

SNAPS

Ex-UP member with firearm held

BSS, Cox's Bazar

A former Union Parishad (UP) member was arrested and an LG was recovered on Sunday night from his house at Natun Bazar of Rashid Nagar union under Ramu upazila.

Police arrested Abdul Jabbar alias Jabbar member in a raid in his house. Police said Jabbar member is accused in different cases including arms case.

Touch stone statue recovered

BSS, Rajshahi

A big touch stone statue valued at about Tk 53.5 lakh was recovered from a house at Datma village under Godagari Upazila in Rajshahi district. Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) seized the statue on Sunday night. BDR jawans seized the statue from the house of Abdus Salam on Sunday night. It was supposed to be smuggled to India, BDR said. None was arrested and the statue was handed over to the local Customs authorities.

Afforestation programme

BSS, Chapainawabganj

A massive programme for planting 18 lakh fruit-bearing, forest and medicinal trees has been taken up in Chapainawabganj district this year.

The Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), the Roads and Highways Department, the Forest Department, government organisations and NGOs will execute the programme.

A total of 580,476 saplings will be planted in Sadar upazila, 537,186 saplings in Shibganj upazila.

Adulterated fertilisers flood markets in Rajshahi

No control of BSTI officials

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

Adulterated fertilisers have flooded the markets in the district and posing a threat to crop production.

There is no control of the officials of the Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institution (BSTI) over the quality of fertilisers. No action has so far been taken against any dishonest adulterated fertiliser manufacturers.

A section of dishonest traders are producing adulterated SSP and TSP fertilisers by mixing specks of marble, urea, low quality SSP and red colour.

The production cost of each bag of such TSP fertiliser ranges between Tk 190 and Tk 200 while it is being sold at Tk 600 to Tk 650 in the markets.

The SSP fertiliser is also being produced by mixing dolomite pow-

der and gypsum. Each bag of such SSP fertiliser costs only Tk 80 to Tk 99 but it is being sold at Tk 280 to Tk 300.

Not only SSP, but almost all brands of fertilisers including Zinc, Molybdenum, Gypsum, Potash and Boron fertilisers are being adulterated.

"Identifying the dishonest manufacturers is not a difficult task", said a fertiliser trader of Godagari upazila adding that an organised gang is engaged in producing low quality fertilisers by setting up small factories in the remote and 'safe' areas.

"We remain careful while purchasing fertilisers as sometimes the items are sold in brand names", said Majharul Islam, a farmer of Paba upazila.

He described that he was cheated last year. "I purchased SSP fertiliser from a local shop last year

and I suffered a loss of Tk 7,000 using it in my crop field."

Meanwhile, the local agriculture officials and upazila administration in a joint operation recently seized seven bags of adulterated SSP from a shop in Paba upazila. But the authorities did not take legal action against the concerned trader, it was learnt.

Agriculture officials said adulterated fertiliser reduces fertility of land.

In order to combat the malpractice, the authorities often conduct raid in different parts of the district. Sometimes they detect fake factories but due to reasons unknown they fail to take action against anyone.

As unscrupulous traders managed to avoid penalty, they again involved themselves in the practice, sufferers have complained.

Scheme to improve livelihood of farm families in four dists

BSS, Barisal

A new agricultural scheme is being implemented in four southern districts aimed at improving the livelihood of small, marginal and landless farm families.

The project titled Integrated Area Development Project (IADP) is being executed in Pirojpur,

Gopalganj, Madaripur and Shariatpur districts at a cost of Tk 75.41cr. A grant amounting to Tk 46.45cr from the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) is also included in the total cost, official sources said.

Under the project each group of farmers will receive target-oriented training on improved production

technology, quality control, storage and preservation of quality seeds and use of credit in a proper way.

The Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED), selected Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs) and different commercial banks have been implementing the project.

Project implementation wing (PIW) of the DAE will set up two offices at two district headquarters and 12 training centres at upazila level for better execution of the project.

Selected NGOs will form 4,000 small farmer groups (SFGs) and 4,000 marginal and landless groups (MLGs) under the IADP. Each group will consist of 20 members.

The LGED will construct 60-kilometre irrigation canal in the project areas and the banks will provide credit for purchasing irrigation equipment for the SFGs under the project.

Besides, the LGED will build or upgrade 40 markets and 10 landing places to improve input supply and marketing of produce in the project sites.

A total of 540 metres of bridges and culverts will be constructed for easy transportation of agriculture products in any weather condition.

One thousand low-lift pumps and 300 power pumps will be installed at the project sites for irrigation so that agricultural cultivation can be carried out extensively throughout the year, especially during the winter season.

Meanwhile, preliminary and engineering works on the project have already been completed and the rest have been progressing fast.

Development of some markets, 30-kilometre irrigation canal and construction of 250 metres of bridges and culverts are underway.

100 injured in 2 road mishaps in Manikganj

A CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

At least 100 disciples of the late Peer of Atroschi were injured, 10 of them seriously, in two road accidents in Manikganj district on Sunday.

Police sources said the first accident occurred at Uthuly in Shibalaya upazila when a bus coming from Iswarganj in Mymensingh district fell into a roadside ditch at 10 am on the fateful day.

The second accident took place at midday at Kashadaha also in the same upazila when another bus coming from Kamrangir char in Dhaka district fell into roadside ditch.

Both the buses were heading towards Jaker Manjil in Faridpur district to attend a meeting with the son of the late Peer Saheb.

The wounded were admitted to Uthuly Health Complex.

E-learning course introduced at BIT, Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The Bangladesh Institute of Technology (BIT), Rajshahi introduced the e-learning course of the CISCO Systems.

