

News snaps

World AIDS Day observed

SATKHIRA, Dec 3: A discussion in observance of the World AIDS Day was held here recently at the conference room of the civil surgeon, reports BSS.

District Civil Surgeon office organised the discussion. President of Satkhira District unit of Bangladesh Medical Association Dr Mukhlesur Rahman, MP, was present in the meeting as the chief guest while Deputy Commissioner Saiful Alam and Police Super Mosharraf Hossain Bhuiyan were the special guests. The meeting was presided over by the acting Civil Surgeon Dr Iqbal Hossain. Additional District Magistrate Emdadul Haque, Deputy Director of Family Planning Mojat Ali, Deputy Director of Islamic Foundation Rafiqul Islam, President of Satkhira District Unit of Bangladesh Medical Association Dr Din Ali, Press Club Secretary Mizanur Rahman and Senior Health Education Officer Abdul Hannan took part in the discussion.

Banned fertiliser seized

JESSORE, Dec 3: The police seized a huge quantity of banned Indian fertiliser from a godown in Avaynagar thana on Saturday, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided the godown, Tarafdar Brothers, at Rajbari in Rajshahi area and seized 1,122 bags of Indian TSP fertiliser when those were being mixed with local fertiliser. Police also sealed the godown.

Housewife beaten to death

MAGURA, Dec 3: A housewife was beaten to death allegedly by her husband at village Kallinagar in Sreepur thana on Wednesday, reports UNB.

Police said the victim, Parul Begum, 25, was being tortured by her husband Babul Mandal since her marriage two years back for realising dowry money of Tk 50,000. Babul severely beat up Parul on the day causing her instantaneous death after she refused to go to her parents' house to bring the money. Babul went into hiding after the incident. A case was filed with police in this regard.

Bldg for orphans

MEHERPUR Dec 3: The government has constructed a new building for the orphans in the town suburbs at cost of over Tk 1.70 crore, reports UNB.

The newly constructed building of former Shishu Sadan of the government on 2.13 acres of land has been turned into Shishu Paribar. State Minister for Social Welfare Dr Mozammel Hossain formally inaugurated the new building on Tuesday. Later the state minister distributed Tk 15 lakh as interest free loan among the distressed people at the local Shilpakala Academy and Gangni thana Parishad Hall.

Meherpur Bar Assoc polls

MEHERPUR, Dec 3: The election of Meherpur District Advocates Bar Association was held on November 27, reports BSS.

Advocates Abdur Rashid, M Akhtaruzzaman and M Abdul Jabbar were elected President, Vice-President and General Secretary respectively of the Association. Eight members were also elected.

Uplift projects

FENI, Dec 3: Facilities Department under Ministry of Education will execute development projects for the development of seven educational institutions in the district during current financial year, reports BSS.

Taka 1 crore 48 lakh 78 thousand has been sanctioned to implement the programme. The educational institutions are Parshuram College, Sonagazi College, Feni Government Girls' High School, Central High School, Dharmapur High School, Ballavpur High School and Ramnagar High School. The projects include construction of classrooms in each institution.

Boy drowns

TANGAIL, Dec 3: A student of Bajitpur Madrasa drowned in a pond at his village home Berabueha under Adar thana of the district on November 29, reports BSS.

The victim was identified as Joyal Abedin, 12. It was reported that the ill-fated boy came to the pond for bathing and washing his clothes. The villagers rescued his body later on.

Housewife raped

JHALAKATHI, Dec 3: A mother of three children was gang raped in village Jagorhat under Rajapur thana Sunday night, reports UNB.

Police said a gang of miscreants numbering 4 or 5 sneaked into a house, took out the housewife to a secluded place and violated her by turn. The criminals tied mouth, hands and legs of the hapless husband of the woman before perpetrating their misdeed. Later, neighbours rescued the woman in an unconscious state after hearing scream of the husband. The woman herself filed case with police.

Deer seized

BAGERHAT, Dec 3: Three alive and two dead deer were seized from an engine boat in the river Panjuchi in Dudmukhi area of Sundarbans on Monday, reports UNB.

