

SNAPS

23 gas cylinders seized by BDR in Chuadanga

BSS, Chuadanga

Twenty three foreign made gas cylinders were seized and one person was arrested by BDR jawans from village Loknathpur under Damurhuda upazila on Sunday.

The imported gas cylinders were being smuggled out to India. The gas cylinders were found in a private car coming from Dhaka. BDR seized the car and its driver Mujibul was arrested.

According to BDR, price of the gas cylinders was estimated at Tk 69,000.

A case was lodged with Damurhuda police station.

Two with fake bidis held in Natore

BSS, Natore

Police on Monday arrested two persons with 1.5 lakh fake band roles and bidis from a passenger bus at Ful Bagan under Sadar upazila.

Police sources said police raided the Natore-bound passenger bus coming from Bogra and recovered 1.5 lakh fake Manomohan bidis and band roles from their possession.

The arrested were identified as Asadullah Pramanik, 40, son of Sakendar Bepari and Abdul Rahim, 42, son of Abdul Rahim of village Nayapara under Gabtoli upazila in Bogra district.

A case was filed with Natore police.

Land revenue collection below target

BSS, Mymensingh

Mymensingh district Revenue Department has realised Tk 2 crore 14 lakh as land development tax in 12 upazilas during the last fiscal.

District administration sources said the outstanding land development tax in the district is Tk 9 crore and 12 lakh.

The collection of tax in the ongoing fiscal was higher than that of the previous year. Revenue collection in fiscal 2001-02 was Tk 1 crore 78 lakh.

New computer training centre in Manikganj

BSS, Manikganj

A new computer training centre named "Amra Muktiyoddhar Santan Command Computer Training School" was inaugurated at the office of the district command unit here on Friday.

The inaugural function was presided over by Golam Mohiar Khan Shipar, Convenor, Muktiyoddha Command Council, Manikganj district unit. M. Abdur Bari, Deputy Commissioner, Manikganj was present as chief guest while Golam Sarwar Milon, ex-Deputy Education Minister, Kazi Jahangir Amir, Secretary (Finance), Muktiyoddha Central Command Council and Hazrat Ali Selim, Member-Secretary Muktiyoddha Command Council, USA unit were special guests.

Golam Sarwar Milon and Hazrat Ali Selim donated two computers for the training school.

Woman unconscious for 3 weeks after operation

Official probe report says operation done by govt doctor 'without prior test' at 'unregistered clinic'

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

A housewife is unconscious for three weeks after operation by a government doctor at an 'unregistered' clinic in Rajshahi city.

An official probe report revealed that the doctor was not 'specialised in surgery' in the field and that laboratory test was not done before the operation.

The probe was done by a three-member body led by Rajshahi Civil Surgeon Dr. AK Fazlul Haque following a complaint by the patient's husband.

The probe body was formed on August 12 and its report was sent to the Directorate of Health on August 26 for action, the civil surgeon told this correspondent on Thursday.

This correspondent during a visit to the clinic yesterday found her still unconscious. She is on saline only, sources at the clinic said.

Day labourer Mofiz Uddin brought her wife Rashida Begum to Rajshahi on August 7 in the evening with acute pain in her lower abdo-

men. They came from Sonadanga village under Bagmara upazila.

As in many other cases, they fell in the hands of a 'broker' engaged by a clinic. The broker took them to Nazma Clinic, owned by a former Rajshahi divisional health director.

The clinic authorities told Mofiz Uddin that that his wife had a tumor on her oval and that she would be operated upon.

In the following morning, she was taken to the operation theatre and given anaesthesia for operation.

But she was taken out of the operation theatre (OT) half an hour later as the doctor did not turn up in time, it was gathered.

At around 11 am, she was again taken to the OT and given anaesthesia.

Dr Sarmin Sultana, medical officer of Paba Upazila Health and Family Welfare Centre, did the operation.

But Rashida did not regain sense. After three days, Mofiz Uddin complained to the civil surgeon.

The probe body did a thorough

investigation.

In its report the probe body said the patient developed 'celebral hypocrisia' due to anaesthesia within short interval.

The report said the operation was a 'major' one but laboratory test was not done before the operation.

The operation was done by a doctor "not specialised in surgery" and that the clinic was unregistered, it said.

The report suggested shifting of the patient to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital for better treatment but the clinic authorities kept her at the clinic till yesterday.

Talking to this correspondent, the civil surgeon confirmed the findings of the probe body.

When contacted, Riaz Uddin, the director of the clinic, claimed that proper tests were done before the operation, but he could not show any documents in this regard.

He also failed to give satisfactory reply when asked about the allegation that the clinic was operating without any registration.

Govt can't alone change people's fate: Tareque

A CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

Joint Secretary General of BNP Tareque Rahman has said no government can alone change people's fate.

He was addressing a meeting on Wednesday at Char Jabbar College ground under Sadar upazilla. The meeting was organised by Char Jabbar thana BNP.

The BNP leader called upon the people to grow more foodgrains, plant more trees on roadsides and take to fish farming.

