

News snaps

Man caught with VGF rice

NOAKHALI, Oct 3: Local people caught a man red-handed with 2,500 kgs of VGF rice while taking away from the UP office at Lorence Bazar of Char Lorence union in Ramgati thana in Laxmipur district Thursday night, reports UNB.

Eyewitnesses said, some 300 VGF cards were allocated among the flood-hit people of the union for distribution of rice. Each card holder was entitled to get 16 kgs of rice but only eight kgs of rice was given against each card, local people alleged. The deprived people engaged watchmen to prevent pilferage of the rice. They caught Lokman, 30, brother of the UP chairman Mosharrar Hossain Khokon, along with one Abdur Rob, 35, while they were taking away the rice by a rickshaw. However, Lokman managed to flee the scene.

Biscuit factory owner abducted

CHUADANGA, Oct 3: A local biscuit factory owner was allegedly abducted on Wednesday, reports UNB.

Family sources said Ashabul Huq Asha, 30, a director of Joyti Biscuit Factory, was missing after he went to the factory on Wednesday morning. His family filed a case with local police against four other directors - Sirajul Islam Siraj, Arjun Prashad Agarwala, Uma Shangkar Agarwala and Kishore Kumar Agarwala. Local political leaders, business community, journalists and elite at a meeting demanded that Asha be traced within 24 hours. A tense situation was prevailing in the town and additional police were deployed to avert any untoward incident.

Power failure cripples life

GOPALGANJ, Oct 3: Production in mills and factories is being hampered seriously due to erratic power supply and frequent load-shedding in five thanas of the district, reports UNB.

The people of different thana headquarters and district alleged that power goes several times a day paralysing the normal life and causing heavy loss to the local small industries and factories. The supply of the electricity remains suspended for six to nine hours every day plunging the areas into darkness after sundown, they alleged. The students are the worst sufferers. The voltage fluctuations have already damaged valuable electronic gadgets in the district. Meanwhile, criminal activities including dacoity and murder have increased abnormally due to deterioration of law and order here.

Agri-rehabilitation programme

MUNSHIGANJ, Oct 3: A Taka 93.87 crore post-flood agricultural rehabilitation programme has been taken up for giving loans to the affected farmers of six thanas of the district, it is officially learnt, reports BSS.

According to the source, the loans will be given to pisciculture, poultry farming and cultivation of 'Rabi' crops to help the farmers recoup the losses they had suffered in the devastating and prolonged floods this year. Krishi Bank will disburse Tk 42.89 crore, Agrani Bank Tk 38.02 crore, Sonali Bank Tk 10.87 crore and Janata Bank Tk 2.09 crore through their branches in six thanas of the district.

Cash, valuables worth Tk 30,000 looted

GAZIPUR, Oct 3: Armed dacoits stormed into a house at Islampur village in sadar thana and looted cash and valuables worth about Tk 30,000 on Thursday, reports UNB.

Villagers said house owner Mohor Mondol, his wife and two sons were critically injured as the bandits chopped them when they tried to resist them. The looters, numbering about 10, entered into the house at about 8 pm. They also ransacked the house before leaving the spot. Mohor and his wife Rupjan Khatun were admitted to the thana health complex.

Dacoity at Sirajganj Dist Council office

SIRAJGANJ, Oct 3: A gang of armed dacoits looted cash and various documents from the district council office here Thursday night, reports UNB.

Police said the dacoits numbering about nine entered into the office forcibly, tied up the night guard and looted files and cash from there. A case was filed with the local police.

101-man Kushtia BNP executive body

KUSHTIA, Oct 3: An 101-member executive committee of Kushtia district chapter of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) was formed at its biennial conference held last week, reports BSS.

Ahsanul Huq Mollah (Pacha Mollah) MP, president of the district BNP presided over the conference held at Keya hall here. Central leaders Akbar Hossain, Tariqul Islam and Moshirur Rahman MP were present in the conference.

Teen commits suicide

NOAKHALI, Oct 3: A teenage girl of Ramharir Taluk village in Sadar thana took her life by taking endrine unable to bear the pain of prolonged illness on Sunday, reports UNB.

