

## SNAPS

**Prices fall in Faridpur**

**BSS, Faridpur**  
Prices of essentials which shot up with the advent of Ramadan have started falling in local markets.

Prices of items like rice, pulses, flour, sugar, egg, meat, soybean and fishes had registered moderate rise but vegetables virtually went beyond the reach of the common man.

Now price bringal has come down to Tk 12 per kg from Tk 30 a week back. The much talked about price of onion has also fallen. The locally produced variety is now selling at Tk 26 per kg and the imported one at Tk 24.

Prices of fishes have also come down substantially following increased supply in markets.

**Adulterated fertiliser seized**

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chuadanga**  
A mobile court seized adulterated fertiliser from Damurhuda upazila on Tuesday.

The seized items included 19 packets of adulterated white grain zinc, 94 packets of other adulterated fertiliser and 10 packets of Zinc Foo fertiliser.

First class magistrate of Chuadanga Gokul Krishna Ghosh recovered the adulterated goods after conducting raids at a shop at Damurhuda bazaar and two shops at Karpashdanga bazaar under Damurhuda upazila.

**Outlaws kill one**

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chuadanga**  
An inhabitant of Kabinagar village under Alamdanga upazila was killed by outlawed Purbabanglar Communist Party (PBCP) (ML-Janajuddo) on Tuesday night.  
The victim was identified as Jamir, 32, son of Monsur.

# Trading in misery

## Irregularities in issuing VGF cards, supplies from LSDs in *monga*-affected Nilphamari

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari**

Irregularities in distribution of VGF (vulnerable group feeding) rice have been reported from different areas in the *monga*-affected district despite repeated government warnings of stern action for this.

A section of Union Parishad chairmen, in connivance with some food department officials, are involved in the irregularities.

The irregularities were revealed during visits by Additional Secretary Bodiar Rahman to different areas.

On Thursday, he inspected relief distribution in Itakhola, Panchapukur, Chaprasaranjami, Charaikhola and some other unions.

He has been sent from Dhaka to monitor relief distribution, witnessed the irregularities at different unions of the district on Thursday.

During his visit, hundreds of people, male and female, at different places complained to him that chairman and members were not giving VGF cards to the real needy people but selling each card at Tk 60 to 70.

On the other hand, some of the UP

chairman and members also complained to him that they were being cheated by the food department. While taking delivery of rice from LSDs (local supply depot), they are getting 62 kgs of rice in a sack instead of 82 kgs, they complained.

During a spot investigation at a LSD, the additional secretary also found 62 kgs of rice in sacks instead of 82 kgs.

Asked about action for irregularities, he said he would place the matter before higher authorities.



PHOTO: STAR

A octogenarian woman (cross-marked) got frustrated not getting rice under VGF programme at Itakhola village under Sadar upazila in Nilphamari Thursday noon. Irregularities in distribution of VGF rice are being reported from different areas of flood- and diarrhoea-affected Nilphamari.

## 12 murdered in a month in Khulna, none held

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna**

Twelve people were killed last month (October) in Khulna city and district but none of the killers could be arrested yet.

Complainants in most of the cases alleged that investigation officers damaged merits of the cases with motives and so the accused are being benefited.

According to police records, the murders were committed due to

intra-party rivalry, family feud, political rivalry and land disputes. In most of the cases, the complainants named the accused.

The murders were committed during the ongoing operation by joint forces, which began on October 16.

The 12 victims include Mukul, a student of Daulatpur College, labour leaders Abu Tahar and Minto, shrimp farm owner Amol Moudol, contractor Russel and police informer Belal.

**Irregularity in relief supply**

## UP chairman caught by deputy minister

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha**

Deputy Minister for Relief Ashadul Habib Dulu caught a Union Parishad chairman while distributing VGF rice in lesser quantity.

As per government decision, 10 kilogram of rice is given against each VGF card in certain areas in northern districts where rural people are facing a near-famine situation.

At Kanchipara union in Fulchari upazila on November 4, Union Parishad Chairman Akbar Hossain was distributing 6 to 7 kilograms of rice instead of 10 kilograms at the UP office in presence of UNO Gautam Kumar Bhattachajee, witnesses alleged.

On information the deputy minister rushed there and caught the UP chairman and ordered departmental action against him.

As the deputy minister left, the people swooped on the UP chairman and manhandled him, the witnesses said.

## One gunned down in Bagerhat

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna**

A shrimp farm owner was gunned down by a gang of 10 armed miscreants at Chhoto Bahirdia under Fakirhat upazila in Bagerhat district on Wednesday morning.

Police said Belayet Sheikh, 40, was abducted from his fish farm at gunpoint and shot dead in Husna Shahpara area.

Two of his employees Masum, 40, and Atar Ali, 35, were also injured in the attack. They were undergoing treatment at Khulna Medical College Hospital.

The alleged killers are members of an outlawed party, police and local people said.

According to local Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) and Officer-in-Charge (OC), the slain fish farm owner was linked to outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) (M-L) till last year. He reportedly severed link with the party and returned to normal life.

