

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 Khaireul Kabir and joint director Mir Kashem of the BARD conducted the course. Director General, BARD, Akhter 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 Rasti 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 Kalijan thana of the district on Saturday, reports BSS.

Police said a Satkhira bound minibus hit the college students while they were crossing the road at Chatelbaria village. Proswanto 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 Tk 12,42,352 for construction of a RCC box culvert over Batazore-Agarpur-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 Tk 7,12,797 for protection of a Bailey bridge approach road at both ends of Rajapur-Banma 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 Banma Khulpatua GCC Road this year at an allocation of Taka 12 lakh.

44 Ry 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 Fulchhan thana on January 23.

On getting a secret information, a police contingent led by DSBB Gaibandha raided the houses of four persons namely Amir, Al-Akbas, Akshed and Abu Sayed at Algerchar and Dakatier char under Fulchhan 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.

National

Inadequate allocation of fund

Construction of roads, bridges being hampered

BANDARBAN, 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

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.

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 Bandarban-Ruma-Chimbuk road, Bandarban-Bangalhalla road, Bandarban-Rwangchhara road, Ramu-Naikhangchhara road and Aziznagar-Janghalla road.

Sangu in Ruma thana of the district.

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 Shalikha thana areas of the district are famous for Khejurer Gur. This type of molasses is produced in the areas of Sripur and Magura 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. 'Chayan 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.

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 tasty 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.

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