Forest officers of Sarankhola Range, during regular patrol seized the deer hunters' boat at about 8:30 pm. The poachers, however, escaped swimming the river. The forest officials also seized 24 kg deer meat along with a skin which the poachers were selling those openly at Bakultala of Sarankhola thana on Tuesday. The culprits sensing arrival of forest officials fled the scene leaving behind the meat and skin.

Discussion on Sufia Kamal

BEANPOLE, Jessore, Dec 3: A discussion was held at a girls' college here to pay tribute to poet a Begum Sufia Kamal, reports BSS.

Kalamuzzaman, member of the college executive committee, was the chief guest. Principal of the college Harun-ur-Rashid presided over. The meeting was addressed, among others, by Pablo Shahid, Rehana Yasmin, Ashraf Ali, Abdul Mannan, A K M Shafiquzzaman, Hosne Ara and Hafiza Bilkis Zahar.

565 mts of wheat sanctioned

SHERPUR, Dec 3: Work under the rural infrastructure maintenance programme of the current fiscal year got underway in the district, reports UNB.

The government has allotted 565 metric tons of wheat for implementation of the programme. Relief and Rehabilitation office said 50 projects have been undertaken in Sribardi, 35 in Nalitabar, 47 in Sadar, 16 in Daulatpur, 64 in Jhenaidah thanas. The development work that will provide job opportunity for the rural unemployment will continue till April 2000.

Man with 260 fake notes held

JESSORE, Dec 3: The BDR has arrested a bus passenger with 260 counterfeit notes of Bangladesh currency at Navaron Square on Saturday, reports UNB.

On a secret information, an anti-smuggling team raided the bus and caught Abubus Salam with 260 forged notes of Tk 500 and Tk 100 denominations. Salam, suspected to be member of an organised gang of child trafficker and smugglers, was handed over to police. A case was filed with Kotwali thana in this connection.

Pehnsidyl destroyed

MANIKGANJ Dec 3: District administration destroyed a total of 1,532 bottles and six litres of phensidyl in Manikganj Collectorate premises recently, reports BSS.

Earlier the Shibabala thana police seized 983 bottles and Manikganj thana police 549 bottles and six litres phensidyl in two separate drives. Nazmul Huq Khan, a 1st class magistrate, led the team for destruction in presence of police and narcotics department officials.

Schools to be established

JESSORE, Dec 3: The Facilities Department under the Ministry of Education has taken up a programme to establish high schools and madrasas in seven thanas of the district, reports BSS.

The thanas are — Sadar, Abhyonagar, Jhikargachha, Chowgachha, Beger Para, Manirampur and Kishobpur. According to official sources, the programme will provide more opportunities to the students in these thanas to study in better environment. The programme has been taken up to fulfil the commitment of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to develop the educational facilities and spread education in the country.

1,457 mts of wheat allocated

MANIKGANJ, Dec 3: To help the poor and low income group in seven thanas of the district, the government under its Food for Work Programme has allocated 1,457 metric tons of wheat during the current fiscal year, reports UNB.

Official sources said the wheat would be utilised to repair and reconstruct rural roads, earth filling in different educational and religious institutions. Thana-wise allocations are 245 metric tons for Sadar thana, 179 for Daulatpur thana, 164 for Ghior thana, 201 for Harirampur thana, 185 for Satura thana, 185 for Shibabala thana and 299 metric tons from Singair thana. The work will start soon, officials said.

Concern over durability of Asharayan project houses

BARISAL, Dec 3: Experts expressed concern over durability of barrack type houses for the homeless people in Bhola district under the Asharayan project, reports UNB.

A soil scientist said the future of the noble work of the government would not last long as the sites were selected in newly emerged shoal areas of the River Meghna where the soil was not yet settled.

The government has undertaken eight Asharayan projects to construct permanent houses for 390 homeless families of the district. It is appreciable but selection of sites created doubt and concern among the people.

The ongoing work of the two projects for constructing 24 barrack houses for 240 families at Ramdevpur Char in Sadar thana, biggest in the district under the Asharayan project, remain suspended now due to landslide.

The shoal came up a few years ago was selected for construction of barrack type houses. Earthwork was completed by March this year but

the spots are now seven feet under water.

