# 30 lakh peasant families to benefit from Nat'l Agri Tech Project

UNB, Dhaka

Nearly 30 lakh peasant families are expected to benefit through the use of good agricultural practices from production to marketing with the help of newer agriculture technology.

"Some 25-30 lakh peasant families are expected to benefit on completion of the National Agriculture Technology Project (NATP) with wider market access of their produces and through training and research programmes," said Dr Md Abdur Razzaque, project director of Project Coordination Unit (PCU) of NATP.

He said that the NATP (phase-1) will build a market linkage between the growers and the consumers, aiming to reduce the role of middlemen in marketing of agricultural produces.

The field works of the five-year project began on October 2008. The project has seven implementing agencies -- Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC), Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), Department of Livestock, Department of Fisheries, Krishi

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Freedom fighter Md Abdul

Hakim Majnu, elder brother of

Food and Disaster

Management Minister Abdur

Razzaque, passed away at his

residence in the capital early

cancer for long. He left behind

ter and a host of relatives and

He was buried at his family

graveyard at Mushuddi in

Dhanbari, Tangail, with state

The food minister, deputy

commissioner and police

superintendent of Tangail and

local Awami League leaders

the capital due to a cardiac

arrest on Wednesday night at

the age of 58, says a press

sons and a host of relatives

at his Jamtola residence in

Narayanganj after Asr prayers

Dr Emdadul Haque, a medical

officer of Nachole Upazila

Health Complex, passed away

due to a cardiac arrest at his

Kanthal Bagicha residence in

the town yesterday at the age

son, one daughter and a host

of relatives to mourn his

Association and Swadhin

Bangla Chikitsok Parishad,

Chapainawabganj unit,

expressed deep shock at the

death of Dr Emdad.

He left behind his wife, one

Bangladesh Medical

Dr Emdadul Haque

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Chapainwabganj

and admirers.

today.

of 48.

death.

He left behind his wife, two

His qulkhwani will be held

Mosaddek

Nantu, a bu-

sinessman

in Narayan-

ganj, passed

away at a

hospital in

Mosaddek Moyeen

**DU CORRESPONDENT** 

yesterday at the age of 62.

well-wishers.

were present.

honour.

Gobeshona Foundation, Hortex Foundation and the Project Coordination Unit (PCU).

The project covers 120 upazilas of 25 districts, including Mymensingh, Sherpur, Bogra, Faridpur, Jessore, Moulvibazar, Sylhet, Comilla, Narsingdi and Dhaka.

The major activities of the NATP include research, extension, supply chain management and institutional capacity enhancement.

Under the project, demonstrations are held to introduce the growers with newer technologies, including alternate wet and drying technology to ensure minimal use of irrigation water in the cultivation of boro paddy and off-season vegetables like summer beans.

Besides, demonstrations are also held on the use of quick compost that allows the organic matter to merge with soil, on poly culture in fisheries to expand marketing opportunity, guidance on fish feed rationing to ensure expected growth of fish, beef fattening with conventional feed system, and on fodder cultivation including Napier

grass and German grass.

The extension objectives will be carried out through forming Common Interest Groups (CIGs) comprising the

Technology demonstrations are being held among some 18,000 CIGs. Of them, more than 12000 are crop CIGs, 2400 livestock CIGs and 3600 fisheries CIGs.

"The CIGs are formed in the semiurban areas to allow them more market access," said Dr Md Abdur Razzaque.

He said that the project is unique in a sense that it will cover broader agriculture and will also enable the farmers in reducing the gap with the con-

The farmers are imparted training on the adaptation of newer technology in several fields, including post-

To encourage local entrepreneurship, Local Extension Agent for Fisheries (LEAF) and Committee Extension Agent for Livestock (CEAL) are being selected from among the farmers and they are provided with a

bicycle and Tk 600 per month.

Some 600 Farmers Information Advise Centre (FIAC) have already been formed under the NATP in 600 union council offices through which the farmers can get advise about their problems.

Besides, some 60 PhD degrees will be offered to the local scientists to enhance their capacity as well as to make human resource development.

Some 30 more PhD degrees will also be offered abroad for the local scien-

The objectives of the project include developing supply chain management through Hortex Foundation.

The Foundation will work in 10 upazilas on high value crops. "They have completed their works on product identification and are now engaged in empirical mapping and in identifying the strength and weaknesses of the supply chain," said Dr Razzaque.

Of the estimated budget of Tk 622 crore for the NATP, the World Bank and IFAD are providing Tk 573 crore while the rest will be met by the government.

Inani

Theatre in

beach air

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's

Hundreds of kites in the forms

and colours of marine crea-

tures, including red tortoises,

dolphins, lobsters, jellyfish,

mermaids and purple sharks

along with rainbow coloured

butterflies, cobras, birds and

insects flew over the skyline of

Inani sea beach in Cox's

The beach, located 35

kilometres off the tourism town of Cox's Bazar, had its skyline adorned with colours

as kites in the forms of living creatures of marine ecosystem

soared, fluttered and circled in

foreign tourists, who came to

the beach on a pleasure trip, enjoyed the fantastic theatre

A number of local and

It was a kite festival organ-

As many as 22 kite makers and 50 flyers from the capital

came here to participate in the

festival. Hundreds of children from the local community

The enthusiastic viewers

especially children, became

ised by Chhobir Hat, an organisation of Dhaka-based artists of different fine art

Bazaar yesterday.

the air.

in the sky.

institutes.

joined the fiesta.



Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon forms a human chain at Shahbagh in the city yesterday demanding steps to stop food adulteration.

## Study of philosophy can eliminate superstitions

Says Tafazzul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The study of philosophy can eliminate all kinds of superstitions through logic and help peace prevail in the world, former chief justice Tafazzul Islam said yesterday.

He was speaking as the chief guest at the third reunion of Dhaka University Philosophy Department Alumni Association (DUPDAA) at Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) of the university.

Saying that an acute crisis of morality is prevail-

ing in the country, Tafazzul urged the students and alumni of the department to save the country from this crisis through practicing philosophy. The DUPDAA at the

programme also honoured six members of the association for their outstanding contribution to the society.

Prof Nazma Siddik, Prof Aminul Islam, Prof Ayesha Sultana and Prof Md Kudrat-e-Khuda were honoured for lifetime achievements while Language Movement veteran Rawshan Ara Bachchu and cultural personality Laila Hasan were honoured for their achievements at the national

Dhaka University Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Harun-or-Rashid and Dhaka University Alumni Association General Secretary Rakibuddin Ahmed also spoke at the inaugural session of the day's programme presided over by **DUPDAA President Prof** Azizunnahar Islam.

The daylong reunion was rounded of with a cultural programme.



One killed in

land dispute

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Thakurgaon

Thursday.

in Panchagarh

An elderly person was killed

and four others, including two

women, injured in a clash over

a disputed land at

Gunjanmarihat village under

Atwary upazila here on

fied as Hafizuddin alias

Shukuna, 75, son of late

Mogdha Mohammad of

Atwary Police Station Majnu

Rahman said Abu Taher, step-

brother of the victim, and his

accomplices numbering 10-

12 attacked Shukuna around

2:00pm while he was watering

his Boro field at adjacent

victim's family members

rushed to the spot to rescue

him. But the criminals also

attacked them, leaving

Shukuna dead on the scene

and four people critically

Shukuna, her sons Mozibor

Rahman, 50, and Foimuddin,

35, and Rafiza Begum, 24, wife

of Foimuddin, were admitted

to Atwary Health Complex for

Injured Khatijan, 70, wife of

Hearing the news, the

Gunjanmarihat village.

Officer-in-Charge of

Barshalupara village.

The deceased was identi-

clash over

Former chief justice Tafazzul Islam speaks at the third reunion of Dhaka University Philosophy Department Alumni Association (DUPDAA) at Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) yesterday.

ward commissioners' offices

in city areas as well as the

The EC will accept peti-

tions containing demands,

objections and amend-

ments related to the list

division, Sylhet added 98,446

new voters, Moulvibazar

56,104 voters Habiganj 60,810

voters and Sunamganj 75,545

tion area, 16,775 new voters,

including 7,936 women, were

added to the updated draft

voter list, official sources said.

from all sides and managed to

catch five of them red-

one-barrel sawed-off guns,

one locally made light gun

and 24 rounds of bullets from

their possession, sources

Later, they recovered four

In the Sylhet city corpora-

Of the four districts in the

divisional office of the EC.

until March 23.

to the list.

handed.

5 robbers held with

firearms in Ctg

UPDATED DRAFT VOTER LIST

voters in Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,

A total of 2,90,905 new voters

were added to the updated

draft voter list in Sylhet divi-

1,26,948 women. The division

had 50,81,483 voters as per the

Commissioner of Sylhet divi-

sion Khondaker Mizanur

Rahman told the Daily Star

that copies of the draft list are

available at the offices of

Union Parishad, district and

upazila election offices and

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab)

in a drive arrested five rob-

bers with five firearms and 24

rounds of bullets in the port

city here in the early hours of

group of robbers were pre-

On information that a

yesterday.

12:00am.

earlier voter list.

The new voters include

Deputy Election

Nearly 3 lakh new

# Fake currencies

Dhaka Wasa workers dig in the middle of Gopibagh RK Mission road to instal sewer pipes almost a month ago, but slow work has been

He had been suffering from Satkhira his wife, one son, one daugh-

> Battalion (Rab) yesterday seized fake currencies and arrested two people with note-making accessories from a house at Bakal village under Sadar upazila here.

The arrestees were identified as Habibur Rahman, 32, son of Abdul Bari Mondal of Kumira village at Tala upazila, and Kismat Ali, 45, son of Moinuddin of Machhkhola village under Sadar upazila. Moyeen

Quoting locals, police said Rab-8 members of Barisal contacted the accused in the guise of

Extortion case filed against 5 AL leaders in Borga

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Borga

An extortion case was filed against five leaders of Kahalu Upazila Awami League in Borga on Thursday.

