

NEWS SNAPS

Young girl
Commits
suicide

UNB, Patuakhali
A young girl allegedly committed suicide in the Sabujbag area in the town Wednesday.

Police said family members found Nurunnahar, 17, daughter of Mojib Pada, in hanging condition with a tree adjacent to the house when they woke up for taking 'Sehen'.

The reason behind suicide could not be known. Later, police recovered the body and sent it to hospital morgue for autopsy. A case was filed.

Two young
lovers
commit suicide

UNB, Chuadanga
Two young lovers allegedly committed suicide by taking poison at village Boakulia in Alamdanga upazila here Friday.

Raju and Monjura, both students of class X of Munshiganj Academy, used to love each other.

As their parents rejected their marriage proposal, Monjura and Raju committed suicide by taking poison. The bodies were sent to hospital morgue.

Sugarcane
crushing
begins
in Thakurgaon

UNB, Thakurgaon
Sugarcane crushing for 2002-2003 season began in Thakurgaon Sugar Mills Ltd on Friday.

State Minister for Agriculture Mirza Fakrul Islam Alamgir inaugurated the crushing programme at a function with Managing Director of the mills Akramuzzaman in the chair.

Mill sources said the production target has been fixed at 13,950 metric tons of sugar this year by crushing 1.80 lakh mts of sugarcane.

But the authorities are skeptical about achieving the target because normal growth of sugarcane was hampered due to unfavourable weather.



Vice Chancellor of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) Prof M Mustafizur Rahman delivers his inaugural speech at a two-day workshop on 'Potentials of Small Indigenous Species of Fish (SIS) in Aquaculture and Rice-field Stocking for Improved Food and Nutrition Security in Bangladesh' at BAU recently.

Seed crisis frustrates boro
growers in Kurigram

UNB, Kurigram

Target of boro farming may not be achieved this season as an acute seed crisis has been prevailing in the district.

Hundreds of growers of the district are crowding at the Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC) sales centers at upazila and district headquarters everyday for seeds but they have to return home with empty hands.

In the open market, the price of boro seeds is two times higher than that of the government fixed price.

A sack of 10-kg boro seeds is now being sold at Tk 300 in the open market while the government-fixed price is Tk 150.

A section of traders and dealers are taking the seeds from BADC officials in exchange of bribe and selling them at very high prices,

farmers complained.

Besides, the growers are being deprived as some dishonest people are pouring impure seeds into the BADC marked sacks and selling those to them.

The growers have become very frustrated, as they are not preparing their seedbeds due to seed crisis although the seedbed preparing time (November) is running out fast.

According to Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), a scheme has been taken to bring 68,700 hectares of land in nine upazilas of the district under boro farming this season with a production target of over 2.30 lakh mts.

Of the total, some 8,210 hectares of land will be brought under boro farming in Sadar while 12,360 hectares in Ulipur, 4,800 hectares in Chilmari, 4,740 hectares in Roumari, 3,195 hectares in Rajibpur, 8,100 hectares in

Bhurungamari, 12,710 hectares in Nageswari, 6,775 hectares in Phulbari and 7,810 hectares in Rajarhat upazilas.

Local Agriculture Department hypothetically calculated that some 2,500 mts of seeds, out of total demand of 2,700 mts, would be borne by the farmers.

So, the department sent a requisition to BADC demanding only 200 mts of seeds.

But BADC allocated only 100 mts of BRRI 28, 29, 3, B-14, 16 and 36 varieties of seeds for the district.

Meanwhile, the farmers could not preserve their seeds as flood and hailstorm damaged their crops during the harvesting season last year.

As a result, the seed crisis has turned very acute in the district this year.

One awarded 5
years RI in
deception case

UNB, Pabna

A court here has sentenced a man to five years rigorous imprisonment (RI) in a deception case.

The court also fined M Abdus Salam of Charlatxampur area in Rajshahi district Tk 5,000, in default, to suffer six months more jail term.

According to the prosecution, the convict took Tk 90,000 from one person named Dulal Bepari of Bera upazila on February 10, 1997 with a promise to send him abroad and misappropriated the money.

