

## 20,749 unfit vehicles in Ctg

Govt deprived of huge revenue

BSS, Chittagong

Over 20,749 unfit light and heavy vehicles are plying the roads in Chittagong without fitness certificates, depriving the government of huge revenue.

Sources in the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) Chittagong office said that out of a total of 81,274 light and heavy licensed vehicles, 60,525 renewed their fitness certificates by paying taxes by July 30 last.

The rest 20,749 vehicles are running without fitness certificates dodging around one fourth of the revenue in the sector in the last fiscal year.

The BRTA earned Tk 81.15 crore from 60,525 vehicles as fee and road tax in the last fiscal year while in the fiscal 2007-

2008 it was Tk 61.14 crore from 42,236 vehicles.

Sources in the drivers' association said the unfit vehicles are usually run by untrained drivers and helpers, causing traffic congestion and road accidents. A huge number of people are killed and injured in road accidents every year.

Hospital and police sources said over 323 accidents took place in Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, Rangamati, Bandarban and Khagrachhari districts in last fiscal, leaving 321 people killed and 450 injured. Many accidents and casualties also remain unreported.

Nurul Alam, a driver in the city's Panchlaish area, told BSS that most of the unfit vehicles are running in the rural areas and the accidents they cause usu-

ally remain unreported.

Masud Alam, assistant director of BRTA, said they issue notices regularly on the defaulter vehicle owners for renewing the certificates and paying road taxes.

He said they also conduct drives against unfit vehicles with the help of Chittagong district administration, traffic department, metropolitan and district police.

Talking to the BSS, Mainul Hossain, deputy commissioner of traffic, said unfit vehicles are mostly responsible for traffic jams and road accidents in the district.

Underscoring the need for combined efforts by the traffic department and BRTA, he said drives against unfit vehicles would continue.



These vehicles, popularly known as Chander Gari, ply on the streets in Chittagong without fitness certificates, causing road accidents very often. The picture was taken from Kalarupul area at Patia.

## 8,500 bottles of Phensidyl seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT  
Gaibandha

Members of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) seized 8,500 bottles of Phensidyl at Balashi ghat under Fulchari upazila in Gaibandha yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, an anti-smuggling task force of BDR chased a truck and seized 8,500 bottles of Phensidyl, and arrested the truck driver Nurul Islam. Together with other goods the truck was carrying the Phensidyl bottles.

The driver of the truck shifted his route as the task force chased him. The task force captured the truck with the help of Gaibandha police.

## World Tourism Day observed

BSS, Dhaka

The World Tourism Day was observed in the country yesterday as elsewhere across the globe with the aim to create awareness about social, political and economic importance of this potential industry.

'Tourism-Celebrating Diversity' was the theme of the day, fixed by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), a press release of Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation (BPC) said here.

President Zillur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina issued separate messages on the occasion.

Different government and socio-cultural organisations chalked out various programmes, including rallies, debating competition and discussions in the city and elsewhere in the country.

BPC, the only government body promoting tourism, took out a colourful rally from TSC in the city in the morning in association with Dhaka University Tourists Society.

Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister GM Quader, Tourism Secretary Hedayetullah Al-Mamun and Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique led the rally that paraded campus thoroughfares.

Hundreds of students as well as common people joined the rally carrying banners, placards and festoons inscribed with tourism promotional slogans.

The BPC in cooperation with Tour Operators Associations of Bangladesh also organised a seminar titled 'Role of Tourism Industry in Changing Bangladesh' at a city hotel to mark the day.

National dailies brought out supplements while radio and television channels aired special programmes highlighting significance of the day.



PHOTO: BSS

A ripe field of short duration BINA Dhan-7 variety paddy now ready for harvest at poverty-hit Gangachara upazila in Rangpur.

## BINA DHAN-7

# Early harvest brings relief to monga-hit districts

BSS, Rangpur

Harvest of short duration BINA Dhan-7 has already begun at the peak hour of seasonal lean period bringing relief to the people of poverty-prone areas of greater Rangpur and Dinajpur districts.

Farmers are expected to complete the harvest by the third week of October and it will help combat lean period crisis of Bangla months Aswin and Kartik although monga is not felt now anywhere for adequate government steps.

Because of its excellent yield rate and early harvest during the peak monga

period, the enthusiastic farmers brought more land under BINA Dhan-7 cultivation this season, officials and experts of Rangpur-Dinajpur Rural Service (RDRS) said yesterday.

MG Neogi, head of agriculture at the RDRS, said the NGO attained a huge success in combating seasonal monga through expanded farming of short duration BRRI Dhan-33 in recent years and now it is expanding cultivation of BINA Dhan-7 for the same purpose.

Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture (BINA) invented the short duration paddy variety in 2007 and later the National Seed Board

approved it for expanded field level farming.

The paddy is being harvested within 115 days from the date of seedling transplantation and within 100 days of sowing seeds using dry and wet methods, said Dr Shamsuzzaman, director of Resources and Environment at the RDRS.

After producing and collecting 18 tonnes during the last Boro season, the RDRS went to expand the cultivation of the paddy during this T-Aman season involving 19 NGOs in these eight districts.

A total of 2,312 farmers completed transplantation of

BINA Dhan-7 seedlings in 894 acres of land by the middle of July last and they began its harvest with four tonnes paddy per hectare at this peak hour of seasonal lean period.

