

NEWS SNAPS

Farmers face 1,029 certificate cases

BSS, Narsingdi

Four nationalised commercial banks including Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) filed 1,029 certificate cases against the defaulters in Narsingdi for recovering outstanding agricultural loan to the tune of over Tk 3.55 crore.

A total of Tk 3,55,24,000 has been lying outstanding as agricultural loan among the farmers in Narsingdi, according to official sources. Krishi Bank, Sonali Bank, Agrani Bank and Janata Bank gave the loan among the farmers to overcome heavy losses caused by flood and other natural calamities. Krishi Bank filed 787 cases for realising Tk 2.86 crore, Sonali Bank filed 119 cases for realising Tk 41.81 lakh, Agrani Bank filed 25 cases for realising 4.34 lakh and Janata Bank filed 98 cases for realising Tk 23.09 lakh.

Municipality commissioner arrested

BSS, Mymensingh

Kotwali police of Mymensingh arrested a commissioner of Mymensingh Municipality from Dupakhola area of the town on charge of alleged toll collection on Friday.

Police said the commissioner, Abbas Ali was wanted in connection with a number of criminal cases.

697 Indian sarees seized in Rajshahi

BSS, Rajshahi

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) personnel of 35th Battalion in Rajshahi in an anti-smuggling drive seized huge quantities of Indian sarees worth about Tk 22.44 lakh from Nurullahpur village in Lalpur upazila in Natore Thursday.

Acting on a tip-off BDR personnel from the battalion headquarters rushed to the village and conducted a raid. Three bales of smuggled sarees containing 697 pieces worth about Tk 22.44 lakh were recovered during the raid. But none was arrested in this connection, BDR sources said. The recovered goods were deposited to the local customs godowns.

Father hands over son to police

BSS, Feni

Maqbul Ahmed Mafiz of village Barahiguni in Dagonbhuiyan upazila handed over his son Badrul Alam alias Milon, 27, to Dagonbhuiyan thana police on Friday.

According to police sources, Milon snatched a mobile phone from one person namely Kamal Uddin Thursday night. Acting on information from local people, Mofiz punished his son Milon at the house. Later in the morning, Mofiz handed over his son to Dagonbhuiyan Thana police. Milon is also an accused in three separate criminal cases including a rape.

Top criminal arrested in Barisal

BSS, Barisal

Police arrested an alleged top criminal Suman, 22, from Barisal city on Friday.

Police said Suman was wanted for a long time in connection with many cases on charge of killing, rape and abduction. Acting on a tip-off police raided a local place in the city and arrested him. He was sent to court. A case was registered with sadar police station in this connection.

Alleged corruption by BRTA officials

BSS, Tangail

The government is being deprived of a huge amount of revenue as various motor vehicles plying on the roads in Tangail without registration from the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA).

Local people said a section of BRTA officials and police taking bribe from some owners and drivers allow them to ply the vehicles without registration. Some 2000 auto tempes, baby taxis, trolleys and buses ply on various routes of Tangail. Trolley is made locally and driven by shallow engines. They even do not have fitness certificates and their drivers have no driving license. Registration fee for one stroke baby taxi is Tk 4,055 including fitness and VAT and Tk 2,955 for annual renewal. But the drivers care little about the rules and they run their vehicles by paying monthly subscription to some police personnel and BRTA officials, they added.

Village-based Ansar-VDP training resumes

Much awaited village based training programme of Ansar-Village Defence Party (VDP) resumed from August 24, says a press release.

First phase of the training programme started from the day in 461 upazilas across the country. The 10-day training course will be held at village level. This year the training programme will be conducted in four villages in four phases.

Thirty two female and 32 male members of VDP are taking part in the programme. The trainings are being conducted at suitable places of villages. He subjects of training are ways and means of socio-economic development, activities of Gram Sarkar (local government), maintenance of law and order, overall development, Family Planning, mass education programme, cultivation of high breed vegetable and agricultural products, cows, goats and poultry rearing and pisciculture. The training courses are being conducted by expert officials of various departments at upazila level, besides the divisional officials of Ansar-VDP and

trainers. On conclusion of the training courses Ansar-VDP members would be able to be employed in befitting employment as well as enhance their economic condition.

This year the training course will be conducted in 1,844 villages of 461 upazilas. A total of 11,8,016 persons including 59,008 male VDP members, 59,008 female VDP members will be trained this year.