However, no case was filed till filing of this report on Thursday afternoon.

## Diarrhoea situation better in Gaibandha

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha**

The overall diarrhoea situation is improving in Gaibandha district.

On Friday, 77 people were attacked with the disease, which was 100 to 150 per day earlier.

The incidence of death is also tapering. A 10 year-old girl Nayani Bagumdiel of the disease on Thursday at Chuniakandi village in the Sadar upazila, locals said. But district health officials did not confirm it till yesterday.

With this, the death toll from the disease in the district rose to 43. Over 6000 have been attacked.

Nine persons died from diarrhoea on November 2 and 3. They are Karimunessa, 35, of Gagoa village under Gaibandha Sadar Upazila; Anisur Rahman, 11, of Panchgachi village under Sunderganj upazila; Sayeed Ali, 80, of Katlamari village under Fulchari; Sumi, 1, of Joyenpur village; Morsheda, 1, Kakoli Rani, 22, of Khamer Bagohi village under Sadullapur Upazila; Fulmati, 40, of Chandipur village under Sunderganj upazila; Abdul Jalil, 40, of Udakhali village under Fulchari Upazila and Nurun Naher, 21, of Padumsharer village under Shaghata upazila.

A medical team comprising Dr Abdul Mannan Sarker, Deputy Director, Diarrhoea Disease Control Cell, Dhaka and Dr Wahedul Huq, Deputy Director, Health Directorate, are visiting affected areas to identify the probable reason for outbreak of diarrhoea.

Meanwhile departmental action has been taken against five Health Assistants working in different diarrhoea affected areas for negligence in duty.

## Arrest of photo journalist protested

**A RU CORRESPONDENT**

Rajshahi Rakkha Sangram Parishad, a citizens' forum, formed a human chain in zero point area in Rajshahi protesting arrest of Selim Jahangir, a photojournalist of Dainik Janakantha and the organisation secretary of Bangladesh Photojournalists' Association on Tuesday.

After the human chain a meeting was held where Jamat Khan, convenor of the Parishad spoke. He demanded immediate withdrawal of false case filed against him. Selim was arrested on November 1.

## 2 housewives injured in tit-for-tat acid throwing

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chuadanga**

In a tit for tat incident, two housewives suffered severe burn injuries in acid attacks at Kurul Gachi village under Amurhuda upazila recently.

They are Jahanara, 32, wife of Shahjahan and Raowshawn Ara, 30, wife of Mandar Ali, now being treated at Chuadanga Sadar Hospital.

Police said Shahjahan was at odds with his neighbour Mandar Ali for long over a land dispute.

Mandar threw acid on Shahjahan's wife Jahan Ara, according to a case filed by Shahjahan.

To retaliate, Shahjahan's men threw acid on Mandar's second wife Rowshan Ara, police said quoting sources in the village. But Mandar is yet to file any case.

## CU admission body meets today

**CU CORRESPONDENT, Ctg**

The Chittagong University (CU) admission committee will meet today to take decisions regarding admission to first year honours classes in 2003-2004 academic session.

The meeting will decide the criteria for appearing at admission tests and the admission schedule.

The decisions will be announced after approval by the Academic Council.

When contacted the Vice Chancellor told The Daily Star that students who passed HSC under grading system and old class system will be allowed to apply for test. Admission form distribution is likely to begin on January 1, he said. However, a highly placed CU source said students who got at least GPA 2.5 in HSC and two second divisions in SSC and HSC would be allowed to sit for admission test.

## Police source killed by outlaw

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira**

An alleged police source was gun down by activists of the outlawed Purba Bangla Communist Party (PBCP) on Thursday at Budhata village in Assasumi upazila.

Police said, three persons called Haroon Dhali, 50, out of his house at about 5-30 am. As he came out, one of them shot him in the head and chest, killing him on the spot.

The assailants left the spot in a motor-bike.

Local people said while leaving, the assailants left some PBCP leaflets which urged the people to kill "class enemies" an police.

When contacted, the officer-in-charge of Assasumi thana said the victim was not their source. But he could not say anything about the reason for the killing.

Some local people claimed that Dhali was a police source.

## Urs at Garpara on Wednesday

**STAR NATIONAL DESK**

The annual *Urs* of saint Hazrat Maolana Shah Abdur Rahman Lal Mia (RA), noted Islamic thinker of India during British rule and Hazrat Shah Khalilur Rahman (RA), a prominent preacher of undivided Bengal will be held jointly at Garpara Imam Bari Darbar Sharif in Manikganj district in a befitting manner on November 12.

A three-day programme has been chalked out to mark the day. The programmes include 'Mazar Jiarat after 'Magrib' prayers,' placing of 'Gilap' and 'Sobina Khatam' on November 11, 'Mazar Jiarat' after 'Magrib' prayers, milad mahfil, discussion, 'Kawali' and 'Samah Mahfil' on November 12 and distribution of 'Tabaruk' during 'Sehri' and 'Akheri Munajat' after 'Faz'r prayers on November 13, says a press release.