

# Preparations afoot for winter vegetable cultivation

From Anwar Ali

NATROE, Oct 25: A comprehensive preparation for winter vegetable cultivation has been taken up by farmers of the district.

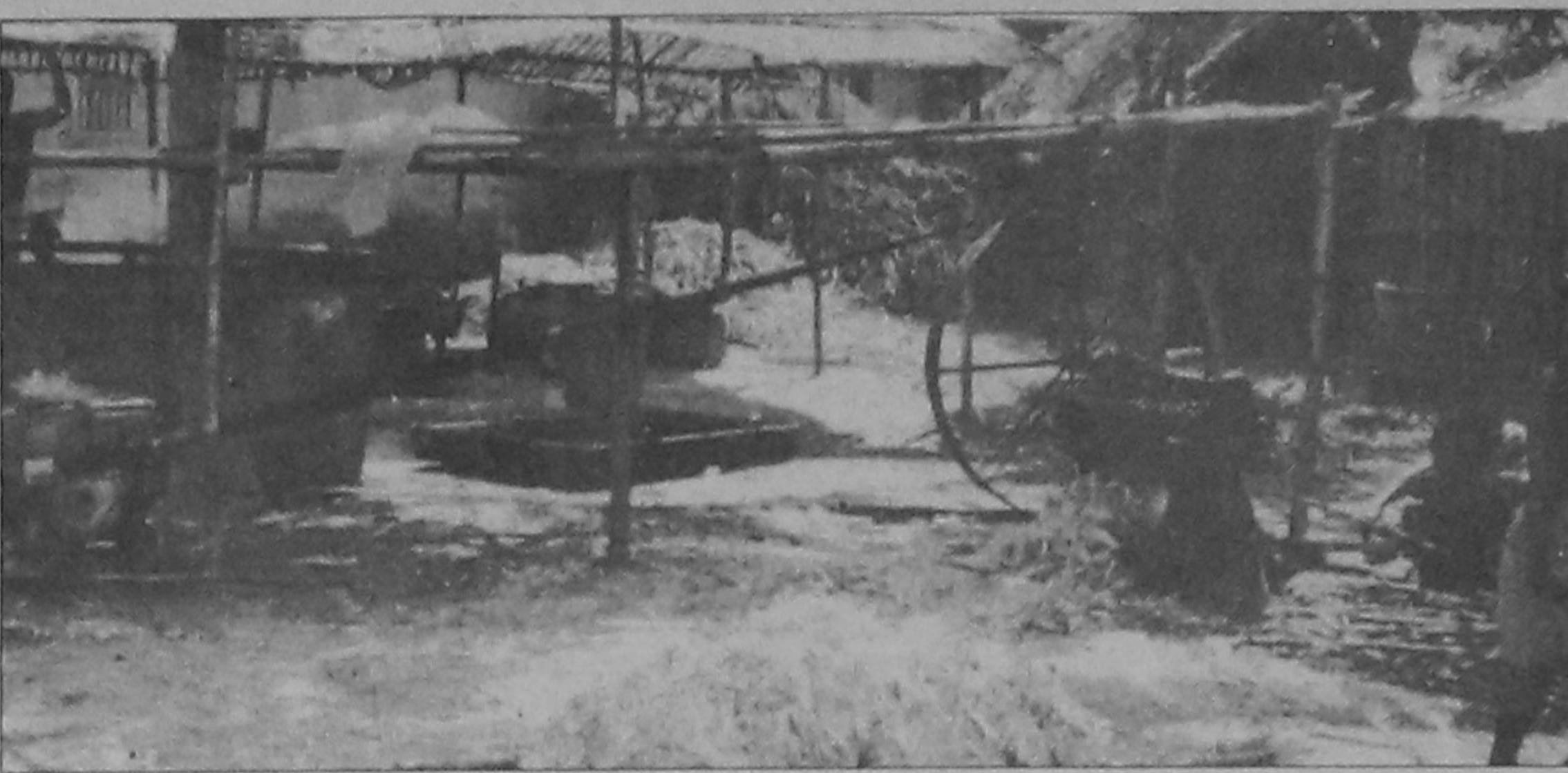
The growers have already prepared seed-beds of their crops. Many of them have sowed seeds of some early varieties as they know that they would get good money if their vegetables reach the early winter market.

