

National

Gaibandha
DIARYCrisis of Boro
seed

From Our Correspondent
GAIBANDHA, Dec 1: Acute scarcity of Boro seed is prevailing here in the current IRRI-Boro season.

The seed is being sold in black markets at Tk 20 to Tk 24 per kg against the BADC (Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation) fixed price of Tk 14 a kg. Farmers said a section influential people earlier collected seed from the BADC at fair price, depriving the genuine farmers. Moreover, the popular BR-28 is not available in the market, which will hamper in the Boro cultivation.

17 shops gutted

A devastating fire, which broke out in Old Judge Court area in the town, gutted 17 shops early Tuesday.

The fire originated from short circuit at a quilt shop immediately engulfed other shops. According to fire brigade office, which rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control, the loss was estimated at Taka 20 lakh. But traders put the loss at Tk 50 lakh.

Eye camp

A weeklong eye camp was arranged here recently.

Organised by Gario Unnayan Kendra, a local NGO, the camp was set up at Nashiratpur under Sadar upazila. A total of 114 patients, including 37 women, were operated upon. Dr Shahidul Islam Khan of Gausul Azam BNSC Eye Hospital, Dinajpur conducted the operations. Earlier, spectacles and medicine were distributed among the patients free of cost.

Course on
journalism

A four-day foundation training course on journalism concluded at Station Club here on Tuesday.

Sponsored by Bangladesh Centre for Development Journalism and Communication (BCDJC), the course was held under the auspices of Gaibandha Press Club. A total of 20 local journalists took part in the training course. Prof Dr Golam Rahman, a teacher of Mass Communication and Journalism Department of Dhaka University, Dulal Chandra Biswas, a teacher of Mass Communication Department of Rajshahi University, and Sazzad Hossain, Deputy Director of BCDJC, were resource persons. A certificate distribution ceremony was also held on the concluding day. Presided over by Gobinda Lal Das, the ceremony was attended by Sirajuddin Ahmed, district and sessions judge, as chief guest.

Fake contractor
arrested

A fake contractor was arrested at Matherhat under Sunderganj upazila in the district recently.

The man was identified as Saidul Islam of Malibari union under Sadar upazila.

Police said the man, who introduced himself as a contractor, cut down 37 roadside trees without obtaining legal document. According to local people, the man claimed that he received valid document from the district administration and employed labourers to cut down trees. Police also seized timber. Locals also said Sreepur union parishad Chairman Abdus Sattar and Bholia Mia, a timber trader, were also behind the plot. When some local people challenged Saidul he failed to produce document for cutting down the trees. When contacted, Chairman Abdus Sattar denied his involvement.

Prof Elias best
principal
of Sandwip

Professor Abul Kalam Elias, Principal of South Sandwip College, has been adjudged Best Principal of Sandwip upazila under Chittagong district, says a press release.

This was announced on the occasion of National Education Week, 2000. In Sandwip upazila, a function marking the week was held in East Sandwip High School premises recently.

Elias, who obtained postgraduate degree in early sixties from Dhaka University, also served as principal in Gurudayal College, Kishoreganj, Narsingdi Government College and Brahmanbaria University College.

He is also member of Bangladesh Asiatic Society, Bangla Academy, Folklore Society and Dhaka University Philosophy Association.

Phensidyl recovered

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Dec 1: Some 400 bottles of contraband phensidyl syrup were recovered from a private car at Doarika Ferry Ghat under Babuganj upazila here on Sunday night.

Police also arrested Rokonuzzaman, the car driver. A case was filed in this connection.

Massive post-flood rehabilitation programme in Chapainawabganj

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Dec 1: In a bid to recoup the crop losses and assuage the sufferings of flood-affected people, the government has taken up a massive post-flood rehabilitation programme in five upazilas, involving Tk 96 lakh, reports UNB.

According to official statistics, standing crops over 10,000 hectares of land were damaged in flashfloods in September last.

Officials said the government has sanctioned Tk 56 lakh for only agricultural rehabilitation.

