



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Mist covers a vast field cultivated with red amaranth, heralding the advent of winter. The photo was taken from Keraniganj upazila in Dhaka district.

# Huge chemical fertilisers lie uncared for under open sky

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, *back to Pabna from Nagarbari*

More than 20 thousand tonnes of imported chemical fertilisers are now kept under the open sky on the bank of the Jamuna River at Nagarbari port under the district due to lack of room in the buffer depots in northern districts.

A good amount of imported fertilisers have also been kept on the premises of Baghabari port for the last few weeks due to the same reason.

Huge non-urea fertilisers are imported from different countries to meet the demand for the boro season and importing agencies give 'sub contract' to carry fertilisers to different areas in northern districts. "We started carrying fertiliser

from the seaports early November. But more than 20 thousand tonnes (4 lakh bags) of fertilisers are now kept at Nagarbari and Baghabari ports beside the Jamuna River due to lack of room in 14 buffer stocks in northern districts," Dulal Chandra Das, owner of Janani Transport, a carrying agency, said.

"Of around eight lakh tonnes of fertiliser targeted for 16 northern districts for the upcoming boro season, at least 1.8 lakh tonnes will come within December this year," he added.

"The 14 depots with capacity to store two lakh tonnes of fertiliser are already overloaded as dealers did not receive fertiliser according to target in October and November this year due to its poor demand. The demand will increase from mid

December for cultivation of winter crops including boro," said Anis Uddin, general manager of the regional buffer depots, also an official of Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation.

Rain, moisture and wind decrease the quality of chemical fertilisers if it is kept under the open sky for long, said agriculturist Zafar Sadek.

"A portion of the staked chemical fertiliser has solidified in bags due to its keeping under the open sky for long. Farmers often show unwillingness to take such items," said Idris Ali Bishwas, president of Pabna district unit of Bangladesh Fertiliser Association.

"Around nine lakh tonnes of chemical fertiliser is needed for food crop production in 16 northern districts each season but the 14

depots in this region are too inadequate for storing the fertiliser. We have submitted many applications and talked personally with a few government high-ups to set up a permanent a buffer stock at Nagarbari, the most important port for fertiliser dealing in northern districts, but to no effect," he added. Visiting Nagarbari and Baghabari ports areas during the last two days, this correspondent saw huge fertiliser stacked under the open sky.

Ishhaque Ali Sheikh, a contractor of labours working at Nagarbari port, however, claimed that quality of the fertiliser will not be lost as it is covered with tarpaulin for protection from rain and moisture.

Enough security guards have also been appointed for safety of the fertiliser, he said.

**Huge non-urea fertilisers, imported to meet the demand for the upcoming boro season, is stacked under the open sky on the premises of Nagarbari port in Pabna district due to lack of room in the buffer godowns of the northern districts.**

PHOTO: STAR

## Housewife murdered in Magura

UNB, Magura

A housewife was tortured to death allegedly by her husband for dowry at Malanchi village in Sadar upazila yesterday.

The deceased was Renu Khatun, wife of Amirul Fakir of the village.

Police and family sources said, Renu, daughter of Nabab Ali of Alanchi village in the upazila, was married off to Amirul, son of Fazlu Fakir, about seven years back.

Amirul used to torture Renu for bringing Tk 50,000 as dowry from her father since their marriage.

As Renu failed to bring the money, Amirul beat Renu up mercilessly at his house on Tuesday, leaving her critically injured.

Later, Renu was admitted to Magura Sadar Hospital where she died yesterday morning.

# Indefinite transport strike begins in Meherpur

*Called off in Thakurgaon*

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Bus-truck owners and workers in Meherpur yesterday enforced an indefinite strike, demanding withdrawal of a case filed against a few staffs and a ban on plying of illegal battery-run 'easy bikes'.

Transports on all routes of the districts remained off the roads since morning, much to the sufferings of the commuters.

District Bus-Truck Owners and Workers Oikya Parishad at a meeting on Tuesday evening decided to go on an indefinite strike.

According to police, on September 24, a series of clashes took place between the bus workers and easy bike drivers when the latter were taking passengers parking their bikes on the main road in Judge Court area.

As the bus drivers on the road protested it, some easy bike owners beat

up a worker of a bus.

Within moments, the two groups locked in fierce clashes in the town areas.

The bus workers ransacked around 40 Easy Bikes, while their rivals vandalised at least 10 buses.

After the incident, president of Meherpur District Easy Bike Association, also president of district Jubo League Sazzadul Islam filed a case against 200 people including District Bus-Truck Owners and Workers Oikya Parishad president Golam Rasul and general secretary Esken Ali.

"We demanded withdrawal of the case and ban on the easy bikes, but it is yet to be done," Golam Rasul told this correspondent.

