



**Welcome Autumn:** *Kashful*, a traditional flower of Bangladesh heralding the arrival of autumn following rainy season. In this season rural Bangladesh wears an attractive look. This enchanting scene was taken recently from Binenderpara under Sadar upazila of Jamalpur district.

--Star photo by Muhammad Ali

## Bumper sugarcane yield expected

From Abdul Wadood

RAJSHAHI, Sept 2: Bumper sugarcane production is expected in Rajshahi Sugar Mills (RSM) zone in the current season, sugar mills officials said.

Officials have attributed the high hope of bumper yield to favourable weather and availability of seeds, fertilisers and pesticides during farming.

According to the officials, the crop has been cultivated on 15,374 acres of land under the zone. Out of the total, 1,800 acres of land in 40 blocks under 10 sub-zones have been brought under high yielding varieties (HY) of sugarcane.

About three lakh metric tons of sugarcane are likely to be produced this season, RSM officials said.

During the last season, 2.5 lakh metric tons of the crop were produced by cultivating 23,000 acres of land.

Average production rate was 12.44 metric tons per acre last year, while the rate will be 20 metric tons per acre this year, RSM officials hope.

When contacted, RSM General Manager Suraj Rahman Shaikh total this correspondent that the production could surpass the target as sugarcane plants had grown very well, thanks to mainly favourable weather condition.

However, he cautioned illegal operation of power crushers in

the mills zone must be stopped to achieve sugar production in the mills.

At least 40 power crushers are in operation in the mills zone, RSM General Manager (Agriculture) Emdadul Haque said. Each machine crushes three tons of sugarcane every day, he added. Two power crushers were seized this week.

Haque said owners of power crusher are active now, but sugarcane plants will still grow by two feet. Crushing of immature sugarcane causes a great loss as percentage of sugar in sugarcane is much below now, he added.

According to the officials, newly developed HYV Ishwardi-20, 24, 25, 28 and 29 have been cultivated on about 35 per cent of the total land. These varieties will give a production rate of about 30 metric tons per acre, officials said.

Meanwhile, Rajshahi Sugar Mills fixed a target to produce 10,270 metric tons of sugar by crushing 1,30,000 metric tons of sugarcane during the current season.

In the last season, RSM produced only 6,540 metric tons of sugar by crushing 90,000 metric tons of sugarcane. RSM were to stop crushing only after 58 days of production for lack of supply of sugarcane, incurring a loss of

about Taka 14 crore.

**BSS from Thakurgaon says:** Sugarcane plantation in Thakurgaon Sugar Mills Zone this season started recently at village Kharibari under Sadar upazila.

The programme was jointly inaugurated by Ramesh Chandra Sen, MP and M Imdadul Haque, MP.

On the occasion, M Baharul Islam, MD, M Nurul Islam, GM, M Abdul Wahab, DGM, M Abdul Quddus Hawladar, GM (Finance), other officials and field workers of the Mills and some farmers were present.

The target of sugarcane cultivation on 13,000 acres was fixed for 2000-2001 sugarcane growing season. For the purpose the mill has taken up a programme to disburse loans of Taka 6.52 crore among the sugarcane growers of the mill's zone.

Meanwhile, training programme for the sugarcane growers has started. Under the programme, 300 sugarcane growers will be imparted training in 9 batches.

Last season, sugarcane was cultivated on 9,582 acres in the mill zone. It is expected that one lakh metric tons of sugarcane will be available for crushing in the mills in the next sugarcane crushing season.

## Step to boost cotton farming

THAKURGAON, Sept 2: A massive programme to distribute loan among cotton growers of 16 northern districts has been taken up in a bid to give a further boost to cotton farming, reports UNB.

The programme titled 'Assistance Programme for Registered Cotton Growers' will jointly be implemented by Cotton Development Board and Rajshahi Krishnanagar Bank.

When the Krishni Bank provides Tk 12 crore for implementing the

programme, the Cotton Development Board is going to extend technical assistance to the farmers.

Meanwhile, authorities have decided to bring some 8,175 hectares of land under cotton farming by the registered farmers of the region with a production target of 17,625 bales of cotton.

Officials said one registered farmer would be eligible to cultivate maximum two acres of land and minimum half acre.

BSS from Jessor says: The target of cotton production in six southern districts has been fixed at 72 bales for this season.

Cotton will be cultivated on about 36 thousand hectares of land in the area.

Cotton specialists observed that weather is favourable for cotton cultivation this year. The region consists of Jessor, Jhenaidah, Magura, Meherpur, Chuadanga and Kushtia.