Most of the vegetables in Sadar upazila are cultivated at Boro Harishpur and Laximpur-Kholabaria union. Besides, Chandpur, Ekdala, Hauriagha, Vaturia, Karota, Dighapatia, Mohonpur, Amahati villages are well known for vegetable cultivation.

cabbages, kohlrabi, and carrots are being cultivated.

The land is also more suitable this year than previous year as the district witnessed an adequate rainfall causing no flood. As a result, growers are being able to cultivate their vegetables in proper time, said Ayub Hossain, the horticulturist of Natore Horticulture Centre.

Yub also told The Daily Star that they inspired local farmers to cultivate vegetables at courtyards of their houses. Most of the women who were trained earlier are cultivating vegetables themselves in different parts of rural areas of Natore district.



A power crusher is in operation to produce molasses, although such practice is banned in sugar mill zone areas. This photo was taken from a village in Gopalpur, Natore recently. Sugarcane growers are reluctant to sell their product to sugar mills as molasses producers are buying sugarcane between Tk 50 and Tk 55 a maund, while sugar mills offer only Tk 41. According to an unofficial estimate, about 2,500 power crushers are now in operation in the district, one of the major sugarcane producing areas in the country.

-Star photo

## Because of irregularities by dishonest court employees

CHITTAGONG, Oct 25: Documents of about 6,000 pending cases in 32 courts of the district cannot be prepared for judgement just because of irregularities by a section of court employees.

According to competent sources, the dishonest employees of the courts make unusual delay in issuing arrest warrants and summonses to the concerned parties unless the justice seekers grease their palms.

They said the people seeking justice visit the concerned courts almost everyday just to know the fate of their cases and in most non-co-operation of the court employees.

"This system will not be corrected unless the victims themselves sweep these dishonest guys," commented a justice seeker.

There are also allegations that these employees in connivance with a section of police issue false warrants of arrest against innocent people and police put them behind bars for the crimes they never committed.

Two such victims were recently released from jail recently. They suffered for six years without trial. CMM Mohammad Abdul Malek was learnt to have directed the authorities to take legal action against the plaintiffs for filing

false cases and the investigation officers concerned.

Court sources said these irregularities were detected during a review of the documents of 35,000 cases which remained pending under various civil and criminal courts here.

A report released by a Human Rights Organisation here showed that vindictive people in collaboration with a section of lawyers, court and thana employees either by concealing documents of their cases or filing false cases against them.

During the verification, conducted by two lawyers and human right activists, it was found that in some cases the court employees are faster than expected in issuing arrest warrants and summonses while in most cases they are too slow in performing their duties.

Six thousand cases, documents of that cannot be prepared were filed till 1994.

Meanwhile, some of the innocent people put behind the bars in false cases have been released upon court orders.

Instances are also there that police charged such persons whose existence was not found during investigation. Such a case was detected at Kirtinagar where police charged against one Jen-e-Alam of North Agrabad in 1989. After investigation it was found that there is no such man in the area.

Although the case was false, its documents were prepared in May 1994, five years after the filing of the case.

However, the CMM court later dismissed the case.

### Man chopped to death in Jhenidah

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Oct 25: A man was chopped to death on the spot and his nephew injured by a gang of miscreants at village Kirtinagar under Sallakupa upazila in the district last week.

The dead was identified as Afzal Hossain Mandal, 55. His nephew was identified as Majed, 20.

The gang of six called Afzal from his abut at 12-30 am and demanded water for drinking. When he tried give them water, the miscreants started chopping him. He died on the spot.

Mazed came to rescue his uncle and he was stabbed.

Besides, growers and traders of potato who have stockpiled a huge quantity of the vegetable in the cold storage in the district, may incur heavy loss this year as the cold storage remains.

Local people alleged that power goes off several times a day. The surgical operations cannot be done in hospitals due to uncertainty of power supply.

Production in mills and factories has declined seriously and a good number of industrial units in the district have been facing closure due to the erratic power supply sustaining a huge loss to the owners.

Some fish merchants told the news agency that trawlers loaded with fish have to wait at the ghat for hours together as the fish cannot be unloaded for want of ice. The ice factories cannot produce sufficient ice due to loadshedding and erratic power supply.

Besides, growers and traders of

## Power outage takes toll on Shariatpur factories

SHARIATPUR, Oct 25: Frequent power failure and loadshedding in the district during the last six months have affected normal life and production in mills and factories adversely, reports UNB.

