

NEWS SNAPS

Winter clothes distributed in Kurigram

BSS, Kurigram
Bangladesh Probandhi Kalyan Samity (BPKS), Fulbari upazila unit of Kurigram distributed winter clothes among 450 physically handicapped and mentally retarded persons recently.

According to official sources, a simple ceremony was organised on the occasion of BPKS's Barovita office premises in Fulbari. UNO of the upazila Samsul Alam was present as the chief guest and distributed the clothes. Fulbari Upazila Social Service Officer Biswajit Baidya, Sub-registrar Mokbul Hossain, Fulbari Sadar UP Chairman Ismail Hossain Badal, local officer of BPKS Arif Rahman and Shahiduzzaman from BPKS Dhaka office were present on the occasion.

Upgradation of BIT, Rajshahi demanded

UNB, Rajshahi
Students of Bangladesh Institute of Technology (BIT), Rajshahi formed a human chain in the city on Monday demanding upgradation of the institute into an Engineering University like BUET.

Hundreds of BIT students formed the chain in the city's Kumarpara crossing area. Teachers of the institute also joined the programme. After the two-hour human chain from 11.30am, the students held a rally at Zero Point of Saheb Bazaar area of the town. The speakers in the meeting said, Rajshahi BIT has enough infrastructure and academic arrangements to turn it into a full-fledged university.

Eight shops gutted in Munshiganj

UNB, Munshiganj
Valuables worth Tk 29 lakh of eight shops were gutted in a fire in bazaar area near Mawa ferry ghat in Louhajang upazila early Monday.

Witnesses said the fire broke out when an oven of a sweetmeat shop exploded at about 4:30pm and soon engulfed other shops. Fire fighting units from Dhaka rushed to the spot and brought the blaze under control after two hours of frantic efforts. In another incident, body of Ananda, 35, of the town, was recovered from Dhaleshwari river near the launch terminal on the same day.

Narayanganj JCD leader released

UNB, Narayanganj
Jatiyatabadi Chhetra Dal (JCD) district unit president Zakir Khan and two other party leaders were released from Narayanganj jail on Sunday.

Army men arrested Zakir along with nine other JCD leaders from Siddhirganj area during electioneering on Sept 26. Hundreds of Juba Dal and JCD leaders and workers received Zakir at the jail gate.

Valuables worth over Tk 1.5 lakh looted

UNB, Meherpur
Armed robbers looted valuables worth over Tk 1.5 lakh from two houses in Gangni and Sadar upazilas of Meherpur on Saturday and Sunday.

Witnesses said a gang of armed robbers numbering about 10 to 15 stormed into the house of businessman Motallab of Gangdob village of Gangni upazila Sunday and took away valuables and cash worth about Tk 50,000 at gunpoint. Later, they tried to enter into the house of Chapal of the same village, but they fled away exploding two bombs when villagers chased them. Another gang of bandits numbering 15 to 20 swooped on the house of Golam Mustafa of Islamnagar near the town on Saturday and decamped with valuables and cash worth over Tk one lakh. At least nine people were injured as they tried to resist the robbers. The injured were rushed to Sadar Hospital.

3,170 VGF cards for poor in Dinajpur

UNB, Dinajpur
Some 3,170 Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) cards will be distributed among the poor and distressed people in all the 11 unions of Birganj upazila of Dinajpur.

Each of the cardholders will get foodgrains of 10kg, according to an official source. He said Relief and Disaster Management Ministry has already given the instruction to all the union parishad chairman to prepare the list of poor people. Officials said some 290 cards would be distributed each in Shibrampur, Bhognagar, Shatagram, Paltapur and Mohammadpur, 280 each in Polashbari and Mohonpur, 320 in Sujalpur, 300 each in Nijpara and Moricha and 240 in Satore Unions.



Students of the 26th batch of Bangladesh Institute of Technology (BIT), Chittagong parade the campus streets in a colourful procession recently on the occasion of Rag Day.

Essentials dear in four dists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prices of essential commodities have shot up in the districts of Faridpur, Netrakona, Sunamganj and Rajbari recently.

Our Faridpur Correspondent reports: Prices of essential commodities are on the increase in the markets every day causing much inconvenience to poor people and people of fixed income group.

