

# Early potato varieties a boon to Dinajpur farmers

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Dinajpur

Cultivation of early varieties of potatoes has proved a boon to Dinajpur farmers as they are getting fair price of their produce.

Harvest of early varieties of potatoes has started in different upazilas of the district at the end of November and will come to an end by this month.

Farmers are happy with good yield of potato and its reasonable rates, which they said, will help recoup the losses they incurred in the last Irri-Boro season.

One kilogram of new potato is being sold on local markets for Tk 40 to 35 while price of the same amount of old one is around Tk 26.

According to the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), farmers cultivated early varieties of potatoes on 30,000 hectares of land in different upazilas of the district against the targeted 35,477 hectares.

"New potatoes are abundant in local markets and consumers are getting them at affordable prices," said vegetable trader



PHOTO: STAR

Farmers collect early variety potatoes from a field at Khamarpara village in Khansama of upazila of Dinajpur.

Mizanur Rahman Mizan of Dinajpur Rail Bazaar Market.

Farmers, who have already harvested early varieties of potatoes, will make a good profit by selling their produce at an increased price, said Rafiqul Islam of Khansama upazila.

Rafiqul cultivated pota-

atoes on three bighas of land and got 1500kgs from each bigha. He expects to make a good profit by selling potatoes.

Saiful Islam, another grower of Khansama upazila, said he may earn Tk 33,000 by selling potatoes produced on his one Bigha land. Growers said they had also made a good

profit by cultivating early varieties last year.

DAE officials said they have fixed 6.8 lakh tonnes potato production target from 30,000 hectares of land this year. "We hope the target will be exceeded," said Md Anwarul Alam, deputy director of Dinajpur DAE.

## RANGPUR POLL Candidate demands deployment of army

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Rangpur

A mayoral candidate at newly formed Rangpur City Corporation (RCC) election has demanded army deployment.

He also urged the Election Commission not to use electronic voting machines (EVM) in the polls, slated for December 20.

Kaiser Zaman Babla, former president of Rangpur municipality unit BNP, came up with the call at a press conference at his house in Mahiganj area of the city on Friday.

He urged the EC to deploy army at all 178 polling centres alleging that musclemen of some mayoral candidates recently obstructed him from electioneering.

He also termed EC's decision to use EVM at four polling centres funny as voters have no experience of its use.

Babar has been allotted "pineapple" symbol for the polls

Twelve mayoral, 91 women's reserved councillor and 321 councillor aspirants are contesting the RCC election.

## Accountant of CS office held for taking bribe

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Sirajganj

Detective Branch (DB) of police arrested an official of Sirajganj civil surgeon (CS) office residence in the district town early yesterday, on charge of taking bribe from the job aspirants.

They also recovered Tk one lakh and over 30 appointment cards from the possession of arrestee Md Rezaul Islam, 42, accountant of the office.

Besides, they seized another 20 appointment cards from the residence of office assistant Md Saiful Islam in the town.

However, Saiful fled the scene sensing the presence of the DB men.

A candidate, Sree Laxmi Rani, 26, wife of Gobinda Kumer Paul on Stadium Road in the town recently filed a complaint saying that Rezaul took Tk three lakh as bribe for her appointment as peon in the office, said DB police.

A group of aspirants alleged that several other top officials took huge bribe from them in the name of appointments. Contacted, civil surgeon Dr. Nizamuddin Khan, however, refuted the allegations against his staffs.

## Month of Victory

# Days in the life of poor FF Surat Ali

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Magura

Freedom fighter Rabiul Islam alias Surat Ali is passing his days amid utter poverty as the monthly allowance he receives from the government is not enough to maintain his family.

He now lives in a thatched house on a small land owned by his younger brother at Barashia village in Magura Sadar upazila. The house is made of dried jute sticks and its roof covered with polythene leaks

badly in the monsoon.

Though Surat Ali, now 66, is not fit for physical labour, he has to pull rickshaw van to maintain his family, comprising three members. His daughter got married while son, aged 6, is a class one student of a local primary school.

