

## News snaps

## Prices of essentials up

NOAKHALI, Jan 28: Sharp rise in the prices of essentials including rice in the district caused untold sufferings to the people during the current month of Ramadan, reports UNB.

Local people and businessmen said the price of rice has increased by Tk 60 to 100 per maund at the beginning of the holy month. They said prices of winter vegetable are soaring high despite its huge supply in the market. The price of tomato is as high as Tk 30 per kg. Prices of other vegetables including cauliflower, brinjal, bean and khirai are also abnormally high. Edible oil including soyabean and mustard registered sharp rise and prices of fish and meat are no exception. These recorded rise by Tk 10 to 20 per kg.

## Sanitation programme being hampered

BANDARBAN, Jan 28: The sanitation and supply of drinking water programme in the three hill districts are being hampered due to a tug of war between two departments of the government, reports UNB.

The fate of a programme in this sector has become uncertain due to difference of opinion between the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) and Chittagong Hill Tract Development Board (CHTDB) of the Special Affairs Division. The Local Government Engineering Department has allocated an amount of Tk 20 crore for the current fiscal year to implement drinking water supply and sanitation programmes in three hill districts through DPHE. But the Special Affairs Division created obstacles and wanted to implement the project through CHTDB. But the officials of DPHE said they have the expertise in this sector as they are entrusted to ensure sanitation and supply of water across the country. On the other hand, they said, CHTDB has no expertise and skilled workers needed for the implementation of the project.

## Trainers training course

COMILLA, Jan 28: A seven-day long trainers training course sponsored by the Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) concluded at its auditorium here on Monday, reports BSS.

Twenty-four deputy directors and assistant directors of different departments participated in the training course. Director Khairul Kabir and joint director Mir Kashem of the BARD conducted the course. Director General, BARD, Akhtar Hossain Khan distributed certificates among the participants at a function held on the concluding day.

## Ansar-VDP training course

NARSINGDI, Jan 28: A five-day long Ansar and VDP training course concluded here last week, reports BSS.

A total of 4,608 male and female Ansar and VDP members from 72 villages of the six thanas of the district were imparted training on nutrition, first aid, child and mother health care, family planning, pisciculture and husbandry. Thana level officers of the Ansar and VDP Directorate conducted the training course.

## Winter clothes distributed

MADARIPUR, Jan 28: Prof Khaleda Khanom, Whip of the Jatiya Sangsad on Sunday distributed winter clothes among the cold-hit distressed people at village East Rastul under sadar thana of the district, reports BSS.

Farhad Rahman, Deputy Commissioner, Madaripur was present on the occasion.

## Student killed in road mishap

SATKHIRA, Jan 28: One college student was killed and another injured in a road accident at Chaltebaria village under Kaliganj thana of the district on Saturday, reports BSS.

Police said a Satkhi bound minibus hit the college students while they were crossing the road at Chaltebaria village. Prosanto Kahar, 20, died on the spot and Gobinda Kahar, 23, was injured seriously. He was admitted to Shakhipur Health Clinic.

## Sanction for work of box culvert

PATUAKHALI, Jan 28: The government has sanctioned Taka 12,42,352 for construction of a RCC box culvert over Batazagarpur-Halgora-Miarchar road under the Barisal Road Division in the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

An official source said, the government allocated another amount of Taka 7,12,797 for protection of a better bridge approach road at both ends of Rajapur-Banna road in current fiscal year. The work of the projects will begin soon. The Roads and Highways Department has taken up another project for improvement of Banna Khulpatua GCC Road this year at an allocation of Taka 12 lakh.

## 44 Rly fishplates recovered

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Jan 28: Jhenidah police recovered 44 pieces of railway fishplates worth about Taka two lakh and arrested three persons from Hatgopalpur bazar under Jhenidah sadar thana recently, according to police sources.

