

NEWS SNAPS

Farmer killed by lightning in Jessore

UNB, Jessore

A farmer was killed by lightning at Konepur village in Sadar upazila on Sunday.

Badaruddin, 35, was struck by thunderbolt when he was working at the paddy field, local sources said. He was rushed to hospital where the on-duty doctors declared Badaruddin dead.

Two abducted jeep drivers released

UNB, Rangamati

Two jeep drivers were released at Tarabunia in Kowkhali upazila on Saturday after three days of their abduction.

The abductors reportedly belong to anti-peace group set Abdus Sattar, 27, and Nonn Miah, 20, free at the same place from where they were kidnapped on July 18 for realising ransom.

Valuables worth Tk 3 lakh looted

UNB, Gopalganj

Robbers looted valuables worth about Tk 3 lakh from a dredger in the River Modhumati in Sadar upazila early Friday.

A gang of about 12 bandits swooped on the dredger near Gobra in the River Madhumati and took away machinery and cash money. The dredger has been engaged in earth filling at the proposed site of Bangabandhu Science and Technology University.

Two get life-term in drug related case

UNB, Jessore

A court here has sentenced two people to life-term rigorous imprisonment (RI) in a drug related case.

The convicted were identified as Fatema Begum and Murad Hossain of Railgate area in the town. According to the prosecution, police arrested Fatema and Murad along with 17-litre of Indian phensidyl from Garikhana in the town on November 1, 1998. After examining the records and witnesses, the District and Sessions Judge handed down the verdict on Thursday.

Panchagarh Bar election held

BSS, Panchagarh

The annual general election of Panchagarh Bar Association was held in its office recently.

The Jatiyatabadi panel bagged six posts with General Secretary while the Awami League (AL) panel bagged three posts with President. The Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) and others bagged two posts. Advocate Wahiduzzaman Suja and Advocate Azizul Islam became vice presidents, Advocate M Gholam Rabbani-Joint Secretary, Advocate M Ruhul Amin Mamik-Library Secretary, Advocate M Anwarul Islam Khaer-Legal Aid Secretary and Advocate Rina Parvin-Sports and Cultural Secretary.

Interest-free loan distributed

UNB, Magura

Magura Municipality under its Slum Development Project has started distribution of interest-free loan among the poor.

Under the project, each poor family will get Tk 5,000 to undertake income-generating small projects. Municipality chairman Dr Mahbubul Haq Siddiqui inaugurated the loan distribution programme on July 18 by giving loans to five families of Shibrampur and Jhatkadanga unions.

Seven injured in Sherpur road accident

UNB, Sherpur

Seven people, including the Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Jhenigati police station, were critically injured in a road accident here Monday.

Police said the accident occurred when a police van hit a roadside tree in Shapmari area. The injured -- OC Tapan Kiran Mitra, 48, SI Aminur Rahman, 40, constable (driver) Asaduzzaman, jeweler Abdul Malek, 35, Munna, 22, Eti, 12 and Salma, 3, -- were rushed to Sadar Hospital. Later, the first four of the injured were shifted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital in critical condition.

875 uplift projects going on

UNB, Chapainawabganj

A total of 875 development projects are being implemented in Chapainawabganj using 4251 mts of wheat.

The projects include construction and reconstruction of rural roads, and renovation of schools, colleges, madrasahs, temples and graveyards. Relief and Rehabilitation Department is implementing the projects under Food-for-Work Programme.

Renovation work of educational instns

UNB, Sylhet

Government has taken up a project for renovation of seven educational institutions in Moulvibazar at a cost of Tk 1.30 cr.

The institutions are Patharia Chotolekha High School, Juri High School, Borolekha Girls' High School, Kanpur Monsuria Dhakal Madrasah, Doulatpur Alia Madrasah, Musaul Alia Madrasah and Sidikal High School.

Facilities Department of the Education Ministry is implementing the project, which is likely to be finished by December next.

Work on 30 uplift projects goes on

BSS, Panchagarh

Work on 30 development projects is progressing fast in five upazilas of Panchagarh.

According to official sources, government has sanctioned Tk 3.61 crore for the project under the Rural Development Project 21. The project include 20 bridges at a cost of Tk 1.73 crore 4 growth centres at a cost of Tk 1.36 and 6 women corners (women market) at a cost of Tk 52 lakh. Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) sources said works began last year and it will be completed by the December 2002.

86 bottles of phensidyl recovered

BSS, Tangail

Police recovered 86 bottles of Indian phensidyl and arrested two persons in this connection on Monday.

Acting on a tip-off, Kailhati Police raided the Sallah village at night and arrested Abdul Kader, 35, and Shah Alam, 30 with 86 bottles of Indian phensidyl. A case was filed with Kailhati thana in this connection.