The meeting was addressed by the district BNP president Md Shahjahan MP, MA Hashem MP, Zia Foundation's Secretary General Farhaduddin Donar and other district and local BNP leaders.

Tareque addressed many wayside meetings at Binodpur, Goripur, Khalifarhat, Mannan Nagar, North WAPDA and at other places on his way to Char Jabbar from Noakhali town.

Earlier, the BNP Joint Secretary General addressed another public meeting at Char Motua Panaulah High School ground under Sadar upazilla.

Later, he addressed another schedule meeting at Thanar hat under Sadar upazilla.

Tareque Rahman arrived Noakhali on Tuesday night for a three-day tour and addressed a street meeting in front of the district BNP office. He exchanged views with local BNP leaders, workers and the district administration till late night.

Rahman distributed poultry birds and goats to destitute people in the area.

RU BCL protests killing of Khulna AL leader

A RU CORRESPONDENT

The Rajshahi University (RU) unit of Bangladesh Chhatra league (BCL) on Thursday demonstrated in the campus protesting the killing of Khulna city Awami League President Monjurul Imam.

They brought out a procession and held a rally on the campus demanding proper investigation into the killing and immediate arrest of the killers.

Speakers at the rally held "cadres" of the ruling alliance responsible for the killing.

Two killed in Pabna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Two persons were killed in Pabna Sadar on Tuesday night.

Police said a group of miscreants called Jalal, 15, son of Rahman Ali, out of his house at about 10:30 pm.

Police recovered the body from near his house next morning and sent to the Pabna Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

Police said Jalal might have been killed in a sequel to previous enmity.

A case has been filed in this regard but none has been arrested.

In the other incident on the same night, miscreants gunned down Mahmud Hossain, 28, of Char Raninagar village at Char Balorampur under the Sadar upazila.

Police said Mahmud had been staying at his relative's house. A group of miscreants entered the house and shot him dead.

Two others—Momin and Zamin were also injured in the attack. They have been admitted to the Pabna Sadar Hospital.

Police said Mahmud could be killed by outlaws. A case has been filed with the Pabna Sadar thana but none was arrested.

Armed robbery in C'nawabganj

BSS, C'nawabganj

An armed robbery was committed here in the early hours of Tuesday, affected families said.

A group of bandits, in the guise of police, swooped on the residence of Latif Pathan at Bttalaha, one kilometre away from the district town, at about 3 am.

The robbers numbering about 10 forced their way into the house and looted cash and valuables, including gold ornaments, worth over Tk. 7 lakh at gunpoint.

CU in grip of session jam

Students' agitation against grading system worsens situation

CU Correspondent, Ctg

The ongoing student movement at Chittagong University against grading system has increased the session jam, affecting the academic life of about 10,000 students.

Most of the departments are now facing about two and a half years' session jam following postponement of examinations till September 10.

The Chittagong University Syndicate, the highest decision making body, at a meeting on August 21 decided to re-examine the grading system and postponed examinations in the face of students' movement.

The students under the banner of Sadharan Chhatra Chhatri Sangram Parisad (SCCSP)

launched a movement demanding cancellation of the grading system.

At least 300 scheduled examinations of different departments under five faculties and two institutes could not be held due to the month-long agitation, sources at the registrar office said.

The examinations were not held as the students boycotted classes and examinations.

A few departments like Law, Public Administration, Philosophy, History and Islamic History are however free from session jam.

The Department of Journalism has taken a decision to reduce the session jam. It has announced examination schedules for the next five years.

Almost all the departments in

the Commerce Faculty face at least two years' session jam.

Didar, a second year student of Marketing Department told this correspondent that they appeared at the first year final examination after 23 months of admission.

Irregular holding of classes and examinations is the main causes of the session jam, he said.

The situation in Science Faculty is the same.

Sources in some departments in the faculty said they are trying to reduce the session jam by advancing examination schedules. The jam in physics and chemistry departments has been reduced to some extent, they said.

Beanibazar still tense, police hunt on

Bail prayers of public representatives rejected

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet.

The situation at Beanibazar upazila headquarters is still tense as most of the male persons are not staying at their houses apprehending arrest.

Police earlier filed two cases accusing over 800 people including the pourashava administrator, a former upazila chairman and some UP Chairmen.

Additional police force is deployed at the upazila headquarters.

Bail prayers of former Upazila chairman Mujammil Ali, Pourashava Administrator Tofajjal

Hossain, Lauta Union Parishad Chairman Abdul Jalil, Tilpara UP Chairman Israrul Haque and JP leader Ali Ahmed were rejected on Thursday by court.

Members of the Upazila Peace Keeping Committee went to meet the deputy commissioner on Thursday, but he did not meet them, sources said.

The committee would now sit at a meeting to decide on further programmes, sources in it said yesterday.

On the other hand, the DGM of Sylhet Palli Bidyut Samity, Shakhawat Ullah, has been withdrawn from Beanibazar.