Under the programme, Agriculture Extension Department along with district administration is distributing seeds of Boro paddy, mustard, wheat, maize, lentil and other winter vegetables among 19,650 flood-hit families in the five upazilas free of cost.

Apart from the agriculture rehabilitation programme, the government sanctioned Tk 40 lakh under house-building programme to rebuild 13,848 houses damaged during the deluge.

The money sanctioned under the house building programme will be distributed among 11,000 families in Sadar upazila, 900 in Shibganj, 200 in Nachole, 300 in Bholahat upazilas, 500 in Nawabganj Municipality, 100 in Shibganj, and 200 in Rorpur Municipality.

The government also distributed 83,714 VGF cards in the flood-affected areas. Each cardholder is receiving 10 kgs of rice per month for four months beginning from the Bengali month of Ashwin.

Besides, 2,959 VGF cards were distributed among erosion-hit people.

Sabas Bangladesh, a unique
Liberation War sculpture

By RU Correspondent



Sabas Bangladesh, a liberation war sculpture on Rajshahi University campus. —Star photo

RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY, Dec 1: One of the best achievements of Rajshahi University in Sabas Bangladesh, a Liberation War monument on the campus.

Its architectural beauty attracts visitors from home and abroad.

Though the sculpture was built only eight years ago, it has attracted the attention of innumerable art lovers.

Anyone who steps into the campus for the first time is impressed by this sculpture. The sculpture is the unique art work of artist Niton Kundu.

Sabas Bangladesh is located at the northern side of the field adjoining the Rajshahi University (RU) Senate building, about 200 feet away from Rajshahi-Natore highway. Anyone passing along the highway, he/she can easily observe the great monument looking over the university boundary wall through the university main gate.

The foundation of the monument was laid by the then Vice Chancellor (VC) Prof M Amanullah on March 26, 1990 in

the face of strong demand of the students and progressive teachers for setting up of a Liberation War sculpture. It was opened by late Shahid Janani Jahana Imam on February 10, 1992.

Sabas Bangladesh is not a result of single effort. Prof M Amanullah, progressive teachers and students everybody worked relentlessly to set up the monument. Leaders of RU central students union (RUCSU) in 1988-89 played a key role in this regard. The leaders communicated with artist Niton Kundu and proposed an additional subscription from the students as the varsity had no sufficient fund to build such an ambitious monument. So, the lion's share of its cost came from the student's donation. The teachers, officers and employees also contributed financially and morally for implementing the dreams of RU family members.

However, the remarkable contribution was made by the artist himself. He did not take any money as remuneration for building the sculpture. His generous sacrifice will remain everfresh as

Days will come and go, but the monument will last immobile with many memories and evidences as long as our national spirit will transmit from generation to generation. Long live Sabas Bangladesh!

NGO staff cheats 16 women

From Our Correspondent

NETRAKONA, Dec 1: A field worker of Proshika Manabik Unnayan Kendra, Taligati branch under Atpara upazila in the district allegedly cheated 16 women, all members of a co-operative society sponsored by the NGO.

Co-operative society members said 16 women of "Joyantika Proshika Mohila Society" of village Gupalpur in Atpara upazila received Tk 64 thousand as loan from Taligati branch on November 16. The branch issued the cheque in favour of Promila Devi, treasurer of the co-operative society.

After receiving the cheque, Promila Devi went to Sonali Bank, Atpara branch with Mujibur Rahman, the field worker, and drew the money. After that, as Mujibur told Promila that he would go to Gupalpur and distribute the money among the 16 women of the society, the treasurer handed over the money to him in good faith. But Mujibur did not disburse the money. And he went into hiding.

A case was filed in this connection.

Workshop

A daylong workshop on "Indigenous Knowledge and Sustainable Development" was held on Tuesday in Barisal, says a press release issued by Integrated Action Research and Development, an NGO.

Objective of the workshop was to incorporate indigenous knowledge in development initiatives, research and education curriculums.

Jointly organised by Bangladesh Resource Centre for Indigenous Knowledge (BARCIK) and Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (SSF), and several cultural organisations, besides some teachers of the university joined the strike, organised by the Sammilito Sangshkrity Jote (combined cultural organisations), Rajshahi University unit.