Surat Ali gets Tk 2,000 as monthly allowance and draws the allowance once every six months. He hires a rickshaw van and pay half of his daily earnings as rental to the owner. "We

often pass the days half-fed or unfed as my scanty income is too small to meet the daily needs," he said.

Son of a landless late Moksed Molla of Barashia village, Surat Ali joined the Liberation War at the age of 28.

"I received military training at a training camp in the Indian state of Bihar, came back to the country and fought against Pakistani occupation forces and their collaborators in Sector No 9 under the command of Major Abul Manjur," Surat added.

Surat also claimed that he fought against Pakistan army in different areas of Sreepur and Mohammadpur upazilas under the leadership of valiant freedom fighter Akbar Hossain Mian and Enamul Kabir Khokon.

Freedom fighters Moshiru Rahman and Abdul Aziz of the same village told this correspondent that Surat Ali fought against the occupation forces at different battlefields in the district. He is in dire need of help to build a permanent house at the village, they added.

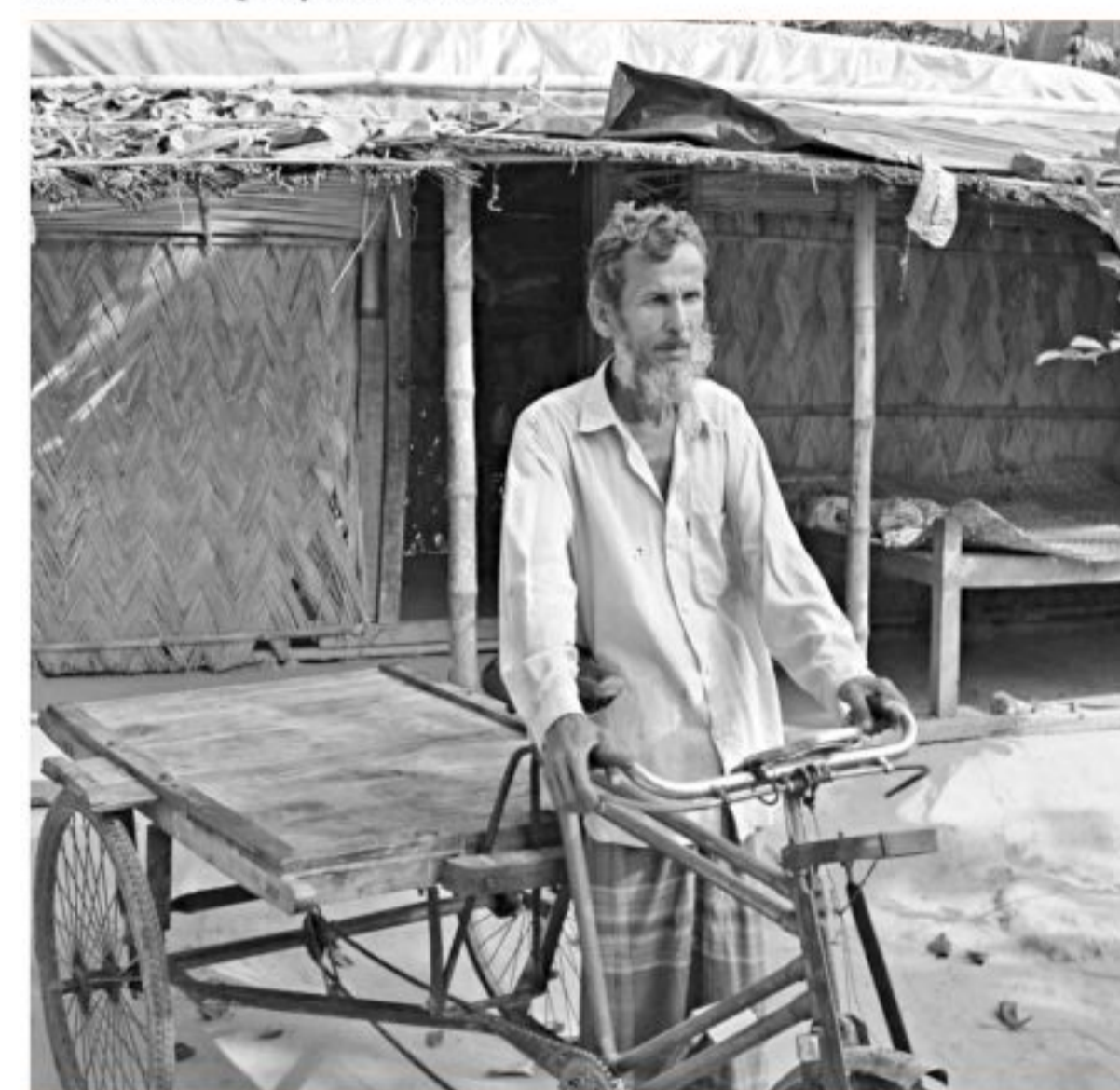


PHOTO: STAR

Freedom fighter Surat Ali of Magura Sadar, now pulls van as he continues to fight against poverty.

## SNAPS AND SNIPPETS



PHOTO: STAR

Former and present students of Brahmanbhita High School brought out a colourful procession in Tongbari of Munshiganj district during celebration of the school's centenary programmes yesterday

## UP member hurt in gun attack

UNB, Pirojpur

A union parishad member of Kawkhali upazila was injured in a gun attack by unidentified criminals at Daserkati in the upazila on Friday night. The victim was identified as Monir Hossain, 40, member of Sadar union of the upazila and resident of the area. Local sources said, a gang of criminals fired four shots at Monir, also organising secretary of upazila unit Sramik Dal, labour wing of opposition BNP, near his house at about 10pm when he was returning his house, leaving him injured. Two bullets hit in the head, said the sources. Monir was rushed to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital.

## Rail link restored

UNB, Habiganj

Rail communication of Sylhet with Dhaka and other parts of the country was restored early Saturday after suspension of eight hours following derailment an express train near Shayestaganj junction. Local railway sources said two compartments of 'Jayantika Express' veered off the tracks at about 6.00 pm on Friday, disrupting train services on the Sylhet-Dhaka and Sylhet-Chittagong routes. A rescue train from Akhaura salvaged the derailed compartments. Later, the train service on the routes resumed at about 2:00 am.