The erratic power supply is also affecting water supply in the town, treatment of patients in hospitals and clinics and study of the students, particularly the BA examinees.

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However, the CMM court later dismissed the case.

Most of the markets of the district remain closed after evening every day due to power disruption, causing suffering to the buyers and sellers. In many areas, electricity goes off for the whole day.

There are about 9,000 electricity subscribers in six upazilas of the district where power is supplied only by the two feeders. Demand of power is increasing rapidly but the supply is not increasing proportionately. Officials said every upazila needs one feeder to supply electricity properly.

The local leaders urged the authorities concerned to take necessary steps to ensure regular power supply to boost economic activities in the district.

### Youth stabbed to death

From Staff Correspondent SYLHET, Oct 25: A gang of gamblers stabbed a young man who protested the gambling of the miscreants to death in front of his house at upazila sadar of Balaganj last week.

The organised gang started gambling in front of the house of Iqbal Hossain Jinnat. As he protested, the miscreants stabbed him. Later he died in hospital.

Besides, subscribers say many phone sets supplied by BTTB in the town do not work well.

### Young man killed

From A Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Oct 25: A youth was killed and 15 others were injured in a clash on Friday night in Mahuadanga area in Bandar here.

Humayun, 18, succumbed to injuries in hospital the following day. Police arrested five people after a case was lodged.

Young man killed

From A Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Oct 25: The overall flood situation in the district slightly improved on Tuesday with floodwater receding.

Floodwater receded slightly in Kalaroa and Tala upazilas. However, the situation remained static in Sadar, Debhata and Assasuni upazilas.

Water started receding after cutting of various embankments and roads in flood affected district.

Meanwhile, engineers of Roads and Highways and Bangladesh Army have started constructing Bailey bridge at Alipur in Sadar upazila on Satkhira-Kaliganj road. The road communication between Satkhira and Kaliganj will be restored after the construction of the bridge.

Besides, local Water Development Board has taken measures to help recede water.

Flood victims have started to return to their houses following improvement in flood situation. However, flood victims are facing severe scarcity of food, water and medicine. Besides, they need financial assistance to rebuild their houses destroyed by the flood.

UNB from Magura says: Some 36 mts of rice have been allocated for the flood victims of the district under a two-month special VGF programme.

Officials said 18,000 families of 36 unions in four upazilas

## Card phones out of order in Feni

From Our Correspondent

FENI, Oct 25: Most of card phone sets in the district have gone out of order, causing inconveniences to people.

Local people allege a section of

private phone and fax booth owners in connivance with some unscrupulous Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTTB) staff have damaged the sets.

There are more than 100 private phone and fax booths in the district, most of them are illegal, depriving the government of huge amount of revenue.

According to Feni Telegraph and Telephone Department, the district has 16 card phone booths including four booths in the town.

Besides, subscribers say many phone sets supplied by BTTB in the town do not work well.

### Man killed in road accident

From Our Correspondent

MAGURA, Oct 25: A man was crushed under the wheels of a speeding Dhaka-bound bus near kuchcha Bazar area in the town on Khulna-Dhaka highway on Sunday.

The dead was identified as Yakub Ali, 35, son of Golam Sarwar, the resident of village Darua in Sadar upazila. Eyewitnesses said the accident occurred when the victim was crossing the road.

### Bus robbery

BOGRA, Oct 25: Robbers looted valuables worth Tk 1.5 lakh from a bus on Bogra-Natore highway injuring a passenger grievously on Saturday, reports UNB.

Victim Ansar Ali said five armed bandits, in the guise of passengers, took control of the Dhaka-bound bus near the Natore town and looted the belongings of the passengers. He said the muggers also looted Tk 70,000 from him after stabbing him indiscriminately. The gang stopped the bus near the Bogra sadar upazila and decamped with booty.

### 8 children die of pneumonia

CHITTAGONG, Oct 25: Eight children died of pneumonia in Banshkhali upazila of the district in last 15 days, reports UNB.

Six of the victims were identified as Nahida Akhter, Asgar Hossain, Dolly, Shelly Akhter, Rozia Akhter and Daisy. Hospital sources said 38 more pneumonia patients, including 23 children, were undergoing treatment at the upazila health complex. Doctors said necessary measures have been taken up to prevent the outbreak of the disease.