Road mishap claims one

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

One person was killed and seven others were injured, five of them critically, when a Jhenidah-bound rice laden truck collided head-on with another truck carrying guava from the opposite direction at Ichchakhada in Sadar upazila on Khulna-Dhaka highway recently.

The dead was identified as Mustafa, 40, of village Tengrakhal at Bakerganj in Barisal.



A flood affected family at village Char Gobindapur of Sadar upazila in Mymensingh is still staying on boat. This is because the situation in the affected area is yet to improve further.

PHOTO: STAR

Agri-sector faces over Tk 79 lakh damage by flood in Moulvibazar

RAJAT KANTI GOSWAMI, Moulvibazar

Flood has caused a colossal loss in agriculture sector in Moulvibazar.

Total damage in this sector in two flood affected upazilas of Rajnagar and Kulaura has been estimated at Tk 79,48,800. Out of the total figure, Aus crop incurs loss of Tk 45, 88, 800 while loss in Aman crops has been estimated at Tk 9, 60,000. Various kinds of vegetables incur loss of Tk 24 lakh.

Floods have affected Moulvibazar district for three times this year. Flash floods occurred in May and continued till July this year following detection of 10 breaches in the embankments on the Monu and the Dhulai rivers. Two thousand eightyone hectares of crop lands in Moulvibazar have been inundated damaging Aus, Aman, vegetable and seedbeds.

According to the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), crops in Rajnagar and Kulaura upazilas have been badly affected by flood. In these two upazilas 478 hectares of vegetable lands have been completely damaged. Besides this, 535 hectares of Aus, 88 hectares of

Aman and 35 hectares of vegetable land have been partially damaged.

Production loss of different types of crops has been estimated at 1,387 metric tons.

DAE sources further said that the two upazilas faced a massive damage of standing crops. Because of excessive rainfalls and water-logging, standing crops have also been damaged in other four upazilas, but the loss has been estimated to be very poor.

Meanwhile, about 10,0,600 hectares of land have been brought under transplanted Aman (T-Aman) cultivation in Moulvibazar this year. Of the total, 69,400 hectares of land have been brought under High Yielding Variety (HYV) and 31,200 hectares of land under local variety. About 7,226 hectares of land have been prepared for seedbeds.

The upazila-wise break-up of land under T-Aman cultivation scheme is as follows : in Moulvibazar Sadar upzila a total 18,130 hectares of land have been brought under T-Aman cultivation. Of this, 12,930 hectares under HYV and 5,200 hectares under local

variety.

In Srimongal upazila, 14,200 hectares have been brought under T-Aman cultivation. Of this, 7,500 hectares under HYV and 6,700 hectares under local variety.

In Rajnagar upazila, 14,400 hectares have been brought under the scheme. Of this, 9,600 hectares have been brought under HYV and 4,800 hectares under local variety.

In Kamalgonj upazila 21470 hectares have been brought under T-Aman cultivation scheme. Of this, 19,270 hectares under HYV and 2,200 hectares under local variety.

In Kulaura upazila 24,400 hectares have been brought under the scheme. Of this, 16,100 hectares under HYV and 8,300 hectares under local variety.

In Baralkeha upazila, a total 8,000 hectares of land have been brought under T-Aman cultivation. Of this, 4,000 hectares under HYV and 4,000 hectares under local variety.

DAE officials said farmers are now working in the field and transplanting paddy and it will continued till the second week of September.

Halt desertification process in Barind region

Implementation of North Rajshahi Irrigation Project sought

BSS, Rajshahi

Rajshahi Rakkha Sangram Parishad (RRSP) in a meeting in Rajshahi on Friday urged the authorities concerned to implement the North Rajshahi Irrigation Project (NRIP) to make the best use of surface water for irrigation and other purposes.

The meeting was presided over by the convener of RRSP Jamat Khan and was addressed, among others, by Musharraf Hossain, Jalal Uddin and Advocate Ferdous Jamil Manzur.

The speakers said that NRIP should be implemented immediately to ensure the maximum use of surface water in order to stop desertification process in the country's Barind region.

The project was undertaken to use the surface and flood water of the adjacent rivers for irrigation to the crop lands in the Barind region round the year.

After completion of the project, enhanced irrigation facilities would help yield about 2.50 lakh tons of foodgrains every year.

They also called for solving the

existing problems in the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) in the interest of both the indoor and outdoor patients of the hospital.