The workshop focussed on the adverse impact on cropland and environment as well following indiscriminate use of fertiliser and pesticides and cultivation of genetically modified crops. It also discourages the use of ground water for irrigation.

Rahman, the field worker, and drew the money. After that, as Mujibur told Promila that he would go to Gupalpur and distribute the money among the 16 women of the society, the treasurer handed over the money to him in good faith. But Mujibur did not disburse the money. And he went into hiding.

A case was filed in this connection.

From Our Correspondent
RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY, Dec 1: Teachers and students of the university on Monday observed a token hunger strike on the campus, demanding the exemplary punishment to those responsible for ridiculing national anthem.

Members of Bangladesh Chhatra Union, Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (SSF), and several cultural organisations, besides some teachers of the university joined the strike, organised by the Sammilito Sangshkrity Jote (combined cultural organisations), Rajshahi University unit.

Prior to staging the strike, the student and cultural activists brought out a procession on the campus. Starting from in front of the RUCSU Building, the procession paraded the main thoroughfares of the campus.

Katyani Puja Fair ends

ahead of schedule

Extortion takes toll on business

From Our Correspondent

MAGURA, Dec 1: The traditional fair, which is held here every year on the occasion of Katyani Puja, ended ahead of schedule this year because of apprehension that this year's untoward incident will dampen the spirit of the fair.

Durga Puja is the main religious festival of the Hindu community in the country. But Magura district is an exception. Katyani Puja has become the greatest festival for Hindu community here.

The fair lasts for one month, but this time traders have been compelled to end it only after five days as extortion takes heavy toll on their business.

Traders said extortionists and hoodlums in Nutan Bazaar area in the town, where the fair was organised, collected toll both from the sellers and buyers.

Traders came to the fair from different parts of the country. Lakhhs of people from home and neighbouring India visit the fair. Local people have expressed apprehension that this year's untoward incident will dampen the spirit of the fair.

Shatish Chandra, a rich man of village Parnanduali under Sadar upazila, first introduced the Katyani Puja about 50 years back. From then, the Puja is being celebrated here every year with great enthusiasm. The idols of this Puja resemble the images of Durga Puja. But Katyani Puja is celebrated in Kartik months of Bengali calendar year.

Extensive winter crops
farming in Kurigram

KURIGRAM, Dec 1: A massive programme of cultivation of winter crops has been taken up here by the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), reports BSS.

According to a DAE source, in Kurigram, a total of 68,500 hectares will be brought under intensive Boro cultivation programme in all nine upazilas of the district to produce 2,02,100 tons of Boro rice during this winter season.

Of this, 66,000 hectares will be brought under Hybrid Variety of Boro farming to produce 1,98,000 tons of rice and Local Variety of Boro will be cultivated on 2,500 hectares to produce 1,250 tons, ginger on 300 hectares to produce 1,500 tons and dhania on 80 hectares to produce 170 tons.

Three hundred hectares will be brought under maize cultivation to produce 1,200 tons of maize, 1,800 hectares under potato farming to produce 2,160 tons, 8,000 hectares mustard cultivation to produce 7,200 tons of mustard seeds.

Moreover, on the front walls of the alter, there are two white panels on which the artist has portrayed common masses of Bangladesh including students, youths, bauls, women who were united against the ill-forces of our Liberation War in 1971.

At the end of the two figures, a brass plate is attached with which reads verses of the evergreen poet Sukaanta Bhattacharya starting with "Sabas Bangladesh ..." that ignites Bengali nationalism.

Artist Niton Kundu has initiated a new dimension in its construction using red oxides with cement in addition to concrete. It was the first of its kind in Bangladesh.

Niton Kundu's work has not only depicted the history of our war of independence in 1971, but also the present and future of the country as well as our heroic united struggle against autocracy, brutality and human right abuses before 1971. He himself expressed after the inauguration of Sabas Bangladesh, "I have tried to attract the attention of all towards the future alongside the glorious past and present of the nation."

