

## NEWS SNAPS

**Student killed by miscreants**

BSS, Rajbari

A student was killed by some miscreants at village Bangana in Pangsha upazila of the district on Saturday.

Police said some miscreants stabbed Abdul Jabbar, son of Mahatab Uddin, a student of class ten indiscriminately, when he was going to school for test examination. He died on way to hospital. Police suspect family feud and land dispute may be the cause behind the killing. A case was filed with Pangsha police station in this regard.

**One killed in Magura road mishap**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

One person was killed and three others injured seriously in a road accident on Dhaka-Khulna highway at WAPDA square in Sripur upazila on October 29.

The victim was identified as Zahid, 26, son of Abdul Hai Mollah of village Nishchintapur in Batukhali police station of Faridpur district. Of the injured, one was identified as Masudur Rahman, 50, son of Moteleb Mian of Dopadia village in Moksdepur police station of Faridpur district, but identity of the rest could not be known immediately. Police arrested the driver and seized the truck from Magura in a couple of minutes after the accident. The truck ran over the pedestrians.

**Lack of qualified teachers in schools**

BSS, Narsingdi

Education of Secondary and Higher Secondary level students is being hampered in the six upazilas of the district due to lack of qualified teachers and other educational facilities.

There are 157 non-government high schools including junior high schools, 84 madrasas, 23 non-government colleges, 2 government high schools and 3 government colleges in the district.

The governing bodies of the non-government schools, madrasas and colleges have been collecting huge amount of donation for the development of schools, madrasas and colleges at the time of appointing teachers.

**Debate competition in Rajshahi**

BSS, Rajshahi

A debate competition for the students of schools and colleges under Rajshahi Education Board (REB) was held here at the board's auditorium on Sunday.

The competition titled "Terrorism is the main hindrance in establishing good coordination between teachers, students and institutions" was organised by REB in observance of the National Revolution and Solidarity Day.

A total of 16 students from 16 districts under the board took part in the debate.

**Smuggled goods seized**

BSS, Chapainawabganj

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) recovered huge quantities of smuggled goods worth about Taka 23,48,855 from different parts of the district during its regular anti-smuggling drive recently.

The members of 6th battalion of BDR seized the smuggled goods from Zohorpur, Zohorpur Tek, Rohunathpur, Sona Masjid, Sialmara, Charamara Bagdanga, Chakpara and Monohorpur. The recovered goods, which included fruits, toys, imitation ornaments, eggs, sugar and garlic, were deposited to local customs godown.

**31 more villages covered with electricity**

BSS, Rajshahi

Thirty-one more villages of Paba upazila in the district are covered with electricity facility, officials said here.

Rural Electricity Association (REA) is extending this facility to the villagers at cost of Taka 4.10 crore.

Mayor of Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) M Mizanur Rahman Minu, MP, inaugurated the electrification network in the three villages, in a simple but enthusiastic function recently.

**176 uplift projects implemented**

BSS, Meherpur

The government has implemented 176 projects at a cost of Tk 4.95 in last one year in Meherpur.

It was disclosed by parliament member Masud Arun at the local press club recently. He said, besides, 29 kilometre pucca road, 61 kilometre kucha road, 11 bridges, four union parishad buildings and three growth centres, seven non-government schools, two colleges and three madrasah buildings were constructed in the district during the period. In addition to this, 775 tons of rice for test relief (TR) 1050 tons for Food for Works Programme (FWP).



Minister for Commerce Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury inaugurates the BD-Red Fair 2002, a fair of real estate and construction materials, at the auditorium of the Engineers' Institution, Chittagong. Wing Commander (ret'd) A K M Golam Rahman, chairman of BD-Red Editorial Board, Md Yasin Khan, chief executive, Md Reaz Uddin, senior executive (marketing) and executive A G Mahmoodur Rahman were present, among others, on the occasion.

**200 illegal structures in Sirajganj demolished**

AKHTERUZZAMAN BABLU, Sirajganj

The authorities of the Roads and Highways (R&H) Department have demolished about 200 illegal structures here on October 27.

The structures had been set up at New Dhaka Road and Sher-e-Bangla Fazlul Haque Road in the town.

The Roads and Highways Department served notices on the occupants several times in the past to remove the structures, but they did not pay heed to those, R&H Department sources said.

Some people in Sirajganj town built kutcha-pucca

tin sheds while some of them built pucca structures and started business in the areas after the independence of the country. As a result construction of necessary footpath and development of drainage system could not be done in time.

