

Animal feed for prisoners!

132 sackfuls of putrid ankor pulse recovered from Rajshahi Central Jail godown

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

About 7000 kilograms of rotten and putrid ankor pulse, generally used as animal feed, were recovered during raids at Rajshahi Central Jail godown since Sunday night. The uneatable pulse was contained in 132 sacks.

The recovered pulse is part of the quantity contained in 175 sacks supplied by three contractors, sources said.

Out of the total supplies, pulse contained in 43 sacks have already been used and supplied to prisoners as food, the sources

said.

A special three-member team led by Additional IG (Prison) Col. Sirajul Karim detected the substandard pulse during the raid.

The team was sent by Inspector General (Prison) Brig. Gen. Zakir Hossain following complaints of corruption by jail officials.

Three contractors Abul Hossain, Shahjahan and Selim-supplied the substandard ankor pulse instead of Masur pulse specified in the official deal with jail authorities, the sources said.

When contacted over phone, IG Prison Brig Gen Zakir Hossain

confirmed recovery of uneatable ankor pulse and said, "Stern action will be taken against the persons responsible after investigating the committee report."

Karim said his team interviewed all jail officials and employees and collected evidences during the raid.

"Ankor pulse is generally imported from India and is not allowed in jails as it is generally used as animal feed", he said.

The raid was conducted following report of a three-member special intelligence team headed by Mainul Islam, sent to the jail

earlier to probe various allegations of corruption by jail officials.

The intelligence team had detected that pulse contained in 12 sacks were hurriedly shifted to the inner godown from outer one. Later, they found 114 such sacks at the outer godown.

"About 40 to 50 per cent of the pulse are putrefied and affected with insects", said Mainul Islam.

The special intelligence team was sent secretly to investigate previous allegations of corruption, in which some high jail officials were allegedly involved.



Thousands of people join the Rath Jatra, a Hindu festival, in Sylhet city yesterday.

'We want clean candidate'

People hold meeting at a remote B'baria village

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

People in a remote village at a meeting yesterday urged political parties to nominate 'clean candidates' in the next parliamentary election.

They urged parties not to nominate corrupt and inefficient candidates because such candidates use politics for their own benefit, not to improve the lot of the people.

The meeting, organised by some retired schoolteachers, was held at Shahjadapur village in Sarail upazila.

The meeting was presided over by retired headmaster Ealiduzzan.

They said that village elders and educated people in rural areas have a great role to play in making politics clean and beneficial for people by compelling parties to nominate good people. People's lot will not change unless the present trend of money-controlled politics is not changed, they said.

TENGRATILA GAS FILED OFFICE LOCKED FOR 6 HOURS

Protesters give deadline to meet 6-point demand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Agitating affected people from nearby villages yesterday locked the main gate of the Tengratila gas field office for six hours as part of their movement to press their 6-point demand including payment of compensation.

The Field Manager and security staff of Canadian company Niko could not come out of the gas field complex during the siege from 6 AM.

However, no untoward incident took place.

During the siege, the people also held a rally in front of the gas field

gate, where speakers gave a deadline till June 3 to accept their demands or to face tougher agitation.

They said a fresh agitation programme will be announced on July 3.

Azimuddin Master, convenor of the Tengratila Dabi Aday Sangram Parishad chaired the rally, which was followed by a procession.

The 6-point demands include immediate payment of Tk. 84 crore in compensation for environmental loss, proper compensation to 611 families affected by the blow outs and inclusion of 28 families to the list, employment for locals,

establishment of a gas based 50 MW power plant near Tengratila, arrangement for supply of safe drinking water to villages in the gas field area and setting up of a health complex in the area.

People of the villages affected by the blowouts in the gas field during drilling did not get compensation even after one and a half years of the incident.

The first blowout took place in the field on the night of June 24 last year.

The Canadian company and the government is still silent about compensation.

CCTV cameras installed in Khulna jail

Escape attempt by dreaded criminals feared

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Three close circuit TV cameras have been installed in front of the main gate, visitors' room and on the roof of Khulna District Jail.

Security of Khulna District Jail is now at stake as have been reported to authorities by all intelligence agencies.

According to Jail Superintendent Md. Ataur Rahman, a group of dreaded terrorists are involved in conspiracy to escape from the jail with the help of their accomplices outside.

Two underground organisations have a plan to bring out or help their armed cadres break the jail by any means, said the jail superintendent quoting reports of intelligence agencies.

He said Khulna district jail is the first among district jails to use close circuit TV cameras.

Ataur Rahman said dreaded terrorists including 16 prisoners carrying death penalty and a dozen of under-trial prisoners having criminal background are being watched. They are looking for a plea to break the jail, he said.

He claimed that two political organisations are instigating a mutiny inside the jail.

BM College canteen ransacked by JCD

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

BM College canteen was ransacked and six Chhatra League activists injured allegedly by JCD men yesterday.