Woman with Indian phensidyl arrested

BSS, Tangail

Detective Branch of police arrested one woman with Indian phensidyl from the Tangail Gata area in the town Saturday.

The arrested was identified as Sofia Begum, 36, of village Nasirdara in Bogra district. Acting on a tip-off, a contingent of DB police rushed to the spot and arrested the woman. Police also recovered eight litres of phensidyl in a plastic container from her possession. A case was registered with Tangail thana in this connection.



PHOTO: STAR

Dr Kabir Chowdhury, ex-professor of Manchester University in United Kingdom (UK) planting a sapling on the premises of Boroikandi Union Parishad in Sadar upazila in Sylhet recently.

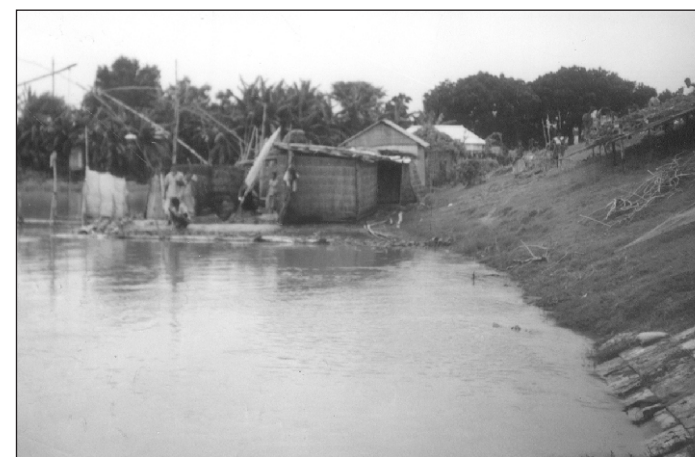


PHOTO: STAR

Because of flood erosion has taken a dangerous turn in Sirajganj. (Left) People viewing with awe the scene of devastation by the Jamuna at Shailabari of Sadar upazila in Sirajganj. The mighty river washed away a 130-metre long groyne (Zia groyne) in the area, (middle) erosion has damaged Shimla spar no 3 where locals assembled to observe the havoc and (right) erosion affected people have taken shelter on a portion of an embankment (Shimla groyne).

Fresh areas of 5 upazilas in Sirajganj inundated

500 handloom factories shifted

AKHTERUZZAMAN BABLU, Sirajganj

The low-lying areas of Sirajganj Sadar, Shahjadpur, Kazipur, Belkuchi, Chowhali have been inundated.

At least 500 handloom factories of the abovementioned upazilas have been shifted to elsewhere due to erosion.

Torrential rain along with the intense current of the mighty Jamuna intensified erosion in Sirajganj.

The river washed away the 130-metre groyne (Shailabari groyne) in Sadar upazila. The Jamuna devoured 300 houses of the adjacent areas of the groyne within 24 hours.

State Minister Power Iqbal Hasan Mahmud accompanied with the local member of parliament (MP) and Chief Engineer of the Water Development Board (WDB) visited the affected groyne on Friday. The state minister

directed the officials concerned to prevent more damage along the areas adjacent to the groyne and spar at any cost.

However, the WDB authorities started the protection work after two days. When the Board started work then because of torrential rains along with heavy current of the River Jamuna, the groyne and its adjacent areas were already damaged badly and the WDB authorities failed to protect the areas. But the Sub-Divisional Engineer of WDB Anwar Hossain said that they trying hard to protect the area.

People of Shimla and Bhatipuri area became panic stricken as water of the Jamuna has entered into the area where the affected people shifted 100 houses.

The local administration deployed police force in the Shimla spar and Zia Shailabari groyne area.

Rivers, water bodies silted up

Cultivators in Jhenidah face problems while rotting jute

DELWAR KABIR, Jhenidah

Jute growers in Jhenidah have been facing problems while rotting jute for want of sufficient water, according to some farmers and officials of the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE).

Farmers in Jhenidah cultivated jute on 9850 hectares of land to produce 121.38 mt of jute this year although DAE fixed the target to cultivate jute on 14,325 hectares. Last year jute was cultivated on 8,123 hectares of land in this district.

While talking to some farmers at village Damukdia, Bisnudia, Nagirat, Kamanna, Hatfajilpur and Garaganj in Saikupa upazila and Solemanpur, Bidyadarpur in Kotchandpur upazila they said to this correspondent that last year the price of jute was fair as they received good price from their produced jute sticks. It encouraged them to bring more land under jute farming this year. But this season most of the ponds and water lack water. This is because most of the rivers have silted up.

Farmers are stacking their jute plants by the side of their land. Someone are moving here and there in search of pond or water bodies to rot jute plants.

