

Phensidyl bottles worth Tk 5 lakh recovered

SIRAJGANJ, May 4: Police seized 560 bottles of phensidyl syrup worth about Tk 5 lakh from a bus at Sirajganj ferry ghat this (Saturday) morning and arrested three people in this connection, reports UNB.

Police, acting on a tip-off, raided the bus at 8 am and recovered the contraband item. The arrested were identified as bus driver Asratul Islam, 25, and local small traders Yusuf Ali and Alauddin Sarkar.

Meanwhile, the arrested people confessed to the police that they were engaged in smuggling phensidyl since long.

A case was registered with the police.

Meanwhile, Shahjapur thana police today (Saturday) arrested one Rezaul Karim, 25, from Hatkorda village on charge of possessing illegal arms.

They also seized a pipe gun and two ramaods from the residence of Rezaul.

BKB to give Tk 4.64 crore agri loan in southern dists

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, May 4: Bangladesh Krishi Bank has taken an ambitious plan to disburse Taka 4.64 crore as agriculture loan among the farmers of southern parts of the country in this fiscal.

According to Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) sources, they will disburse Taka 76 lakh in Jhenidah district, Taka 18 lakh in Magura district, Taka about 54 lakh in Jessore district, Taka 17 lakh in Narail district, Taka 33 lakh in Khulna district, Taka about 90 lakh in Bagerhat district, Taka 65.5 lakh in Satkhira district, Taka 43 lakh in Kushtia district, Taka 25 lakh in Chuadanga district and Taka 35 lakh in Meherpur district.

BKB sources said, they already started disbursing the money among the farmers.

Many students dropping out from pry schools

NARAIL, May 4: The number of primary students is on decrease in rural and urban areas of the district due to acute poverty, reports UNB.

A good number of children who got themselves admitted into the government primary schools to get new books, free of cost and wheat under the Food for Education programme left the school after few months of their admission.

In many areas, Food for Education Programme could not be introduced which is the main attraction of the poor families.

According to a survey conducted by an NGO, many children six to ten age group left primary schools of the three thanas of the district to work in the paddy fields, factories, restaurants or mobile workshops to earn their bread.

201 posts lying vacant in Shariatpur health dept

SHARIATPUR, May 4: A total of 201 posts have been lying vacant for a long time in the district's health department affecting the health services adversely, reports UNB.

Of them 43 posts, including three consultants, six junior consultants, one thana health officer, four resident surgeons, one radiologist, three medicine specialists, 24 medical officers and five dental surgeons remained vacant for a pretty long time.

Besides, four second class posts and 139 third class posts including 75 health assistants, three assistant health visitors, five treasurers, 10 office assistants, four accountants have also been lying vacant.

Only to earn bread

PATUAKHALI, May 4: A large number of minor boys and girls instead of going to school are working in the local bidi factories to supplement their families, reports UNB.

According to local people, at least 5,000 children aged between seven and 14 are engaged in manufacturing bidis in and around Sadar thana.

The malnourished children, toiling dawn to dusk to earn livelihood, are facing serious health hazards as they work with tobacco and other harmful substances in open spaces.

According to local physicians most of the workers connected with bidi manufacturing are suffering from serious respiratory problems, cough, chest diseases, TB and other illness which included constipation, asthma, liver infection and occupational diseases.

There are two large bidi factories in Sadar thana where at least 12,000 workers and employees are engaged.

Poor arms recovery drive Incidents of social crime on rise in Jhenidah

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, May 4: Law and order situation in Jhenidah district seem to be deteriorating day by day in the fall of slow pace of arms recovery.

According to reports, some unknown armedmen picked up Abdul Halim, 26, of village Ratnat in Saikupa thana of the district from his house in the night of April 18. The armedmen then left Halim in a field with fatal injuries. Next day Halim was rushed to Magura sadar hospital in critical condition and succumbed to his injuries, police said.

Nazrul Islam, 25, an activist of Bangladesh Chhatra League was hacked to death on 4th April 19.

Eyewitnesses said, some armedmen attacked him near village Mingram in Saikupa thana. He died on way to hospital village enmity might be the cause of the incident, police suspects.

Mirzan, 20, of village Baithapara in Harinakundu thana of the district was killed on last April 18.