Police said, having an information a contingent of police led by OC Shibly Noman stopped a Dhaka bound truck which left from Bheramara in Kushtia district and recovered the fishplates under sand-loaded truck. Police arrested Alimuddin, 35, of Isurdi, Aslam, 24, of Maniknagar in Dhaka and Kazal, 22, of Nabinagar in Comilla district.

A case was filed with Jhenidah thana in this connection.

## 85 uplift schemes being implemented

MUNSHIGANJ, Jan 28: Some 85 schemes to develop the rural infrastructure will be implemented in the six thanas of the district by utilising 1,300 mts of wheat in the coming dry season, reports UNB.

Besides, another 301 schemes for maintenance of rural infrastructure will be implemented in six thanas including two Municipalities by utilising 572 mts of wheat in the next rainy season. This was disclosed at a meeting of district relief coordination committee at the conference room of the Deputy Commissioner with Shipping Minister ASM Abdur Rob in the chair. The minister, responsible for the development of Munshiganj district, asked the Deputy Commissioner to strictly supervise the schemes for its timely implementation. Later the minister distributed the winter clothes received from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund among the cold affected people, said an official handout.

## Heroin recovered: 1 arrested

From Our Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, Jan 28: The Detective Branch (DB) of police, Mymensingh recovered one kg heroin worth about Tk one crore from a grocery shop of Sen Bari area in Mymensingh town on January 25.

On receiving secret information a contingent of DB police headed by OC Hasnat Nazmul Alam raided the shop of Nazimuddin and recovered the aforesaid amount of heroin. Police arrested the shop owner, Nazimuddin and Nurul Alam, a college student.

## Hashish recovered

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Jan 28: Special Branch of Police, Gaibandha in a drive recovered huge hashish from two remote charland under Fulchhari thana on January 23.

On getting a secret information, a police contingent led by DSB Gaibandha raided the houses of four persons namely Amir, Al-Akhas, Akshad and Abu Sayeed at Algerchar and Dakatier char under Fulchhari thana. Police recovered 43 pieces of hemp and ten kilogram of finished hashish. The price of seized hashish will be Taka three lakh. According to police the alleged persons cultivated illegal hashish at the secret point of their homestead. Police could not trace the house owners during the raid. Individual cases were filed against those persons with the respective police station.

## College women's hostel work completed

BARISAL, Jan 28: The Facilities Department of the Ministry of Education has completed construction of a 100-seat women's hostel of Government Brojomohun University College at Natun Bazar area here recently, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the government sanctioned Tk 87.65 lakh for construction of the hostel in the 1995-96 fiscal year. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has provided the fund. With the construction of the hostel accommodation problem of the college has been solved to a greater extent, the college authorities said.

## Loan disbursed among distressed women

TANGAIL, Jan 28: Tangail District Women Affairs Department has disbursed Taka 3.4 lakh among 108 distressed women of five thanas of the district for their self employment, reports BSS.

Official sources said, the recipients belong to Tangail sadar, Shakhipur, Basail, Nagarpur and Kalihati thanas of the district. Each loan will use the amount as the capital money in small scale investment sectors, like, poultry, goat, ram farming and cottage industry for achieving self-reliance, relevant sources said.

## Inadequate allocation of fund

## Construction of roads, bridges being hampered

BHANDARBAN, Jan 28: The construction and maintenance of roads and bridges in the hill district is being hampered due to inadequate allocation of funds, reports UNB.

District officials in the Roads and Highways Department, however, said a project proposal for the maintenance of 17 roads at a cost of Tk 630 crore is under consideration of the department.

Estimates would be prepared after the approval of the project, they said. The roads include 15 old and two new ones. Tender was called for the construction of a bridge over the river Sangu earlier, but the work could not be started as there was no fund allocation.

Meanwhile, the department has allocated Tk 7.45 crore in

the current fiscal year for development and maintenance work of 16 roads and construction of the bridge over the

Sangu in Ruma thana of the district.