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer

Sherpur Public Works Division

### Tender Notice

No-2 (2000-2001)

Tenders in Bangladesh Form No-2911 in sealed envelopes are hereby invited from contractor/contractors establishment with appropriate financial capability for the completion of undermentioned work. Tenders will be received in the respective offices of all Executive Engineers under Mymensingh Public Works Circle, Mymensingh on 13-9-2000/29-5-1407 Bangla till 12:00 Noon and will be opened the same day at 12:15 PM in presence of tenders (if anyone is desirous of remaining present). The name of work, name of contractor and the address to whom the tender will have to be submitted should be mentioned on envelope.

Serial	Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Time limit for completion of work	Eligibility of contractor
1.	Construction of semi-pucca police barrack in Sribordi Thana of Sherpur district	Tk. 4,63,224/-	Tk. 9,265/-	90 (Ninety days)	Special Class/Class I/Class II/Class III building contractor/contractors establishment enlisted with Public Works Department.
2.	Tender schedule, additional terms and conditions and rules and regulations and Bangladesh Form No-2911 etc can be seen in all offices of the Executive Engineers under Public Works Circle, Mymensingh and interested contractors can purchase by producing the registration book themselves or their nominated representatives whose signature has been attested by the contractor on nomination letter can purchase on 12-9-2000/28-5-1407 Bangla till office hours on payment of specific cost (non-refundable).				
3.	The registration certificate of Value Added Tax Department and original copy of TIN certificate will have to be produced at the time of purchasing tender and their photocopies will have to be enclosed with tender. Otherwise, tenders will be treated as rejected.				
4.	If there are more than valid lowest participating tenders for the work mentioned, then a contractor will be selected through lottery on 29-9-2000 at 12:00 Noon in presence of contractors (if anyone remains present) in the office chamber of the undersigned.				

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Md Abdul Latif Talukder  
Executive Engineer  
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## National

# PM likely to open work on Ruppur plant in Nov

PABNA, Sept 2: The unusual delay in implementing the 'Ruppur Nuclear Power Plant' once had raised doubt about its future. Now construction work on the project appears to begin soon, returning a smile on the faces of local people, reports UNB.

Work on the project undertaken 38 years ago and then got entangled in red tape, is expected to be opened by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in November next.

The then government had taken up the ambitious project at Ruppur in Iswardi upazila with a view to bringing the vast population of the northern region under power supply network.

To implement the project, the government had acquired 259.90 acres of land and purchased some 22 lakh of bricks.

Later, 72 houses and guest houses were constructed on 88 acres of land at Shalpur village for its officials and employees. But all the houses have gradually been abandoned, making those unsuitable for habitation.

Official sources said the project authorities on various occasions had discussed with different donor countries for funds to implement the country's lone nuclear power plant project. But all their efforts went in vain.

Apart from Sweden and Norway, the government had talks with Canada in 1964 to set up a nuclear reactor capable of generating 70mw power. But later the decision was revised and the government proposed to set up a 140 mw power plant.

However, in 1966, the donor countries Sweden,

Canada and Norway had refused to provide financial assistance for the project.

In 1973, a fresh decision was taken to set up a 200-mw nuclear reactor. And this decision too saw a revision as Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission came up with a proposal to set up a 300-mw plant.

During 1980-88 period, France, Britain and Germany had shown interest to establish a nuclear power plant here. But there was also lack of initiatives in this regard from our side, the officials said.

When the present government came to power, it decided to revive the project in order to resolve the country's persisting power crisis attributed to short supply.

At last the Cabinet at a meeting on July 23 gave a nod of approval to the proposal for implementing the 'Ruppur Nuclear Power Plant'. It also endorsed in principle another proposal to constitute a Nuclear Power Committee, headed by the Prime Minister.

Meanwhile, a foreign expert team has conducted a feasibility study and agreed to extend their assistance to implement the project.

The Council of Ministers also approved an action plan to raise the capacity of the proposed project to 600mw. Thus a 10-week pre-implementation training programme was held in Dhaka in 1998.

Official sources said works to recover the acquired lands, which have been leased out to farmers, are going on.

Experts hope that industrialisation in the northern region will be accelerated if the project could be implemented as per the plan.

## News snaps

### Electioneering starts

GAZIPUR, Sept 2: Some 80,000 new voters seem to be deprived of exercising their franchise in the coming Tongi Municipality election, as the new voter list is unlikely to be finalised before the election, reports UNB.

Official sources said the election would be held on the basis of the 1995 voter list. Meanwhile, some opposition leaders, who are interested to contest for the posts of ward commissioner in the election, have started electioneering. However, there is no probable candidate for municipality chairman from opposition parties as they are boycotting the election.

### Diarrhoea claims 5 lives

JESSORE, Sept 2: An outbreak of diarrhoea claimed five lives and affected some 8,000 people here in last eight months, reports UNB.

