviser of IFADAP Tony Anthony Felts was present as the chief guest in the inaugural session of the workshop held at the conference room of Rangamati Hill District Council on November 21. Project Director of IFADAP Moutaz Hussain Miah presided over the inaugural session. The project is being executed by the Department of Fisheries with the support of a Belgium consultation company to promote pisciculture in the country.

A total of 33 participants took part in the two-day workshop.



Irony of fate: Ali Hossain, a 72-year-old man who was once a rich man of Kowdkhola in Sirajganj district has become destitute due to erosion by the River Jamuna. Now he has been turned into a rickshawpuller to earn his livelihood. — Star photo by Akhteruzzaman

Body recovered

RAJBARI, Nov 29: Police recovered the body of an unidentified young woman from a pond near Bindopur police outpost in the town on Saturday, reports UNB.

The body was found floating in the pond owned by Montu Pal. Police suspected that unidentified miscreants killed the ill-fated woman after rape and then dumped her body into the pond. Another report from Natore adds: a schoolboy was headed by a running rice mill at Nazirpur hat in Gurudaspur thana. Villagers said Golam Rabbani, 13, a class VIII student of Nazirpur High School, met the tragic end of his life as he was caught by the belt of the rice crushing machine. A UD case was filed.

10 shops gutted

NATORE, Nov 29: A devastating fire in a market in Singra thana headquarters on Friday left three people injured and 10 shops gutted, reports UNB.

Fire Brigade source said the flame originated from a candle in a cotton shop of the market at about 7 pm and it quickly ravaged through the market. The three people suffered burn injuries as they tried to put out the blaze. One of them, Abdul Mannaf, was admitted to the thana health complex. Local people had doused the flame after two and a half hours of hectic efforts before the firefighters reached the spot. The extent of damage was said to be Tk 15 lakh. Local MP, deputy commissioner, police super and Singra pourashava chairman visited the spot.

Allowance for distressed

RAJBARI, Nov 29: Social Service Directorate began distributing special allowance to distressed widows and divorcees at the rate of Tk 100 each here, reports UNB.

A total of 630 widow and divorced women in sadar, 765 in Pangsha, 180 in Goalundo and 314 in Baliakandi thanas will be brought under the programme in the initial stage. The authorities have estimated that an amount of Tk 22.68 will be required for implementation of the programme every year. The recipients listed under the programme will enjoy the financial benefit till their death.

96 teachers for 10,000 students in Pabna Edward College

From Ranesh Maitra

PABNA, Nov 29: Education is being hampered greatly due to shortage of teachers in Pabna Government Edward College, one of the oldest and renowned college of the country.

Such situation has been prevailing here for a long. Out of 149 sanctioned posts of teachers, 53 posts are lying vacant here.

According to the principal of the college, he sent repeated reminders to the appropriate authorities to address the problem, but his appeal went unheeded.

About 10,000 students are studying in the college, having honours and masters courses in 15 subjects. But there are only 96 teachers for such a large number of students.

The present number of sanctioned posts of teachers is also extremely inadequate. It should immediately be raised to 250, said Dr Md. Maqbul Hossain, principal of the college.

There are 225 students in the Social Science department hav-

ing honours course. But there is only one teacher out of only four sanctioned posts. At least eight more posts of teachers should be created in the department.

In the Department of Islamic History, out of four posts, two are lying vacant since long. There is also honours course in the department. A total of 225 students have been studying. Here also eight more posts should be created.

In Arabic and Islamic Education Department, there are only two posts of teachers and both of them are lying vacant.

There is one post of demonstrator in the Zoology department and another one in the Physics department, but both the posts are lying vacant. There are one post of librarian and one post of physical instructor, but both the posts are lying vacant.

There are two vacant posts in the Department of Bengali

where 180 students are reading. In the Department of English, six out of 12 posts of teachers are lying vacant.

In the Department of Economics, five posts are lying vacant, out of 12 sanctioned posts. A total of 180 students are studying in the department. One post of professor remains vacant for more than a year.

In the Department of Political Science, there are 225 students. Seven out of sanctioned 12 posts are lying vacant.

In the Department of History, there are 225 students. There are only nine sanctioned posts of teachers. Of these, three are lying vacant.

In the Department of Accountancy, five posts are lying vacant out of 12 sanctioned posts. The number of students is 225.

In the Department of Management, there are 225 students. Out of 11 sanctioned posts, one is lying vacant.