Executive Engineer of RHD told that Tk 3.95 crore was allocated for developing 10 roads. Tk 2.7 crore for the maintenance of seven roads and Tk 80 lakh for the under-construction Chimbuk-Thanchi Road. Engineering corps of the Army was constructing the road, he said.

Sources said the development works of five roads under the department in the district were hampered as these were handed over to the maintenance head before the completion of the construction work. These are Bandarbhan-Ruma-Chimbuk road, Bandarbhan-Bangalhalia road, Bandarbhan-Rwangchhari road, Ramu-Nalkhangchhari road and Aznagar-Janghalia road.

## Cold wave claims 2 in Magura

From Our Correspondent

MAGURA, Jan 28: Two persons died due to severe cold wave that swept over the district for two weeks, according to family sources.

Yusuf Sheikh, 80, at Mirpara and Nur Muhammad, 90, Purbo Para of Magura town were the poor victims.

## Production of molasses from date juice declines in Magura

From Our Correspondent

MAGURA, Jan 28: The production of molasses from date juice has been declining in the district due to manifold problems during the current season, local people said.

The traditional Khejurer Gur of greater Jessore district, which is now divided into four districts of Magura, Narail, Jhenidah and Jessore, is in great demand in local markets across the country.

Muhammadpur and Shalikhtha thanas of the district are famous for Khejurer Gur. This type of molasses is produced in the areas of Sripur and Magura sadar thanas. There were thousands of date trees in the villages of the two thanas.

There are skilled persons who extract date juice from date tree. They are called *gachhi* locally. 'Chyan Dao' is used for cutting date trees. It is a risky job to cut date tree.

Now there is shortage of skilled manpower to cut date trees. Many date trees are not cut for extracting juice in different areas of the district due to this phenomenon.

On the other hand, a large quantity of fuel is required for processing this type of molasses. But there is an acute crisis of firewood for processing it. The whole process of producing molasses from date juice is very complicated and technical.

While talking to some molasses producers of Muhammadpur thana areas they said, they have been facing manifold problems due to various reasons. Many date juice collectors are fond of selling date juice to the people who take it as country made drink due to fuel crisis for processing it. Besides, special type of clay pot is necessary for collecting date juice from the date trees. The juice collectors have to guard clay pot hanged with the tree at night as some dishonest people steal date juice from the trees frequently.

It was learnt from the villagers at Arpara in Shalikhtha thana, the number of date trees have been decreasing from their areas due to random cutting of date trees for brick fields, cooking and household purposes.

Meghai Sheikh, a *gachhi* of Sripur thana, said many skilled people have left their traditional profession. Poverty and indiscriminate cutting of trees have contributed towards deserting their traditional profession.

Now they are compelled to sell date juice in the local hats and *mahallas* instead of making molasses from the remaining few date trees.

Another villager, Moksed Ali at village Chaturia under

Gayespur union of the district told this correspondent, molasses producers have to face tough competition with the producers of molasses made from sugarcane extract. They boil it with the rubbish of sugarcane. As a result, the production cost of sugarcane based molasses is less than the production cost of date juice based molasses.

According to the market observers, one kilogram of delicious *patali* is being sold at Tk 30 to Tk 35 and one kilogram tasteful semi-liquid molasses is being sold at Tk 25 to Tk 28 in the local markets of the district.

On the other hand, sugarcane based solid cake and semi-liquid molasses are being sold at Tk 20 and Tk 16 respectively per kg.

In spite of setback of date juice based molasses industries, a huge quantity of molasses produced from date juice is being supplied to Dhaka, Narayanganj, Comilla, Sylhet and other towns of the country from greater Jessore district.

The local people have urged the government to take proper steps to stop indiscriminate cutting of date trees and official patronisation with economic sanction to people who are engaged in producing molasses from date.

## Fishing cat buried

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Jan 28: The ill-fated female fishing cat which was killed by the villagers at village Pukuria under Kaliganj thana on January 23 evening last was buried on January 25, according to local people.