Upazila-wise break-up of jute farming was 1584 hectares in Jhenidah Sadar, 1,250 hectares in Kaliganj, 550 hectares in Kotchandpur, 2,540 hectares in Mohespur, 675 hectares in Harinakundu and 3,250 hectares of land in Saikupa upazila.

At least 180,350 bales of jute are likely to be produced in Jhenidah this season if the farmers can rot

their plants properly.

Our Chuadanga Correspondent reports: Jute has been cultivated on 17,650 hectares of land in all the four upazilas of Chuadanga during the current season by breaking all the past records.

According to Chuadanga district agriculture extension office sources, during the current season a total of 11,615 hectares of land were earmarked for jute cultivation in Chuadanga Sadar, Alamdanga, Damurhuda and Jibannagar, but it was cultivated on 17,650 hectares against the target of 11,615 hect-

ares.

Of the total land jute has been cultivated on 2,650 hectares in Chuadanga Sadar as against the target of 1,450 hectares, 5,750 hectares as against the target of 3,900 hectares in Alamdanga upazila, 7,125 hectares in Damurhuda upazila as against the target of 4,575 hectares and 2,125 hectares in Jibannagar upazila as against the target of 1,690 hectares. It is expected that during the current season a total of 1,27,000 bales of raw jute will be produced in all the four upazilas.



PHOTO: STAR

Some rural children play on the stack of harvested jute plants piled up by the farmers at village kalicharanpur in Sadar upazila in Jhenidah. Because of lack of water in the nearby ponds the cultivators face problem in rotting jute. All ponds have dried up in recent time in this village.

As law enforcers fail to check drug trade...

UNB, Sirajganj

As the law enforcers failed to check drug trade and its use, people of Mahmudpur area in the town have formed a Drug Elimination Committee to make their area free from drug menace.

The 12-member committee was formed on July 15 with Afsar Ali Khan as its convener.

Meanwhile, the committee appointed some 100 youths of the area as community police for guarding the area, known as 'drug paradise' of the town.

The appointed youths caught 15 drug peddlers with the help of the local people in last four days till Friday and handed them over to police.

Besides, the youths nabbed an influential drug trader from the area on Wednesday, but he was snatched away.

Local people alleged that a section of unscrupulous people have long been engaged in selling various kinds of wine, hemp, phensidyl and heroin in the area.

Different kinds of drugs are being supplied to different parts of the country, including Dhaka, from here before the nose of the law enforcers, they said.

Prices of essentials soar in Netrakona because of flood

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

Because of recurrent floods prices of essentials have shot up in local markets of Netrakona.

Prices of sugar ranged between Tk 38 and Tk 40 per kg against Tk 32 and Tk 34 two weeks ago. Soybean oil hovered between Tk 40 and Tk 42 per kg against Tk 38 and Tk 40 per kg while garlic was selling between Tk 38 and Tk 40 per kg against Tk 34 and 36 per kg, market sources said.

Prices of onion, both local and imported varieties, rose by Tk 4 per kg this week in the whole sale markets.

Prices of different varieties of vegetable remained almost unchanged last week. Prices of potato ranged between Tk 10 and Tk 12 per kg and prices of papaya ranged between Tk 10 and Tk 12 per kg.

Brinjal was selling between Tk 16 and Tk 18 per kg last week, but now the item is being sold between Tk 18 and Tk 20 per kg.

Prices of balsam apples rose between Tk 16 and Tk 20 per kg against Tk 14 and 16 per kg last week. Ladies finger was selling between Tk 20 and Tk 22 per kg against Tk 14 and Tk 16.

Prices of green melon rose between Tk 18 and Tk 22 per kg against Tk 16 and Tk 18 per kg.

Prices of rice shot up suddenly in the local market.

Low quality rice is now being sold between Tk 13 and Tk 14 per kg against Tk 11 and 12 per kg last week, market sources said. Prices of pajiam variety of rice is being sold between Tk 15 and Tk 17 per kg against Tk 13 and Tk 14 last week.

A rice trader of Netrakona town told this correspondent that price of rice may shot further because of continuous rainfalls and early flash flood.

Prices of 'moshur' pulse ranged between Tk 38 and Tk 40 per kg in the wholesale market while the item was selling between Tk 40 and Tk 42 per kg in the retail market.

Price of 'moog' pulse ranged between Tk 38 and Tk 40 per kg. One kg of big size 'ruhi' fish was sold at Tk 130 to Tk 150 while a medium size one was sold between Tk 110 and Tk 120 per kg.

Price of four pieces of (hali) eggs ranged between Tk 12 and Tk 14.

Prices of mutton also rose ranging between Tk 140 and Tk 150 per kg against Tk 125 and Tk 130 per kg.