

NEWS SNAPS

OMS of rice begins in Bogra

BSS, Bogra
Open Market Sale (OMS) of rice began at Bogra town from October 31. It was started at upazila levels from November 2 last official sources said. With a view to make the price of rice cheaper, the government ordered the OMS of rice. Under the OMS, price of per kilogram rice has been refixed at Taka 12.50 from Taka 12.00, while the price of wheat per kilogram was fixed at Taka 7 from Taka 8. According to Bogra food controller office sources, rice is being sold at five centres of Bogra sadar upazila and from two to three centres at upazilas and two centres in union parishad levels.

Tk one crore goat rearing project

BSS, Barisal
A union parishad (UP) chairman of the district has set up a 'black goat' rearing farm on 15 acres of land being inspired by the call of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia to help make the country self-reliant.

Chairman of Kashipur Union Parishad, Md Ali Hossain Howlader, has set up this firm at Vyarn near North Rahmatpur bazaar in Babuganj upzila. The estimated investment for the project would stand at Tk one crore for purchasing the land and 10,000 black goats and related costs. At least 100 unemployed youths will be provided job in the project, the chairman said.

Tarique visits under-construction Parjatan motel

BSS, Bogra
BNP joint secretary general Tarique Rahman visited the under-construction building of Bogra Parjatan Motel on Friday.

Local member of parliament MP Kazi Rafiqul Islam, general secretary of district BNP Rezaul Karim Badsha and other BNP leaders were present on the occasion. Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation is constructing the motel at a cost of about Tk four crore.

Crime rate falls in Rajshahi

BSS, Rajshahi
The rate of crime has significantly reduced in the city and its adjoining areas since the beginning of joint operation by the army and law enforcers.

Officials of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police (RMP) said the law and order of the city has improved remarkably. Hijack, robbery, extortion and other criminal activities have reduced to a great extent in the city, they added. "They law and order situation has improved a lot in the city and its adjoining areas since the beginning of joint operation," said RMP Commissioner Abdul Mannan.

Law and order improves in Meherpur

BSS, Meherpur
Law and order in Meherpur district has improved significantly following the joint operations of law enforcing agencies led by the army.

People from all walks of life including businessman, contractors, lawyers and other professionals here are of the opinion that deployment of the army should continue for some time for maintaining peaceful atmosphere in the district. At least 83 persons including top criminal were arrested on different charges and various fire arms recovered in the district during the joint operation since October 18. The recovered firearms included short gun, hand bomb and ammunitions. No report of any major untoward incident or criminal activity was received since the joint operation began in Meherpur district.

Vegetable cultivation in Narsingdi

BSS, Narsingdi
A total of 6,000 hectares have been brought under winter vegetables cultivation in six upazilas of Narsingdi district during the current rabi crop season.

The target of production has been fixed at about 52,000 tons. Of the total, 1050 hectares will be cultivated in Sadar upazila, 975 hectares in Shibpur upazila, 825 hectares in Polas upazila, 1350 hectares in Rajpara upazila, 850 hectares in Monohardi upazila and 950 hectares in Belabo upazila. According to Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) sources, the vegetables to be produced in the district are bean, tomato, brinjal, pumpkin, califlower, sweet gourd, lady's finger and leafy vegetable.



School children parade the main thoroughfares of Moulvibazar in a procession. They were demanding a children's park in the district town for sometime.

Suit challenging extension of area**Magura Municipality polls long overdue**

HOSAIN SERAJ, Magura

No election was held in Magura Municipality and five union parishads (Ups) in Magura Sadar upazila although elections are due for about four years.

The term of the former elected bodies of the municipality and union parishads expired on June 26, 1998. But elections were not held in Magura Municipality and union parishads due to legal complications.

So, the old bodies continued their services even after expiry of their tenure for four years.

When contacted with the district election officer, Mohammad Moshin Ali, he said to The Daily Star that a suit remained pending in the High Court regarding demarcation of Magura Municipality, Atharokhada union, Kasundi union, Moghi, Chowlia and Jagdal union of the Sadar upazila. As a result elections are not being held in the relevant areas, he revealed.

According to official record, Magura Municipality was established in 1973 as a class three municipality which was upgraded into a first class one in 1993.

After upgradation of the municipality its extension became essential. About 5.52 square kilometer areas of

the adjoining union parishads Kasundi, Atharokhada, Moghi, Chowlia and Jagdal in Magura Municipality area were extended further.

But the chairmen of the above mentioned union parishads Munshi Nurul Islam, Nazimuddin Ahmed, Benzir Ahmed, Abul Khayer Bachchu and Abdul Hai jointly filed a case with the High Court protesting this decision of extension of their union parishads.

As the case is still pending, the elections in five union parishads and Magura Municipality became uncertain.

It is widely alleged that five UP chairmen filed the case in collusion with the incumbent municipality chairman so that they can enjoy all the facilities as the public representatives.