According to reports, he was abducted by a group of armedmen. Later his body was recovered from an abandoned large well at village Kulbaria in same thana. The victims and the killers both might be activists of an outlawed party, police suspected.

On April 17 last, a village doctor Wares Ali, 56, of village Ganna in Jhenidah sadar thana was beaten to death by an angry teenage girl named Shewly.

Police sources said, Wares Ali while returning home, suddenly entered into the house of Shewly and allegedly began to rape her. When he was coming outside the house just after the incident, Shewly repeatedly hit Ali with a crowbar. The man succumbed to his injuries.

Shewly admitted the fact of murder to the police in her confessional statement, police said.

Sabita Rani, 26, a housewife of village Narayanpur in sadar thana was allegedly beaten to death by her husband Monojit Das allegedly for dowry.

According to police, she was married about five years back. Her family paid Taka 16,000 to Monojit Das as dowry. On April 13 last, when Monojit again pushed Rani to bring a television set from her father's house, she refused. Das repeatedly beat her to death and hanged the body to prove that Sabita had committed suicide. Police identified signs of torture on her body, it was learnt.

Bankar, 8, and Sankar, 7, of village Nischintapur Rishipara in Kaliganj thana were strangled to death allegedly by their brother-in-law Bijoy Das in the night of April 5 last.

According to police, to become the owner of a building and land property, accused Bijoy along with three other miscreants brought Bankar and Sankar in Jhenidah town and left the bodies near Arappur bus stop after committing murder. Police arrested three persons including the brother-in-law.

A daring bus dacoity was committed on a Dhaka-bound night coach of Ananda Paribahan in the night of April 4 last.

According to reports, a gang of armed miscreants numbering 7 to 8 took control of the steering from the driver of gun point near Barobazar in Kaliganj thana and looted valuables from the passengers worth about Taka sixty thousand.

Sohrab Hossain, 24, of village Dhobabla in Kotchardpur thana of the district was shot dead by a group of armedmen on the night of last April 5.

Mizanur Rahman, 25, of village Kusumpur in Mohepur thana was chopped to death by a group of armedmen on the night of March 31 last.

Police sources said, when Mizanur was guarding his shallow machine in the village some armedmen chopped him to death on the spot.

During arms-recovery campaign started from April 1 this year, only one rifle, one SBBL gun, one country-made pistol, eight pipeguns, 19 rounds of ammunitions, 19 handbombs, 10 sharp deadly weapons were recovered. Police, however, could not arrest anybody.

Police sources claimed, they arrested 84 accused (who were wanted in GR, CR and regular cases), recovered 50 bottles of banned drug, phensidyl syrup, nine litres of wine and 25 pieces of Indian sares from different parts of the district.

Teacher assaulted Terrorists yet to be arrested

From A Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, May 4: The terrorists who had allegedly assaulted a female high school teacher and her husband in Iswarganj in the broad daylight and later ransacked their residence in the darkness of night are yet to be arrested.

The victims reportedly came under attack as the teacher prevented a girl student from adopting unfair means in the recent SSC examinations.

Allegations are there that the local police is showing indifference to the matter, despite the fact that the District Commissioner (DC) of Mymensingh while paying a visit to the place of incident had categorically asked the authorities concerned to arrest the criminals.

A relative of the victims told this correspondent that they are suffering from a sense of insecurity as the alleged criminals were still threatening them from hiding with 'various punishments'.

According to the First Information Report (FIR) of a case lodged with the local police, a teacher of Atharabari M C High School, Nilufar Jahan, who was on duty as an invigilator in the local examination centre, obstructed some girl students in adopting unfair means in the examination on April 8. Other invigilators present at the place also asked the students concerned not to practice any unfair means, the FIR added.

While Nilufar Jahan was on her way home along with her husband in the afternoon, she came under attack by 'some

relatives' of the students concerned allegedly under the leadership of Habibur Rahman and Dipak.

Later the criminals equipped with lethal weapons attacked the residence of Nilufar Jahan, a separate FIR filed in the court by the teacher's father Dr Zahiruddin Ahmed said. This time the attackers included Ali Hossain and Sabuj Miah, accused of two murder charges respectively, according to the FIR.