Local people said most of the areas of the shoal were often inundated during a moderate rain.

Members of Armed Force who were supervising the work officially wrote for budgetary allocation for fresh earth filling. As a result the work will be lengthy and delayed.

When contacted the TNO of Bhola Sadar thana told that over 414 metric tons of wheat were used to complete the earth filling on the site of the proposed barrack houses in Ramdevpur char, which have now gone under water.

Asked about the wisdom of selection of the site, the official said it was done by Glas Uddin Ahmed, Additional Secretary in Prime Minister's office after visiting the place.

On the other hand local Union Parishad Chairman Zahurul Islam said while visiting the place, the Additional Secretary had pointed to the risk involved in constructing the houses in such vulnerable soil. "It is unknown to us who

and how this site has been selected finally," said the chairman.

The shoal has come up in the mid of the River Meghna and the fate of 240 families who are going to be provided with the living accommodation in the shoal remained uncertain as the shoal usually gets inundated even in moderate tidal surge.

An elderly resident of the area said the situation would be worst in the event of cyclone and tidal bore. The only means of communication with the mainland is country boat and motor launch. Launch journey takes 45 minutes from the mainland in fair weather. There is no cyclone shelter in the shoal.

Moreover as it was a newly came up shoal, it may be eroded at any time or may go into the gorge of the turbulent Meghna. Local UP chairman further said, fully knowing about the danger of living in the shoal, hundreds of people were coming to him everyday to have allotment of a house.

Help curb terrorism, Nasim urges police

RAJSHAHI, Dec 3: Home, Post and Telecommunication Minister Mohammad Nasim called upon the members of the law enforcing agencies to perform their duties with utmost sincerity and dedication to root out terrorism and help establish stable peace in society, reports BSS.

"There is no alternative of police forces for maintaining law and order and establishing peace in society," he said while unveiling the foundation stone of the multi-storied Rajshahi Police Line Hospital and barrack buildings built at a cost of Taka 1.86 crore here Wednesday.

The Home Minister reiterated the call to free the Rajshahi University (RU) campus from terrorist saying the present government is determined to root out terrorism from the campus.

The past glory of the university has to be restored by establishing peace on the campus for the sake of maintaining peaceful academic atmosphere,"

he added.

Stressing the need for modernising the police, he said the present government has taken various pragmatic steps for expediting service to the people. The government has introduced risk allowance and extending other technical support including increase of vehicles and providing training facilities for the police to develop courage," he added.

He said the present government has increased allocation to Taka 1000 crore from the previous allocation of Taka 600 crore in the current fiscal to build a strong and modern police force coping with the 21st century.

Nasim expressed his happiness for establishing peace in the trouble torn country's south-western belt, which was mainly the sanctuary of terrorists during the last couple of years. "Peace has been restored in the region due to sincere effort of the present democratic government led by the Prime

Minister Sheikh Hasina," he added.

Calling upon the police forces to curb terrorism from society, he said, "Your sincere effort in this regard would be accepted gladly, but negligence in duties would be dealt with iron hands."

He urged the opposition political parties not to seek release of the terrorists when police arrests them. "Don't speak in favour of terrorists and give them shelter," he added.

State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Professor Zinnatunnesa Talukder, Vice-Chancellor of Rajshahi University Professor Sayedur Rahman, Additional IGP (Finance) of Police Fazul Huq, DIG, Rajshahi Range Syed Sirajul Islam and Rajshahi Metropolitan Commissioner Khandaker Shaheb Ali, among others, spoke on the occasion.

Later, the Home Minister unveiled another multi-storied hospital building at the Sardah police academy here.



Compensation demanded: Siraganj district administration acquired a vast tract of land from 137 families four years ago for Siraganj town protection embankment project financed by World Bank. But the affected families are yet to get compensation from the authorities concerned. Photo shows members of some affected families demonstrating recently for compensation.

Body of youth recovered in Magura

From Our Correspondent

MAGURA, Dec 3: Body of a young man was recovered in the town on Tuesday.

