

News snaps

Another new police station

COMILLA, Dec 4: Meghna police station set up recently started operation on Wednesday, reports UNB.

Meghna police station covers four union parishads of Homna thana and three of Daudkandi thana. The union parishads under the new police station are Barakanda, Gobindapur and Looterchar, Chandanpur, Kalibhanga, Radhanagar and Manikarchar. The temporary office of the station was set up at the Manikarchar Union Parishad building. An OC, two SIs, two ASIs and 20 constables have been posted in the new police station.

JCD men with phensidyl arrested

JOYPUKHAT, Dec 4: Akkelpur police on Wednesday arrested two young men along with 105 bottles of phensidyl from near Kathabari Kuchmara Bridge on Akkelpur-Tilakpur road, reports UNB.

They are Bidyut and Palash. The contraband items were found on search of a cartoon of biscuit they were carrying in a rickshaw at 4 pm. The police identified Bidyut as assistant general secretary of Akkelpur thana Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Palash as an activist of the organisation.

Fake police officer arrested

MYMENSINGH, Dec 4: A young man, who identified himself as an officer of the detective branch of police, was given mass beating for demanding bribe when prove he falsified his identity, reports UNB.

Mostafa came to the house of Selim at Bhati Bar under Sadar thana on Tuesday night, told him that he was involved in a criminal case and demanded Tk 8,000 to relieve him from the charge. Being suspicious at his behaviour, the inmates of the house caught Mostafa and gave him a good beating. He was later handed over to the police.

Care Enterfish project ends

BENAPOLE, Jessore, Dec 4: The project of Care Enterfish concluded at village Borokuli under Jhikargachha thana of the district recently, reports BSS.

The concluding ceremony was presided over by President of Care Enterfish Ataur Rahman. It was addressed, among others, by Supervisor of Care Enterfish Mahub Alam, Samaul Islam, Bakluzzaman and Salim Reza. The project started two years ago. The farmers were imparted training on modern methods of cultivation of fishes.

Music festival concludes

BARISAL, Dec 4: A four-day long musical festival of Rabindra-Nazrul-Mukunda concluded here in the Aswini Kumar Town Hall premises on November 30, reports BSS.

The programmes included awarding ceremony, reception to prominent persons, rendering Rabindra, Nazrul and Mukunda songs, discussion and cultural function. Presided over by SM Jaman the function was attended by M Alauddin, Deputy Commissioner of Barisal, as the chief guest. Among others, Manabendra Batbayal, Minto Bose and Enayet Hossain Chowdhury took part in the discussion.

Killer husband gets life term

JESSORE, Dec 4: A district court here has sentenced a man to rigorous imprisonment for life for killing his wife seven years ago, reports UNB.

Mustafizur Rahman alias Kota of village Chanda in Jhikargachha thana was also fined Tk 2,000, in default, to suffer another six months' R. The prosecution said Kota strangled his wife Firoza Begum on February 27, 1993, following a feud over his second marriage. He then poured poison into the mouth of Firoza. Police recovered the body of Firoza the following day and filed a case against Kota following the postmortem report. Examining the records and witnesses, Judge Abdul Hal found Kota guilty and delivered the judgement on November 28.

Three arrested for smuggling

MAGURA, Dec 4: Police arrested three persons, including two Indian citizens, in two separate drives and seized smuggled goods worth about Taka 9 lakh at Shalukha thana of the district recently, reports BSS.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided Arpara bridge area and stopped a Dhaka-bound bus, coming from Jessore. Police seized the smuggled goods worth Taka 8 lakh 50 thousand from the bus. The goods included Indian audio cassettes, automobile parts, cosmetics and readymade garments. Dulu Mia, driver of the bus, was arrested. In another drive, Magura thana police seized some contraband Indian goods worth Taka 50 thousand from in front of Magura Palli Bidyut Bhaban. Police arrested two Indian citizens in this connection.

Woman killed in road mishap

SATKHIRA, Dec 4: An old woman was killed and 15 people were injured when a bus fell into a roadside ditch in Sadar thana on Satkhira-Kaliganj road Wednesday evening, reports UNB.

