

SNAPS

Jute farming programme

UNB, Rangpur

A scheme has been undertaken to bring 85,200 hectares of land under jute farming in eight districts of greater Rangpur and Dinipur zone during the current season with an output target of 8.52 lakh bales.

Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation supplied high yielding variety seeds, fertilisers and pesticides among the farmers at fair prices to make the scheme a success.

BNP activist slaughtered

UNB, Bogra

A BNP activist was slaughtered by his rivals at Sonakania village in Sonatola upazila here on Saturday.

Miscreants swooped on Khairul Islam, 32, when he was asleep in the yard of his houses and slaughtered him, witnesses said. Past enmity was said to be the reason behind the killing. Police arrested two people identified as Jinnah, 38, and Wares, 35. A case was filed.

Robbers kill young man

UNB, Kushtia

Robbers shot dead a youth when he caught one of them at Hosonabad village in frontier Daulatpur upazila early Monday.

Police and locals said a band of 4-5 robbers stormed into the house of one Abdus Salam at about 1am. Hearing the hue and cry of the house owner, local people laid siege to the robbers. At one stage when Alauddin, 28, son of Naimuddin, caught one of them others shot him dead. The body was sent to hospital morgue for autopsy. A case was filed.

322 arrested in Jhalakati

UNB, Jhalakati

Police during their special drive in the district arrested 322 people, including a convicted fugitive, in last one month.

Tk 2cr trees stolen from CU in 12 yrs

More 3900 to be sold out

BSS, Chittagong

At least 46,271 valuable trees worth about Tk two crore were stolen by an organised gang of timber thieves from Chittagong University campus in last 12 years.

At present 1.65 lakh trees are on the campus out of 2.5 lakh planted earlier.

Of the existing trees, 1.27 lakh were planted by the Institute of Forestry and around 38,000 by the Department of Botany under.

A total of 501 acres of land have been brought under tree plantation programme out of 1,264 acres

acquired for the project, where 120 rare varieties of trees were planted. But most of the rare varieties are on the verge of extinction.

CU Tree Plantation Office sources said, at present there are 48,000 saleable timber trees and 43,000 cluster species trees in the garden, valued at Tk five crore. Most of the thieves are from nearby villages, sources said.

CU Chief Plantation Officer Mohammad Kamal Uddin said the plunder is rampant due to lack of proper security.

Dr Kamal Hossain, Director of the Institute of Forest and

Environment Science (IFES) of the University, said a proposal by the the CU authorities to sell some 3,900 trees of cluster species is awaiting approval by the CU Senate.

He requested the CU authorities, teachers, students and all concerned to protect the resources.

When contacted, a CU security official spoke of shortage of security personnel for which they could not keep watch on the vast open area properly.

VC Prof Nuruddin Chowdhury said proper security will be arranged to protest the trees.

Attack on AL procession

Bagerhat tense, police BDR deployed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Tension is running high in Bagerhat town following Sunday's attack on an Awami League (AL) procession by ruling party men in which at least eight AL leaders and activists were injured.

Police and BDR are patrolling the town apprehending clash between BNP and Awami League.

According to Awami League sources, the attack was made when former state minister Talukdar Abdul Khaleque MP and former whip Mostafa Rashidi Shuja were leading the procession. It was brought out ahead of a reception to the former state minister and the former whip at the Shadinata Uddan on Monday.

The injured included former Vice-president of Rajshahi University Central Students Union (RUCSU)

Mir Shawkat Ali Badsha, advocates Kazi Monowar Ali, Siddique Ahmed and Dilip Das and Chhatra League leader Bowy. During the attack a large number of AL and BCL leaders took shelter inside the Sadar thana. Later police escorted them to their homes at night.

The reception was not held as Section 144 was promulgated in and around the Shadinata Uddan from 6 am to 12 midnight Monday night, where both AL and BNP called a meeting.

Awami League got official permission on May 27 to hold the reception.

On the other hand, BNP leader Wahizzaman said he applied to the Deputy Commissioner of Bagerhat on May 29 for holding a rally there on the occasion of Ziaur Rahman's death anniversary. But he refused to

reply when asked if the DC gave him permission to hold the rally at the same venue at the same time.

When asked the DC admitted that AL was given permission for the reception. "How can I allow two parties to use the same venue at the same time?" DC said.