Earlier, the same group called strikes on April 28 and August 12, demanding ban on easy bikes. The strikes were called off following assurances of the

district administration.

Away in Thakurgaon, transport workers yesterday called off their indefinite strike on internal routes in the district after a 'fruitful' meeting between the transport owners-workers and representatives of the accused who assaulted the bus staffs.

At the meeting held at the office of Transport Owners' Association office on Tuesday night, the offenders 'regretted' for Sunday's incident, reports our correspondent.

The transport workers on Monday began an indefinite bus strike on Thakurgaon-Ranishankoil, Thakurgaon-Baliadangi and Thakurgaon-Rubia roads protesting assault on bus staffs including a driver and three staffs of Mukta Enterprise by a bike rider in Dharmagarh Council area under Ranishankoil upazila on Sunday afternoon, following an altercation over giving side to the bike.

# Body of 'missing' kid found in a sack

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A five-year-old boy, who went 'missing' from Uttar Balubari in the town on Tuesday evening, was found dead in the satellite town area yesterday morning.

Saimoon Rahman, son of Mezbahul Reshedin Badsha, was a nursery student of Sevil Kindergarten at Dakkhin Balubari.

Locals found the body in a sack at Block-7 in Dinajpur Satellite Town, about two kilometers off Balubari, at around 7:00am and informed the police who later recovered the body and sent it to Dinajpur Medical College and Hospital for autopsy.

Police said criminals abducted Saimoon from Balubari area and then strangled him. But they could not unearth the clues to the murder as of filing of this report at 5:00pm.

Victim's father Badsha said he don't have any conflict with anyone in the area. "Being informed by police, I went to the satellite town area and identified the body of my son," he said.

Saimoon's mother Hastun Nahar Shuvra told local journalists that her son went out of their house at around 3.00pm on Tuesday to play cricket with his friends on nearby Grijanath High School ground.

As Saimoon did not return home in the evening, family members started looking for him in the area. Failing to find Saimoon as of 8:00 pm, his farther filed a general diary with



Saimoon Rahman

Sadar Police Station.

Contacted, Md Abdul Kader Zilani, officer-in-charge of Dinajpur Sadar Police Station, said they are trying to unearth the clues to the murder and arrest the culprits involved.

Saimoon's father filed a murder case with the police station yesterday afternoon, police said.

## Agitation for removal of IU VC, two others on

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Teachers, employees and students at Islamic University (IU) and local civil society men yesterday urged the government to remove VC, Pro-VC and Treasurer of the university immediately.

They made this demand at a human chain formed in the town yesterday afternoon.

The hour-long programme was joined by around 500 people.

The speakers at a rally during the programme said that IU VC Prof Alauddin, Pro-VC Prof Kamal Uddin and Treasurer Prof Sahjahan Ali have pushed the university to a bleak future through their various illegal activities in the last four years.

They urged the government to remove them immediately to save the university and its 12,000 students.

The government should immediately suspend these three corrupt people for tarnishing its image, said Prof Abul Ahsan, president of IU Bangladesh Parishad unit, who chaired the programme.

Alleged illegal recruitment of teachers and staff of the university by the VC, Pro-VC and the Treasurer recently triggered a non-stop agitation at the IU, source said.



PHOTO: STAR

**Rescued Shahed and his alleged abductor Sohail Rana. The 4-year-old boy was kidnapped for ransom.**

## Boy rescued, alleged abductor held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Bagerhat police with the help of Kaliganj police here have rescued a four-year-old boy and arrested the alleged abductor from a bus counter in the district on Tuesday night.

The boy, identified as Shahed Ali, is son of Rafiqul Islam of Jinnapara shipyard area in Khulna city while the alleged abductor is Sohail Rana, 19, son of late Nurul Islam of village Chandpur-Bamandanga under Rupsha police station.

Sohail used to stay at the house of Rafiqul Islam by renting a room. He developed a good relation with Shahed's parents, locals said.

Officer in-charge of Kaliganj police station Syed Kamruzzaman said, Rafiqul Islam along with his wife

Sharmin Akter Seema went to visit Sharmin's parents at Bagmara village in Bagerhat on November 18.

Sohail also went to Bagerhat and abducted the child very tactfully and arrived at Kaliganj in Jhenidah. From there he demanded a huge sum of money as ransom for release of Shahed.

Shahed's father Rafiqul filed a case with Bagerhat Model PS in this connection on the same day.

Investigation officer of Bagerhat police station Raquibul Hasan sought help of the Kaliganj police.

At about 9.30pm on Tuesday a joint team arrested Sohail and rescued the child from a bus of Kushtia bound Rupsha Paribahan at Kaliganj bus terminal.



PHOTO: STAR

**Primary Terminal Examinations 2012 began across the country yesterday. Photo shows class five students sit for the test on the first day at Sajeda Kobiruddin Government Primary School centre in Faridpur.**