The Computer Science and Engineering Department of the BIT, in association with the UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) and the CISCO Systems Network organised the course.

The course will be conducted through e-learning process which is first of its kind in the northern region.

The one-year course is divided into four semesters.

Savar Poura polls 63 file nomination papers

BSS, Dhaka

Sixty-three persons submitted nomination papers on Monday for the Savar Poursabha polls scheduled to be held on August 31.

Of those, three nomination papers were submitted for the post of chairman, 13 for three reserve seats for women commissioners and 47 for nine general ward commissioners.

Three chairman candidates are Mohammad Refat Ullah of ruling BNP, present chairman Ashraf Uddin Khan alias Emu of the Opposition Awami League and Mozammel Hossain of Jatiya Party.

Election Commission (EC) in a gazette notification on July 3 fixed Monday the date for submission of nomination papers.

The last date for withdrawal of nomination papers is August 10.

Upazila Nirbahi Officer (TNO) of Savar and Upazila Election officer (UEO) have been appointed as the Returning Officer and the Assistant Returning Officer to conduct the Savar Poursabha election.

Mirkadim Poura poll

Four submit nominations for chairmanship

BSS, Munshiganj

A total of four candidates submitted their nomination papers on Monday for the post of chairman in the Mirkadim municipality election.

The candidates are: Mohammed Hafizullah Mia, Hazi Abdul Malek, Mohamamd Hossain Chowdhury and Mohammad Adibuddin Chowdhury, according to the Election Commission office here.

Besides, 47 candidates for the nine posts of commissioner and 13 women candidates for reserve seats for women commissioner of the municipality also filed their nominations.

The election to the municipality is scheduled to be held on August 31.

Young job seekers cheated in Nilphamari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

A self proclaimed regional manager of a so-called private security service company disappeared from Nilphamari town on Saturday night.

Sagar Chowdhury, 'Regional Manager' of Niloy Security Service (Private) Ltd here fled away from the town taking a good amount of money, he collected from young job seekers in name of providing them employments of security guards in offices and other establishments.

This way he collected an amount of about Tk 10 lakh from more than 100 job seeking young men. Each and every job seeker paid to him Tk



PHOTO: STAR

Sitakunda Eco Park attracts lots of tourists from home and abroad. The enchanting fountain shown in the picture is one of the main attractions of the park.

Steps to save mangoes from fruit borers

BSS, Chapainawabganj

Mangoes can be saved from attack of fruit borers by taking some measures.

Experts have suggested the steps to save mangoes from attack of fruit borers in Chapainawabganj.

Experts suggested the measures after successful experiments in the current season at the Chapainawabganj office of the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) and the Agriculture Research Institute, DAE plant protection specialist Mokhlesur Rahman told BSS.

Attacks of fruit borers on mangoes were first detected in 1996 at Bholabhat upazila, he said.

The measures are as follows: Mango trees should remain clean. Diseased, dead and excess branches of trees should be cut off. Light trap can be used for destroying insects. Soil of the mango orchards should be ploughed time to time. Affected mangoes should be collected and buried deep into earth or should be burnt.

If the attack is severe mango growers should spray insecticide on mango trees three times once every 15 days.

Centenary celebration of Thakurgaon High School

BSS, Thakurgaon.

The centenary celebration of Thakurgaon Government High School will be held in February 2004.

This was disclosed at a meeting at the Teachers' Common Room of the school on Thursday.

Presided over by Prof Chowdhury Md Humayun Kabir, Chairman of the Centenary Celebration Committee, the meeting was attended, among others, by Mirza Tasmimul Islam Bablu, Secretary District Sports Association, Principal Syed Merajul

Hossain, Advisor, Centenary Celebration Committee, Md Abdus Salam, President, Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Md Enamul Haque, President, Thakurgaon Press Club, Akhtar Hossain Raja, General Secretary of the press club and Sekandar Ali Khalifa, Headmaster of the school and member-secretary of the Centenary Celebration Committee.

The Centenary Committee chairman said that Thakurgaon High School was established in 1875 as a Middle English school on the bank of the river Tangon. Later the school was upgraded as a High English School in 1904. In 1908 the school was transferred to the present site on 16.53 acres of land donated by Bibi Taiyeba Khatun, the then Zamindar of Kusumgram of Bardawan district.

Prof Chowdhury declared that rally, seminar cultural function,

sports, reminiscence and prize distribution will be held to mark to occasion. A colorful souvenir will also be published.

With a view to successfully observe the centenary celebration a 75-member working committee and 12 sub-committees were formed. An advisory committee with Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, State Minister for Agriculture as Chief Advisor was also formed.

Meanwhile, the registration has started at Thakurgaon and Dhaka. For the purpose two offices, one at Thakurgaon High School and the other at Dhaka (Md Abu Raihan, 1/1, Nobody Housing, Shekher Tek, Mohammadpur, Dhaka) have already been set up. Former students of the school have been requested to register their names contributing a registration fee of Tk 100 each.



PHOTO:AKM MOHSIN

Rural singers in an impromptu musical soiree near Santahar railway station in Bogra district.



Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) organised 12 meetings titled 'Transparency and Accountability in Primary Education' at three study circles in Madhupur Sadar, Dhanbari and Jalchhatra of Tangail district recently. Picture shows a meeting is progressing at a study circle.



Privatisation Commission chairman Inam Ahmed Chowdhury launching a book titled 'Mrittunjo' published by MA Rahim Memorial Trust. The Sylhet Division Development Council organised the publication ceremony recently.