According to market sources one Kilogram (KG) of brinjal is being sold at Tk 16 instead of Tk 12 one week ago, onion at Tk 25 instead of Tk 20, garlic at Tk 40 instead of Tk 30, green chili at Tk 40 instead of Tk 30, cauliflower at Tk 25 instead of Tk 20, cabbage at Tk 16 instead of Tk 12, a slice of gourd at Tk 10 to 12 instead of Tk 8, bean at Tk 40 instead of Tk 30, spinach at Tk 20 instead of Tk 15, tomato is being sold between Tk 40 to Tk 50, one kg of green papaya at Tk 6 to Tk 7 instead of Tk 3 and four green bananas are being sold at Tk 5 to Tk 7 instead of Tk 3 to Tk 4 one week ago.

One kg of beef is being sold at Tk 80 instead of 70 a week ago, mutton at Tk 120 instead of Tk 100, chicken (local) at Tk 90 instead of Tk 80 and broiler at Tk 60 instead of Tk 50.

Prices of different kinds of rice have also increased. Rice is being sold between Tk 13 and Tk 16 depending on quality. Now ordinary quality rice is selling at Tk 13 to Tk 14 instead of Tk 12.

When contacted with vegetable and meat traders of Haji Shariatullah market in Faridpur town, they told this correspondent that prices of the above mentioned goods have increased owing to short supply.

Our Netrakona correspondent reports: Local traders and farmers of different kinds of vegetables said that crops on a vast tract of land in Netrakona had been damaged due to inclement weather during the last few months.

A sharp fall in supply of these commodities from other neighbouring districts has attributed to price spiral of essential commodities over the last few weeks.

Different varieties of rice are being sold in local markets between Tk 14 to Tk 20 per kg as against Tk 12 to Tk 18 a month ago while lentil at Tk 40 as against Tk 32. Onion and garlic are being sold between Tk 24 and Tk 40 though the prices had been half of the existing prices a few weeks ago. Prices of various kinds of vegetable such as gourd, pumpkin, potato, ladays finger and other had gone up abnormally in the local markets.

The supply of hilsa in the markets is meagre while small size prawn and some other varieties are also available, but the prices are higher. Hilsas are being sold between Tk 120 to Tk 150 per kg, Ruhi, Katla and Pangash are available, sometimes in small quantity in the markets, but prices are beyond the buying capacity of common men.

Apart from these price of beef had also increased in the local markets while mutton is not always available. In case of availability it is sold between Tk 120 to Tk 150 per kg.

One kg chicken is being sold between Tk 130 to Tk 150.

A correspondent from Sunamganj says: Local farmers and traders said that various kinds of vegetables have been damaged on a vast tract of land in Sunamganj due to inclement weather

during the last few months.

Prices of essential commodities have also gone up as supply of these commodities to the different markets are meagre.

Different varieties of rice are being sold in local markets between Tk 14 to Tk 20 per kg as against Tk 13 to Tk 18 a month ago while lentil at Tk 40 as against Tk 35. Edible oil of good quality in being sold between Tk 40 to Tk 45 as against Tk 32 to Tk 35. Onion and garlic are being sold at Tk 25 and Tk 40, though the price had been half of the present price a month ago.

When contacted with a grocery trader Akmol Bakht Babu at Sunamganj bazaar point, he said the price of vegetables and grocery items have increased due to short supply and it may exceed further at the advent of Ramadan.

A correspondent from Rajbari adds: Prices of essentials including vegetables have gone up abnormally in all the markets of Rajbari because of crop damage on a vast tract of land due to inclement weather during the last few months.

Different varieties of rice are being sold in local market between Tk 15 to 18 kg as against Tk 12 to 16 a month of ago. Lentil is being sold Tk 36 against Tk 30. Onion and garlic are being sold at Tk 28 and 30 though the price had been half of the existing prices four months ago.

Ruhi, katal and pangash are available sometimes in small quantity in the markets, but prices are beyond reach of common men.

Mutton is not always available in markets. In case of availability, it is sold between Tk 130 Tk 140 per kg.

One kg of chicken is being sold between Tk 75 to Tk 100.

