

National

News snaps

Prices of essentials up

MADRIPUR, Jan 23: Unscrupulous stockists and wholesalers of the town have increased the prices of essential commodities, taking the advantage of Ramadan, reports UNB.

In some cases, the profitmongers have raised the prices of some commodities two to three folds, causing sufferings to the low-income group of people. According to locals, even the prices of vegetables and spices are now beyond the purchasing capacity of common people. Fruits are also being sold at higher prices than that of usual times. Prices of clothes, garments and footwear are also going up as the Eid festival is coming closer.

Warm clothings distributed

THAKURGAON, Jan 23: The district administration and different government and non-government organisations have distributed warm clothings among the cold stricken people of the district recently, reports BSS.

According to official sources, the district administration has distributed 900 blankets, 5,000 pieces of sarees, 1,500 blouse-pieces, 1,000 ganjees, about 4,000 pieces of different types of warm clothings and 70 tins of biscuits among the cold-stricken people of five thanas of the district. The district police administration has also distributed 500 pieces of old garments among the cold-hit people.

Law, order situation reviewed

MUNSHIGANJ, Jan 23: A meeting of the district-level officials was held in the conference room of the Deputy Commissioner on Tuesday. Divisional Commissioner, Dhaka Mohammad Nizamuddin addressed the officials, reports BSS.

Nizamuddin urged the officials to discharge their duties with honesty and dedication to serve the common people. He underscored the need for maintaining law and order to create congenial conditions for the smooth working of democratic process in the country. In a separate meeting with the local elites, the divisional commissioner exchanged views on development activities and law and order situation of the district.

Work of super-market progressing

MANIKGANJ, Jan 23: The construction work of Manikganj pauras market is in full swing near Manikganj bus-stand, reports BSS.

The government has sanctioned Taka 4.17 crore for completion of the first two floors of the four-storey supermarket. Manikganj paurashava will earn an amount of Taka 3.50 crore as salami (extra-payment) from the tenants of 328 shops.

Taka two crore has already been collected, an official source said. After completion of the super-market a sum of Taka 24 lakh will be earned annually by the paurashava as the rent of shops.

Loan disbursed among poor people

RANGAMATI, Jan 23: The Panchhari thana unit of Social Welfare Department in Khagrachhari Hill District has disbursed Taka 2.02 lakh among 69 destitute families of the thana from its revolving fund to alleviate their poverty, reports BSS.

The amount was disbursed in an informal function held at Panchhari thana Social Welfare Office with Sultan Mahmood, Thana Nirbahi Officer in the chair. Binod Behari Chakma, Councilor of Kharachhari Hill District Local Government Council was the chief guest.

According to official sources, the loan was given to 69 destitute families to help generate income through rearing domestic animals, raising horticulture garden and pisciculture to alleviate their poverty. Binod Behari Chakma urged the recipients to pay back the loan timely to enable others to avail of the facility.

Sanction for distressed people

NETRAKONA, Jan 23: A total of Taka three lakhs and eighty seven thousands has been sanctioned from Prime Minister's Relief Fund for distribution among the distressed of 85 unions and 3 paurashavas under 10 thanas of Netrakona district, reports BSS.

The amount has been sanctioned on the occasion of holy Eid-ul-Fitr, an official source here said.

Meanwhile, Netrakona district administration was received the allotted money and already handed over the money on cheques to the 10 Thana Nirbahi Officers and three paurashava chairmen for distribution among the poor people of their areas, district relief officer AKM Kibria told.

Valuables worth Tk 50 lakh gutted

SIRAJGNAJ, Jan 23: Some 20 dwelling houses including valuables worth about Tk 50 lakh were gutted in a devastating fire that broke out at Digreepara village in Sadar thana on Wednesday, reports BSS.

According to witnesses, the fire originating from a kitchen of one Mansur Ali soon engulfed the adjacent areas and charred 20 dwellings. At least 17 people received burn injuries when they took part in extinguishing the blaze. Of them three were rushed to the Sirajgonj Sadar hospital in a critical condition while others were released after first aid. The affected families have been passing their days under the sky in sub-human condition. They urged the authorities to provide them with relief materials including warm clothes for the sake of humanity.

Poor people of Assassuni get warm clothes

SATKHIRA, Jan 23: The district administration distributed 320 pieces of winter clothes among the cold-hit poor people in Assassuni thana of the district last week, reports BSS.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Faruque Ahmed, Additional District Magistrate Abdul Muktadir, Assassuni Thana Nirbahi Officer Nazrul Islam and local Awami League leaders were present on the occasion.

Pry edn programme facing setback

PATUAKHALI, Jan 23: Compulsory Primary Education Programme is suffering a serious setback in the district in the absence of schools in a large number of villages, reports UNB.

