Contrabands worth Tk 9.35cr recovered

NEWS SNAPS

Bangladesh Rifles of Comilla sector recovered contraband items worth Tk 9.35 crore during their drives from January to May 15 this year.

Of the total, goods worth Tk 9 crore were seized while being smuggled into the country and goods worth Tk 35 lakh while being smuggled out to India. The contrabands included sugar, salt, saree, cosmetics, phensidyl, wine, hemp, electric equipment and other commodities. The goods were deposited with the Customs godowns. Sixty people were arrested and 1,850 cases were filed with Comilla, Brahmanbaria and Feni police

Magura Jubo Dal convenor held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Magura district Jubo Dal convenor Khan Hasan Imam Suja was arrested during special

Local magistrate's court sent him to jail hajat on Sunday.

District BNP and its front organisations on Sunday, brought out a procession in the town protesting his arrest. They laid siege to the office of the Deputy Commissioner Magura at around 12-30 pm demanding his release

Meanwhile, police officials said, Hasan Imam Suja is a listed criminal of the district. He was awarded five years' rigorous imprisonment on July 4 last year in a case under

Tornado damages 50 houses

A tornado lashed thorough Sadar upazila on Tuesday razing to the ground some 50 $\ dwelling \ houses \ and \ uprooting \ numerous \ trees.$

Local people said five rice mills and some schools and madrasas were also damaged by the storm that raged through Mirkadir in the municipality, Tilartir Char, Kathpotti, Roy Gopalpur and Noulardir Math at about 10:10 am.

32 madrassa examinees expelled

A total of 32 Alim, Fazil and Kamil examinees were expelled so far from Tangail Darul Ulum Alia Madrasa examination centre in Tangali district.

Kamil examinees from 10 madrassahs were scheduled to appear from this centre. Now, 28 of them have decided to drop out. The examinations are being held peacefully.

Water levels of rivers up

Abnormal rise of water levels in the Padma and the Jamuna has been causing erosion on both sides of the rivers in Manikganj district.

Meanwhile, local sources said that most of the fields having peanuts in inaccessible shoal areas have been submerged following sudden rush of waters. According to the Water Development Board, water level in the River Jamuna rose by 1 cm in 24 hours on

37 Bagerhat AL activists sued

Bagarhat BNP on Thursday filed a counter case against 37 ruling party activists under

A Magistrate Court, following a case filed with it on April 9, asked Sadar police to register the BNP's case. In the case, lodged by local unit Jubo Dal President Fakir Tariqul Islam, Awami League supporters were indicted for attacking its office from a peace procession on April 8. Earlier, AL filed a case with Sadar police accusing 44 BNP and Jamaat men for attacking its peace procession. But all the accused, including district unit BNP president MH Selim, took bail from the High Court.

UP chairman misappropriates wheat

UNB, Kishoregani

The chairman of Humaipur Union Parishad (UP) in Bazitpur upazila of Kishoreganj district and one of its members have been sued for misappropriating government wheat. The Bureau of Anti-corruption has filed separate cases against UP chairman M Quayum Khan and member Hiru Mia. According to the cases filed with Bazitpur thana, the accused misappropriated wheat allocated for implementing two projects under Test

Arrested man flees from police outpost

A man arrested on Sunday night fled away from Madhabdi police outpost in Sadar upazila of Narshingdi district on Monday deceiving the on-duty police.

Police said Motalib, 35, was arrested from his village Madhabdi on Sunday midnight in connection with a number of cases. He went to a toilet at the outpost and fled away

Clash over land leaves 16 injured

At least 16 people, including some women, were injured in a clash between rivals over land dispute at Jagir village in sadar upazila of Manikgani Friday.

Of the victims, Muhammad Nasir Uddin, Monwara Begum, Fazlul Hague, Azmot Ali and Momtaj Begum were rushed to sadar hospital in critical condition. A case was filed

Two brothers get jail terms

A special court in Gazipur Thursday convicted two brothers and sentenced them to different jail terms in a case filed under the Public Safety Act (PSA).