The dead was identified as Hamida Khatun, 60. Police said the mishap took place at Alipur as the Kaliganj-bound bus from Satkhira tried to avert a cyclist. The injured were admitted to a local clinic. A case was filed with Sadar police.

Man with firearm held

MYMENSINGH, Dec 4: A man with firearm was caught by villagers at Nijhumi under Bhalka thana and handed over to the police on Wednesday, reports UNB.

Villagers said Akkas along with his armed accomplices came to the village and tried to forcibly take his wife Shirin Akhter despite her refusal to go with him. Hearing the hue and cry neighbours came out and caught Akkas with a pipe gun and harpoon and handed over to the police along with the arms and car. His accomplices, however, managed to escape. Jalal Uddin, the father of Shirin, filed a case with the local police.

Four shops gutted

SHERPUR, Dec 4: A devastating fire that broke out in a market in the town on November 27 gutted four shops damaging goods and property worth Tk 10 lakh, reports UNB.

It is suspected the fire originated from a burning candle in a grocery shop in the market at Nohata crossing that engulfed neighbouring shops. Fire fighters and local people put off the blaze after struggling for 90 minutes. Another report from Bagerhat said: Fire gutted machines and valuables worth Tk 2 lakh of a courier service office at Light House cinema hall road Wednesday night. Electric short circuit was suspected to have originated from office while it was closed. Fire fighters doused the blaze after half an hour.

Interest free loan disbursed

NETRAKONA, Dec 4: District Social Welfare Department disbursed Taka 2.70 lakh here as interest free loan under the poverty alleviation programme during the last financial year, reports BSS.

According to official sources, the loan was disbursed among 166 people in the villages under Sadar thana. The villages are Kangsha, Bashati, Chandrakona, Faridpur and Palashati. The loan was given for starting income generating works like poultry, cattle and handicrafts, the sources added.

Construction work begins

TANGAIL, Dec 4: The construction work of Tangail Press Club building began on Wednesday at a cost of Taka 15 lakh, reports BSS.

Of the total, Taka five lakhs was received from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina as grant and the rest is being available from Local Government Engineering Department (LGED), official sources said. It was attended, among others, by Abdul Mannan, MP, President and General Secretary of Tangail Press Club and Executive Engineer of LGED, Tangail. Earlier, the prime minister laid foundation of the press club building.

Farmers' conference

BARISAL, Dec 4: A farmers' conference was held at Runshi village under Kirtipasha union of Jhalakathi sadar thana recently, reports BSS.

Organised by the Jhalakathi District Agriculture Extension Department, the conference was attended by M Kafiluddin, corn preserver of the department, as the chief guest. Samir Ranjan Sikdar, officer of this department presided over the function. About 200 farmers were present at this conference. Some 25 farmers were awarded.

Open sale of meats of sick animals

MAGURA, Dec 4: A section of butchers are selling the meats of sick cows and goats right under the nose of law-enforcing agencies, causing hazards to public health, reports UNB.

Locals alleged that the butchers sometimes slaughter pregnant animals as there is none to control them. Health and Livestock departments are supposed to oversee the matter, but both the administrative organs can hardly take action against these butchers for reasons unknown. Besides, the butchers slaughter animals in unhygienic places although there are specific slaughterhouses in the pourasabha area. There have been allegations that the butchers slaughter animals on 'meatless days' too.

Separate incidents claim 27 lives in 4 dists

A total of 27 persons were killed in separate incidents in four districts recently, report agencies.

Eighteen people were killed in various incidents in Sylhet district during the month of November.

The victims were identified as Nizamuddin, 22, of Barochak village in sadar thana, Niharun, 55, of Jamalpur in Bala-ganj thana, Latifa Begum, 38, of Munshipara in the town, Abdur Rashid, 45, Abdur Karim, 25 and another unidentified man of Natunhat in Tahirpur than.

The deceased also included Kamal, Mozammel, Dilara, 30, of Joyaintapur thana, Jhutan Majumdar of pourasabha area, Nuru Mia, 60, of Companyganj thana, Tota Mia, 30, Tarek Mia, 60, of Chatak thana, Tarek Mia, 45, of Jagannathpur thana, Samoruddin, 45, of sadar thana, Saiful, 22, of Golapganj thana, Jewel Ahmed, 20 of pourasabha area and Aziruddin, 62, of Bhanibazar thana.