According to official sources, there is no primary school in 114 villages of different thanas of the district leaving over 8,000 children out of the classrooms.

The programme of universal primary education has been rendered meaningless for them, said the villagers. In the coastal thana of Kalapara, there are only 78 primary schools which covers 131 villages out of the total 248. Besides, there are nine Ebedai madrasas and three low-cost schools in those areas. School-aged children of most of the villages are being deprived of education and the guardians are suffering a lot to send them to the schools situated at far distant places.

Uplift projects being implemented

TANGAIL, Jan 23: Bhuapur paurashava is implementing 40 projects under its annual development programme, reports BSS.

Porousava sources said that under these project roads in the porous area will be developed with bricks, rod cement construction (RCC) and earth work, and by constructing culverts at a cost of Taka over 30 lakhs. The work will be completed by this fiscal year, the sources added.

Food procurement drive faces setback

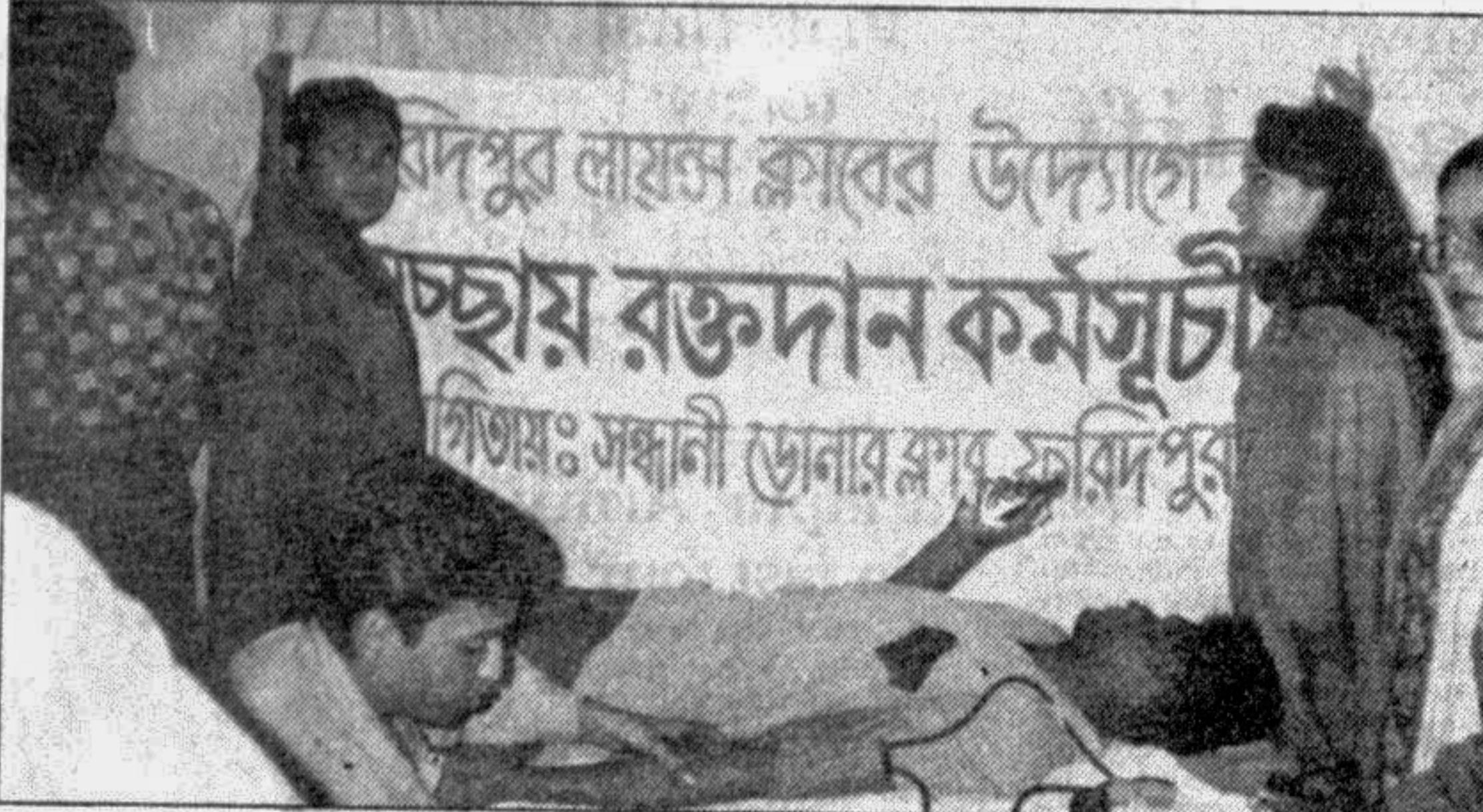
JESSORE, Jan 23: The food procurement drive in the district appears to suffer a setback as the food department failed to purchase any paddy from the region even after the lapse of one-and-a-half months of the two-month long drive, reports UNB.