Court sources said the court sentenced Shahjahan Polan of Nanaiya village in Sreepur upazila to six years rigorous imprisonment and his brother Alamgir Polan to two years. They were also fined Tk 1000 each. According to the prosecution, the convicts and their associates were locked in a clash with the management of a deep tubewell last year, leaving an unspecified number of their opponents injured. After examining the records and witnesses, the judge pronounced the verdict and acquitted two other accused in the case for lack of evidence

50 families rehabilitated

UNB, Chapainawabganj
The Present government has so far rehabilitated 50 families in five barrack-like houses constructed on 64 acres of khas land in Chapainawabganj district under four Ashrayan

The Ashrayan projects are located at Gushira, Talpukur and Chatigram in Sadar upazila and Muslimpur in Bholahat upazila. The poor families were also given training on various professions from poultry farming to pisciculture so that they can undertake income-generating small projects. They were also provided with soft-term loans.

68 arrested in Comilla

Police as part of their month-long special drive arrested 68 people and recovered arms ammunition and drugs from 13 upazilas of Comilla district on Sunday-Monday.

Notorious drug trafficker Shahidul Islam Khokon, better known as heroin Khokon,

and Razu were among the arrested. They were held from an electronic shop on Station Road in the town along with two kgs of hemp Monday. Earlier on Sunday, policy recovered two LGs, one grenade, 12 rounds of bullet, 215 bottles on phensidyl, 12 cans of beer and five kgs of hemp from different parts of the district.

Five dists in S-W region may face unprecedented flood

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

Massive flood control projects to drain out stagnant water in south-western region of the country by dredging silted river beds are yet to be implemented

It is apprehended that all the five districts of southwestern region would face an unprecedented flood this year because of failure in implementation of the pro-

Delay in submitting the project design to the proper authority and arrival of early rain have triggered this

In order to re-excavate 19.265-kilometre long upper Vadra, the government allotted Taka 3.90 crores. The work had been scheduled to be done by 65 contractors

Similarly to re-excavate 7.5-km of the Harihar river, Taka 90 lakhs had been allocated and 11 contractors and one LCS had been assigned to complete the work.

The government sanctioned 500 metric tons (MT) of wheat for the purpose of re-excavating 500-metre river beds including 1,115-metre of the River Kabadak,

2,666-metre of Meherpur canal and 1,366-metre of

NATIONAL

Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) allocated Taka 65 lakhs to re-excavate the 7-km River Kabadak with a view to draining out stagnant water.

Asian Development Bank (ADB) will finance to reexcavate 118-km area from Patkelghata to Taherpur section of the River Kabadak.

There is also programme to re-excavate 75-km riverbed of the River Kabadak from Patkelghata to Jhinkergacha and 50 km from Jhinkergacha to Takerpur

A source expressed pessimism about implementation of the ADB programme on self-help basis for various

Seven-km area of river beds will have to be reexcavated, according to the project proforma (pp) of the project. But the monsoon has arrived early this year. So, all the rivers covered under the projects are under the threat of flash flood.



Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria opens the newly formed 882nd branch of Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) at Mirpur under Bahubal upazila in Habiganj district on Sunday. Managing Director of the bank Murshid Kuli Khan is also seen.

What a cruelty!

UNB, Khagrachhari

What a cruelty! The mistress burnt the face and hands of an 8-year-old boy servant with red-hot khunti' (cooking tool). The cruel woman did not stop there, she also poured hot oil on the back of the boy.

The alleged ghastly incident occurred at the Narikel Bagan residence of Jahangir Alam, an assistant engineer of the Facilities Department in Khagrachhari district

Residents said wife of Jahangir was angry as Zahir, the boy servant, had eaten a piece of cucumber in absence of the mistress on May 28. And she meted out the inhuman

In severe pain and apprehending further torture. Zahir fled his master's home and passed the night under the shade of a shop in a nearby bazaar. The next morning he went to Lily Ice Cream Factory and sought the job of an ice cream

Factory manager Nurul Alam was appalled to see his burn injuries. He immediately took the to the

hospital where he was admitted. Zahir said he was brought from his house in Comilla to work in the house of Engineer Alam about 40 days ago. He narrated how the wife of the engineer perpetrated cruelty

Soon after the incident, the mistress informed the police about the missing of Zahir. Her husband, Jahangir Alam, has been trying to suppress his identity to the newsmen. He is inconsistent about the complaint of torture.