Six people died and 11 others were injured in separate incidents in Feni on Monday and Tuesday.

Police said two tempo passengers were killed and 11 others sustained injuries at Natun

Ranirhat area of the town when their tempo collided with a truck at 3 pm.

The dead were identified as Sabita Rani, 16, and Serajul Islam, 45. The injured Lovely, 30, Parul, 20, Sakina Begum, 56, Rezia Akhter, 40, Konica, 17, Shuva Chandra, 38, Shahabuddin, 15, Nur Alam, 20 and Abdul Mannan, 25 were admitted to the Feni Sadar Hospital.

Shah Alam, 35, peon of Feni South East College was run over by a speeding truck at 1 pm at Fazilpur on Dhaka-Chittagong highway. He met the tragic end of his life while crossing the road.

A middle aged unidentified man was run over by a train at Feni railway station on Monday night.

On the same night Joyal Abedin, 22, son of late Abu Ahmad Mintu of Kalidaha village in sadar thana allegedly committed suicide in his room due to abject poverty.

In yet another incident Shafiqur Rahman, 40, of Josphur village in Chhagolnaya thana was killed in his mud house collapse on the same night.

Separate cases were filed with the police.

Two persons were killed here in a road accident on Thakurgaon-Dinajpur highway near Youth Development Centre (YDC) on November 24.

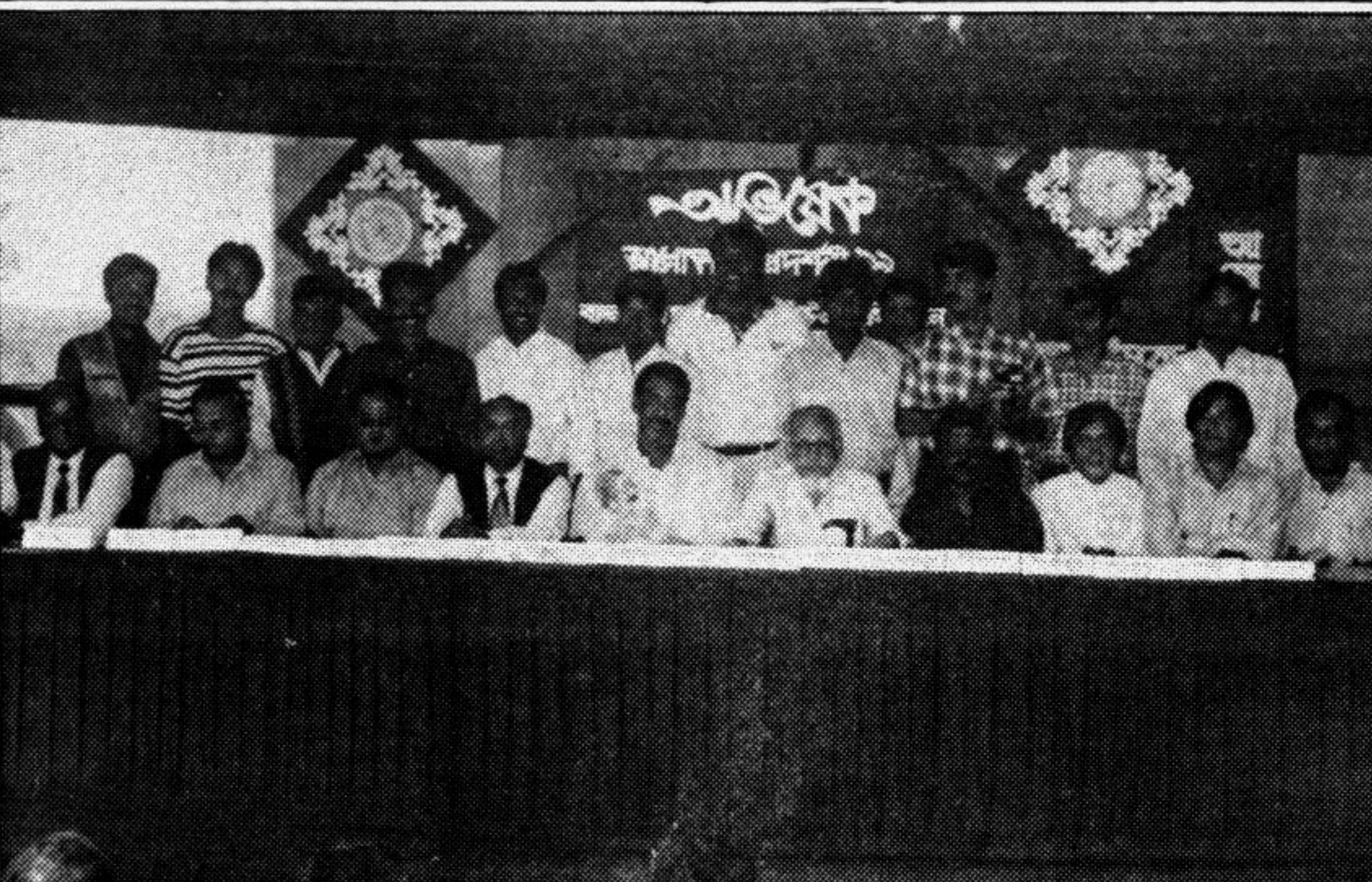
The victims were identified as Jamila Khatun, 60, wife of Asgar Ali and her grandson Parvez, 5.