But her family members said Aleya Begum, 14, daughter of Abu Jaker, drank endrine which she mistook as medicine. She was rushed to the Noakhali General Hospital where she breathed her last.

Indian smuggled goods seized

NAOGAON, Oct 3: BDR personnel and police in a joint drive on Friday recovered Indian smuggled goods worth about Tk one lakh from a house in Bastbar border area of Damoirhat thana, reports UNB.

Sources said the law enforcement agencies, acting on a tip-off, raided the house of Dulal Hossain and recovered Indian insecticide, phenisidyl, sarce and other goods. The contrabands were deposited with the local Customs godown and a case was filed with the police.

2 killed in separate incidents

JHENIDAH, Oct 3: Two persons were killed in separate incidents in sadar thana of the district recently, reports BSS.

Police sources said, Saha Jahangir, 7, of village Arusakandi in sadar thana was killed when a bus knocked him down from behind at Modipur bazar on Jhenidah-Magura highway. He was rushed to local hospital where he succumbed to the injury.

The body of an unknown youngman, aged about 27 was recovered from The Naboganga river near Jhenidah town. The body was sent for post-mortem which revealed that the victim was killed by strangulation.

2 youngmen arrested

MOULVI BAZAR, Oct 3: Two youngmen were arrested by Moulvibazar police and a revolver and two other lethal weapons were recovered from their possession recently, reports BSS.

Acting on a tip-off, Officer-in-Charge of Moulvibazar thana accompanied by his colleagues raided a video shop at old hospital road of the town and arrested two terrorists with arms. The terrorists were identified as Shah Jasim Uddin, 25, son of late Shah Nazrul Islam of Paygambarpur village and Mukit, 22, son of late Abdul Hashim of village Sadhuhati in sadar thana. An arms case was filed against them. Police said the arrested youngmen are also accused of other crimes for which they were being wanted by the law enforcing agencies.

Timbers recovered

RANGAMATI, Oct 3: Officials of Chittagong Hill Tracts south forest division recovered about 3,400 cubic feet (CFT) of timbers worth about Taka 17 lakh during the last two weeks from Manikchhari, at the outskirts of Rangamati town and Kaptai lake area, officials said, reports BSS.

Seven engine-boat and one truck were seized during the raids. The timbers including 2,800 cft of costly teak were reportedly extracted illegally from different reserved forests, the source said.



RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY: A poetry recital arranged recently by Sanan, a poetry recitation organisation of the university, progressing at the Kazi Nazrul Islam auditorium. The programme was arranged in memory of late Nazim Mahmud, an eminent cultural activist and Tagore song researcher in the country. — Star photo



PABNA: The farmers of Santhia thana have started anew agricultural activities with fresh zeal and enthusiasm following recession of flood waters from the affected areas. — Star photo

Agri-rehabilitation in Pabna

Over Tk 17 lakh allocated to implement 1st phase of programme

From Ranesh Maitra

PABNA, Oct 3: In the first phase of Agricultural Rehabilitation Programme in all the nine flood-affected thanas of the district, a total of Taka 17.99,620 have been allocated by the government.

The total loss suffered in the agricultural sector throughout the district, according to the government assessment, stands at Tk 101 crores 24 lakh and 81 thousand.

The Pabna District Agriculture Extension Department have estimated their losses as below.

'Aus' paddy: Total land brought under cultivation -47,916 hectares, land affected by flood -9,123 hectares, totally damaged -2,492 hectares, partially damaged -6,631 hectares. Damaged total area -6,530 hectares. In terms of money the total loss has been estimated at

Tk 7 crore, 83 lakh and 60 thousand.

'Deshi Aman': Total land brought under cultivation -50,292 hectares, land affected by flood -23,449 hectares, completely damaged -5,957 hectares, partially damaged -17,492 hectares, totally damaged area -16,621 hectares. In terms of money the total loss against 'Deshi Aman' paddy has been estimated at Tk 19 crore 94 lakh and 52 thousand.

Jute: Total area brought under cultivation -17,158 hectares, affected area -910 hectares, completely damaged -100 hectares, partially damaged -810 hectares, total loss of crops -270 hectares, loss of production suffered -498 metric tons. Loss suffered in terms of money -Tk 41 lakh and 22 thousand.