They also suggested that immediate steps should be taken to protect the city protection embankment from erosion at its different parts including Sabbaria, Kazia, Talaimari, Bulanpur, Sonaikandi and Berpara.

Earlier, members and workers of RRSP brought out a procession and paraded different city streets chanting various slogans in favour of their demands.

Move to encourage tea plantation in Panchagarh

RAKUB signs MoU with TTCL

BSS, Rajshahi

Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank (RAKUB) and Tetulia Tea Company Limited (TTCL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for encouraging tea plantation in Panchagarh.

Under the MOU, Rakub will provide Tk 4 crore as credit among the farmers while the TTCL will supply tea plants, technical support and other inputs for a period of four years.

Initially, 700 acres of land will be brought under tea cultivation in Panchagarh involving about 5,000 farmers.

General Manager of RAKUB ASM Rezaul Quddus and Managing Director of TTCL Mosharraf Hossain signed the MoU on behalf of their respective sides in a simple ceremony held in Rajshahi on Monday.

Managing Director of (RAKUB) Dr Mujibur Rahman Khan, Deputy General Manager Habibur Rahman, Chairman of TTCL M Quasim, Director of the company Monjur Hossain, and other officials were present on the occasion.

Dr Khan informed newsmen that with suitable soil and climatic conditions, Panchagarh has the bright prospect for tea production. Quoting experts, he said each acre productivity will be more in Panchagarh than that of Sylhet.

Tea plant, technical support and other inputs will be supplied by the TTCL while credit support will be provided by RAKUB, Dr Khan said.

Replying to a question, he appre-



Faizur Rahman Chowdhury MBE, a renowned British Bangladeshi community leader in United Kingdom (UK) speaking as the chief guest at the Annual General Meeting-2002 of Sylhet Lions Children's Hospital on August 23.

PHOTO: STAR

Plantation of T-Aman saplings gains momentum in 10 dists

Production target fixed at 15,87,240 tons

BSS, Narail

The government has undertaken an extensive transplanted Aman, T-Aman cultivation programme in 10 districts under Khulna division in the current season.

A production target of 15,87,240 tons of T-Aman paddy from a total of 15,07,900 hectares of land has been fixed in the 10 southeastern districts, official sources said.

Plantation of T-Aman saplings will gain momentum from this month, officials in the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) said.

Farmers in the region had no difficulties to collect good quality of T-Aman seeds this year. They have already prepared their seedbeds.

Water logging in some areas of the region due to heavy rainfall did not affect the seedbeds at all.

Sufficient measures have been taken by different government organisations to provide all necessary assistance to the farmers to make the T-Aman farming

programme a success.

In Jessore region, the government has fixed a target of producing 15,87,240 tons of T-Aman paddy from 15,07,900 hectares in 10 southeastern districts in this season, according to DAE sources.

Of these, 19,200 hectares will be brought under T-Aman cultivation programme in Narail against the production target of 44,190 tones of T-Aman paddy, 9,28,100 hectares in Jessore, against 3,07, 860 ton 84,800 hectares in Jhenidah, against 2,07, 665 ton 43,200 hectares in Magura, against 1,03,940 ton 1,09,400 hectares in Khulna, against 2, 17, 965 ton 1,06,500 hectares in Bagerhat, against 1,85,305 ton 1, 12,700 hectares in Sathkhira, against 2,67,300 ton 52, 900 hectares in Kushtia, against 1, 28,750 ton 31, 800 hectares in Chuadanga, against 77,625 ton and 19,300 hectares in Meherpur, against 46,620 ton of T-Aman paddy.

Three drown in Sirajganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Three little school boys drowned in the Karotoa and Chalanbeel recently at Shahjadpur and Tarash.

The victims were Pulak, 11, a class four student and a resident of Shahjadpur Municipality and Rubel, 8, a class two student and a dweller in the same municipality who drowned in the Karotoa. After 30 hours of the incident the bodies were recovered. Giasuddin, 4, son of Kamruzzaman Pintu of Kushabari at Tarash was another victim who fell down in the Chalanbeel.

One killed, six hurt in Sirajganj road mishap

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

One person was killed and six others injured when a Bogra bound pickup jeep driver lost control over steering and fell into a roadside ditch near Panchlia in Salonga police station recently. Identity of the dead could not be known immediately while the injured were identified as Jahangir, 17, of Rangpur, Shaheb Ali, 24, of Kurigram, Anjan, 30, and Bikash, 25, both of them brothers hailing from Naogaon.