Hundreds of people rushed to see the dying animal in the locality. After killing the beast people hanged the body with a mango tree for 3 days.

When this correspondent contacted Kaliganj thana several times between January 24 and 27, police said, they were informed but they could not give details.

When this correspondent asked the people including two of the killers of the fishing cat they said that they did not know how the animal had appeared there. As a result, the mystery behind the appearance of the fishing tiger remained unknown.

## 23 injured in 2 clashes in Gaibandha

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Jan 28: At least 23 persons sustained injuries in two separate clashes at remote villages under Sunderganj and Gobindaganj thanas in last week.

On January 18 a quarrel ensued between Mofazzal Hossain and Ramjan Ali on the issue of cutting drain at village Taluk-Kanupur under Gobindaganj thana. On the day Ramjan Ali was constructing drain on the plot of Mofazzal just for taking irrigation water. At one stage of exchanging hot words a clash ensued between the supporters of two groups. A total of 13 persons sustained injuries. All the injured persons were removed to local health complex.

In another incident, 10 persons received injuries when a clash ensued between two rival groups over possession of a disputed landed property at village Chaitantola under Sunderganj thana on January 16. Five critically injured persons were removed to Sunderganj Health Complex.

## Scarcity of fish in Barguna

BARGUNA, Jan 28: Scarcity of fish has been prevailing in the coastal areas of the district due to unplanned construction of embankments and sluice gates, reports UNB.

The waterbodies including canals and bolls are either being dried up or polluted as the river water cannot enter into those making the fish culture almost impossible.

As a result, fish are being purchased from outside the district bearing additional expenses. Local buyers alleged that the prices of fish have increased manifold and went beyond the capacity of low income groups.

Many fishermen have already left their occupation due to the acute scarcity of fish in different waterbodies.

A fish trader Ali Ahmed of Bainchotki village said he has been forced to desert the profession after incurring losses in the last few years.

Besides, the fishermen of Noli, Babuganj, Nishanbaria, Golbunia and Purakata of Sadar thana, Taltoli, Pochakoralla, Sokina and Nalbunia of Amtali thana and Chordani, Kakchira, Horinghata and Kalmegha of Patharghat thana have passing their hard days due to the adverse effect of embankments and sluice gates.



The age-old mode of making it. Rural women in Bangladesh have always powdered rice like this to prepare winter pitha. —Star photo by A K M Mohsin

## Truck with Indian smuggled sugar turns turtle: 1 killed

MEHERPUR, Jan 28: A man was killed on the spot and two others sustained injuries when a truck, loaded with Indian smuggled sugar, turned turtle at Ujjalpur Khalopara ferry ghat on Meherpur-Sholmar road on Tuesday, reports UNB.

The injured were admitted to Meherpur General Hospital in a critical condition. The dead was identified as Anwarul, 20, of Beropara in the Municipality area. Just after hearing the death news of the only earning member Anwarul, his uncle Patan Ali, 60, died of cardiac arrest.

The driver of the truck fled the scene. A case was lodged with the police. The dead body was buried without autopsy.

Hundreds of trucks are engaged in carrying smuggled Indian sugar, electronic goods, fire arms, phensidyl and motorcycles to Bangladesh and a huge quantity of brass including other goods to India along the frontier of Sholmar, Roudranagar, Kakhuli and Kazipur road.

Local authority seized Indian electronic goods worth about Tk 35 lakh along with a truck last week with the help of local people.



FARIDPUR: Local farmers recently controlled pest from a paddy field with the help of nets at Raghunandanpur under sadar thana in the district. —Star photo

## 122 fire incidents cost 12 lives in Comilla last year

COMILLA, Jan 28: Twelve people were killed and 100 injured in 122 fire incidents in the district during the last year, reports UNB.

Fire Brigade sources said assets worth about Tk 3 crore were gutted in the incident.

The highest 33 fire incidents were recorded in residential areas damaging properties worth Tk 6.90 lakh.