Environment and Forest Minister Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury addressing the Faridpur District Administration Merit Stipend awarding ceremony on November 21 at Kabi Jasimuddin hall in Faridpur. — Star photo

Boro, wheat, potato farming programme in Kishoreganj

KISHOREGANJ, Nov 29: Kishoreganj district Agriculture Extension Directorate (AED) has taken up a massive Boro cultivation programme in 13 thanas in the current Robi season, reports BSS.

According to official sources, a total of 1,43,200 hectares will be brought under Boro cultivation. Of them 1,35,000 hectares under high yielding variety and 8200, hectares under local variety.

Of the total land 3,640 hectares will be cultivated in Hossainpur thana, 4,950 hectares in Sadar thana, 7,060 hectares in Pakundia thana, 10,815 hectares in Katiadi thana, 8,700 hectares in Karimganj thana, 9,300 hectares in Tarail thana, 25,900 hectares in Itna thana, 14,614 hectares in Mithamoin thana, 12,750 hectares in Nikli thana, 22,457 hectares in Astagram thana, 12,370 hectares in Bajitpur thana, 5,325 hectares in Kuliarchar thana and 5,365 hectares in Bhairab thana.

The production target has been fixed at 4,01,340 metric tons of Boro paddy this year. Of them 3,91,500 tons high yielding variety and 9,840 tons local variety.

Different government agencies including Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) and Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) will supply seeds,

fertilisers, insecticides and other agricultural and irrigation equipment among the farmers.

Besides, different state-run banks including Bangladesh Krishi Bank will disburse agricultural loan among the farmers of making the Boro cultivation programme successful.

A big amount of agri-loan has been already disbursed by the Krishi Bank among the farmers, a bank sources said.

Another report said: Some 1,21,900 hectares of land in Dhaka and Comilla zones of Agriculture Extension Directorate have been brought under wheat cultivation, fixing the output target at 2,78,660 mts.

A senior official of Dhaka Agriculture Extension Zone said they have taken up all measures to provide necessary agri-inputs, including loan, HYV seeds, fertilisers and pesticides, to make the programme a success.

The district-wise breakup of the land under Dhaka zone: Dhaka-9,400 hectares, Narayanganj-3,300, Narsingdi-3,500, Gazipur-1,300, Manikganj-15,000. Munshiganj-36,000 and Tangail-29,000 hectares.

Comilla Zone: Comilla-20,000 hectares, Brahmanbaria-17,000, Chandpur-14,000, Sylhet-500, Moulvibazar-300, Habiganj-2,000 and Suna-

manj-3,000 hectares.

The department expects that some 30,861 mts of wheat would be produced on 18,500 hectares of land in Kishoreganj district this season.

The thana-wise breakup of land of the district: Hossainpur-1,400 hectares, sadar-3,000, Pakundia-23000, Katiadi-1,850, Karimganj-1,400, Tarail-600, Itna-600, Mithamoin-85, Nikli-300, Astagram-350, Bajitpur-1,300, Kuliarchar-365 and Bhairab-250 hectares.

A report from BSS says: Kishoreganj District Agriculture Extension Directorate (AED) has taken up a massive potato cultivation programme in 13 thanas of Kishoreganj district in the current Robi season.

According to sources, a total of 2,700 hectares will be brought under potato cultivation.

Of the total land, 100 hectares will be cultivated in Hossainpur thana, 230 hectares in Sadar thana, 700 hectares in Pakundia thana, 150 hectares in Katiadi thana, 150 hectares in Karimganj thana, 50 hectares in Tarail thana, 100 hectares in Itna thana, 60 hectares in Mithamoin thana, 60 hectares in Nikli thana, 500 hectares in Astagram thana, 300 hectares in Bajitpur thana, 150 hectares in Kuliarchar thana and 150 hectares in Bhairab thana.

Seed crisis may hit onion cultivation in Gopalganj

From Our Correspondent

GOPALGANJ, Nov 29: Acute scarcity of onion seeds has been prevailing here, casting an adverse impact on onion cultivation this season.

Onion seed is being sold in local markets at Taka 32,000 a mound as against Taka 14,000 last year.

Local people said if the situation persists, poor and marginal farmers will not be able to cultivate onion this season.

Bengali months of Kartik and Agrahayan are considered the peak season for onion farming. But now in the middle of

Agrahayan growers cannot sow due to scarcity of seeds.