Meanwhile, a resolution adopted jointly by the teachers and the members of the school management committee on the following day had condemned the incidents and demanded exemplary punishment to those responsible for the attacks.

The school authorities had submitted copies of the resolution to the local Thana Nirbahi Officer (TNO) and the OC.

However, following newspaper reports in the local dailies, DC of Mymensingh, Enamul Kabir had visited the Atharabari High School examination centre on April 20 last and asked the authorities concerned to make sure that they could not escape the punishments.

Frustrated about the role of the local police, the husband of Nilufar Jahan has, meanwhile, submitted a written appeal on April 24 informing the DC that the terrorists concerned were mounting pressure on the victims so that they withdraw the charges. The DC has reportedly assured the victims of justice.

10 water pumps seized in Comilla Housewife strangled to death

From Our Correspondent

COMILLA, May 4: A special squad of Comilla Pourashava seized 10 water pumps from different parts of the town, officials said today, reports UNB.

The pumps were being illegally used to lift water directly from the supply line of the pourashava depriving the neighbours.

The squad seized these pumps after conducting raids in Rajbari Compound, Zilla School Road and Hospital Road of the town on April 20.

According to pourashava regulation, the water pump should be used in pumping the water from reserve tank that filled-up by the normal flow of direct line of WASA.

The squad was comprised of a first class magistrate, chief executive of the pourashava Mohammad Nurul Huda, Assistant Engineer Shaiful Islam Bhuiyan and Water Super Abdul Malek Bhuiyan.

SATKHIRA, May 4: A housewife Rashida Khatun, 24, mother of two children of village Mahswaripur under Shyamnagar thana was reportedly strangled to death by her husband, Abdus Salam recently.

It is reported that Abdus Salam married Rashida Khatun eight years ago and since then he has been demanding dowry. But the poor parents of Rashida failed to pay the dowry.

Failing to realise dowry, Salam driving out Rashida from his home and got married for the second time. Finding no other alternative Rashida filed a case against Salam.

To avoid arrest Salam took Rashida to his home ten days ago of the incident.

On the day of occurrence, he beat Rashida mercilessly and at one stage, he strangled her to death.

BCIC International Tender Notice

বিস্তারিত পত্র শিলায়নে জাতীয় অঙ্গণের প্রতীক

Khulna Newsprint Mills Ltd, Town Khalishpur, Khulna invites International Tender No PD(F)-10/96 for purchase of End Sealing Strips Suction Box Covers Seales etc which will be opened on 9.6.96 at 3.00 PM. Tender documents will be available on payment of Tk 300.00 (three hundred) per set from (1) KNM Ltd, (2) BCIC, (30-31, Dilkusha, Dhaka & (3) BCIC, 6, Agrabad, Chittagong. No tender documents will be sold on the date of opening. BCIC 351-17/4/96 DFP-8449-20/4 G-555

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Ministry of Land Land Administration Training Centre 3/A, Nilkhet, Babupura, Dhaka

Tender for Purchase of Printer & Computer

Sealed tenders are invited from intending established contractor/trading firm for purchase of 2 computers & 1 printer for Land Administration Training Centre. Schedule containing full information will be available at prescribed Tk 200/- & 100/- also from Board of Land Reform, 141-143, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka besides the above address on all working days during office hours up to 12-05-96. Last date of depositing tender in the tender box kept at both the offices is 14-05-96 up to 12-00 Noon and tenders will be opened on the same day at 1-30 PM before the tenderers (if any) present only at this office.

The office authority is not bound to accept the lowest tender and reserves the right to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason.