It was reported that they were waiting on the roadside near YDC. All on a sudden a microbus knocked them and as a result they were killed on the spot.

A case was filed with Thakurgaon Police Station in this connection.

A boy was killed and seven others injured as a tempo tumbled into a canal alongside Bagerhat-Khulna highway in sadar thana on November 30 after hitting a truck. Police said the 7-year-old boy, Rubel, was killed on the spot in Kathaltala area when the Khulna-bound tempo from Bagerhat was dashed by the truck and fell into the roadside canal.

All the injured were admitted to sadar hospital where condition of tempo driver Isarat, 40, passengers Aklima, 30, and Mukid, 26, was stated to be critical.



The installation ceremony of Narayanganj district unit of Bangladesh Photo Journalists Association was held at Narayanganj Press Club on November 29. Motiur Rahman, President of the unit chaired the function while A K M Shamim Osman, member of parliament was the chief guest. Elderly journalist Principal Shamsul Huda, President of Bangladesh Photo Journalists Association Md Salauddin, Administrator of Narayanganj Municipality Fakir Abdus Salam, President of Narayanganj Press Club Habibur Rahman Badal and others spoke on the occasion.

Rabi, Boro, wheat farming programme in dists

The Agriculture Extension Department (AED) has undertaken an ambitious programme for the cultivation of Rabi crops in Panchagarh, Boro in 10 southern districts and wheat in Kishoreganj district in the current season, report agencies.

A plan has been undertaken to bring 62,097 hectares of land under Rabi crops in Panchagarh district during the current season.

The production target has been fixed at 151,838 metric tons.

Farmers are making all-out preparation for Rabi crop cultivation to recoup the Aman crop losses caused by inclement weather and massive pest attack.

According to district Agriculture Extension Department (AED), the target of Rabi crop cultivation and production in the 1999-2000 season has been fixed as follows: Boro — 14,940 hectares (43,173 tons), Wheat — 26,000 hectares (49,436 tons), Maize — 6,000 hectares (2,400 tons), Potato — 2000 hectares (24,000 tons) and Sweet Potato — 850 hectares (10,200 tons).

The season's target also includes Mustard — 4,000 hectares (3,600 tons), Groundnut — 200 hectares (380 tons), Chillies — 3,300

hectares (6,600 tons), onion — 600 hectares (6,000 tons), Coriander — 50 hectares (111 tons) and Masur — 500 hectares (230 tons).

AED has undertaken an ambitious programme to bring over 3.55 lakh hectares of land for Boro cultivation in 10 southern districts during the ensuing season.

Officials said out of the total land, over 2.52 lakh hectares will be brought under high yielding variety and over 1.03 lakh hectares under local variety with a production target of 10.08 lakh metric tons of paddy.

The districts are Jessore, Kustia, Chuadanga, Meherpur, Magura, Jhenidah, Narail, Khulna, Bagerhat, Satkhira.