The department had fixed the target to procure 8,219 tons of paddy and 2,007 tons of rice through 10 centres of eight thanas of the district this year. But it could not yet begin the paddy procurement. According to officials, the government has decided to purchase paddy at Tk 700 per quintal while rice at Tk 1070. But the market price of paddy is Tk 800-900 per quintal while the rice Tk 1400 to 1500. Local people apprehended that the Food Department might not be able to procure paddy or rice within the next 15 days due to the gap between the government rate and market price.

Reception to 3 CHT ministers

KHAGRACHHARI, Jan 23: The accord on Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) has opened up a new avenue of development for Bangladesh and we all must work together to utilise this opportunity for our national progress, said speakers at a mass reception here recently, reports BSS.

The reception was given to three ministers on their induction in the cabinet. Khagrachhari Nagarik Committee organised the reception at the local Shapla Chhattar with Jyotindra Tripura, president of Khagrachhari Press Club, in the chair. The three ministers were Minister for Labour and Manpower MA Mannan, Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Engineer Mosharrif Hussain and Minister without portfolio Kalparanjan Chakma.



FARIDPUR: Students of Magura Government College recently took part in a voluntary blood donation programme organised by Faridpur Lions Club in the college premises. Sandhani Donor Club cooperated the organisers.

2nd cold spell costs 2 lives in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, Jan 23: Two boys died of shivering cold and 17 people sustained burn injuries while getting heat on Wednesday as the district is experiencing another spell of cold weather, reports UNB.

Moderate rainfall and biting cold hit the district, as elsewhere in the country, causing untold suffering to the shelterless people.

Family sources said, Rubel, 4, of village Kutirchar Vhadrughat of Kamarkhanda thana and Amir, 5, of village Kadoi in Sahajadpur thana were suffering from cold as their day labour fathers could not afford to buy warm clothes for them.

Meanwhile, with the onslaught of first cold spell, communication hampered seriously in several areas of the northern district and as a result, prices of essentials went sky-high affecting adversely the low income group of people.

The prices of different varieties of rice have shot up by Taka three to five per kg. Prices of beef, mutton, chicken, fish, power milk, edible oil, pulses and even vegetables have also marked sharp rise.

School dropouts increasing in Narail dist

NARAIL, Jan 23: The number of school dropouts in rural areas of the district is increasing day by day due to acute poverty, reports UNB.

Poverty stricken farmers want their kids to work as rickshawpullers or hotel boys for earning their livelihood.

According to a survey revealed here recently, most of the marginal and landless farmers have four or more children and they are quite unable to defray their educational expenses.

Finding no other alternative, they encourage their children to take up odd jobs to reduce their financial hardship.

Besides, a large number of farm labourers along with their kids migrate from one place to other in search of job during harvesting period, bringing down the number of students in primary schools.

Officials said about 50,000 students were enrolled in different non-government primary schools last year. Of them, 15,000 dropped out due to poverty, affecting the Compulsory Primary Education Programme (CPEP).

Apart from this, most of the schools do not have adequate number of teachers and other educational appliances which is also a barrier to smooth implementation of the programme.

Local people urged the authorities to take steps to stop indiscriminate felling of trees to maintain the ecological balance.

2 killed in C'nawabganj road mishap

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Jan 23: Two persons were killed and seven others injured when a truck turned turtle into the paddy field beside the Nachol-Parbatipur road at Gagan on Thursday night under Gornostapura thana of Chapai Nawabganj district.

The accident occurred when driver lost the brake, sources said.

Hafizul, a paddy-trader of Baherghat village of Natore district died on the spot. Seriously injured were rushed to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital where Siddique of Kanakhal village of Natore succumbed to his injuries.

A case was filed in this connection.

Board books seized from rice godown

NETRAKONA, Jan 23: Netrakona detective branch of police seized 6700 pieces of books of the Text Book Board from the godown of a rice mill at Tukaraka, about 5 km from here on Monday night, reports BSS.

Police sources said, acting on secret information, a group of plain-clothed police cordoned off the godown and seized the aforesaid text books which were supplied by the government for distribution among the primary school students of the district free of cost.

Police, however, could not arrest the owner of the godown as he went into hiding smelling the arrival of police.