## Worker electrocuted

UNB, Chuadanga

A construction worker died from electrocution at Hatikata village in sadar upazila on Friday night. The deceased was identified as Kaba, 35, son of Awlad Hossain of Bhalapur village in Alamdanga upazila. Witness said Kaba came in contact with a live electric wire while working at an under-construction building at the village, leaving him critically injured. Later he died on way to sadar hospital.

## Housewife beaten to death

UNB, Keraniganj

A housewife was beaten to death allegedly by her husband at Hasnabad in south Keraniganj on Friday noon. The victim was identified as Parvin Akter Shirin, 35, wife of Enayet Alamin of the area. Police, quoting locals, said following a quarrel over family feud, Enayet beat up Shirin mercilessly at about 12:15pm, leaving her severely injured. Family members rescued and sent her to a local clinic where the attending doctors declared her dead. On information, police rushed in and arrested Enayet.

## CASE FOR ATTACK ON PABNA JOURNO Six months over, no headway yet

UNB, Pabna

Six months have already elapsed, but there is no sign of any progress in the investigation into the attack on journalist ABM Fazlur Rahman.

After the incident, police arrested a few suspects who later came out on bail, but the main culprits are yet to be identified.

Unidentified assailants severely stabbed on the right arm of ABM Fazlur Rahman, 45, staff reporter of The Daily Samakal and Ntv, on the Government Edward College campus on May 19 this year.

The victim filed a case accusing unidentified criminals and police arrested Kazi Salauddin alias Sujon, 28, of Salgaria village on June 22, a month after the attack. However, a few days later Sujon was freed on bail.

"During investigation, we have found a few names. We are now continuing our investigation on the basis of those," Sub-inspector and IO in the case Md Ziaur Rahman Zia of Pabna police station, told this correspondent. However, he declined to disclose the names for the



ABM Fazlur Rahman sake of investigation.

"Although we have got a few names, we are yet to be sure about those. We are still working on it," the SI said.

Blaming the role of police, victim Fazlur Rahman said, "After the arrest of Sujon, I could identify him but his name was not included in the case."