The dead was identified as Shanjit, 23, son of Sunil Kumar of village Shialjore under Mohammediapur thana of the district. He was a salesman in a garment factory in the town.

The body was sent to morgue for autopsy. A case was lodged in his connection.

Use of firewood in brick fields rampant

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Dec 3: Use of firewood in brick fields defying government ban is rampant here, hastening the process of deforestation.

Brick fields owners are using wood as fuel instead of coal, local people alleged.

Trees, including fruit bearing trees like mango, jackfruit and date, are being felled indiscriminately for the purpose.

On the other hand, huge quantity of wood are also being used every year in molasses factories, posing threat to environment.

Environmentalists have expressed grave concern over the increasing felling of trees. They have urged the authorities concerned to take immediate action against the brick field owners for violating the ban.

Wheat, sweet potato farming programme

Agriculture Extension Department (AED) has taken up a massive wheat and sweet potato cultivation programme in Dinajpur, Rangpur and Kishoreganj districts in the current season, report agencies.

Agriculture Extension Department has set a target of bringing 2,81,400 hectares of land under wheat cultivation during the winter in Dinajpur and Rangpur zones.

The production target was fixed at 6,43,280 metric tons of wheat.

Of the total, wheat is being cultivated on 1,59,700 hectares in Dinajpur zone and 1,21,700 hectares in Rangpur zone.

Districtwise break-up of land of two zones are: Dinajpur 71,000 hectares, Thakurgaon 62,000 hectares and Panchagarh 26,000 hectares. Rangpur 37,000 hectares, Gaibandha 17,500 hectares, Kurigram 32,700 hectares, Nilphamari 22,500 and Lalmonirhat 12,000 hectares.

Another report from Pirojpur said: A total of 13,090 hectares of land in Pirojpur district have been brought under boro paddy cultivation with a production target of 36,941 metric tons of rice.

According to agriculture officials, HYV will be cultivated on 12,490 hectares of land while local variety on 600 hectares.

Thana-wise break-up of lands: Sadar-1,050 hectares, Mathbaria-3,000 hectares, Nesarabad-1,450 hectares, Nazirpur-7,440 hectares,

Bhandaria-100 hectares and Kaokhali-50 hectares.

AED, Kishoreganj has taken up a massive sweet potato cultivation programme in 13 thanas of Kishoreganj district in the current season.

According to officials sources, a total of 1600 hectares would be brought under this programme.

Of the total, 55 hectares will be cultivated in Hossainpur, 70 hectares in Sadar thana, 153 hectares in Pakundia, 135 in Katadi, 30 hectares in Karimganj, five hectares in Tarail, 175 hectares in Itna, 140 hectares in Mithamoni, 200 hectares in Nikli, 235 hectares in Astagram, 110 hectares in Bajitpur, 67 hectares in Kuliarchar and 225 hectares in Bhairab thanas.