When asked about the sudden price-hike of the seeds, Amal Roy, a farmer of village Manikda under Sadar thana, told this correspondent that frequent hailstorms and foggy weather damaged onion-seed crops just before the harvesting last year, resulting in scarcity of the seeds.

According to agriculture officials, over 500 hectares of land in the district will be brought under onion cultivation with an estimated output

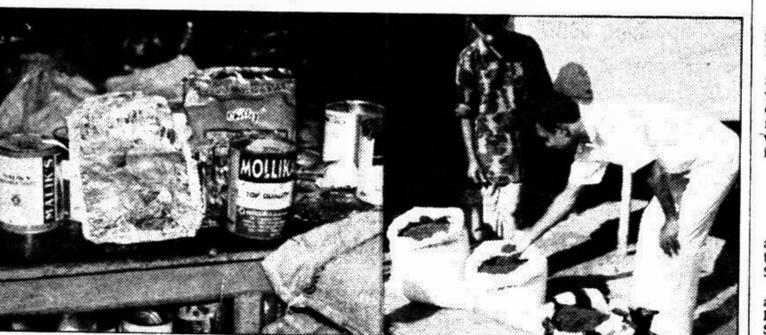
target of 5,000 tons in the current season.

Officials said present crisis may seriously hamper the production target of onion.

Farmers in Satpar village under Sadar thana said they would be able to cultivate only on 50 per cent of land, meant for onion cultivation, this year.

An onion trader said the prospect of onion cultivation is bleak this season.

Local people have urged the authorities concerned to take immediate steps to contain the price hike of onion seeds.



Open sale of inferior quality onion seeds at Kaliganj bazaar in Jhenidah district. — Star photo

Poor people crowding at shops of old clothes

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Nov 29: With the advent of the winter season people of low income group are rushing towards the shops of old clothes.

Hawkers have also started doing brisk business of old clothes on the footpaths of important roads in the district town.

But the buyers who are mostly poor people find the price of old clothes almost double than that of the last year's. Woolen sweaters which were sold at Taka 60 to Tk 100 last year are now being sold at Tk 200. Very soon the intensity of cold will increase. The necessity of woolen clothes will also be felt more keenly. But the poor people can see no early solution to the problem.

Red Crescent Society or many other philanthropic organisations distributed old clothes to the poor people in the winter season during the previous years. But this year they have not yet taken any action plan as yet in this regard. Condition of the flood affected people of the remote areas are very pitiable. This is be-

cause they have no capacity at all to buy winter clothes.

Conscious people feel that the government withdraw all types of duties against import of old garments which was done in the previous years. This move will help save valuable lives of distressed people from the onslaught of cold.

280 health centres in 2 dists soon

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Nov 29: Construction works of 280 community health centres in Sirajganj and Bogra district will begin soon, official sources said.

When completed about 6,000 people will get medicare facilities from the centres.

Of the centres, 125 will be constructed in Sirajganj and 155 in Bogra district, sources added.

Each centre will cost about Taka two lakh.

Arsenic claims life of Barisal villager

From Aroop Talukdar

BARISAL, Nov 29: A man died of arsenic poisoning at Sapania village under Sadar thana on Thursday night.

The dead was identified as Jahangir Sikder, 26, son of Abdur Rashid Sikder. He was suffering from the disease for a long time. He was treated in hospitals in Barisal and Dhaka.

His father Abdur Rashid Sikder, 65, and stepmother are also suffering from arsenic poisoning.

Arsenic contamination in water in tubewell of Sikder family was detected last year.

Public Health and Engineering Department (PHED) installed the tubewell a couple years ago.

However, after detection of arsenic contamination about 70 tubewells in the area were sealed.

Woman killed in Ctg road accident

From Our Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Nov 29: A woman was killed and a man injured in a road accident at Banskhalia thana here on Saturday morning.

The dead was identified as Bholibala Barua, 40.

Witnesses said a running baby taxi skidded off the road in Jalodi Mir Bazar area and hit two pedestrians, killing the woman on the spot and injuring Ali Ahmed, 30.

Separate incidents claim 5 lives

A total of five persons were killed in separate incidents in three districts on Friday and Saturday, reports agency.

Two people, including a freedom fighter, were killed and three others injured in separate traffic mishaps on Dhaka-Aricha highway in Manikganj district on Friday and Saturday.