Witnesses said a group of BCL activists led by Moin Tushar, college BCL president, were gossiping at BM College canteen.

At about 10 am, a group of JCD activists led by Mashur Rahman Manju, college JCD president, attacked the BCL activists.

At least six BCL activists including Moin Tushar, Syed Monir, Masud Parvez Anjan, Nurul Ambia Babu, were injured in that attack.

The JCD attackers ransacked furniture at the canteen. They also chased and drove the BCL activists out of the campus. The incident created panic on the campus.

BCL leaders alleged that JCD cadres attacked houses BM College BCL convenor Gazi Shuva and joint convenor Moin Tushar and man-handled inmates Monday night.

BCL brought out a procession in barisal city yesterday protesting the incidents.

Mashur Alam Sentu, city president and Mashur Rahman Manju, BM College president of JCD, denying the charges said general students drove out BCL activists from the campus for teasing female students.

Rift in Mymensingh AL widens

Party units hold separate programmes in most upazilas, 10 hurt in clashes in Phulbaria last week

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Rift in Awami League (AL) units in most of the upazilas are widening as the next general election is drawing nearer.

In several out of 12 parliamentary constituencies, rifts resulted in sporadic clashes between rival factions in last few weeks.

In Phulbaria upazila, clashes between two rival factions led by advocate Muslem Uddin and Abdul Malek Sarker left at least 10 persons injured last week.

Rallies by rival factions, formation of new committee and issuance of statements and counter-statements have worried the grassroots level leaders and workers about fate of the party in the next election, party sources said.

In frontier Haluaghat upazila, the party is divided into two groups led by Promod Manking MP and party lawmaker and former Chhatra

League leader Faruk Ahmed Khan over formation of a new committee. They held separate programmes. Farouk Ahmed alleged that dedicated and senior leaders were dropped from the committee.

In Dhobaura, another frontier upazila, at least five AL men are aspiring for party ticket in next polls and have launched campaign. They are Waresat Hossain Belal, Islam Uddin, former deputy inspector general (DIG) of police Abdul Hannan, Ahmed Hossain and advocate Mosharraf Hossain, a former AL lawmaker.

Bhubaura is AL's vote bank but party programmes are held separately.

In Gafargaon, AL lawmaker Altaf Hossain Golandaj MP is a popular man. But he is facing difficulties as many leaders and activists

deserted him, party sources claimed. His supporters clashed with party activists loyal to advocate Moazzem Hossain Babul, an

aspirant fort party ticked from Gafargaon in next polls.

Moazzem alleged that Altaf Hossain Golandaj has distanced himself from party men.

Intra-party feud became public in Phulbaria last week when upazila unit president advocate Muslem Uddin was relieved from his post. He had lost to an independent candidate in the last election.

His rivals at a press conference claimed that activists loyal to him attacked a party meeting and snatched away valuable papers from party office on June 3. Vice-president advocate Abdur Razzaq has been made acting president of Phulbaria AL unit. Muslem Uddin denied all the allegations.

In Trisahal, three leaders Mymensingh district secretary Abdul Matin Sarker MP, party's central advisor Reza Ali and former lawmaker Ruhul Amin Madani are campaigning from separate

platforms fort party ticket in the next polls. Their factions are holding party programmes separately, which has frustrated grassroots level party workers and supporters, party insiders claimed.

In Muktagacha and Bhatuka upazilas, feuds among rival factions are yet to be made public. But this has created a simmering discontent among party men.

Division in Mymensingh Sadar constituency is also apparent with four persons aspiring for the party ticket. They are district unit president Principal Motiur Rahman, vice-presidents municipal chairman Mahmud Al-Noor Tareq and KM Khaled Babu and Fayzur Rahman Fakir, chairman of Char Nilaxshia Union Parishad in Sadar pазila.

However, at a press conference on June 5, Mahmud Al-Noor Tareq, KM Khaled Babul and Fayzur Rahman Fakir said they would work together if one of them is selected for party nomination.



Uddipta Mahila Sangha, an anti-drug organisation, brought out a procession in Satkhira town yesterday to mark the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

Satkhira women raise voice against drug abuse

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

It was a different event for the people of Satkhira town as women took to the streets yesterday to raise voice against drug abuse so that the menace can be eradicated from society once for all.

Over 300 housewives brought out the procession in the town to mark the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

The procession was organised by Madhumallardangi Uddipta Mahila Sangha, an anti-drug organisation. The procession

started from Madhumallardangi playground and paraded the main streets of the town. They chanted slogans against drug trade and demanded arrest to drug peddlers.

Later, a discussion was held at the same place with Sangha president Zerina Khatun in the chair. Discussants vowed to curb drug menace from the society.

They lamented police failure in curbing drug menace from the society which compelled them to take to the streets. They expressed their great concern over the increasing trend of drug addiction,

especially among the youths. They called upon all, specially the males, to help create awareness about bad effects of drug addiction. They demanded immediate stoppage of the harmful menace.