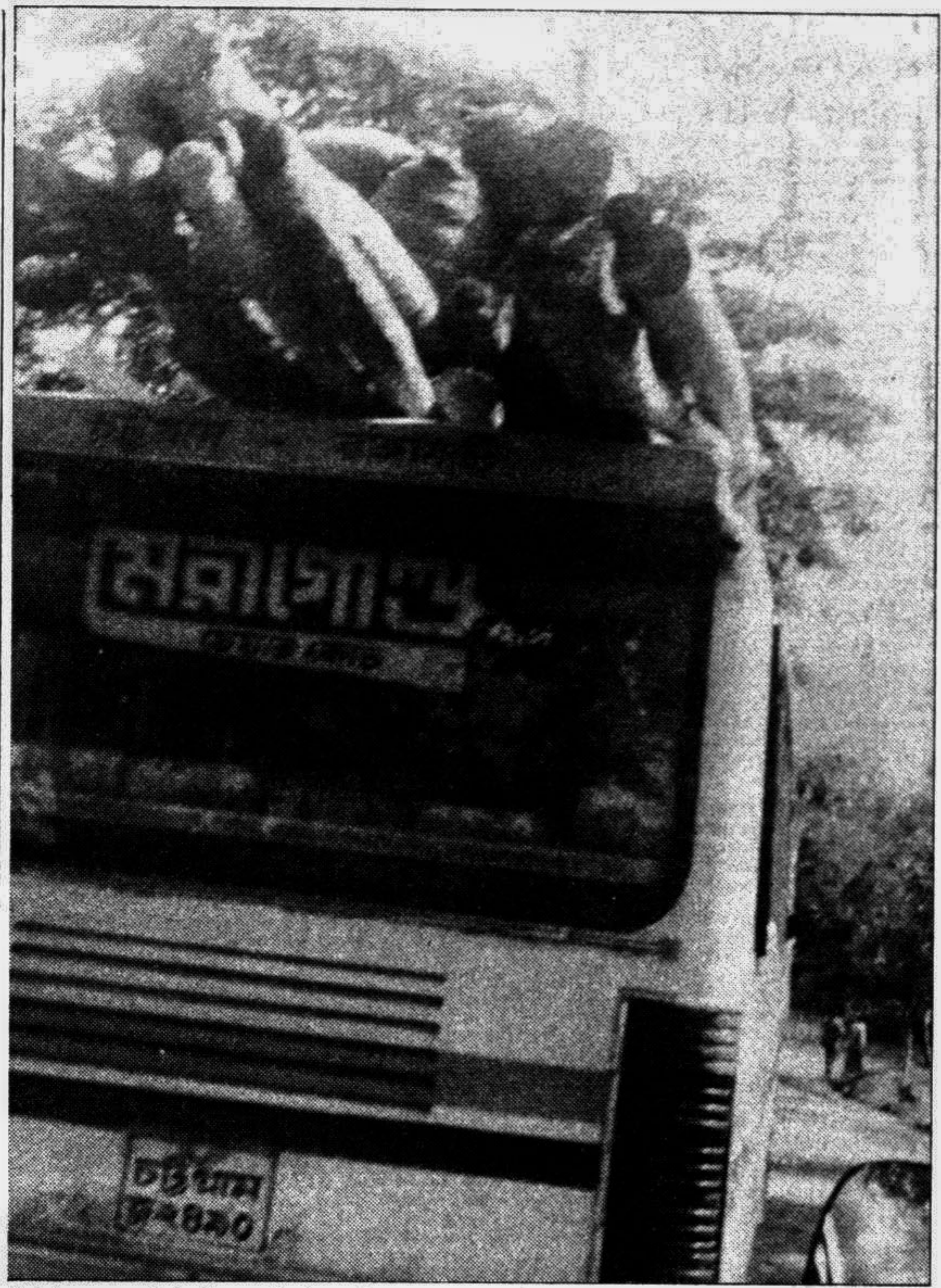
Two held with revolver in Chittagong

From Our Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Dec 3: Two youths were held with a revolver from Pathorghata Churail area this morning.

They were identified as Md Dulal, 20, and Md Ferdous alias Manik, 20.

Meanwhile, Chittagong Metropolitan Police arrested 31 people from different areas of the city in the last 24 hours ending at 6 pm today for their alleged involvement in different criminal activities.



Environmental degradation: Logs are being carried on the rooftop of a bus running along Chittagong-Rangamati road recently. This is a regular feature along this route. Logs are usually supplied to various destinations around the country. Unscrupulous traders are doing the unfair business by rampant felling of trees. They don't care at all to follow the government ban on such act. It is widely alleged that they maintain an unholy alliance with the members of the law enforcing agencies.

Sensational indeed!

NAOGAON, Dec 3: Mithun, 10, son of Babar Ali in Sherpur area here died recently, reports BSS.

He often dreamt of snake and also found it here and there. He requested his parents not to beat snake. A snake followed him almost every moment when he played. Sometimes the snake looked at him constantly. One day Mithun was catching fish with hook. At that time the snake was found in an hole of the wall of their house. Babar Ali hit the snake's head with a stick. The snake died. Suddenly Mithun felt pain in his head and came back to his house. He fainted, blood oozed out from his nose and mouth. He was taken to the Naogaon Hospital where he died later on.

The incident created a sensation in this area.