Police said Anwara, 40, and her four-year-old baby, were critically wounded while she was getting down from a bus at Toria in Sadar thana on Saturday.

They were admitted to sadar hospital, where Anwara died after admission.

In another mishap, freedom fighter Munsur Alam Khan, 55, was injured when a night coach knocked him down at Banajuri bus stand in Ghior thana on Friday evening. He died on way to hospital.

Traffic on the road was disrupted for about three hours as local people put up barricade on it in protest against the accident.

Separate cases were filed.

In Narsingdi, a trader fell from the roof of a running train and died near Purnanpara rail-bridge on Saturday.

Witnesses said banana trader Raiqul, 45, of Brahmanbaria fell from the roof of Dhaka-bound Ss Car at about 6-30 am. Relatives collected the body.

Railway police reached the spot at about 2 pm after the body was taken away. They reported "local people said that a man was cut under the wheels

but we did not see the body."

Another report said: Iqbal, 16, son of Tajuddin of village Noakanda under Palash thana, who took poison following a family feud on Friday died at Palash health complex early Saturday.

A UD case was filed in this connection.

An old man was killed and a youth badly injured when a bus knocked them down at Sonatala in Sadar thana on Bagerhat-Khulna highway on Saturday.

Police and witnesses said the speeding bus hit Rashid, 62, and Lokman, 25, soon after they got down from a tempo at about 2 pm.

The injured were rushed to the Bagerhat Sadar hospital where Rashid succumbed to his injuries.

Police seized the bus, but the driver managed to flee. A case was filed.

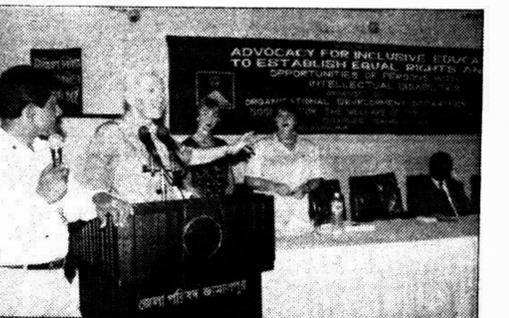
Hijacked truck seized

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Nov 29: A truck with cloth and lungi valued at Taka about 60 lakh was seized from Nayamasjid area of Chandganj thana of Chittagong district recently.

The truck with the goods was hijacked by a gang of robbers from Enayetpur Hat area of Sirajganj district on November 19. The truck was heading for Narsingdi district.

Events of districts in picture



An advocacy meeting for inclusive education to establish equal rights and opportunities of persons with intellectual disabilities was held recently at Jamalpur Zilla Parisad Bhavan. — Star photo



Satkhira district unit of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal brought out a procession in the district town recently in observance of Black Flag Day. — Star photo



A colourful rally of children in Brahmanbaria town in observance of Child Rights Week. — Star photo

Brahmanbaria DIARY

Robbers stab man to death, loot money

From Our Correspondent

BRAHMANBARIA, Nov 29: A gang of robbers stabbed a man to death and looted Taka 77,900 at Kasba Purana Bazaar in the district in the early hours on Friday.

Police said the robbers stormed a shop, owned by one Idris, in the bazaar at about 3 am and stabbed the salesman of the shop to death and looted the amount of money from the cash box. The salesman was sleeping. The dead was identified as Alauddin, 28, son of Abul Kashem of village Gurashal under Murad Nagar thana. A case was filed in this connection.

Killer husband gets life term

A court here sentenced a man to life term in prison and fined Taka 2,000, in default to suffer two more in prison, for killing his wife.

The convict was identified as Md Abul Kashem of village Chauria under Nabinagar thana. Court sources said Kashem slaughtered his wife Shamsunahar at night on August 19, 1996. The victim was sleeping. After examining witnesses Additional District and Sessions Judge AKM Shamsul Islam pronounced the verdict on November 18.

Criminal arrested

A criminal was arrested from village Kaitola under Nabinagar thana recently.

Police, acting on a tip-off, arrested Md Sulaiman, 45, who was accused in a number of cases including murder and robbery from a house in the village. Sulaiman was absconding for a long time.

Pipe gun recovered

A pipe gun was recovered and a man arrested in this connection at village Betbaria under Sadar thana last week.

The arrested was identified as Md Manik. A joint team of Brahmanbaria, Ashuganj and Sarail police raided the village arrested Manik, accused in several criminal cases. The firearm was recovered from his possession. He was sent to jail.