Ayub Ali, brother of Krishak League joint convenor Tony of the same upazila, filed the case with Bogra Senior Judicial Magistrate Court, accusing the ruling party leaders of demanding Tk 2 lakh in toll on March 9.

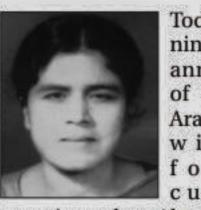
The accused are Kahalu Upazila AL President Helal Uddin Kabiraj, General Secretary Dr Abdul Hakim, Kahalu Upazila Krishak League President Boderuzzaman Khan, **Durgapur union AL President** Azizul Haque and AL leader Principal Hossain Ali.

The complainant alleged that the leaders asked him to come to the upazila Muktijodhha office on March 9 evening and demanded Tk 2 lakh brandishing sharp weapons. They also warned him of dire consequences, sources said.

Ayub said some of these leaders chased AL lawmaker Khadija Khatun on February 24 and he had protested the incident, which might have been the reason behind the demand for money.

The court asked the police to investigate the incident.

Death anniversary DU CORRESPONDENT



programme.

Today is the ninth death anniversary of Rawshan

Ara Begum, wife of former customs

superintendent Ahmad Fazlul

Karim, says a press release. On the occasion, a doa mahfil will be held at Banani graveyard after Zohr prayers. Relatives and friends are requested to attend the

#### more ecstatic when they received some 500 kites from Chhobi Ghar members for free of cost. Their joys knew no bounds. Kite flying was not the

bottom line or focal point of Chhobi Ghar, rather it was aimed at giving the children a place to spread their dreams inside their minds, said noted cartoonist Bipul Saha, a member of the organisation.

Like many other things, the tradition of kite flying is also on the extinct. With it, the dreams of children to soar with their minds are also becoming lost as well. The aim of the festival is to give those children a world to hover on their dreams, he added.

## 20 injured in clash between police, farmers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

At least 20 people were injured in a clash between farmers and police on Dhaka-Rangpur highway at Mithapukur in the district yesterday morning.

The agitated farmers blocked the highway for about three hours from 7:00am and kept the movement of vehicles suspended with potato sacks and trucks laden with potato over the highway.

Police said a number of farmers blocked Dhaka-Rangpur highway in front of Shah Sultan Cold Store as they failed to store their potato.

Witnesses said the farmers brought sacks full of potatoes in rickshaw vans, motor trolleys and trucks early in the morning to store them at the cold storage, but the cold storage management refused to keep the potato saying that there is no space.

This infuriated the farmers who put up a barricade keeping the sacks on the road.

them up.

The clash ensued when police took away the potato sacks to clear the highway and charged baton on the agitating farmers.

The farmers, however, claimed that police instead of fields. taking action against the cold storage management, beat

Rab members, the criminals tried to flee the scene, leaving their firearms and handed over to Karnaphuli

ammunition scattered at different places of arable police. A case was also lodged At one stage, the Rab mem-

bers encircled the robbers

The robbers were identiparing for a break-in, the elite fied as Hakim alias Akom, 24, force raided Jarga Pukurpar Jahangir, 26, Saiful, 28, Abdul area under Karnaphuli Police Khaleq, 26, and Nazim Station on the other bank of Uddin, 25. the Karnaphuli river around

During an interrogation, the criminals confessed that Sensing the presence of

they had long been involved in robbery at different places under Anowara, Banshkhali and Patiya upazilas. Later, the arrestees were

in this connection.

treatment.

On information, police went to the spot and recovered the body, which was sent to Panchagarh Sadar Hospital morgue for an autopsy. Mojibor filed a murder case

with Atwary Police Station yesterday, accusing 10 people, including Abu Taher, Murad, Kader, Daraj, Yunus, Azam, Shahidul, Azizul, Kuddus and Hobibor in this connection.

# causing suffering to pedestrians and local residents. The photo was taken yesterday. seized, 2 held in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Members of Rapid Action

buyers and wanted to buy forged notes amounting to Tk 5 lakh in exchange for Tk 2,50,000 about a month

On information, the Rab men raided the house and seized the accessories, including chemicals, four 500 taka notes and offset papers.

The accused had been cheating the people for long, sources said.

Rab-8 Deputy Assistant Director (DAD) Abu Hashem filed a case with Sadar Police Station against the arrestees.

Officer-in-Charge of the police station Hashem Khan confirmed the matter.



### Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Sylhet

Cox's Bazar

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry across the country in the next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today, with chances of rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind at one or two places over Sylhet division. Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the

country, Met Office said. The sun sets in the capital at 6:07pm today and rises at 6:09am tomorrow.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 35.4 degree Celsius was recorded at Jessore and the lowest of 12.0 degrees at Srimongal. The highest and lowest temperature and humidity

recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Celsius percentage Morning Max Min 33.5 Dhaka 18.4 47 Chittagong 33.7 20.0 47 Rajshahi 15.4 33.0

34.0

34.4

33.5

**Humidity** in City/Town Temperature in Evening 50 41 Khulna 33.4 21.0 89 58 Barisal 55 65

19.3

17.8

22.0

41

35

34

58