Tale of a freedom fighter

From Our Correspondent

MAGURA, Dec 3: It is unfortunate that a man who once fought for the liberation of his country is now engaged in an odd job.

Soon after the independence, Ahmed Hossain, 52, enlisted in Ansar force. But after a few days he lost his job and became unemployed.

Ahmed Hossain, who fought under sector number 8 in the War of Liberation in 1971, now pulls rickshaw van to earn his living.

Ahmed Hossain, son of late Raihanuddin Mollah, hails from village Buzrik Sreekhundi under Sadar thana of Magura.

The freedom fighter, whose dwelling house was burnt to ashes during the war against Pakistani forces and their local collaborators, now seeks government help and assistance. Ahmed Hossain said it is really difficult to maintain the family of eight members by pulling rickshaw van.

'Shun politics of violence'

MADHYANAGAR(Sunamganj), Dec 3: Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad called upon the opposition to shun the path of violence and engage themselves in constructive politics, reports BSS.

He was addressing a public meeting here after inaugurating the new two-storied building at Madhyaganar thana Wednesday.

The foreign minister said destructive politics will bring no good to the people and the country. He urged the opposition parties to respond to the call of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for parliament-based politics in the country. He said the government will continue its welfare programmes despite obstructions being created by the opposition.

Awami League leaders Matur Rahman, Mukul Bose and Abdul Zahar, among others, addressed the meeting.

The foreign minister, addressing another meeting at Jamalganj, said the government will arrange holding of the upazila elections on the scheduled time.

Massive programme for Rabi crops farming

BRAHMANBARIA, Dec 3: A massive programme for Rabi crops cultivation has been taken up during the years 1999-2000 in seven thanas of the district, reports BSS.

According to local Agriculture Extension Department (AED), a total of 89,570 hectares of land have been brought under Boro paddy cultivation with a production target of 2,52,443 metric tons, 17,000 hectares under wheat for 38,862 metric tons, 2,100 hectares under potato for 25,200 metric tons, 23,500 hectares under mustard for 21,150 metric tons, 500 hectares under ground nut for 950 metric tons, 1,000 hectares under sweet potato for 12,000 metric tons, 6000 hectares under maize for 2,400 metric tons and 5,700 hectares under the cultivation of winter vegetables with production target of 85,000 metric tons.

Beside, a total of 7,500 hectares have been brought under various kinds of pulses cultivation with production target of 5,770 metric tons.

The AED and BADC have taken measures to distribute seeds, fertiliser, insecticides and other agricultural inputs among the farmers for successful implementation of the programme.

Agricultural banks and other commercial banks are disbursing loans among the farmers to achieve the production target.

Another report from

Thakurgaon adds: A programme for massive cultivation of different crops on about 1,25,900 hectares of land has been taken up in five thanas of the district in the current Rabi season.

According to Agriculture Extension Department, under the programme Boro paddy will be cultivated on 36,150 hectares, wheat on 62,000 hectares, potato on 4,000 hectares, sweet potato on 550 hectares, maize on 900 hectares, lentil on 1,000 hectares, gram on 1,000 hectares, mung on 1,000 hectares, onion on 2,000 hectares, garlic on 500 hectares, dhania on 500 hectares, chili on 2,000 hectares, ginger on 192 hectares, turmeric on 700 hectares and vegetable on 3,500 hectares.

Youth succumbs to stab injuries

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Dec 3: A young man succumbed to severe stab injuries in hospital last week.

The dead was identified as Reaz, 22, son of renowned freedom fighter Ahmed Jamil, of Katcharpara in the town.

Police said unidentified assailants indiscriminately stabbed the youth in the town on November 19. He was rushed to Pabna General Hospital.

Events of districts in picture



Students are our future leaders: Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Alhaj Humayun Rashid Chowdhury speaking as the chief guest at the installation ceremony of Sylhet Law College Students' Union last week.



A meeting to mourn the death of renowned social worker MA Halim Chowdhury was held recently at village Dalainagar under Raozan thana in Chittagong. M Abul Quasem, Associate Professor of Bengali Department of Chittagong University, and Debashish Palit, Chairman of Raozan Municipality, attended the condolence meeting as chief guest and special guest respectively.