Transplanted Aman seedbeds: Total area brought under

cultivation -2,005 hectares, affected area -160 hectares, totally damaged area -140 hectares, total loss suffered in terms of money has been estimated at Tk 41 lakh and 22 thousand.

Vegetables: Total area brought under cultivation -31,485 hectares, affected total area -17,286 hectares, completely damaged -6,774 hectares, partially damaged area -10,512 hectares; Total damage to crops -1,90,194 metric tons and the total loss in

terms of money has been estimated at 46 crore, 78 lakh and 72 thousand taka.

Total damage caused to various kinds of standing crops in the district has been estimated at 2,35,594 tons.

In the backdrop of the above losses, 1,050 acres of land have been brought under the first phase of the rehabilitation programme.

The thana-wise allocation of fund has been estimated as follows: Pabna Sadar -Tk 4,70,427; Agharia-Tk 1,02,094; Ishardi-Tk 1,50,636; Chatmohar -Tk 1,78,478; Bhangoora-Tk 1,30,159; Faridpur thana-Tk 1,74,543; Bera-Tk 2,06,821; Santhia -Tk 1,33,881 and Sujanagar -Tk 2,52,591.

A total member of 3,150 farmers throughout the district would be benefited during the first phase of the Agricultural Rehabilitation Programme.

Kullapathor where 49 brave freedom fighters are sleeping

From Sk. Md. Shahidul Islam

BRAHMANBARIA, Oct 3: Kullapathor reminds us the glorious Liberation War of 1971 where a large number of freedom fighters embraced martyrdom for their beloved motherland. The village is situated in Kasba thana.

Any visitor can comfortably reach the historical graveyard of the brave sons of Bangladesh on foot or by rickshaw from Salda to hillock-Kullapathor. A sandy road of three kilometre runs from Salda Railway Station to Kullapathor. If a visitor goes to Kullapathor, at first he will notice a gate on which a sign reads 'Shaheed Sarani'. This is the main gate of martyrs' graveyard of Kullapathor where hundreds of shaheed freedom fighters are sleeping in peace.

The Occupation Army, however, being well equipped with modern weapons fought against the Freedom Fighters at Salda railway bridge to take control of Salda. Consequently, Freedom Fighter Habilder Tayeb Ali lost his life in a face to face battle with Pak Army along with many of his colleagues.

The then Camp Commander Lieutenant Colonel (ret'd) Abdul Gaffar had requested Freedom Fighter Md Abdul Karim to arrange a piece of land for burial of Shaheed Toyab Ali and other martyrs. Abdul Mannan, father of Freedom Fighter Karim donated 0.65 acres of land for the



BRAHMANBARIA: Kullapathor Martyrs' Graveyard at Kasba thana near Salda Railway Station. — Star photo

graveyard of the martyrs. One by one 49 martyrs were buried here several times.

Unfortunately during the Liberation War the Freedom Fighters as well as the villagers who had helped bury the bodies of martyrs could not collect the names of all martyrs. As a result some of the names of martyrs remained unidentified here. It was possible to identify the names of only 47 martyrs at once at that time. Besides, due to shortage of time some martyrs were laid to mass grave there.

Some martyrs of Kasba sub-sector who were buried at Kullapathor are: Sepoy Darsan Ali, Md Zakir Hussain, Abdul Zabar, Havilder Tayeb Ali, Naik Abdus Sattar, Sepoy Akkas Ali, Md. Fakrul Alam, Md Faruk Mia, Md Mujahid, Naek Muzammel, Naek Subedar Abdus Salam, Nowab Mia, Sepoy Muslim Mridha, Engineer Nazrul Islam, Md Abdul Wadud, Sepoy Tamizuddin, Matiar Rahman, Musarrat Hussain, Naik Subedar Mainul Islam, Sepoy Md Nurul Hoque, Abdul Quyum,

Sepoy Md humayun, Md Sakil Mia, Md Rashid, Ansar Elahi Bux, Sepoy Sahidul Hoque, Sepoy Anwar Hussain, Sepoy Abdul Bari, Md Matiar Rahman, Md Farid Mia, Md Sirajul Islam, Md Abu Salam, Md Amir Hossain, Md Jahangir Alam, Poresh Chandra Mollik, Ashis Dey, Md Moshed Mia, Md Rabul Islam, Naek Subedar Baylet Hossain, Md Taru, Lance-Naek Azzur Rahman, Lance-Naek Md Abdul Khalek, Babul Chowdhury, Md Rafiqul Islam, Selim Molla, Md Rango Mia, Mohammad Selim and other unidentified glorious martyrs.

