

NEWS SNAPS

Narikelbaria college principal awarded**UNB, Jhenidah**

Aminur Rahman, Principal of Narikelbaria Degree College, has been adjudged as the best Principal of Jhenidah for this year.

Rahman, also a journalist and human rights activist associated with many socio-cultural organisations, is the founding principal of the college established 15 years ago. He has been working as district correspondent of United News of Bangladesh (UNB) and editor of 'The Daily Jhenidah' for last one decade.

Winter crops output may suffer setback**UNB, Narshingdi**

Production of winter crops in Narshingdi may suffer setback this season due to short supply and price hike of seeds and fertilisers.

The farmers are desperately trying to recoup their losses in aman production by preparing their lands for cultivating wheat, potato, mustard, pulses, maize and vegetables. But shortage and abnormally high prices of seeds and TSP fertiliser are hampering timely sowing of seeds, local farmers told this correspondent.

Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) sources said 51,500 hectares of land have been earmarked for cultivation of IRRI-Boro paddy with a production target of 1,26,150 tons. Besides, 15,300 hectares of land will be brought under mustard cultivation to produce 13,950 tons and 20,100 hectares of land for wheat farming to produce 40,500 tons.

Sona Masjid fails to achieve target**UNB, Chapainawabganj**

Sona Masjid land port has failed to achieve its target of revenue collection in the first six months of current fiscal.

The port has collected Tk 43.62 crore during the period as against the target of Tk 48 crore. Of the total, Tk 7.28 crore was collected in July, Tk 6.41 crore in August, Tk 5.24 crore in Sept, 7.24 crore in Oct, Tk 7.26 crore in Nov and Tk 10.16 crore in December. National Revenue Board has set a target to collect Tk 8 crore revenue in each month.

Two notorious criminals arrested**UNB, Natore**

A joint police team of three districts, as part of an anti-terrorism drive, arrested two notorious criminals and recovered arms and ammunition on Tuesday.

Police from Naldanga thana in Natore, Bagmara in Rajshahi and Atrai in Naogaon in joint raids arrested Sushanto and Aziz, two listed terror who were wanted by police.

Meanwhile, Naldanga thana police seized a Chinese magazine and 12 rounds of bullet in abandoned condition from under a bridge over Barnoi river. None was arrested in this connection.

Valuables worth Tk three lakh looted**UNB, Shariatpur**

Armed robbers looted cash and valuables worth about Tk three lakh from a house at Dakkhin Madhyapara of municipal area on Tuesday night.

Police said armed bandits numbering 12 entered into the house of Daliluddin Mridha breaking open the door and looted cash Tk 31,000 and 32 tolas of gold tying up the family members. They also opened fire when local people were rushing to the spot hearing the screaming of the family members. A case was filed with Sadar police.

Telephone line project work progresses**UNB, Habiganj**

Work on a 3000-telephone line project in Habiganj is expected to be completed in the next three months.

Some 1,000 people have already applied to local T&T authorities for telephones and T&T officials hoped that they would be able to fulfil the demand after completion of the project.

FWP faces uncertainty**UNB, Pabna**

Food-for-Work Programme (FWP) in two unions of Bera upazila in Pabna faces uncertainty for appointment of more dealers than required to supply grains.

Official sources said two dealers were appointed on Sept 17, 2001 for foodgrains supply to Dhalarchar and Ruppur unions during 2001-2002 fiscal. But recently an official at Primary and Mass Education Department, Dhaka issued a letter appointing two more dealers. They were believed to have been appointed at the behest of an MP, leaving the Upazila Nirbahi Officer at a loss.

'Rabi' cultivation on 88,475 acres**UNB, Chapainawabganj**

Some 88,475 acres of land in Chapainawabganj will be brought under Rabi crops cultivation this season.

Department of Agriculture Extension has made all arrangements to provide necessary seeds, fertilisers and pesticides to the farmers. Besides, arrangements have been completed to ensure smooth irrigation during the season. Some 3,44,735 metric tons of crops, including paddy, wheat, maize, mustard seed, potato, lentil pea, and other pulses and vegetables are expected to be produced this season if things go well.

Farmers reluctant to cultivate potato**UNB, Narail**

Farmers of Narail are reluctant to cultivate potato on their land this season as they are incurring a huge loss due to drastic fall in the price of their produce.

The growers said due to bumper production of potato this season the price has come down abnormally in absence of marketing facilities and shortage of buyers. Some 70 traders said they have been incurring losses as they are compelled to sell their potato produced in the last season at throwaway prices. As there is no cold storage the potato growers have to store 50 per cent of their produce to the cold storage located in Jessore.

Boro cultivation on 63,000 hectares in Gopalganj**ALIMUZZAMAN MIAH, Gopalganj**

Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), Gopalganj sources said 63,000 hectares of land have been brought under boro cultivation in five upazilas of Gopalganj.

A total of 57,500 hectares have been brought under HYV and 5,500 hectares of land under local variety and production target has been fixed at 2,03,600 metric tons.

Upazilawise break-up is as follows. In Gopalganj sadar upazila 13,900 hectares of land are brought under HYV boro cultivation while production target has been fixed at 45,585 metric tons, in Muksudpur upazila 12,000 hectares of land have been brought

under HYV and local variety boro cultivation and production target has been fixed at 38,870 metric tons.

In Kasiani upazila 8,700 hectares of land have been brought under high yielding variety (HYV) and local variety of boro farming while production target has been fixed at 29,320 metric tons.

In Kotalipara upazila 20,100 hectares of land have been brought under HYV and local variety of boro cultivation while production target has been fixed at 64,185 metric tons.

In Tungipara upazila 8,300 hectares of land have been brought under HYV and local variety of boro cultivation and production target has been fixed at 25,640 metric tons.