According to hospital records, some 1,690 people were affected by the waterborne disease in Abhoynagar, 1,282 in Keshappur, 1,137 in Monirampur, 982 in Chowgacha, 361 in Sarsha, 711 in Bagharpura, 263 in Jhikargacha and 212 in Sadar upazilas during the period. Most of the patients were treated in thana health complexes. Five people admitted to General Hospital died of the disease. However, unofficial sources put the number of affected people at 10,000.

### Four youths arrested

KISHOREGANJ, Sept 2: Police in their separate drives in the town arrested four youths along with 252 bottles of liquor and Indian phenisidyl, reports UNB.

Police said they raided a house at Baobor Dakkhin Para on Wednesday and arrested Towkir Mondal, 25, and Kamal, 24, along with 212 bottles of beer and whisky. In another drive in Amlapara area on Aug 24, they recovered 40 bottles of phenisidyl and arrested Shahjahan, 25, of village Magura in Muradnagar upazila and Rubel, 16, of Amlapara in this connection. They arrested were sent to jail after being produced before the court.

### Headmaster suspended

JAMALPUR, Sept 2: Headmaster of Nandina Model Academy in Sadar upazila has been suspended for his alleged involvement in misappropriating Tk 1.29 lakh of the school, reports UNB.

The school managing committee took action against its headmaster Mohammad Abdul Kader following an audit report.

### Surveillance team formed

BENAPOLE, Sept 2: The trend of illegal power use is rising here depriving the government of huge revenue, reports UNB.

Officials said the system loss in Navaran Palli Bidyut Samity (NPBS) has multiplied in recent months due to illegal power connections and meter tampering. To check its system loss, NPBS has constituted a surveillance team. The team, meanwhile, has detected illegal power connections in 19 households in Benapole and Baghabara areas. The Samity has filed cases against four people with Sharsha police and collected fines from 15 illegal power users.

### Three unnatural deaths

COMILLA, Sept 2: Three unnatural deaths were reported in Comilla and Cox's Bazar districts in one week till Tuesday, reports UNB.

The victims were identified as housewives Nilufer Begum, 35, and Perveen Akhter, 22, of Daudkandi upazila in Comilla and housemaid Shahela Akhter of Moheshkhali in Cox's Bazar. Police said Nilufer Begum, wife of Abdul Kashed of Korikandi and Perveen Akhter, wife of Mizanur Rahman Molla of village Ozarkhola, allegedly committed suicide by taking poison on Aug 29. The body of housemaid Shahela Akhter was recovered from the bay in Moheshkhali upazila on Monday.

## Erosion intensifies

KUSHTIA, Sept 2: Flood situation here has improved with the fall of water level in the rivers Padma and Gora, reports UNB.

With the recession of water level erosion of the rivers intensified and devoured about 1,000 dwelling houses rendering about 8,000 people homeless during a span of 15 days in Daulatpur upazila.

Meanwhile, a vast tract arable land, many dwelling houses,

sufficient food, fodder for their cattle, adequate medicine for combating water borne diseases and scarcity of house building materials for reconstruction of their houses which was damaged by the flood.

Flood-hit people have been passing their days in distress in absence of relief operations by the government or any non-government organisations. Most of the people have become jobless and they are now dependent on relief materials.

Hundreds of cattle have died due to serious fodder crisis in the affected areas. Cholera, diarrhea and dysentery have broken out in many flood-affected areas.

Meanwhile, prices of rice and other essentials have gone high beyond the purchasing capacity of the common people. If adequate measures are not taken by the government immediately the situation may go beyond control, local leaders feared.

The badly affected villages under Chakravapur union are: Chakravapur, Purba Bazumara, Paschim Udaynagar, Utter Udaynagar, Charvabandar, Sarkarpura, Paschim Amdan Ghat, Purba Amdan Ghat, Purba Char Ramkrishnapur, Paschim Char Ramkrishnapur, Dakkhin Kharizathal, Uttar Kharizathal, Dakkhin Sarkarpura, Uttar Sarkarpura and Temada.

The affected villages under Ramkrishnapur union are: Sonatala, Sarkarpura, Charbhadrab, Charuikuri, Bagmari, Madhuguri, Islampur, Kharibona, Dhakipara, Bhagjot, Kharizathak, Loknathpur and Charpara.

Under Philipnagar union, villages of Jotishi, Natunchar, Alinagar and Abederghat and under Maricha union Laxminagar, Purardiar, Chilmari Bhurkupara, Hatholpara, Koldiar and Machdair were also affected.

The local leaders urged the government and other voluntary agencies to come to the assistance of the flood and erosion affected people for the sake of humanity.

### Scholarship

A scholarship awarding ceremony, organised by Helping Organisation for the Poor and Energetic Students (HOPESS), was held recently on Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh campus, says a press release.

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