Among others, Advocate Shikha Parvin, Sheikh Rehana, Nargis Parvin, Beauty Parvin, Halima Khatun, Mahfuza Khatun, Hamida Khatun, Nazma Begum, Marzina Begum, Shahana Khatun, Rizia Khatun, Sultana Begum, Saleha Akhtar and Selina Parvin took part in the discussion.

Fodder from maize plants

Workshop told at Nilphamari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

An additional 8,84,400 tons of fodder can be produced annually from maize plants, thanks to innovation by the Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute (BLRI).

Stems and leaves of maize which are thrown away as waste during harvest of the crop are utilised in production of the fodder.

This was disclosed at a workshop jointly organised by Brac, a major NGO, and Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute (BLRI). Held at the Sadar Upazila Auditorium on Monday, the workshop was presided by Nilphamari Sadar upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) ATM Moazzam.

The new technology has created a great enthusiasm among the farmers who participated at the workshop.

While addressing as special guest, Brac Artificial Insemination Programme technical manager AQM Shaifur Rouf said fodder worth Tk 30,000 can be produced on a hectare of land by practising the new technology at a nominal cost of only 15 paise per kg.

Brac has launched a campaign to popularise the new technology among farmers at the grass roots level, he said.

In his key-note speech, BLRI chief scientific officer and research division head Khan Shahidul



Haque said the technology is easy and simple while the fodder can be used throughout the year. At first maize stems and leaves are cut into small pieces. Then those are preserved in ground stores called silo pits. Molasses or urea are mixed to it during preservation to increase food value of fodder, he added.

While speaking as the chief guest, the Department of Agriculture Extension deputy director (DD) Shakhwat Hossain said maize has become the golden crop of the region.

The developed technology holds a great promise, particularly for Teesta shoals and the surrounding areas of Teesta Barrage like Dalia, Doani, Dinla, Hatibandha

and Jalkdhaka where maize is grown extensively.

Farmers cultivate maize in the areas under the Crops Diversification Project of Agriculture Department. A good number of NGOs have extended their helping hands in its effort.

Forty per cent of maize corns used in production of poultry feed to meet the demand of the entire country are procured from Nilphamari and part of Lalmonirhat districts. Besides, that 54 per cent of maize producing lands are situated in Rajshahi division. Every season, 10 tons of maize and 50 tons of stems and leaves are produced on a hectare of land in the region.

BARISAL MEDICAL COLLEGE Recruitment stopped again by HC order

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

The process for recruitment of 17 third class and 85 fourth-class employees at Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College (BSMCH) has been postponed for the second time by the High Court.

BSMCH Director Dr. Ahmed Kabir said yesterday that he received a copy of HC court order on Monday.

The first attempt to recruit employees in the 102 posts was stopped after the director general of health ordered postponement of the process when it was in final stage in 2004 following allegations of corruption in selection.

The HC order followed submission of a writ by Ebadat Gazi, son of Wahab Gazi of Alfadanga of Faridpur district. Ebadat was an applicant for one of posts.

A Division Bench of the High Court comprising Justice Nazrul Islam and Justice Zinnat Ara, after hearing, accepted the writ petition and ordered postponement of the second initiative for recruitment for two months.

The court also ordered the authorities concerned to show cause by August 15 why the previous recruitment attempt would not be cancelled.

Wide-bodied plane to land in Sylhet airport from Sept

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

State minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mirza Fokhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday said landing of wide bodied aircraft in Sylhet Osmani International Airport from UK will resumed in September this year.

By this time, work on extension of the runway and other development projects will be completed, he said.

The State minister was addressing a function marking launching of 'Al Hamra Holiday Home', a private resort in Sylhet city.

The state minister said Sylhet will be declared a 'tourism zone' soon and work on the plan is in process.

In present day world, tourism is not only a business but also a way for poverty reduction. The government is sincere to promote ventures in tourism sector and will extend all possible help. The private sector should come forward to avail the opportunity.

He said there no scope to continue Biman's Dhaka-New York route as it incurs Tk 1.1 crore loss in each flight.

Sylhet City Corporation Mayor Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran,

Moulana Farid Uddin Chowdhury MP, Abeda Chowdhury MP Deputy Director General of BTV AKM Hanif, Hajj Association of Bangladesh (HAB) president Hafiz Abdus Shakur, Sylhet Press Club President Muktabis Un Noor and Managing Director of Al-Hamra Holiday Home Abdul Quaiyum also spoke on the occasion. MA Quadir Chowdhury, chairman of Al-Hamra Holiday Home chaired the function.

The state minister later visited the ongoing development work at Sylhet Osmani International Airport.



GPA-5 scorers with their teachers at Dinajpur Zila School (L) and Moulvibazar High School.



PHOTO: STAR