### Two get life term

HABIGANJ, Oct 25: Two people were sentenced to life term rigorous imprisonment by a court here recently for abducting and violating a girl, reports UNB.

The convicts were identified as Tajul Islam and Nabiur Rahman alias Nobol of Kochuadi village in Bahubali upazila. According to the prosecution, the accused on July 25, 1996 picked up the girl, took her to a desolate spot and raped her there. The Additional District and Sessions Judge after examining the records and witnesses pronounced the judgement on October 5. However, the court acquitted five other accused in the case for lack of evidence.

### Youth with fire arms held

SHARIATPUR, Oct 25: A youth, said to be a Chhatra League activist, was arrested along with arms from a bazaar in Naria upazila on Sunday, reports UNB.

Police said local people caught Rony alias Julhas from Mulfatganj Bazaar at night along with a revolver and handed him over to police. A case was filed.

### Three commit suicide

MAGURA, Oct 25: Three people allegedly committed suicide in the district, reports UNB.

Police said Baharul Islam, 15, son of Mokaddes Biswas of village Shimulia in sadar upazila killed himself by taking poison on Monday. At village Shibrampur in the same upazila, Kajol Begum, 18, wife of Iqbal Hossain took her own life on Sunday also by taking poison. Yet in another incident, Farida Begum, 15, daughter of Fakir Mondal of Satonkuria village in Shalikha upazila committed suicide on Sunday. Separate UD cases were filed.

### Robber arrested

RAJBARI, Oct 25: After exchanging gunshots police arrested a robber along with a shotgun from Madhukhali in Balakandi upazila Monday noon, reports UNB.

Police said they in retaliation traded 10 rounds of gunshots as robber Akram Hossain, 25, of Khordmekchami village of the same upazila opened three rounds from his gun. Police recovered the gun with some bullets. A case was filed.

# News snaps

## MP gets bail

RAJSHAHI, Oct 25: A local court here on Tuesday granted bail to former state minister for land Kabir Hossain MP, reports UNB.

Putia thana Officer In-charge filed a case against 70 leaders and activists of BNP, including Kabir Hossain, on charge of violating Section 144 at Belpukur in 1998. After nearly two and a half years, Kabir Hossain appeared before the court on seeking bail and the court granted it.

## Degree examinees demonstrate

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Oct 25: Some hundred vehicles were stranded at Chandalkona as degree examinees of three colleges put up barricades on Dhaka-Bogra highway on Monday protesting cancellation of their examination centres.

Local people said that about 3,000 degree examinees of Hajr Wahid Maryam Degree College, Begum Tarkabagh Degree College and Sholog Degree College in Raiganj upazila under the district put up barricades, halting vehicular movement on the highway from 10 am to 2 pm.

The authorities cancelled the examination centres after reports on malpractice in the examinations were published in newspapers.

## AL, Jubo League men clash: 20 hurt

MANIKGANJ, Oct 25: A series of clashes between the Awami League and Jubo League activists in the town on Sunday left at least 20 people injured, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the trouble ensued when general secretary of the district unit of Jubo League Sultan Azam Apple was hit by men backed by Awami League leader Shahidul Islam Pulak on the Collectorate Building premises at about 10 am. As the news of attack spread in the area, the supporters of Apple turned violent and attacked the AL office on Shaheed Rafiqul Road. Witnesses said the supporters of Pulak, who were in the office at that time, retaliated.

Electronics shop owner Pradip Kumar Shah, 20, and gold trader Mukshed Ali, 30, were shot during the encounter. Ibrahim, 35, the messenger of the Awami League office, was stabbed indiscriminately during the incident. Later, the two rival groups used sticks and iron rods in fresh clash leaving at least 17 people injured, the witnesses said. The injured were rushed to Manikganj Hospital from where four were shifted to Dhaka as their condition deteriorated.

Police were reinforced in the town to avoid further trouble.

## Shariatpur AL factions clash: 15 hurt

SHARIATPUR, Oct 25: At least 15 people were injured, five by bullet, in a gunfight between two factions of ruling Awami League at village Jaspura in Naria upazila on Sunday, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the supporters of Awami League leaders Nazrul Islam alias Nuru Bayati and Anwar Hossain Matbor clashed at about 10 am over establishing supremacy in the area. The injured were admitted to different private clinics to avoid arrest. A temporary police camp was set up in the troubled area.

## Man killed in road accident

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