Power subscribers in Beanibazar had been demanding action against the DGM for his alleged corruption.

The Beanibazar Palli Bidyut Grahok Audhikar Aday Committee had been agitating for long to press its 10-point demand including stoppage of alleged corruption by Palli Bidyut officials and irregularities.

Pourashava Administrator Tofajjal Hossain had filed a writ petition with the High court months ago. The court ordered suspension of realisation of extra money in the name of meter rent from subscribers.

But Palli Bidyut officials with the help of police disconnected power supply line of the municipal administrator on August 25, which fuelled the agitation resulting in clashes with police.

After the clashes, the DGM of Palli Bidyut Samity filed a case with the Speedy Trial Tribunal naming 20 people and accusing 280 others.

Clash over land Uncle kills nephew in Kushtia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

One person was killed in a clash over property at village Mahiskundi in Daulatpur upazila on Tuesday night.

Police told this correspondent that two brothers Dukhu Ali and Ramjan Ali exchanged hot words over distribution of ancestral property. At one stage Ramjan hit his nephew Habibul Islam, 25, son of Dukhu with a sharp weapon resulting his instant death.

Police arrested Ramjan and three others named Gulam Mustafa, Asan Ali and Tofazzel from the spot.

A case was filed with Daulatpur police station.



PHOTO: STAR

Jute growers waiting for buyers for hours together at a market in Nilphamari, but in vain. Supply of jute is abundant in local markets in this peak harvesting season, but price is much below the production cost.

Poor jute prices in Nilphamari open floodgate of smuggling

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Jute is being smuggled out to India at random due to poor price of jute in various local markets.

Lack of jute purchasing centre and absence of genuine jute trader have attributed to the situation.

People living in the border belt have revealed that many jute purchasing centres had been

established on the other side of the border. Jute purchasers are supplying money through their channels illegally and doing good profit.

At present jute is being sold in different local markets at Tk 190 to 250 per maund (37.5 kilograms) which is much below the production cost.

An elderly farmer of Itakhola village under Sadar upazila, Abul Hossen, 65, expressed his utter frustration to The Daily Star as he had sold two maunds of jute at Tk 390 only. He said, "our production cost for a maund of jute is Tk 300, but I got Tk 195 for a maund. How can we proceed forward?"

District Jute office sources told this correspondent that the government rate of jute was Tk 345 per maund (37.5 kg) for C-bottom variety, Tk 315 per maund for Cross-Bottom variety and Tk 287 per maund for SMR variety. But farmers got Tk 250 for a maund of C-Bottom, Tk 225-230 for a maund of Cross Bottom and Tk 190-210 for a maund of SMR variety.

"It is due to shortage of buyers" told Arindam Kumar Dhar, Chief Inspector of the Department of Jute, Nilphamari.

This year only UMC Jute Mills celebrated their lucky purchase on August 5. But the mills manage-

ment are yet to start their drive in full swing.

In absence of major buyers, brokers and middle men are purchasing jute from farmers at a very poor price.

"All the big jute mills have closed their purchasing centres keeping due a huge amount of money of traders for supplying jute in previous years," said Noor Hossen Sarkar a well-known jute trader of the town.

A number of jute traders disclosed that an amount of nearly one and a half crore taka remains unpaid to traders by different mills.

According to Deputy Director (DD) of the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), Nilphamari, Monwar Hossein, this year's jute production target was nearly one lakh fifty thousand bales from 1,40,00 hectares of land in six upazilas of the district. But the achievement was 90,000 bales from 10,000 hectares of land. Both production and cultivation of jute have declined, he said to this correspondent.

DD further told this correspondent that jute farmers were being deprived of fair price of their produce for the last 10 years. So, they have lost interest in jute cultivation.

'Torture' on Khoksa UNO office employee: Investigations on

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

An allegation of torture on an employee of Khoksa UNO office is being investigated by two probe committees, one formed by the Kushtia district administration and the other by the government employees' association.

UNO's wife, Officer-in-Charge (OC) and Sub-Inspector (SI) of Khoksa police station tortured separately a UNO office employee named Noor Islam Manik on suspicion for 'theft' committed at the UNO's house.

UNO's wife Nigar Sultana on

August 21 handed over Manik to police on charge of theft.

Police tortured Manik indiscriminately, but he denied the charge.

The next day Nigar again took charge of Manik from police and stabbed at his abdomen by knife at her kitchen.

Hearing the victim's scream, OC Badsha Mia and SI Abdul Kader along with UNO Gorges Mia himself rushed there and found Manik in a pool of blood.

Police twisted the fact and announced that Manik stabbed himself by knife.

With serious injuries Manik was first rushed to Khoksa Upazila Health Complex and later shifted to Faridpur Medical College Hospital (FMCH) where he has been fighting for life.

Manik's wife Julie Khatun on Tuesday filed a case with a first class magistrate court in Kushtia accusing the three aforementioned torturers. The court directed the concerned police super (SP) to submit a report within 15 days after investigation.

Local unit of the government employees' association is also investigating the incident.