Md Sikander Ali Mondal Director Land Administration Training Centre DFP-8965-24/4 G-554

R&H, Tender Invitation Notice

- Tender Notice No. : 180/EE/1995-96.
- Name of work : Supply of spare parts for repair of Toyota Car K-E-30 Dhaka-Ga-8426 of R&H, Ferry Construction Division, Dhaka.
- Estimated cost : Tk 1,28,034/-.
- Earnest money : 2% (two per cent) of estimated cost Tk 2,562/-, should be submitted through BD/TC/Sanchayapatra/CD from any scheduled bank approved by Bangladesh Bank in favour of Executive Engineer, R&H, Workshop Division, Dhaka.
- Time for completion of work : 15 (fifteen) days from the date of issuing work order.
- Eligibility of contractor : R&H Directorate enlisted "A" to "E" class contractor as per eligibility & rules.
- Offices where tender & schedule will be available : Per set including Bangladesh Form No 2908 can be purchased at Tk 510/- (non-refundable) from Workshop Division, Tejgaon, Dhaka/Executive Engineer, R&H, Workshop Division, Mymensingh during office hours up to the day before the date of receiving tender.
- Officer & offices to receive the tender : Superintending Engineer, R&H, Workshop Circle, Tejgaon, Dhaka/Executive Engineer, R&H, Workshop Division, Tejgaon, Dhaka/Executive Engineer, R&H, Workshop Division, Mymensingh.
- Last date & time of receiving sealed tender : 12-5-96 up to 12-00 Noon.
- Last date & time of opening sealed tender : 14-5-96 up to 12-30 PM.
- Head of expenditure : T&R.

Md Humayun Rashid Khalifa Executive Engineer, R&H (Mechanical) DFP-8982-24/4 G-553 Workshop Division, Tejgaon, Dhaka.



MAGURA, Kartik Chandra Paul at work trying to keep his pottery business alive. — Star photo

Potters facing set-back in Magura

From Our Correspondent

MAGURA, May 4: Thousands of families of potters are facing various problems in carrying on their age-old traditional pottery business in the district.

According to the reports, the families potters who live at the villages of Nohata, Amtoll, Gaipara, Sripur, Sachilapur, Binodpur, Muhammadpur, Satrujitpur under four thanas of Magura district are facing extinction due to scarcity of fuel, and raw materials as well as fund constraints.

Jaundice takes alarming turn in Barguna

BARGUNA, May 4: Jaundice, a disease caused by an excess of bile pigment, has broken out in an alarming proportion, reports UNB.

Hospital sources said almost every family in the town and its adjoining areas has at least one patient affected with jaundice.

They alleged that a large number of patients coming from remote areas were consulting the local kabiraj as doctors giving them a series of advice instead of medicine.

The only treatment of the disease is to continue the normal diet and complete rest, said a physician.

Kartik Chandra Paul of Sripur told this correspondent that non-availability of 'Atalo Mat' (sticky clay) as raw material, fuel and fund has hampered the production of potters. They need special type of clay which called 'Atalo Mat'. They used to get it from various sources free of cost. Now, they have to collect it from distance places.

Potters are also suffering from scarcity of fuel. They need huge fuel for burning 'Paja' (arrangement of soft earthenwares waiting for drying harder). They usually use dried bamboo clusters and dried straw of the paddy plant. It is not easy to collect bamboo clusters as the bamboo clusters are used for burning bricks in the brickfield.

BK Paul of Nohata said that they make attractive earthenwares including jars, bowls and toys. The products were also sent to other districts by horse, carts and boats. The earthenwares and toys were the main attractions of village fairs. He told that he and his some relatives are still in this profession and make the idols during the religious festivals of Hindus. He also said that they are continuing this trade after extreme hardship.

Setting up of post office demanded

KUSHTIA, May 4: People of Hosanabad village in Daulatpur thana demanded of the authority concerned to set up a post office at the village to ameliorate their suffering, reports UNB.

Hosanabad is an important commercial centre in the district having big markets of various commodities. Besides, there is a vocational training institute, one high school, one bank, one government primary school and several small industries in the area.

There was a Kuthbari during the British rule on the Hosanabad bazar.

now been replacing earthenwares.

RK Paul under Sripur thana said that his father and grandfather used to engage in pottery business, but he has to switch to other profession due to various problems.

The professionals do not get any government patronisation and there is no provision for bank loans in this sector.

The potters in the district have appealed to the government to extend bank loan facilities in this sector.

The survey report of Unicef Department revealed that there are about 2 milligram iron in one litre of water in the district while medical sources said only one mg iron is enough in one liter of water for drinking purpose.

The survey report also apprehended that more people will be affected if proper measures were not taken immediately. It is also reported that pipe line in poura area are often found leakage and as result water is contaminated and become unfit for consumption. Local doctors said that majority of the patients coming at their chambers suffer from dysentery and other intestinal diseases due to presence of bacteria and excessive iron.