To achieve the target, AED will provide improved seeds, fertilisers, insecticides and other inputs to the farmers. Bangladesh Krishi Bank will provide necessary loans to them.

AED had taken up a massive wheat cultivation programme in 13 thanas of Kishoreganj district in the current Rabi season.

According to official sources, under the programme a total of 13,500 hectares will be brought under wheat cultivation in these thanas.

Of the total land, 1400

hectares will be cultivated in Hossainpur thana, 3000 hectares in sadar thana, 2300 hectares in Pakundia thana, 1850 hectares in Katadi thana, 1400 hectares in Karimganj thana, 600 hectares in Tarail thana, 300 hectares in Itna thana, 85 hectares in Mithamon thana, 3000 hectares in Nikli thana, 350 hectares in Ashtagram thana, 1300 hectares in Bajitpur thana, 365 hectares in Kullarchar thana and 250 hectares in Bhairab thana.

The production target has been fixed at 30,861 tonnes of wheat this year here.

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 to the farmers.

Besides, different state-owned banks including Bangladesh Krishi Bank will disburse agri-loan among the farmers for making the wheat cultivation programme a success.

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



Traffic jam in front of Sabujkanan Preparatory and High School on Mujib Sarak in Sirajganj town is a regular feature. As a result the road is blocked for traffic creating problem for school students, their guardians and passers-by. — Star photo

A new horizon of prawn cultivation

SHARIATPUR, Dec 4: A new horizon of prawn cultivation has been created in the district following the findings of a recent survey carried out by the Fisheries Department, reports UNB.

The survey found that environment and waters of the district are suitable for prawn cultivation.

The department meanwhile arranged several seminars and workshops on prawn cultivation at union and thana levels. It also conducted training courses for the fisherman and assured them of all-round support from the district and thana level fisheries offices.

As a result, a large number of fishermen and different NGOs have evinced keen interest to invest in prawn cultivation.

Project Director of SDO, and NGO working of the welfare of the rural people, said the prawn cultivation could not be expanded for lack of improved training and shortage of prawn fry.

An expert said prawn worth over Tk 1,000 crore can be exported annually through providing adequate prawn fry, bank loan and training to the fishermen.

Papaya farming increasing in Narsingdi

NARSINGDI, Dec 4: The cultivation of papaya is increasing in here with the passage of time, reports BSS.

It is learnt from the local unit of Agriculture Extension Department (AED), papaya was cultivated in 1995 on 200 hectares here. This year it has been cultivated on about 350 hectares. Yearly production of papaya here has come to about 16,000 tonnes.

According to the Agriculture Extension Department sources, papaya is now the second cash crop, next to banana, in Narsingdi.

Housewife commits suicide in Narail

From Our Correspondent

NARAIL, Dec 4: A housewife committed suicide by taking poison at Lohagora thana headquarters recently.

The woman was identified as Ruma Roy, 30, wife of Ratan Kumar Roy. The housewife was rushed to Lohagora Health Complex where she died.

The reason behind the suicide could not be known immediately.

Youth Day observed

SHERPUR, Dec 4: The National Youth Day '99 was observed here in a befitting manner on Wednesday, reports UNB.

The Deputy Commissioner inaugurated the programmes of the day in the morning.

The programmes included holding discussion, youth rally, clean-up campaign, mobile sewing training course for women, musical game and charity football match.

A colorful rally was brought out from the deputy commissioner's office. It paraded different roads in the town and ended at New Market.

Later, a discussion meeting was held at the town hall with Additional Deputy Commissioner in the chair.

The meeting was addressed, among others, by poura chairman Adv MA Samad and the Assistant Director of Youth Development Directorate.

Twenty male and female youths were given awards for their contributions in the field.

Another report from Habiganj adds: The National Youth day was also observed here with great enthusiasm.

The programmes jointly organised by district administration and youth development department included discussion, youth-rally, sports competition, prize-giving ceremony and cultural function.

The people from all walks of life joined the rally brought out from Primary Teachers Training Institute. It paraded different roads of the town and ended at Jalal Stadium.