After serving the last notice on October 26 and 27 to the occupants, the authorities demolished the structures by bulldozer with the help of police led by a magistrate.

People in the area alleged that without any prior notice the authorities demolished all, but two structures. Sub-Divisional Engineer (SDE) of R&H Deptt Zakir Hussein, however, denied the allegations.

**Shortage of draught animals put farmers in problem**

ABU AHMED, Satkhira

The farmers in Satkhira district are facing a great problem while cultivating lands due to an acute shortage of draught animals in all the seven upazilas in Satkhira.

Nearly 75 per cent families having no bullocks of their own, are unable to till their lands. Most farmers carry on their agricultural works on share basis as they can not afford to purchase bullocks. Prices of bullock are very high here. At present a pair of bullock is Tk 10,000 to 15,000 or more.

Many of them even use milk cows to cultivate their lands, resulting in gradual reduction in milk production.

According to a survey, shortage of bullocks is felt keenly every year due to different kinds of diseases and natural calamities. Besides, it is also alleged that some greedy and dishonest traders are found to poison cattleheads at different places in the district only to collect skins.

On the other hand slaughtering of bullocks has increased much following scarcity of fish in the mar-

kets.

Diseases also take heavy toll as acute shortage of necessary medicine at the veterinary hospitals is found always. In most cases butchers do not observe the meatless day once a week. Moreover, bad communication is another factor.

Talking advantages of the situation of the farmers, a section of cow traders purchase cattlehead from the farmers at nominal prices. They supply the animals to some other places for slaughtering daily. If this trend for a long time, cultivation would be hampered to a great

**Vegetable farming on 7500 hectares**

BSS, Manikganj

An extensive plan for cultivation of vegetables in seven upazilas of the district has been taken up by the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE).

According to official sources, Manikganj district is known as a vegetables deficient area. To meet the demand this year DAE has brought a total of 7500 hectares under vegetables cultivation. The vegetables included bean, beet, cabbage, cauliflower, pumpkin, carrot, radish, tomato, turnip and basil. A total of 2000 hectares has already been brought under vegetable cultivation.

**Rabi farming scheme in 2 dists**

BSS, Chuadanga

The Chuadanga district Agriculture Extension Department has taken up a massive programme to bring 59,950 hectares of land under boro, wheat, maize, potato and mustard cultivation in all four upazilas of the district during the coming rabi season.

The four upazilas are: Chuadanga Sadar, Alamdanga, Damurhuda and Jibannagar, according to official sources, of the total land, 31,000 hectares will be brought under boro, 21,500 hectares under wheat, 450 hectares under maize, 2000 hectares under potato and 5,000 hectares under mustard cultivation. A total of 1,50,000 metric tons of boro paddy, 48,000 metric tons of wheat, 20,000 metric tons of maize, 23,000 metric tons of potato and 4,000 metric tons of mustard will be produced in this season if the cultivation target is achieved.

**Another report from Manikganj adds:** A total of 100,590 hectares of land were brought under massive cultivation of different varieties of rabi crops in seven upazilas of the district for the current season.

According to Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) sources, of the total, 39,700 hectares were brought under high yielding variety of boro.

**MOULVIBAZAR**

diary

**JCD confce ends without forming new committee**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

The annual conference of the Moulvibazar district unit of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) concluded without any declaration of new committee for the next term.

The conference was held on October 25 at the local Saifur Rahman auditorium where M Naser Rahman, son of Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, who is a local MP and other JCD central leaders were present.

A senior leader of the JCD told The Daily Star that due to lack of understanding any new committee could not be formed. However, he further said that the JCD central committee will declare a new committee for Moulvibazar district unit on November 4 from Dhaka.

**Seminar on IT**

A seminar on the Information Technology (IT) was held at Moulvibazar Government Women's College recently.

Organised by a local IT education institute New Horizon, the seminar was presided over by its director Saiful Ahmed. Professor Md Abdul Hye, Principal of Moulvibazar Government Women's College was the chief guest.

The seminar was presented through a projector. Later they answered to various IT-related questions from the interested students.

**Mustard output target fixed at 6400 tons**

BSS, Jamalpur

Mustard, a rabi crop, cultivation has been taken up in the district with production a target of 6400 tons.

According to Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), two types of mustard are cultivated here. One is short period and other is long period variety the farmers who have planted aman early can bring their land under mustard cultivation of short time variety. A total of 8000 hectare has been brought under mustard cultivation in the district this year. The upazila-wise break-up of mustard cultivation - 2000 hectare in Sadar upazila, 1900 hectare in Sharishabari, 1000 hectare in Melandah, 1000 hectare in Islampur, 700 hectare in Dewanganj, 700 hectare in Mederganj and 700 hectare in Bokshiganj. Last year, 8776 hectares were brought under mustard cultivation against the target of 8000 hectares. The achievement of last year's production was 9186 tons.

