

NEWS SNAPS

Contrabands worth Tk 9.35cr recovered

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

Magura Jubo Dal convenor held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura Magura district Jubo Dal convenor Khan Hasan Imam Suja was arrested during special drive on Tuesday.

Tornado damages 50 houses

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

32 madrasa examinees expelled

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

Water levels of rivers up

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

37 Bagerhat AL activists sued

UNB, Bagerhat Bagerhat BNP on Thursday filed a counter case against 37 ruling party activists under Public Safety Act.

UP chairman misappropriates wheat

UNB, Kishoreganj 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.

Arrested man flees from police outpost

UNB, Narshingdi 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.

Clash over land leaves 16 injured

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

Two brothers get jail terms

UNB, Gazipur 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).

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 projects.

68 arrested in Comilla

UNB, 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.

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 south-western region would face an unprecedented flood this year because of failure in implementation of the projects well in time.

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

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 and 3LCS.

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 Patra canal.

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 re-excavate 118-km area from Patkelghata to Taherpur section of the River Kabadak.

There is also programme to re-excavate 75-km river-bed of the River Kabadak from Patkelghata to Jhinkergacha and 50 km from Jhinkergacha to Takerpur on self-help basis.

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

Seven-km area of river beds will have to be re-excavated, 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 'khunt' (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 town.

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

torture to the poor boy.

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 vendor.

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 on him.

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

Abdul Jaill, a teacher of Niamotpur Government Primary School died at Sirajganj 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 Jaill 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

patient on several occasions. But 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.

Growing watermelon, which was an amateurish 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 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 banks.

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 Rafiqul 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 farmers 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, Tuniarhat, Gofapara, Nalandiganj, Barashashi, Bhaulaganj, Bhitargarh, 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.



PHOTO: STAR

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.