According to villagers, during the first few years after victory, the blood stained clothes of the martyrs were preserved, but later on due to lack of care all the clothes were torn. Now some pictures of fighting scenes are being preserved by Freedom Fighter Abdul Karim.

Although ex-Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia assured of improvement of the martyrs' graveyard in a public meeting held at Brahmanbaria on April

28, 1992, but it is unfortunate to observe that no improvement work of the historical burial ground was done at all.

Rapist gets life term imprisonment

From Our Correspondent KUSHITA, Oct 3: One rapist has been sentenced to life term imprisonment here recently.

Mozammel Huq, Special District and Sessions Judge, Kushtia convicted accused Zihad on charge of rape and sentenced him to suffer life-term imprisonment. The judgement was delivered on September 24.

The case in brief is that on September 20, 1997 at about 9 pm the accused, Zihad abducted Salma Khatun of village Jobduoyra at gun point and took her near the bank of a pond belonging to Dilbar Mondol and raped her there. The next day Salma herself filed a case with Kumarkhali Police Station under Women and Children Repression Act.

Misappropriation of FEP wheat in SHERPUR sadar thana alleged

SHERPUR, Oct 3: An assistant teacher and a president of the managing committee of a government primary school allegedly misappropriated the wheat of the Food for Education Programme (FEP) in sadar thana here, reports UNB.

Local people and TNO office sources said, the managing committee president of 73 Char Changaldi Government Primary School, Abdur Razzak, with the active cooperation of assistant teacher Mohammad Ali, misappropriated 2,070 kg of wheat allotted for the month of June, this year.

Moreover, they allegedly sold out the allotted wheat of the month of April and May and following the pressure of the guardians they distributed Tk 60 per student and misappropriated rest of the money.

Besides, they allegedly included a large number of students in the list of Food for Education Programme but distributed nothing and thus allegedly misappropriated a huge

quantity of wheat. Two separate complaints were filed with the TNO. Local people staged procession demanding punitive action against them.

TNO office admitted the fact and said an investigation is progressing in this connection. Another report from Rajbari adds: Sadar thana TNO seized 2,500 kg of gratuitous rice which was illegally found in a rice shop in the town and sealed off the shop on September 22.

Sadar TNO said the chairman of Chandani UP Muksud Ahmed Reza stored the gratuitous rice, which was allotted for the flood victims, at a shop of rice trader in the town instead of his UP godown.

Following the allegation, the rice was seized and a show cause notice was served to the chairman, said the TNO. It may be mentioned that the accused chairman is a vice president of the district Awami League and following the incident it created much debate in the town.

Bogra BMA distributes over 1 lakh ORS packets among flood victims

From A Correspondent

BOGRA, Oct 3: The local unit of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) recently distributed more than one lakh packets of Oral Rehydration Saline (ORS) among the flood victims.

The project was inaugurated on September 17 in Bogra Medical College premises. It was a seven-day project. It was aimed at producing two lakh ORS packets. Till date one lakh and 10 thousand packets of ORS have been produced, said the project director, Dr Moudud Hossain. The project has now been abandoned temporarily, he added. The project would resume to meet the future demand, he further informed. He disclosed, this is the first of its kind in the country. About 70 workers have been working daily here voluntarily.

The spontaneous cooperation of the students of Government Girls' High School, Nurses Training Centre and Bogra Medical College deserves worth mentioning. Encouraged by the BMA gesture different social

and non-governmental organisations like SAVE of Pabna and other NGOs of Bogra started similar projects with a view to distributing among the flood victims. The ORS is made of 1.75 gm salt, 10 gm sugar and 1.75 gm sodium bi-carbonate or edible soda and equal in standard with any other standard saline available in the markets. This can also be preserved but it should be used within a month of its manufacture. Not only diarrhoea patients but also healthy people can consume such saline. Meanwhile, the teachers of Bogra Government Azizul Haq College, students of Government Girls' High School, students of Medical College as well as the people from different walks of life including the physicians had helped with financial assistance. President of Bogra unit Bma Dr Moinul Islam Sadique and Secretary Dr Md Mostafa Alan Nannu have requested all other units of the association to contact with the Bogra unit for supply of ORS.