"I do not know what happened in the house. I have heard that he (Zahir) got burn injuries when frying fish. The boy used to quarrel with my school going daughter," Jahangir Alam told this correspondent.

Doctors and nurses in the hospi tal are taking special care of Zahir. They expressed the hope that he would recover shortly.

FF dies due to doc's negligence

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Gazi Abdul Jalil, a commander of freedom fighters of Bohuli union under Sadar upazila in Sirajganj district was buried on Sunday with state honour at Niamotpur.

Abdul Jalil, a teacher of Niamotpur Government Primary School died at Siraigani General Hospital due to alleged negligence of the on-duty consultant of Cardiology Ward of the hospital Dr

Monjur Kadir on Saturday morning The Liberation War commander's funeral was held at the Niamotpur Government Primary School ground at 10 in the morning where bugle was played and policemen saluted the coffin which

was covered with the national flag. Family sources said that Jalil was admitted in the general hospital with cardiac problem on Thursday. His condition was deteriorating fast with passage of time. He was under the care of Dr Monjur Kadir. Gazi Abdul Bari, elder brother of the patient and chairman of Bahuli Union Parishad personally requested the physician at his residence to visit the

the physician did not visit the patient till his death at 11.20 am on Saturday.

Angry people present at the hospital attacked the physician and beat him seriously. He along with seven other staffers sustained injuries. Political leaders and police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control. A tense situation was prevailing in the area. A large contingent of police forces were deployed in the hospital area till filing of this report on Sunday evening.

Bumper harvest of watermelon delights Panchagarh farmers

UNB, Panchagarh

Farmers in Panchagarh district are very happy following bumper harvest of watermelon this season and a better price that is beyond their expectation.

Even a marginal farmer earned Tk 50-60 thousand as each of their produces are being sold at Tk 30 according to sizes.

Apart from flooding the local markets, the juicy summer fruit is being carried to Dhaka and other parts of the country in 40 to 50 trucks daily. Each truck carries 2.000 to 2.400 melons worth Tk 70-80 thousand, wholesalers and stockists said.

Price of 100 melons is between Tk 1.000 and Tk 3.000 in the local wholesale markets. Watermelon has stimulated the local economy as the

strategic business hubs are humming with fruit traders and middlemen streaming from different parts of the country. Local residential hotels and transport owners are doing brisk business.

A 50-member association has been formed here just

to manage the melon economy. While growers have little or no margin in hand after marketing paddy and jute, melon growers pocketed three to four times of their production cost.

venture a few years back, has not turned into a profitable cash crop, encouraging more farmers to go it. Beaming growers are now even demanding storage facilities and processing plants for watermelons that the

Growing watermelon, which was an amateurish

delicate fruit can be made available in the market in one form or the other throughout the year.

Golam Mostafa Kalimullah, a farmer of Hafizabad area, said he harvested about 2,000 melons from three bighas of land and earned Tk 50.000, while his production cost was less than Tk 15,000.

He said more farmers would come forward to grow melons if they were provided with credit facilities by the

Successful campaign for crop diversification, backed by improved seeds, techniques and pesticides, resulted in this year's miracle, agriculture extension officers said. Weather and soil structure of the district are favourable for cultivating melon, said sadar Upazila Agriculture

Extension Officer Rafigul Islam Badal. Officials at the district office of Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) said quite a few farmers showed interest in cultivation of melon some years ago seeing demonstration plots of the DAE. But good harvest and better price gradually encouraged more farm-

ers to grow melon. Roughly 2000 hectares of land came under melon cultivation in the district this year with a projected production of 60,875 tons.

Some 1,200 farmers of the district were given practical training on melon cultivation and pest management. Hafizabad, Haribhanga, Chakla, Tunirhat, Gofapara, Nalandiganj, Barashashi, Bhaulaganj, Bhitargarth, Satkhamar, Bhajanpur are among the areas where

melon grow in abundance. Farmers in the sadar upazila demonstrated much interest bringing 618 hectares of land under melon cultivation with a production target of 22,248 tons.



A nor'wester swept over Trishal upazila in Mymensingh district recently. The nor'wester caused massive damage to standing crops. According to officials of Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), the storm also damaged banana plants on 150 hectares of land. A damaged banana field is seen in the picture.