Some HSC examinees in Natore feel 'insecure'**ANWAR ALI, Natore**

A Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examinee of Shaheed Nazmul Haq Degree College in Naldanga of Sadar upazila in Natore, in an application to the Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Natore on Sunday sought security for himself and several others. He sought DC's help, during the time of filling up forms of the upcoming HSC examinations.

Md. Abdul Karim, the applicant, son of Abdul Jalil of Haltee (Naldanga) in the upazila alleged that several HSC students of the college who are the activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) are being obstructed allegedly by some ruling party cadres to go to college for filling up forms of the HSC examination while the last date of filling up forms is January 28.

Karim, in the letter, also alleged that the ruling party activists demanded Tk 5,000 per student as

toll. Two students of the village, namely Babu and Shaheen, were allegedly chased out from the college when they went to fill up forms.

Karim also alleged that a group of 'terrorists' including Kalen, Gyas, Nantu, Anwar and Helal, on January 26 last, tortured his uncle Najir Uddin Ladu keeping him confined at a tea-stall near Naldanga Rail Station. They tossed a burning cigarette on his body and threatened him (Ladu) to kill if he does not give them a toll of Tk 5,000 within January 29.

Karim also appealed to the DC to create congenial atmosphere for holding the ensuing HSC examinations to be held in April next.

When contacted, Sadar Uddin Ahmed, DC of Natore told The Daily Star on Sunday night that the concerned authority had already been asked to look into the matter.

PIB workshop at Kushtia**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

A six-day training workshop for the journalists on children and women, organised by the Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) was inaugurated on Saturday at the municipal auditorium in Kushtia.

Presided over by Shah Nur Mohammad, director (Publication and Feature) of PIB the inauguration programme was also addressed by Khandakar Israil Hossain (Afu), chairman of Kushtia Municipality, Abdur Razzak Khan, president of Kushtia Press Club and AMM Kamruzzaman, representative of UNICEF.

Among others, Shahana Huda, senior trainer of PIB and convenor of the workshop and Oliur Rahman, trainer of PIB spoke on the occasion.

A total of 20 journalists of Kushtia, Meherpur, Jenidhah and Chuadanga are participating in the workshop which will end on January 31.

Monument in Mymensingh in memory of martyrs of liberation war**AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh**

Mymensingh unit of Muktiyoddha Sangsad (Freedom Fighters' Association) erected Muktiyuddha Smriti Soudha, a 64 feet monument in memory of the martyrs of our liberation war on the bank of the Brahmaputra river adjacent to Bangladesh-China Friendship Bridge.

The local district administration helped construct the monument. The local Muktiyoddha Sangsad informed that the memorial was built to uphold the spirit of our war of liberation in 1971.

Designed by Rashid Ahmed, the magnificent monument was constructed by Bengal Enterprise, a construction firm based in Dhaka Basudev Chandra Sarker, Sub-assistant engineer of the project supervised the construction work of the monument.

The middle part of the monument consisted of 71 parts which symbolised our liberation war in 1971 and the seven rings of upper part meant the historic March 7.

The six concrete discs at the lower part of the monument symbolised the historic six-point demand while 26 concrete rifles placed on the main structure stood for the Independence Day, March 26. The national flag on top of the structure heralded the

entity of independent Bangladesh. It is worth mentioning, about

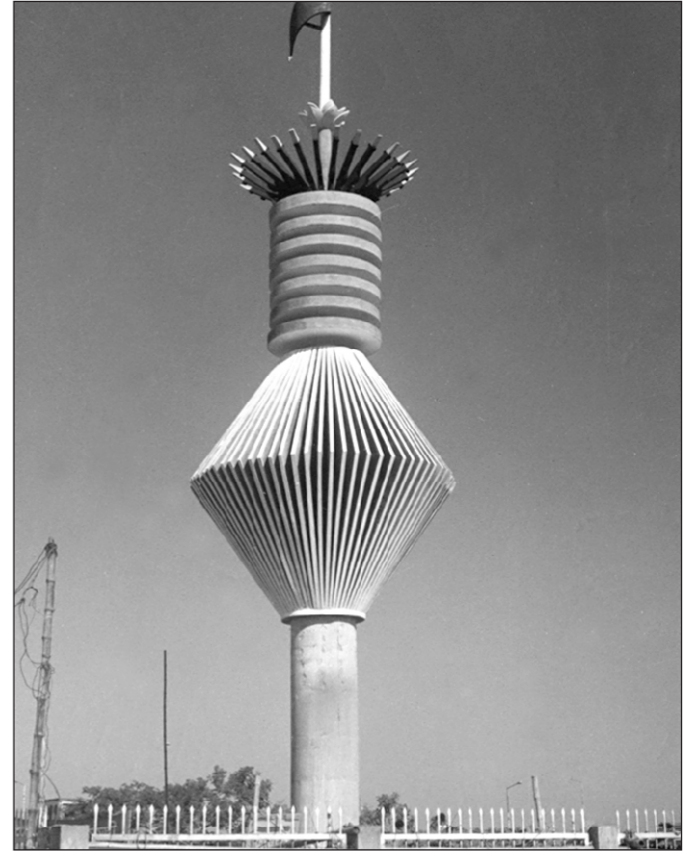


PHOTO: STAR

Muktiyuddha Smriti Soudha built by local unit of Muktiyoddha Sangsad (freedom fighters' association) in Mymensingh in memory of the martyrs of our liberation war in 1971.

125 freedom fighters including students and cultural activists sacrificed their valuable lives for the freedom of our mother land.

structed on the bank of the Brahmaputra river to keep alive memory of the brave sons of the soil.

So, the monument was con-