A discussion was held at the local town hall. The Deputy Commissioner distributed prizes among the winners of the sports competition.

A report from Rangamati says: Chairman of the Task

Force on Repatriated Tribals and Internal Refugees Rehabilitation Affairs Dipankar Talukdar MP said on Wednesday the government has undertaken necessary steps to generate employment opportunities for the unemployed youths in Chittagong Hill Tracts.

The government has opened a branch of Employment Bank in Rangamati so that the unemployed youths can get loan on easy terms and condition, he said. Dipankar was speaking as the chief guest at a discussion held in Rangamati Municipality auditorium in observance of National Youth Festival, 99. Chairman of Rangamati Municipality Habibur Rahman, Superintendent of police of Rangamati Fazlul Haque Bhuiyan, Rangamati Sadar Thana Nirbahi Officer Ekramul Haque and Deputy Director of Rangamati unit of Youth Development Directorate were, among others, attended the discussion. Deputy Commissioner Abu Haidar Sardar presided over the discussion. Earlier, a colourful procession was brought out from Rangamati Hill District Council office premises.

BSS reports: National Youth Day was observed in Tangail in a befitting manner.

A discussion was held on this occasion at Bhasani Hall on Wednesday.

Abdul Mannan was the chief guest in the meeting. The chief guest, in his speech, stressed on the role and contribution of the youth in national development programmes.

Loans among the youths and prizes among best youth workers were distribute on this occasion.

A friendly football match was also held at Tangail Stadium.

