

## NEWS SNAPS

## Housewife sustains severe burn injuries

UNB, Sirajganj

A housewife sustained severe burn injuries when assailants threw acid on her at village Muslimpara in Guimra upazila of Sirajganj early Saturday.

Police said hoodlums threw acid on Bakul Nesa, 38, wife of Shah Alam, at dead of night when she came out of her room responding to the call of nature. Bakul was admitted to the upazila health complex in a critical condition. Family members of Bakul suspected that land dispute with their rivals might be the reason behind the acid attack.

## Muktijoddah Sangsad wants 'khas' land

BSS, Bheramara

Bangladesh Muktijoddah Sangsad, Bheramara upazila command recently organised a rally on its office premises, demanding distribution of khas land among the landless Muktijoddah family.

M. Abu Daud, a veteran freedom fighter and commander of Bangladesh Muktijoddah Sangsad, Bheramara upazila command presided over the rally. Freedom fighters Prof. Amirul Islam, Advocate Abul Hashem, Advocate Shahidul Islam, Advocate Alam Zakaria Tipu, M. Shamsul Hoque Jolly, M. Mohiuddin Basat, M. Tobarak Hossain, M. Rashed Asgar and M. Nazibuddoula Khan, among others, spoke on the occasion.

## Alleged terrorist arrested

UNB, Jhenidah

An alleged terrorist was arrested along with a shutter gun and some bullets from Haftazipur Bazar in Shailakupa upazila of Jhenidah Sunday.

Police said local people caught Abdul Alim, 30, when he pointed the shutter gun at a grocery shop owner when he refused to give him cigarettes free. He was later handed over to police. A case was filed.



PHOTO: STARSHOTS

Shots from the centenary celebration programme of Victoria Public Library: (Left) A dance drama by the artistes of Nrityangan, a school of dance and music, (centre) processionists parade the streets of Natore town on the inaugural day and (right) a chorus by the local artistes.

## Paddy procurement drive faces setback in Jhenidah

DELWAR KABIR, Jhenidah

Food procurement drive faces setback in Jhenidah.

Only 61 metric tonnes of paddy and 1959 MT of rice have been procured instead of its target of 2448 and 3274 MT respectively.

Price-hike of paddy and rice is reason of this situation, said a source related to the food department.

The procurement rate of each kilogram of paddy and rice was fixed as Tk 8 and 12.50 respectively. But the farmers are getting fair price of their produce in open market. So they feel discouraged to supply paddy or rice to government food stores.

In Jhenidah Sadar 15 MT of paddy instead of the target of 564 MT of paddy and 1561 MT of rice instead of

the target of 1891 MT of rice, have been procured.

No paddy have been procured from Sajikupa, Harinakundu, Kaliganj and Kotchandpur upazilas where the procurement targets have been fixed at 384, 213, 486 and 145 MT respectively. Only 46 MT of paddy have been procured from Mohespur in stead of the target of 656 MT.

No rice has been procured from both Sajikupa and Harinakundu upazilas although the target have been 298 MTs and 213 MTs respectively. Only 108 MT of rice have been procured from Kaliganj instead of the target of 187 MT, 156 MT instead of the target of 272 mt in Kotchandpur and 134 MT instead of the target of 413 MT in Mohespur.

A source related to the Food Department said, the procurement drive aims at ensuring fair price of foodgrains to the producers.

Abdul Malek, 41, Sudhangshu Sekhar, 35, both the farmers when asked about the drive at Bishoykhali bazar they said to this correspondent, supply of paddy and rice to government stores is a troublesome affair.

Furthermore, delay in payment also causes farmers' sufferings. As a result, most farmers do not feel encouraged to supply foodgrains in the government stores, they informed.

## Prices of essentials soar in Gopalganj, Bheramara

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prices of essential commodities have shot up abnormally in Gopalganj, Bheramara and its

adjoining areas causing great inconvenience to the poor and low-income group people.

Our Gopalganj correspondent reports: Prices of essential commodities like rice, pulses, soyabean oil and kerosene oil have gone up in Gopalganj hitting the fixed income groups.

Markets sources said, prices of different varieties of rice have shot up on average by Tk 4 to 5 per kilogram. One kilogram of medium quality of rice is being sold at 17, but earlier it was being sold at Tk 13.

While talking to Humayun Mia, a rice trader of the old market in Gopalganj town, he told The Daily Star correspondent that paddy prices have also increased throughout different markets of Gopalganj. As a result rice prices have gone up in the markets.