Local leaders demanded of the Public Health Department to set up iron removing plants in the district for safe drinking water.

Farmers urge easy bank loans

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, May 4: Many farmers of the district alleged that due to cumbersome procedures and high rate of interest they can not avail the bank loan facilities. They said soft term bank loans are needed to enable them to purchase fertilizer, and seeds and other agricultural inputs to boost production. But in the absence of such facilities the cultivation is being hampered greatly.

Moreover, due to complex bank loan facilities and inherent bribe in taking loans the farmers are forced to borrow money from the money lenders at high rate of interest.

Besides, many farmers are also forced to sell their crops in advance at nominal prices to the money lenders. The farmers said it takes long time to get bank loan after meeting a series of formalities while the loans offered by the money

lenders are easier to get. Taking advantage of the situation, the money lenders are doing brisk business by giving credit to the farmers at high rate of interest against security of the standing crop. The farmers urged the government to take immediate measures to ease the bank loan facilities and lower prices of inputs to help boost agri output in the district.

One killed in Kushtia

KUSHTIA, May 4: A man was killed by unknown assailants at village Mollikpur in Mirpur thana on Thursday, reports UNB.

The victim was identified as Mohammad Chayan Ali, 26, of Mollikpur in Malihad union.

Presence of excess iron in water causing various intestinal diseases

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, May 4: About seven and a half lakh people of six thanas of the district have been suffering from various diseases including intestinal ones due to existence of excessive iron in drinking water.

A survey report of Unicef Department revealed that there are about 2 milligram iron in one litre of water in the district while medical sources said only one mg iron is enough in one liter of water for drinking purpose.

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Textbook crisis in Khagrachhari

KHAGRACHHARI, May 4: Thousands of students of class six and nine in the hill tracts area could not buy their textbooks due to its scarcity and high prices, reports UNB.

The students are facing very near serious problems as their first terminal examinations are very near. Guardians have become anxious as most of the students will not be able to appear at the examinations.

Some bookstore owners are selling textbooks at double or triple of the actual price. A set of books for class six is being sold at Tk 350 or more as against the actual price of Tk 190.

At Panchhari, Mahalchhari, Matrigana, Dighinala and Lakmichhari and other remote places of the district, a set of books is being sold at Tk 500.

Book-sellers said they could not sell text books at fixed prices as they had to buy those at high prices from the markets in Dhaka and Chittagong.

The book-sellers of the district allegedly reluctant to sell books without note books. They force the students to buy these sub standard note books, some students complained.

Betel leaf farmers facing set-back in Barguna

BARGUNA, May 4: Betel leaf cultivation is alarmingly decreasing in the district due to lack of necessary inputs, bank loans, proper marketing facilities and high transportation cost, reports UNB.

At present, about 10,000 families of Amtoll, Bamna, Belgati, Patharghata and Sadar thanas engaged in betel leaf cultivation, are facing manifold problems hampering its farming.

According to the growers, the market price of their products has not increased but prices of inputs such as straw, oilcake, fertilisers and jute stalks have increased abnormally.

A huge quantity of oilcake is required for betel leaf farming. Sheds over betel leaf plantation are to be changed at least thrice a year involving increased expenses due to price hike of bamboo.

The growers have urged the concerned authorities to provide them with necessary bank loans and extend marketing facilities to continue farming of the crop.

Prohibited note books being sold in book stalls

NARAIL, May 4: The government prohibited note and guide books for the school students are being sold in the different book stalls of the district, reports UNB.

Guardians alleged that the book shop owners are reluctant to sell any text books without the note books which are substandard and full of factual and spelling mistakes.

The dishonest publishers are engaged in publishing note books in fictitious name to earn windfall profit. During the beginning of the current academic year the book stall owners did not sell a single text book without the note book, said local guardians.

They demanded stern action against the dishonest publishers and book sellers who are indulging in the illegal trade at the cost of the students.



RAJSHAHI: A truck loaded with sand crossing the once mighty Padma river near Matikata union of the district recently during the dry season when the river witnesses little amount of water. — Star photo