Government of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer

PWD Division, Sharifpur

Notice Inviting Tenders

No. 4/1997-98

1. Sealed tenders in Bangladesh From No. 2911 are hereby invited from Special Class-I, Class-I/II/III approved bldg contractor/firm of PWD of the undermentioned work and will be received by the undersigned as well as by the Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Barisal/Bhola/Patukhali/Barguna/Jhalakati/Pirojpur/Madaripur/Gopalganj up to 12:00 Noon of 5.2.98 and will be opened on the same day at 12:15 PM in presence of the tenderers who may like to be remain present. Each tender shall be sold up to 4.2.98.

2. Name of work : Construction of Public Library at Sharifpur (2nd phase). SH: Improvement to the site of Public Library.

3. Estimated cost : Tk 3,08,580/- only.

4. Earnest money : Tk 6,175/- only.

5. Time allowed : 110 (one hundred ten) days from the date of issue of work order.

6. Contract document consisting of BD Form No. 2911, notice inviting tenders, schedule of items, additional terms and conditions etc can be seen and obtained from the office of the undersigned and the office of the Executive Engineer, under PWD Circle, Barisal on payment of usual charges of Tk 400/- (Tk four hundred) (non-refundable) per set of the notice inviting tender schedule of items additional terms and conditions and a sum of Tk 25/- (Tk twenty-five) (non-refundable) per copy of Tender Form No. 2911 & a sum of Tk 50/- (Tk fifty) (non-refundable) per copy of site level plan. The tender form may be purchased by the contractor during office hours on all working days.

Md Salah Uddin
Executive Engineer
PWD Division, Sharifpur

In Natore town, 5 thana headquarters Shopping centres wearing festive look as Eid coming nearer

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, Jan 23: Natore town and five other thana headquarters have worn a festive look with decorated shopping centres like Central Mosque Market, Uttara Super Market, Komela Super Market and Hawkers' Market. These shopping centres are illuminated in the evening.

Though hotels and restaurants remain closed during the day other markets and shopping centres are open for seven days a week.

Almost all shopping centres and markets have been decorated with multi-coloured flags, banners, posters and the gates have been erected to welcome the customers.

The merchants and shopkeepers have devised new strategies this year to attract buyers. Eid sale campaign has been launched at different shopping centres ceremonially. Some prominent persons were

of people go to fashionable shopping centers.

Eid shopping may not be a happy occasion for the poorer section of the people because of rise in prices of many commodities.

However, the poor and destitutes are not deprived of the joy of Eid-ul-Fitr when they receive 'jatka' and 'fitra' from the affluent section of people on the eve of this great festival. The rich people do not forget to offer 'jatka' and 'fitra' which go to the hands of poor and destitutes.

Eid shopping will gather full momentum in the last week of this month when government and non-government employees get festival bonus and every one will buy something for his near and dear one on this occasion.

Production of molasses from date juice decreasing

substantially during the last few years and the earning from it declined, said local producers.

Molasses from date juice is a specialty of the region and it has a wide demand in various parts of the country.

The molasses of Khoajpur, Dasherijangal, Charmuguria and Madra of the district have special demand for its taste and quality.

Owners of brick-fields are reportedly engaged in purchasing date trees at a cheaper price from the villagers to use them in their furnaces.

Several village markets in Madaripur Sadar, Mustafapur, Kalkini, Angaria, Goshairhat, Utrai and Naria were famous for high quality molasses.

But the marketing centres are losing their importance as the production of molasses declined sharply.

Earning from it was about Tk 3 crore during the last season, but the businessmen and producers said they are likely to incur losses this year due to the sharp fall in the production.

Owners of brick-fields are reportedly engaged in purchasing date trees at a cheaper price from the villagers to use them in their furnaces.

Local people urged the authorities to take steps to stop indiscriminate felling of trees to maintain the ecological balance.



Marfat murder case

One to die, 8 others get life term

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Jan 23: Alhaz Mohammad Alim Hug, Additional District and Sessions Judge, First Court, Kushtia, gave his judgement on Tuesday in a sensational Marfat Murder Case in presence of huge gathering.

Out of 16 accused persons one was awarded death penalty and eight accused were awarded life imprisonment while 7 others were acquitted of their charges as their involvement in the murder could not be proved beyond doubt after examining 14 witnesses by the judge.

Accused Seraj Mondal alias Seraj was awarded capital punishment while accused Kusrat, Malek, Hamidul, Matiar Rahman, Ansar Ahmad, Israfil and Rezaul were awarded life imprisonment.

The case was conducted by PP Abdul Motaleb on behalf of the state while advocate Abdur Rahim, Advocate Saad Ahmed and Advocate Asgar Ali appeared for the accused persons.

Immunization Day observed

NARSINGDI, Jan 23: The second round of the Fourth National Immunization Day was observed here on Sunday for ensuring a sound and healthy life for the future generation by eradicating polio from the country, reports BSS.

Crazy lover's bid to commit suicide