Artist Niton Kundu has initiated a new dimension in its construction using red oxides with cement in addition to concrete. It was the first of its kind in Bangladesh.

Niton Kundu's work has not only depicted the history of our war of independence in 1971, but also the present and future of the country as well as our heroic united struggle against autocracy, brutality and human right abuses before 1971. He himself expressed after the inauguration of Sabas Bangladesh, "I have tried to attract the attention of all towards the future alongside the glorious past and present of the nation."

Artist Niton Kundu has initiated a new dimension in its construction using red oxides with cement in addition to concrete. It was the first of its kind in Bangladesh.

Niton Kundu's work has not only depicted the history of our war of independence in 1971, but also the present and future of the country as well as our heroic united struggle against autocracy, brutality and human right abuses before 1971. He himself expressed after the inauguration of Sabas Bangladesh, "I have tried to attract the attention of all towards the future alongside the glorious past and present of the nation."

Artist Niton Kundu has initiated a new dimension in its construction using red oxides with cement in addition to concrete. It was the first of its kind in Bangladesh.

Niton Kundu's work has not only depicted the history of our war of independence in 1971, but also the present and future of the country as well as our heroic united struggle against autocracy, brutality and human right abuses before 1971. He himself expressed after the inauguration of Sabas Bangladesh, "I have tried to attract the attention of all towards the future alongside the glorious past and present of the nation."

Artist Niton Kundu has initiated a new dimension in its construction using red oxides with cement in addition to concrete. It was the first of its kind in Bangladesh.

Niton Kundu's work has not only depicted the history of our war of independence in 1971, but also the present and future of the country as well as our heroic united struggle against autocracy, brutality and human right abuses before 1971. He himself expressed after the inauguration of Sabas Bangladesh, "I have tried to attract the attention of all towards the future alongside the glorious past and present of the nation."

Artist Niton Kundu has initiated a new dimension in its construction using red oxides with cement in addition to concrete. It was the first of its kind in Bangladesh.

Niton Kundu's work has not only depicted the history of our war of independence in 1971, but also the present and future of the country as well as our heroic united struggle against autocracy, brutality and human right abuses before 1971. He himself expressed after the inauguration of Sabas Bangladesh, "I have tried to attract the attention of all towards the future alongside the glorious past and present of the nation."

Artist Niton Kundu has initiated a new dimension in its construction using red oxides with cement in addition to concrete. It was the first of its kind in Bangladesh.

Niton Kundu's work has not only depicted the history of our war of independence in 1971, but also the present and future of the country as well as our heroic united struggle against autocracy, brutality and human right abuses before 1971. He himself expressed after the inauguration of Sabas Bangladesh, "I have tried to attract the attention of all towards the future alongside the glorious past and present of the nation."

Artist Niton Kundu has initiated a new dimension in its construction using red oxides with cement in addition to concrete. It was the first of its kind in Bangladesh.

Niton Kundu's work has not only depicted the history of our war of independence in 1971, but also the present and future of the country as well as our heroic united struggle against autocracy, brutality and human right abuses before 1971. He himself expressed after the inauguration of Sabas Bangladesh, "I have tried to attract the attention of all towards the future alongside the glorious past and present of the nation."

Artist Niton Kundu has initiated a new dimension in its construction using red oxides with cement in addition to concrete. It was the first of its kind in Bangladesh.

Niton Kundu's work has not only depicted the history of our war of independence in 1971, but also the present and future of the country as well as our heroic united struggle against autocracy, brutality and human right abuses before 1971. He himself expressed after the inauguration of Sabas Bangladesh, "I have tried to attract the attention of all towards the future alongside the glorious past and present of the nation."

Artist Niton Kundu has initiated a new dimension in its construction using red oxides with cement in addition to concrete. It was the first of its kind in Bangladesh.

Niton Kundu's work has not only depicted the history of our war of independence in 1971, but also the present and future of the country as well as our heroic united struggle against autocracy, brutality and human right abuses before 1971. He himself expressed after the inauguration of Sabas Bangladesh, "I have tried to attract the attention of all towards the future alongside the glorious past and