In shop and market areas, about 30 fire incidents occurred during the period causing the highest damage of Tk 1.66 crore, said the sources.

Besides five fire incidents were caused by gas leakage and electric short circuit damaging goods worth Tk 51 lakh.

Two industrial units and ve-

hicles involved in four road accidents were also damaged in fire.

Properties worth over Tk 75 lakh were damaged in 25 other incidents.

Officials said there are only two fire service stations in 12 thanas of the district — one in the district headquarters and the other at Daulatganj in Lak-sam.

These two stations can hardly cope with the need and remote areas in Langkote, Muradnagar, Homna and Brahminpara thanas virtually remain uncovered.

Local people have urged the authorities to set up more fire stations in the district to protect life and property.

## Ground water in Munshiganj arsenic contaminated

MUNSHIGANJ, Jan 28: Arsenic contamination has been detected in the ground water in different areas under three thanas of the district, reports BSS.

A total of 71 tubewells have so far been sealed up in those areas as the water drawn by those tubewells was found to be contaminated with traces of arsenic, according to the district Public Health Engineering sources.

The district PHED has already carried out test of the ground water samples from 718 hand-drawn tubewells in six thanas of the district upto January 5 this year. The survey revealed arsenic contamination in 45 tubewell water out of 256 in Sreenagar thana, 13 tubewells out of 56 in Lunghajang thana, and 12 tubewells out of 142 in Sirajdikhan thana. One tubewell water has been tested in Mirkadam purashava under

sadar thana and it has been found to contain arsenic concentration.

Water samples from 75 tubewells in Munshiganj pourashava, 85 tubewells and in sadar thana, 60 tubewells in Tongbari thana and 43 tubewells in Gazaria thana have been examined and found to be free from arsenic contamination, the PHED sources said.

Meanwhile, a district health official said there was no report of the outbreak of arsenic-related disease in the affected areas of the district. The civil surgeon's office had so far learnt about only one arsenic-afflicted patient in Sreenagar.

Long-term solution to the problem of arsenic pollution of water lies in lessening pressure on the ground water through conservation of rain water and creation of community-based surface water reservoirs, experts suggested.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
PWD Division-II, Chittagong  
PWD Notice Inviting Tender

No 95 of 1997-98

- Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the renowned and experienced artists of the country and their organisations on his/her own pad in 2 (two) Envelope System for design and for the execution cost separately for the undermentioned work and will be received by the undersigned as well as by the Executive Engineer, PWD Division No. I, Chittagong up to 12:00 Noon of 12.02.98. The first envelope will be opened on the same day in presence of tenderers who may like to be present.
- কাজের নাম :

- পাহাড়তলী বাংলাদেশ টেলিভিশন, চট্টগ্রাম কেন্দ্রের টেকনিক্যাল ব্লক ভবনের মূল নির্মাণ দেওয়াল চিত্রাঙ্কণ। ধর্ম: জাতির জনক বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান গদদ ১৯৭১ সালের ৭ই মার্চের ঐতিহাসিক ভাষণ (তর্জমা) উল্লেখিত ভগ্নি) অবলম্বনে বাংলাদেশ টেলিভিশন, চট্টগ্রাম কেন্দ্রের ভবনে নির্মিত দেওয়াল চিত্রাঙ্কণের চিত্র ধারার কাজ।
- Estimated cost: Maximum 7.00 (seven) lakh.
- Earnest money: 2% (Two per cent) of the quoted rate.
- Time schedule for completion of work: 90 (Ninety) days from the date of work order.
- The intending tenderer should have inspect the site of Chittagong T.V. Centre before submitting tender.
- Requisite documents of 2011 form, sample & schedules, special terms and conditions may be had from the office of the undersigned on or before 11.02.98 on payment of usual government fees Tk. 425/- (Non-refundable) during office hours.
- The intending quotationer shall have to furnish at the time of purchasing tender, an experience certificate for the similar nature of work executed by him/them by an officer concerned with the work.
- Provisions have been kept for 3 (three) prizes for the three successful tenderer of the design. The first prize money is Tk. 25,000/00. The second prize money is Tk. 20,000/- and third one is Tk. 15,000/00.
- A competitor can only submit design and quote rate for any of the following media:

- (a) Metallic
- (b) Mixed Materials
- (c) Terekota

Abdus Sadeque

Executive Engineer

PWD Division-II

Chittagong

DFP-1896-26/1

G-149

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার  
খাদ্য অধিদপ্তর  
সংগ্রহ বিভাগ  
১৬, আবদুল গনি রোড, ঢাকা  
সংশোধনী দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-০১  
অত্র দপ্তর যারক নং-সপ/সংগ্রহ-১/৯৮/৫২ তারিখ ১৫-০১-৯৮ইং  
এবং ডিএফপি নং-১১১৮-১৮/১/৯৮ মোতাবেক ১ (এক) লক্ষ মেং টন  
চাল ক্রয়ের জন্য আহবানকৃত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নিম্নবর্ণিতভাবে সংশোধন  
করা হইল।  
১। দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তির ৪ নং অনুচ্ছেদে বর্ণিত উক্ত মূল্যের উপর ২%  
হারে যে কোন তফসিলী ব্যাংক হইতে "ব্যাংক ডাফট" আকারে  
আর্নেস্টম্যানির পরিবর্তে উক্ত মূল্যের উপর ২% হারে যে কোন তফসিলী  
ব্যাংক হইতে "ব্যাংক ডাফট/ব্যাংক গ্যারান্টি" আকারে আর্নেস্টম্যানি  
সিউউলের সাথে দাখিল করিতে হইবে।  
২। দরপত্রের অন্যান্য শর্ত ও নিয়মাবলী অপরিবর্তিত থাকিবে।  
মোঃ খলিলুর রহমান  
পরিচালক (সংগ্রহ)  
খাদ্য অধিদপ্তর, ঢাকা  
ফোন নং-৯৫৫০২৬১  
DFP-2087-28/1  
G-148

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার  
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর দপ্তর (সওজ)  
ঢাকা সড়ক বিভাগ, বনানী, ঢাকা  
বিজ্ঞপ্তি  
সর্বসাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাইতেছে যে,  
হোমোয়েতপুর-সিংগাইর সড়কের ধল্লা ফেরীঘাট এবং  
জিজিরা-কোরানীগঞ্জ-দোহার সড়কের সোয়ারীঘাট  
ফেরীঘাটসমূহে আসন্ন ঈদ-উল-ফিতর উপলক্ষে যানবাহন  
ও জনসাধারণের সুষ্ঠু পারাপারের লক্ষ্যে প্রয়োজনীয় সকল  
প্রকার ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হইয়াছে। জনসাধারণের জানমালের  
নিরাপত্তার স্বার্থে ফেরী পারাপারের সময় যাত্রী সাধারণকে  
যানবাহন হইতে নামিয়া ফেরীতে উঠার জন্য অনুরোধ করা  
যাইতেছে। ইহা ছাড়াও সুষ্ঠু পারাপারের স্বার্থে সকল গাড়ীর  
চালক ও জনসাধারণকে ফেরীতে কর্তৃত্ব কর্মচারীদের সাথে  
সর্বাত্মক সহযোগিতা করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হইল।  
শুধুমাত্র পবিত্র ঈদের নামাজের সময় ২ (দুই) ঘণ্টা ফেরী  
চলাচল বন্ধ থাকিবে। ইহা ছাড়া সার্বক্ষণিকভাবে  
জনসাধারণের সুবিধার্থে ফেরী চলাচল অব্যাহত থাকিবে।  
আরিফুর রহমান  
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী (সওজ)  
ঢাকা সড়ক বিভাগ, বনানী, ঢাকা  
DFP-2147-28/1  
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