Secretary of Pabna Press Club Ahmed-ul-Haque Rana said, "State Minister for Home Shamsul Haque Tuku assured us that the culprits would be punished but unfortunately no progress in the investigation was made in the last 6 months."

"Journalists of Pabna are very much shocked at this," Rana added.

Fazlur Rahman is now undergoing treatment at Pabna Medical College Hospital.



PHOTO: STAR

People of Saghata in Gaibandha district put up a road barricade on Friday, demanding arrest of a UP chairman who allegedly kicked a youth to death on Thursday.

# C'nawabganj celebrates its day of freedom

## Dinajpur still confused

UNB, Chapainawabganj

People of all walks of life observed the 'Chapainawabganj Free Day' yesterday in a befitting manner.

On December 15, 1971, the heroic sons of the soil hoisted the national flag after a month-long battle and declared the district free from the occupation of Pakistani forces.

Divided into two sub-sectors under the Sector No.7, the freedom fighters waged war against the occupation forces in the district, the then sub-division.

Bir Shreshtha Captain Mohiuddin Jahangir was the commander of the Mohidipur sector while Lieutenant Rafiq was the commander of the Doldol sector.

Five Pakistani soldiers were killed as the freedom fighters launched an attack on the army camps at Makrampur and Ali Nagar on November 7.

Other Pakistani troops

managed to flee by crossing the Mohananda River on that day.

On December 10, the freedom fighters made advance towards the Chapainawabganj town to capture it and occupied the banker of the Pakistani army.

On December 13, the freedom fighters led by Captain Mohiuddin Jahangir went to Baroghoria by crossing the Mohananda River.

Later, they launched an attack on the Pakistani troops there on December 14.

Captain Mohiuddin Jahangir died on the spot when a bullet of Pakistani army pierced through his forehead during the operation.

After a gunfight, the Bangladeshi freedom fighters finally freed Chapainawabganj district from the Pakistani occupation forces and thus

snatched the victory on December 15.

In Dinajpur, people are still confused as exactly when the district headquarters was freed from the Pakistan occupation forces.

In 2010, then Deputy Commissioner Md. Jamal Uddin Ahmed held a meeting on the matter in presence of freedom fighters, leaders of ruling parties and different organisations, reports our correspondent.

The meeting decided to observe December 14 as Dinajpur Freedom Day.

The years 2010 and 2011 witnessed colourful celebrations on the day with participation of from all walks of people.

But mysteriously this year the day passed off silently.

Talking to this correspondent most freedom fighters observed that Dinajpur was freed from Pakistani enemies between December 15 and 18 in 1971.

# Roadblock as UP chairman kicks youth to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

People of Saghata upazila blocked Gaibandha-Saghata road on Friday morning, demanding immediate arrest and punishment of a local UP chairman who allegedly kicked a youth, resulting in his death.

The roadblock caused immense sufferings to the passengers for about six hours.

The deceased was identified as Shameem Mia, 27, son of Akbar Hossain of Ullahbazar village.

Police said there was a longstanding conflict between Bharatkhalai union parishad chairman Shamsul Azad Sitol and Akbar over taking control of a pond on UP office premises.

As a sequel to the conflict, an altercation took place between Shameem and the UP chairman, members Abdul Jalil, Bipob Mia and Rubel Rana over the pond on Thursday. At one stage, the chairman kicked the youth, leaving him uncon-

scious.

He was rushed to Gaibandha Sadar Hospital where the doctors declared him dead, said Ahsan Habib, officer in-charge at Saghata police station.

Refuting the allegation, the chairman said Shameem was a patient of heart disease.

The deceased's sister filed a murder case accusing seven people, including the chairman, said the OC.

In Dinajpur, a man was beaten to death in Nawabganj upazila on Friday, reports our correspondent.

The deceased, Shahidul Islam, 35, was son of Mozahar Ali of Boro-Hatishal village.

Family members said Shahidul went missing on Thursday afternoon.

Locals found his body lying in a bamboo cluster and informed police. The body was sent to Dinajpur Medical College and Hospital morgue for autopsy, said police.