Next year, BINA Dhan-7 will be cultivated in 10,000 hectares of land involving 10,000 farmers in these districts and the RDRS will provide them with 50 tonnes of seeds.

DAE Deputy Director Kamal Shariful Alam told the news agency that the colour of BINA Dhan-7 is very attractive and its rice is comparatively longer and finer raising its market price.

The variety is also more resistant against various diseases like 'Khol Poncha', 'Pata Pora', stem rotting and other diseases.

Besides, the poor and farm labourers fall prey to seasonal job crisis every year for no work in the fields during the months of Aswin and Kartik when the traditionally planted Aman paddy starts blooming.

So considering these factors, the RDRS started cultivating BINA Dhan-7 in a larger scale to advance its harvesting period and all other subsequent crops in the same land by at least 40 days than the traditional crop harvesting periods.

Moreover, potatoes can be cultivated earlier in the harvested land with 15 percent more productions with higher prices.

The farmers cultivated the paddy in 285 acres of land in Kurigram, 92 acres in Rangpur, 111 acres in Lalmonirhat, 116 acres in Nilphamari, 46.5 acres in Gaibandha, 51 acres in Dinajpur, 87.91 acres in Panchagarh and in 102 acres in Thakurgaon this season.

Farmers in these areas are expecting bumper production of their cultivated BINA Dhan-7.



PHOTO: STAR

Maha Nabami, an important part of Durga Puja, the biggest religious festival of Hindu community, was held at Dhakeswari Temple in the city yesterday.

## Need for modern tech in agri sector stressed

BSS, Rajshahi

Agricultural information experts at a gathering of farmers here yesterday emphasised the need for promoting modern technology in agricultural activities for boosting its production.

They said the farmers have a vital role to play in disseminating the latest agricultural technologies to their fellow farmers so that they could be motivated to use those.

In this regard, they said that there is no alternative to adopt the information and communication technologies in the farming activities to make the nation self-sufficient in food production.

Agriculture Information Service (AIS) under its 'Intensification of Agriculture Information Service (IAIS) in Ten Agricultural Regions Project' organised the gathering at its Agriculture Information and Communication Centre (AICC) at Mugrail village under Mohanpur upazila in the district.

The AIS has established the centre equipped with modern agricultural information and communication technologies with financial support from UNDP and Danish government aimed at facilitating necessary information to the targeted farmers.

AIS Regional Director Dr Saifur Rahman, Liaison Officer Atiqul Islam, Agriculture Information and Communication Specialist Amirul Islam and Regional Agriculture Information Officer Abdullah Quafi addressed the meeting as resource persons.

The speakers said the present government is committed to reach the updated agricultural information to the farmers' doorstep through digitising the agriculture sector aimed at building 'Digital Bangladesh' and

urged the attending farmers to supplement the government effort.

Highlighting various importance of the centre they urged the farmers to use and manage it properly so that they could derive its total benefit.

They also said the ecological balance is being affected due to indiscriminate use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides in the agricultural lands and the water bodies and urged the attending farmers to become habituated in the modern method to protect the environment from health hazards and other pollutions.

Elaborating numerous negative impacts of pesticides to the environment they said different types of known and unknown pesticides in various commercial names are being used in the farming fields and no use methods are being followed in most of the cases.

They said importance should be given on using organic and other bio-fertilisers and promoting the biological pest management system so that the dependence on chemical fertiliser and pesticides could be reduced.

Giving importance on making the integrated crop management method popular among the growers level, speakers urged the farmers to utilise the attained knowledge in their farming fields and motivate their fellow farmers to follow the improved method.

The government's efforts to achieve self-reliance on food production will be successful within a few years if every inch of arable land can be brought under different kinds of crop farming, they added.

"We can reduce dependence on rice import enhancing domestic production through proper and best uses of the modern technologies in the farming," Dr Saifur Rahman opined.

## Our Contribution ... Our Hospital

Construction is now at the final stage

We need to arrange fund to complete the remaining work

We appeal to corporate sector, institutions and general people for cooperation



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## Three killed in road accidents

METRO DESK

Three people were killed and 25 others injured in separate road accidents in Chittagong, Natore and Pabna in last two days.

Staff correspondent in Chittagong reports: One person was killed in a road accident at Tigerpass intersection in Chittagong yesterday.

The dead was identified as Mohammad Shahabuddin, 30, son of one Aftabul Kerani of Bauria village under Sandwip upazila.

Police said the accident occurred when a city service bus knocked Shahabuddin standing on the footpath at 2:00pm.

Police seized the bus, but its driver managed to flee.

A correspondent in Natore adds: An unidentified person aged about 45 was killed in a road accident on Natore-Dhaka highway at Dattapara Bazar under Natore sadar upazila yesterday.

Witnesses said the accident when he was crossing the road, a speeding bus crushed under its wheels.

Locals rushed him to hospital where the attending doctor declared him dead.

Our correspondent in Pabna adds: One person was killed and 25 others were injured in separate road accidents at Atghoria and Bera upazilas in Pabna on Saturday.

The dead was identified as Alaaddin, 25, son of Samsul Haque of Khanpur Masumdia village.

Police said Alaaddin was killed when a speeding bus crushed him under its wheels at Kadamtola on Kashinathpur-Kazirhat road at Bera upazila.

In another accident, 25 passengers were injured when a passenger bus skidded off into a roadside ditch at Atghoria upazila.

They injured were treated at Atghoria Health Complex and Pabna General Hospital.

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