Meanwhile, Talukdar and Shuja blamed ruling party MP MAH Selim for masterminding Sunday's attack. It was aimed at suppressing AL after BNP's defeat in Mongla Pourasabha election, Talukdar said.

Shuja said AL will launch a tougher movement against what he called the reign of terror let loose by the ruling party.

SI ignored document of bail, took Tk 25000 for release: departmental case filed.

Patients hostage, clinics doing hefty business

Govt doctors thumb showcause notice

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Patients lured to private clinics by agents in the name of better treatment often risk their life as most of the clinics in the town lack required treatment facilities.

Most of the patients are lured from Sirajganj Sadar Hospital, allegedly in connivance with a section of doctors there who maintain link with the clinics, sources.

The situation has not improved even after issuance of showcause notices on some of the doctors at the Sadar Hospital for negligence of duty, they said.

There are about 120 private clinics in the small town and most of those are run by junior doctors and nurses who are not properly trained.

The agents deployed at the general hospital have free access to any department and ward, often hampering normal activity, the sources said. Often, patients coming from rural areas are harassed by such agents.

Luring patient has become an occupation for many.

Rafique, an agent, said he gets Tk 150 to 250 from the clinic owner after a patient is admitted. "I earn Tk 3000 to Tk 4000 per month from different clinics. This is the only source of income to maintain my family", he said.

Another agent seeking anonymity said, "As doctors are involved in the process, I never consider it unethical".

When contacted, Residential

Medical Officer (RMO) of the Sadar Hospital Dr. Abdul Awal said adequate measures have been taken to prevent agents from entering the hospital.

But some staff, who were not willing to be named, said agents are still active who enter the hospital premises in the guise of patients' attendants.

The clinics are doing good business taking the advantage of the sorry state of the Sadar Hospital having 100 beds which is too inadequate, the sources said.

Talking to this correspondent, Civil Surgeon Sirajganj AFM Nowsher Ali said action will be taken if any doctor is found negligent to duty.

Theft case:10 Barisal AL, BCL leaders get HC bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Six senior advocates of Barisal bar along with four others got ad-interim bail from the High Court on Monday in a theft case.

They are local leaders of Awami League and its students front Chhatra League.

The case was filed by Barisal city unit Chatra Dal president and BM College Students Union vice-president Moshui Alam Sentu after his wrist watch and Tk 700 were stolen on May 31.

Cop faces action for arresting accused on bail for money

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

A departmental case was filed against Sub-inspector Nazibul Haque of Kasba police station on May 31 for taking into custody an accused on bail and extracting Tk 25000 from his family.

According to police sources, one Haroon Mia of Nimbari village under Kasba upazila got bail in a case on May 17. Next day, at night, SI Nazibul Haque went to Haroon's house and threatened to arrest him. Haroon showed bail documents but the SI arrested and brought him to

Kasba thana and demand Tk 25,000 for his release.

The SI released Haroon after realising the money from his family.

Haroon then complained to SP Abdul Kalam Azad against the SI. Ordered by the SP, ASP (Sadar) Rafiqul Islam Mazmudar probed the matter and submitted a report. A departmental case was filed against SI Nazibul Haque and he was shifted from Kasba thana.

When contacted, the ASP said the complaint is partially true. The SI ignored Haroon's bail documents, he said.

Gram Sarker will establish party rule: Ershad

A CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Former president and Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad has said the BNP-Jamaat government completely failed to run the country and people are already fed up with its misrule.

"Wrong policies of the government are dragging the country into deep uncertainty and throwing the people into despair", he said addressed a public meeting at Kumarkhali helpad ground on Monday.

With advocate Rezaul Haq, convenor of Kushtia district Jatiya Party in the chain, the meeting was addressed by, among other, ABM Hosharof Hossain, Kuhul Amin Howlader, Anwar Hossain, Ahsan Habib Lincon and Nafiza Ahmed Khan Titu.

Ershad said the government decision to introduce Gram Sarker will not benefit people but viliate the atmosphere at villages.

Party men will be in the Gram Sarker instead of elected persons. This will establish party rule and thwart the democratic process, he said.

Turning to rise in crime incidents across the country, he said this is because ruling party men intervene when police arrest criminals.

Notorious criminal held in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Mujibar Rahman Adarhia, 38, a notorious criminal of Khulna city, was arrested by DB police on Monday from Rupsha Strand Road under Khulna thana.

He was wanted in 12 criminal cases including four for murders.