BOGRA: Khalilur Rahman, Principal of Bogra Government Azizul Haq College recently donated money for the ORS Project arranged by the local unit of Bangladesh Medical Association at Bogra Medical College. — Star photo

Separate incidents claim six lives in Sirajganj, Naogaon

SIRAJGANJ, Oct 3: Two persons were killed in two separate road accidents here on Friday, reports UNB.

Police said Nur Bokht, 35, an inhabitant of Ulipur thana of Kurigram district, who sustained serious injuries when a Bogra bound micro-bus from Dhaka dashed him on the western side of Bangabandhu Bridge on Thursday evening, succumbed on the following morning at the Sadar Hospital.

Police seize the micro-bus but the driver managed to escape.

In another incident, Nayan, 13, was crushed under wheels of a speeding truck on Bagura-Nagarbari road near Sorishacoal in Ullahpara thana on Friday afternoon.

Two separate cases were filed with the police.

Another message adds: A teen-age girl allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself from a tree on Friday night here.

The victim was identified as Nargis, 17, daughter of Harej Ali of Shernagar village in Belkuchi thana. The reason behind her suicide could not be

known immediately. The body was sent to the Sadar Hospital for autopsy. A UD case was filed with the police.

Another report from Naogaon says: Three women died in separate incidents in the district, police said.

Anjuara, wife of Saidur Rahman of Karnatour village in Khajur union of Mahadevpur thana, died of diarrhoea on Friday at her home.

Samena Khatun, 15, daughter of Kafiluddin of Chakkushumba village of Kushtia union in Manda thana, allegedly committed suicide by taking poison on Tuesday as her poor father failed to give dowry.

Family sources said her marriage was arranged by her father, but it broke down as the poor man failed to give Tk 10,000 as demanded by the family of the bridegroom. The victim was rushed to the thana health complex in a critical condition where she died.

Prices of essentials up in Naogaon

From Our Correspondent

NAOGAON, Oct 3: Prices of essentials have shot up in the district following recession of flood waters from the affected areas.

Rice is being sold at Taka 600 to 700 per maund which was being sold between 450 to 500 earlier. Mustur pulse is being sold at Tak 40 per kg from the previous rate of Taka 28 per kg. One kg onion was sold at Taka 16 to 18 which jumped to Taka 32-36 at present. Soyabean oil Taka 60 per litre from the previous rate of Taka 45. Garlic sells at Taka 50 per kg from the previous rate of Taka 32 per kg. Chilli Tk 120 per kg from the earlier rate of Taka 60. Besides, prices of all kinds of vegetables have also shot up during the post-flood period.

The present price-hike has affected the common people very badly. They cannot cope with the present rate of price-hike as the prices went beyond their purchasing capacity.

Meanwhile, some traders opined, the price level of the common commodities is due to communication gap in the thana level and with the rest of the country. Some dishonest businessmen have been creating an artificial crisis in the markets. The floods also washed away standing vegetables from lands.

Scarcity of ORS Diarrhoea, flood related diseases in Magura

From Our Correspondent MAGURA, Oct 3: Heavy rainfall has submerged the low-lying areas of Sripur thana again during the last few days, although the flood situation has improved a lot in the affected areas.

Meanwhile, a large number of people including children have been suffering from flood related diseases like fever and diarrhoea. ORS saline is being sold at higher rate than the original rate due to short supply and higher demand in the local markets.

Road communication between Sripur and Langabandh, biggest business centre in Magura and its adjoining districts may be suspended at any time due to very bad shape of roads which has been damaged by flood waters.

Prices of essential commodities have gone high in the district. Besides, prices of rice are getting normal. The hilsa and local species of fishes are being sold at lower rate as a huge quantity of fish is available in the markets.