Teen killed by uncle in clash over land

A CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A teenaged boy was killed allegedly by his uncle following a clash over land dispute in the early hours of Sunday.

The dead was identified as Jahurul Islam, 14, of village Machpara in Alghoria of Pabna district.

Villagers and police said Jahurul locked in feud with his uncle Aziz over filling the land for potato cultivation on Saturday morning. Jahurul received serious injuries while 15 others were injured when members of both the families locked in clashes with sharp weapons at dead of night.

His body was found near his house in the early morning of Sunday. Police recovered the body and sent it to the Pabna General Hospital morgue. After autopsy, he was buried in his village in the evening.

Police arrested Aziz from his residence following a murder case filed by the victim's family.

Six-year-old girl raped in Khagrachhari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

A six-year-old girl was allegedly raped by two youth at Muslim para in Matiranga upazila on Wednesday.

The girl was admitted to Khagrachhari Sadar Hospital. Her father alleged that two youths Dulal, 19, and Chutti, 20, lured her daughter and brought her to a room of Muslim Para Government Primary School and raped. The girl is a class one student of the same school.



Moulvibazar unit of Bangladesh Gram Theatre, a rural cultural organisation, recently formed a human chain in Moulvibazar denouncing attacks on minorities.

Bumper banana becomes farmers' bane in N dists

UNB, Rangpur

The price of banana has declined drastically in local markets of five northern districts due to lack of marketing and transportation facilities.

A dozen of bananas is being sold at local markets in five districts, including Rangpur, Kurigram and Gaibandha, at Tk 3-4 in absence of mainly transportation facility.

In a bid to earn more profit, a large number of farmers who used

to earn living by cultivating sugarcane started farming banana on vast tracts of land in the northern districts.

The farmers lost interest to cultivate sugarcane on their lands due to various reasons, including irregularity of payment and harassment by the sugar mills authorities, the farmers alleged.

Despite a bumper harvest in the region this year, the banana farmers are now selling their produce at throwaway prices in absence of

buyers.

A large number of banana traders from various areas used to come to the region during peak season and send bananas to other districts by trucks. But this time they are hardly seen in the region.

Only a few traders are buying bananas from the local markets at throughaway prices and sending the fruit to various districts by river vessels.

As a result, a huge quantity of banana is being perished in five northern districts.

AL rivals scuffle in presence of Zillur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Two rival groups of Awami League (AL) in Magura locked in a scuffle in presence of general secretary Zillur Rahman MP on Saturday.

The scuffle broke out in the afternoon at the district AL extended meeting at Asaduzzaman Auditorium in Magura town. Zillur Rahman attended the meeting as the chief guest.

Witnesses aid, some AL activists became agitated following the speech delivered by Shalikhah thana unit leader Golam Sarwar where he blamed former MP Advocate Biren Shikder for working against the party in the October 1 general elections.

Some supporters of Biren Shikder also tried to assault him. As a result, a scuffle ensued between supporters of the two groups. At one stage senior leaders of AL intervened and brought the situation under control.

Student crushed under wheels of bus

A CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A madrassah student was crushed to death under the wheel of a speeding minibus on Friday noon on Pabna-Nagarbari highway.

The victim was identified as Asraful Islam, 16. Eyewitnesses said that the Khulna bound bus ran over Asraful while he was crossing the road riding on a bicycle and died on the spot. The agitated mob halted the movement of vehicles on the highway for one hour after the incident. Later, police from Pabna rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control. Police seized the bus. The driver, however, managed to escape from the scene.

Two abducted in Khagrachhari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Two persons were kidnapped from Sadar union of Naniarchar in Rangamati on midnight Sunday.

According to sources, armed terrorists kidnapped Sunil Chakma, 22, and Jibanta Chakma, 35, from Rantangpur Buddhist temple area at Naniarchar.

Parbatya Chattagram Jana

Songhati Samity (JSS) claimed that the abducted two were their workers and demanded of the authorities concerned to rescue them immediately.

The Naniarchar union parishad chairman Ranjit Chakma was kidnapped from the same area on Saturday. The abductors demanded Tk two lakh as ransom from Ranjit's family.