Police said Mujibar Rahman Adarhia, a resident of TB Cross Road, had masterminded the bomb attack on a patrol police van at the PTI Crossing on the night of February 19.

Having links with outlawed Purba Banglar Communist party (PBCP), Adarhia was earlier convicted in two cases tried under the Speedy Trial Act, police said.

94 more Rohingyas repatriated

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

More 94 Rohingya refugees belonging to 15 families returned to Myanmar on Sunday from Nayapara and Kutupalong refugee camps here, official sources said.

Bangladesh and UNHCR officials saw them off on the bank of Naaf river at Teknaf. Myanmar immigration officials received them at Kanningchong reception centre.

With this, 2,34,154 Rohingya refugees have so far returned to Myanmar, the officials said. More 21,123 are waiting repatriation.

Another 100 refugees are expected to return home today.

Over 2.50 lakh Rohingyas crossed the border and took refuge in Teknaf and Ukhia upazilas in 1991 to escape persecution by the Myanmar military regime.

Barge with imported fertiliser sinks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A barge carrying 3,741 fertiliser bags sank in the Passur river on Sunday following a head-on collision with a sea-going vessel loaded with imported rice.

The barge Tomoy- was bound for Noapara in Jessore with the fertiliser unloaded from MV Bright Star anchored at Mongla port.

Deepa Enterprise of Noapara imported the fertiliser from Indonesia.

Ganges flow at Hardinge Bridge exceeds agreed May share

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh received 46, 195 cusec (one cubic foot per second) of Ganges water during the first 10 days of May against the indicative share of 32,351 at the Hardinge Bridge point.

The flow was 50,058 cusec against the indicative share of 35,000 cusec during May 11-20 and 51,146 cusec against 41,854 during May 21-31, according to a press release of the Joint Rivers Commission. The flow is measured on 10-day basis.

The water flow was 36,866 cusec against 35,000 during April 1-10, 33,889 against 27,633 during April 11-20 and 34,245 against 35,000 during April 21-30.



PHOTO: JAHANGIR ALAM

Lux-Anandadhara Miss Photogenic Shrabosti Datta Tinni is seen handing over a gift box to a housewife in Netrakona town for using Lux products. Since her arrival on Thursday at Netrokona, her hometown, Tinni visited at least 20 houses and presented gifts to Lux users. Asiatic Invents Marketing Limited organised the programme.

20 injured as villagers clash in Magura

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

At least 20 people were injured six of them critically, in a clash between two rival groups of people at Tupipara village in Speepur upazila on Monday.

Witnesses said, two rival groups one led by Rustam Khan and the other by Khalilur Rahman clashed over supremacy in the village.

Critically injured Delwar Sheikh Bashar Khan, 20, Sohel, 15, Mozibur, 25 and Rana Munshi, 25 were admitted to Magura Sadar Hospital.

Field Day for farmers

UNB, Panchagarh

A Field Day was organised in the boro paddy demonstration plots at Khongapara in Sadar upazila on Saturday aiming at ensuring production and preservation of boro seeds to avoid seed crisis for the coming season.

Organised by Department of Agriculture Extension, it was attended by over 200 farmers. Chairman of Kajoldighi union Mohammad Mojahar Ali was present as chief guest.

10-year RI for torturing wife

BSS, Naogaon

The Women and Children Repression Prevention Court, Naogaon, on Sunday sentenced a husband to 10 years rigorous imprisonment (RI) and fined him Tk 10,000 for torturing his wife for dowry.

Moksed Ali, 32, of Ghona village under Manda upazila used to physically torture his wife Parul Begum for Tk 50,000 dowry.

Parul filed a case against her husband on August 5 last year. Manda police submitted charge-sheet against the husband after investigation. Judge Shawkat Hossain delivered the verdict.

Alleged killer murdered

BSS, Bagerhat

An accused in a murder case was killed by armed miscreants at Sare Charani village under the Sadar upazila Friday night.

The victim, Mostofa Ekib, 48, was accused in a case for murder of former Dema Union Parishad Chairman Akther Hossain.

Quoting villagers, police said the miscreants shot and hacked Mostofa to death and dumped the body into a shrimp cultivation enclosure.



PHOTO: AMINUL ISLAM

This is not a shoal in the old Brahmaputra but a heap of garbage. Mymensingh municipality pile up garbage on the bank of the river which is washed away by rain and deposited on the river, polluting the water.