A case was filed against seven people in 2000 in this connection.

After examining the records and witnesses, Magistrate M Suratuzzaman handed down the verdict on Monday.

Six other accused were acquitted as allegations brought against them were not proved.



PHOTO: ISPR

Bangladesh Navy personnel in coordination with the local civil administration and other government agencies recovered huge arms and ammunition in different raids in the coastal areas recently.

Khulna bypass road
work delayed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The construction work of Khulna bypass road is being delayed as contractors are yet to get the work orders. The concerned ministry is being held responsible for not giving green signal for starting the work of Khulna bypass road.

The construction work of Rupsha Bridge began from January last year. One-third of the works was completed though its vital part is yet to be constructed.

Khulna bypass road, the 17-kilometre long bypass road from Phultala to Khulna University area will be connected with the link road of Rupsha Bridge.

According to concerned sources, two construction firms were appointed four months back for the

Tk 145 cr project. But the construction firms are yet to be given work order.

It is learnt from the same sources that necessary formalities were not completed for giving work orders although government gave top priority to the work of the Rupsha Bridge project.

It is also learnt from a source that the construction work of the Rupsha Bridge project is expected to be completed by December 2004.

Meanwhile, six out of 24 pillars in the Rupsha river were already set up. But construction of remaining pillars was stopped as one of the six pillars developed some flaws. The work will be resumed after receiving a report by foreign experts about flaw in the pillar.

225 to supervise winter
crops farming scheme
in Faridpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), Faridpur has taken up a massive programme for winter crops cultivation for the season 2002-2003.

Two hundred twenty five supervisors have been engaged to make the programme a success.

According to DAE sources, 38,602 hectares of land will be brought under paddy cultivation in the district with a production target of 128062 metric tons of paddy. Of this, high yielding variety (HYV) of paddy will be cultivated on 36900 hectares while local variety on 2500 hectares with production targets of 123462 metric tons (MT) and 4600 MT respectively.

Mushur variety of pulse will be cultivated on 18420 hectares of land with a production target of 12880 MT while Chhola variety will be

cultivated on 5000 hectares with a production target of 3500 MT. Mash Kalai variety of pulse will be cultivated on 1500 hectares with a production target of 930 MT. Mug variety of pulse will be cultivated on 700 hectares with a production target of 518 MT and Khashri variety of pulse will be cultivated on 7000 hectares of land with a production target of 5600 MT.

Onion will be cultivated on 5000 hectares of land with a production target of 425000 MT, garlic on 4000 hectares with a production target of 24000 MT, chilli on 6000 hectares with a production target of 12000 MT and ginger on 500 hectares with a production target of 3500 MT.

Mustard seeds will be cultivated on 14000 hectares with a production target 12200 MT and ground nut on 2000 hectares with a production target of 3000 MT.

New IO of Satkhira bomb
blast incident case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

An assistant police super (ASP) named Mawla Bux of the criminal investigation department (CID) was made the investigation officer (IO) of the sensational Satkhira bomb blast incident case. The case was transferred to CID after 45 days of two separate incidents of bomb explosions in Roxy Cinema Hall and in a circus show on September 28 that left three persons dead and 200 others injured.

The dead were identified as school student Kazi Mottaal Alam Mukta, Hafizur Rahman Mantu and Dr Selina Parveen.

Satkhira police arrested eight persons including a municipality commissioner as suspects. Seven of them were quizzed by the joint interrogation cell in Dhaka.

Municipality ward commissioner Mominullah Mohon gave some important clues during interrogation to the joint interrogation cell. The case was handed over to detective

branch (DB) of police on October 3 but IO of DB Golam Sarwar failed to make any headway in the investigation.

On November 7, the case was again transferred to CID by order of the police headquarters. The letter assigning ASP Golam Mawla of CID to investigate into the case bears the signature of AIG (Crime-3) of the police headquarters.

ASP Golam Mawla of Khulna zone said that he is yet to get the case docket from DB.