Pulse is being sold between Tk 37 to 38 per kilogram in the markets. Earlier, 'masur' pulse was sold between Tk 33 to 34 per kg.

Now soyabean oil is being sold between Tk 38 to 39 per kilogram in the markets. But earlier it was sold between Tk 30 to 32 per kg.

Kerosene oil is being sold between Tk 20 to 21 per litre in the markets. Earlier, kerosene oil was sold between Tk 13 to 14 per litre.

While talking to Badrul Mia, a shop owner at the New Municipal

Market in Gopalganj town, he told this correspondent that presently they have been purchasing rice, pulse, soyabean and kerosene oil at high prices from the wholesale market. For this reason they are selling those at high rates.

Such price-like of essentials has hit hard the common people, particularly belonging to the low-income groups.

People of fixed income groups are now counting additional money for food.

Local people have urged to authority concerned to take necessary steps immediately to bring down prices of essential commodities.

BSS reports from Bheramara: A section of unscrupulous traders have manipulated the prices of essentials to get extra profit. In different hats and bazaars of the upazila, prices of rice, fish and wheat have gone up.

Per kg onion is now selling at Tk 60 against the previous price of Tk 40, pulses now being sold at Tk 40-45 against Tk 30. Soyabean oil at Tk 44 against Tk 38, green chili at Tk 30 against the previous price of Tk 20.

Inhabitants of the areas alleged that the authorities concerned are indifferent to take action against these unscrupulous traders.

## 3rd OCAS reunion



President Gen Secretary

The third reunion of old cadets of Sylhet Cadet College was held recently at the college campus in Sylhet, says a press release.

Deputy Minister for Finance and Planning Maj Gen (retd) Md Anwarul Kabir Talukder inaugurated the programme. Adviser to Prime Minister for Mass and Primary Education Prof Jahanara Begum attended the closing ceremony. Old Cadets Association of Sylhet (OCAS) organised the reunion and a new executive committee of OCAS was elected during the reunion.

M A Al Mamun and Md Mizanur Rahman were elected president and general secretary of OCAS respectively.

Other committee members are: A Al Kafee, G M Quader, Mijanur Rahman, Sirajul Haq, Shafiqul Alam, Mominul Islam, Z M Amir Hasan, Mostafa Mamoon, Fazle Karim, Rabiu Alam, Bazlur Rashid, Shah Alam, and G M Khandaker.

Sylhet Cadet College was established in 1979 and OCAS is involved

## Befitting centenary celebration of Victoria Public Library

ANWAR ALI, Natore

The three-day centenary celebration of Victoria Public Library was held in Natore with great enthusiasm.

State Minister for Cultural Affairs Begum Selima Rahman inaugurated the centenary celebration programme on February 7.

A three-day book fair marked the occasion.

LGRD Deputy Minister Advocate Ruhul Kuddus Talukdar Dulu, Prof Quazi Golam Morshed MP, and Mozammel Haque MP, attended the inaugural ceremony as special guests with the deputy commissioner (DC) of Natore Sadar Uddin Ahmed in the chair.

The inaugural session was followed by a colorful procession of locals and guests from different parts of the country. This was followed by a cultural function which was participated by local artistes.

Other committee members are: A Al Kafee, G M Quader, Mijanur Rahman, Sirajul Haq, Shafiqul Alam, Mominul Islam, Z M Amir Hasan, Mostafa Mamoon, Fazle Karim, Rabiu Alam, Bazlur Rashid, Shah Alam, and G M Khandaker.

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Talukdar Dulu and former director of Jatiya Grantha Kendra Dr Fazle Rabbi took part in the discussion.

Eminent television and radio artistes Suja-ul-Hamid and Merina Parveen enthralled the audience with charming melody.

On the concluding day on February 9, competitions of Rabindra, Nazrul, adhunik, folk songs and dance were held.

In the evening, Rajshahi City Corporation Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu MP distributed prizes among the winners of the cultural competition as the chief guest.

The mayor distributed crests among 10 persons, three of them posthumous, to honour their outstanding contributions toward the library.

The 10 honoured persons are: Late Moharaja Jagadindranath Roy, late Quazi Abdul Mos-ud, late Principal Moyez Uddin, Zalai Uddin Ahmed, Shafi Uddin Sardar, Professor Shekhar Syannal, Sheikh Muhammad Bazlul Kamal, Monirul Islam Joynal and Advocate Shree Govinda Shaha.

Victoria Public Library attained the age of 100 years in 2001.