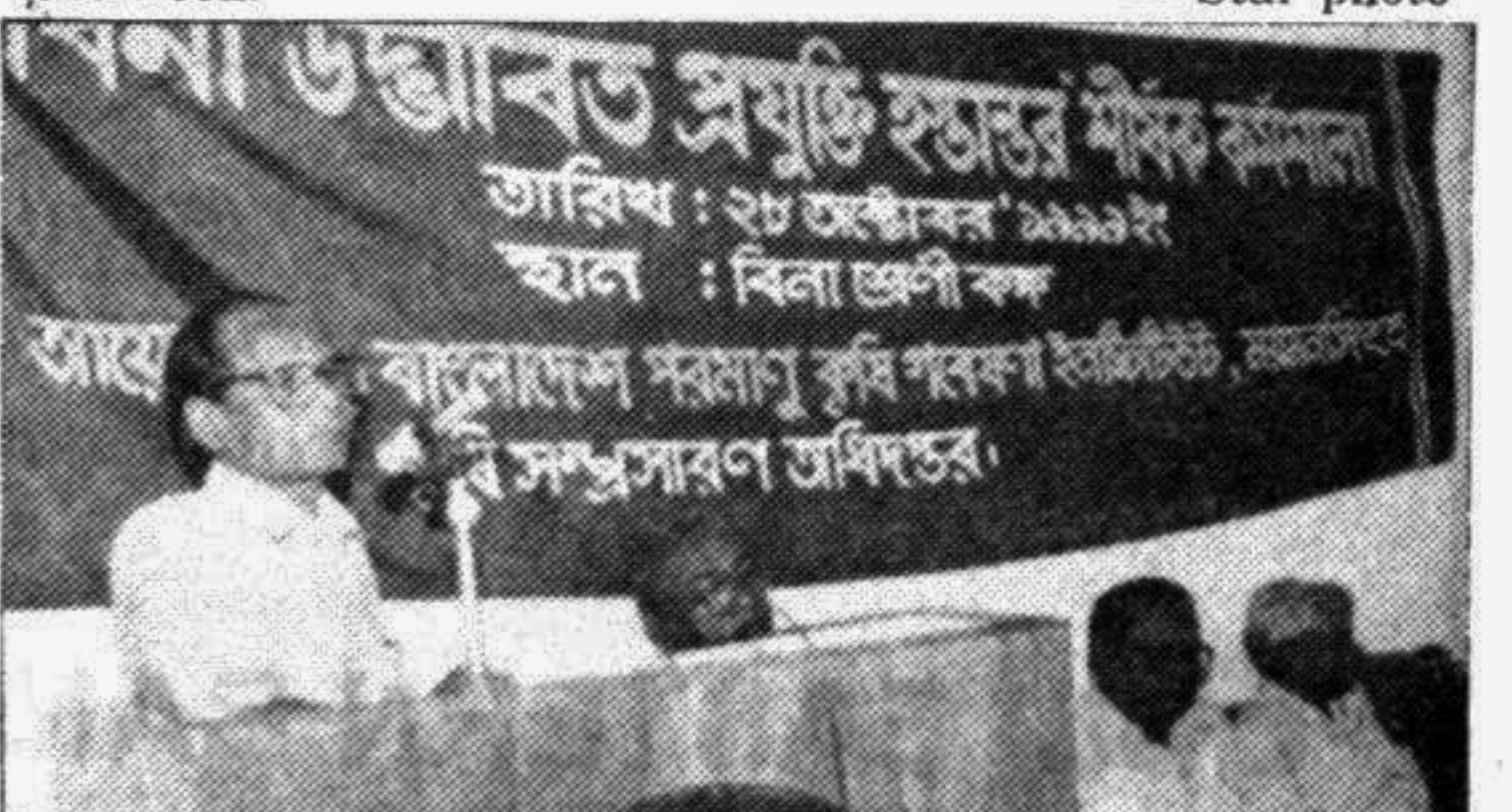
Events of districts in picture



Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Mohila Dal arranged a protest rally recently at Saheb Bazaar Mani square in Rajshahi. — Star photo



Muhibur Rahman MD of Comp-Net Computers, the first software firm of Sylhet addressing at a press conference last week. — Star photo



Technology transfer: Delwar Hossain, Director (Field wing) of Agriculture Extension Department speaking recently as the chief guest at a day long programme on "Transfer of Technologies Developed by BINA" at the class room of BINA. — Star photo



Monument in memory of Kamanna martyrs.

— Star photo

On November 26 a group of 42 freedom fighters entered the village by the side of the river Kumar and took shelter in several houses. Until then the village was free from Pakistani occupation forces. So the young guerrillas went to beds with little hesitation.

But the Pakistani forces stationed in Jhenidah Cadet College and Magura town were informed of the presence of the guerrillas by their local collaborators—members of Razakar, Al Badar and Al Shams forces.

Razzak Mollah and Amjad, local collaborators, guided the Pakistani soldiers to the village.

A monument to commemorate the supreme sacrifices of the 28 freedom fighters was built in the premises of Hazipur School.

The discussants also urge the government to provide assistance to the members of the bereaved families.

From Hossain Seraj

MAGURA, Dec 4: Speakers at a discussion paid glowing tributes to the 28 freedom fighters who were brutally killed by Pakistani soldiers on the same day during the War of Liberation.

On November 26, 1971, at village Kamanna under Shailakupa thana of Jhenidah district freedom fighters took shelter in the houses of Madhab Chandra and Shamela Begum. At night Pakistani soldiers suddenly attacked the houses and gunned down the 28 free-

dom fighters. The discussion held in Hazipur School premises under Magura Sadar thana on November 26 recalled the supreme sacrifices of the 28 patriots, all except one were from Magura district. The other freedom fighter was from Faridpur district.

Presided over by Mohammad Ali, the meeting was attended by Prof M S Akbar MP as the chief guest. It was addressed, among others, by local Awami League leader Altaf Hossain, Advocate

Abul Khayer, noted freedom fighter Akbar Hossain Mia, Khondoker Abdul Majed and Advocate Rafiqul Akbar. The discussants related their personal experiences of one the sad incidents of the war, commonly known as Kamanna tragedy.

The martyrs are Riat Ali, So-laiman Shikder, Nirmal Kumar Biswas, Abdul Aziz, Moniruzzaman, Anisur Rahman, Hossain Ali, Shariful Islam, Masim, Alamgir Hossain, Gour Chandra, Abdur Razzak,

Shahidul Islam, Adhir Kumar Shikder, Mominuddin, Wahidur Rahman, Munshi Ali-uzzaman, Abdul Motaleb, Golam Kawser, Ali Hossain, Tajul Islam, Golzar Rahman, Khondoker Abdur Rashid, Selim Shikder, Abdul Kader, Abdus Salek, Ansar Ali, and Golam Akbar.

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