**One shot dead by BNP activists in Narail**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narail

One person named Mizanur Rahman Sardar, 35, son of late Rustan Sardar of village Marichpasha in Lohagara upazila was shot dead here by miscreants recently near his home.

His body was brought dead at Lohagara Health Complex.

Another person named Ismail Sardar, son of Waliar Rahman Sardar of the same family was also shot dead by miscreants. He was rushed to Narail and Khulna hospitals in critical condition.

At least 25 persons were injured in the incident.

Local BNP activists were responsible for the incident. One person named Akhtaruzzaman, son of late A Bari Sardar was in police custody who told The Daily Star that one person named Shaheen, son of late Akram Husain along with his partymen were responsible for the incident. No case was filed in the local police station till writing of this report.

**Lentil farming on 450 hectares**

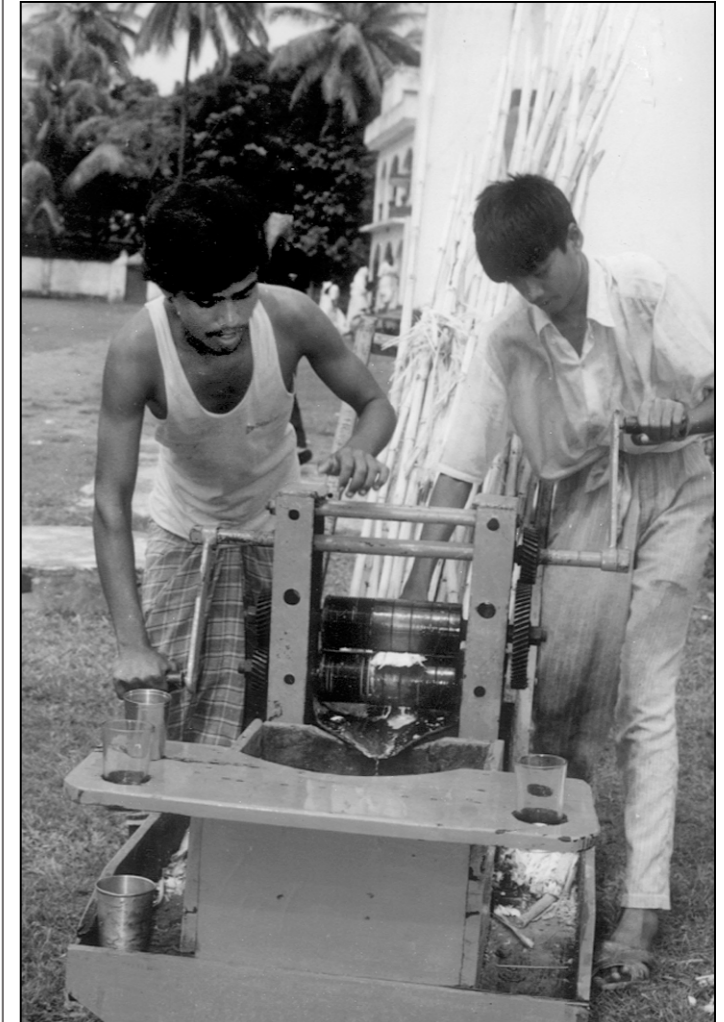
BSS, Meherpur

As part of its crop diversification programme, Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) is encouraging the farmers of the district to grow more lentil (mug dal), official sources said.

The crop can greatly meet the nutrition demand of human body and its cultivation is also profitable compared to other crops. Under a pilot project of the DAE, the farmers cultivated lentil on 412 hectares of land in three upazilas of the district last year and harvested 395 metric tons. In the current season, 450 hectares of land will be cultivated in three upazilas of Meherpur under the pilot project and the production target is fixed at 400 metric tons.

**Events from places**

S A Hamid, Convenor of the Lalmonirhat district Committee of Jute Producers and Traders addresses a press conference at Lalmonirhat Press Club on Thursday. The committee demanded immediate payment of bills to the jute traders who supplied jute worth crores of taka to the Adamjee Jute Mills authorities.



Two poor boys named Selim, 12, and Aziz, 14, of village Bhitasyaer in Sadar upazila, Magura earn a living by selling sugarcane juice when they were supposed to go to school like hundreds others.