"As most of the representatives of the existing elected committees of the municipality and union parishads lost their popularity, they became afraid of any election" said a former commissioner in Magura Municipality. This is why they lodged the suit, to complicate and delay the election process, he added.

Now local people urged the concern authorities to cut the Gordian knot immediately for electing public representatives in a democratic way.

RU JCD council ends in fiasco

UNB, Rajshahi

Rajshahi University Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) unit council meeting ended in a chaos and slogans against each other group in presence of BNP student affairs secretary Amanullah Aman and other central leaders.

New committee could not be formed because of factional rivalry. Ujjal group kept confined Aman and other leaders who were later se-

cued by the police, witnesses said.

Informed sources said Ujjal is an identified criminal involved in extortion and criminal activities. Wanted by police he was not present at the conference.

A large number of outsiders was assembled on the campus in connection with JCD council meeting. JCD compelled the university authority to suspend classes and examinations scheduled for today.

Modhumati about to devour river port in Jessore

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narail

The river Modhumati is about to devour Bardia, the greatest river port in greater Jessore district.

Hundreds of pucca and kutcha houses of Bardia trade centre situated on the west bank of the river Modhamati across village Rohazone already went under the river. Bardia trade centre and Mohazone trade centre are famous for jute trading. The river also

devoured hundreds of houses at villages Pankharchar, Karfa and Mallikpur and part of Kalia upazila.

Now the erosion affected villagers have taken shelter over the unaffected bank of the river and passing their days without food or half-fed under the open sky.

The administration distributed a meager amount of relief while the erosion victims are much more.

Many of the affected people have been migrating elsewhere.

Army chief's call to intensify jt operation

BSS, Tangail

Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen Hasan Mashhud Choudhury on Tuesday urged the official concerned to intensify the joint operation to make it a complete success.

He gave the call while exchanging views with local officials and members of the army and police at the Circuit House here in the morning.

The army chief urged the law enforcers and army to work in close cooperation to arrest criminals.

"We want to see our country free from all sorts of crime," Gen Mashhud said.

The ongoing drive is aimed at ensuring people's welfare, he said, adding people wanted a violence free society.

Deputy Commissioner Abdul Hakim Mandal, Police Superintendent Mahbubur Rahman and high army officers were present at the meeting.

Earlier, the army chief visited local army camp.

Two killed, 7 injured in Sirajganj road mishap

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

At least two persons were killed and seven others injured as two trucks collided head-on at about 8:30 pm on November 4 night on Dinajpur-Nagorbari highway near Chariashika in Salonga police station in Sirajganj district.

The victim was identified as Khail, 30, son of Mokbul of village Zaitgulia in Patuakhail while identity of the other victim could not be found till filing of this report.

Police and witnesses said when a truck carrying goods was heading towards Nagorbari from Bogra, met head-on collision with another Bogra bound truck.

Five of the injured were admitted to Sirajganj General Hospital with critical injuries. Police seized both the trucks.

A case was lodged with Salonga police station in this connection.

However, the driver and the helper managed to flee.

Lightning kills two

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

Two persons were killed and 13 others injured by lightning while fishing at Kajla beel at village Palton in Brahmanbaria Sadar upazila on Tuesday morning.

The dead were identified as Shamsu Mia, 38, of village Merashari and Sayedur Rahman, 38, of village Chendi.

Eight of the injured were admitted to Akhaura Health Complex while the rest five were released after first aid.

Those admitted to health complex are Mokhlesur Rahman, 40, Yakub Ali Molla, 38, Zakir Hossain, 12, Abul Kashem, 40, Hafiz Mia, 40, Sultan Mia, 30, Mahfuz Mia, 35, and Sahadat Hossain, 25.

Three rapists get life-term in Lalmonirhat

A CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Three persons have been awarded life-term imprisonment in a rape case here on Tuesday.

The convicts are Chalam, son of Kabul Uddin, Alam, son of Fazle Rahman and Shafiqul, son of Abdul Haque of village Balapara in Gokunda union of Sadar upazila.

According to the prosecution, Razina, 11, daughter of Noor Islam, was raped by the accused on November 5, 1998 while she was going of her relative's house.

Victim's father filed a case with Sadar thana the same day.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Akbar Hossain Mridha, after examining witnesses and records pronounced the verdict.

Mystery over death of convict in M'bazar jail

UNB, Moulvibazar

Mystery shrouded the death of a convict at the district jail on Friday night.

Jail sources said Mohammad Selim, 35, of village Haipur in

Rajnagar upazila, fell sick at dead of night and was rushed to sadar hospital where he died.

But hospital sources said Selim died inside the jail and the authorities later sent his body to the hospi-

tal. Selim, sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment by the district and sessions judge in 1998 in an arms case, is believed to have died following inhuman torture.

Valuables looted by armed robbers in Sirajganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

A gang of armed robbers looted gold ornaments, mobile phone and other valuables worth Tk one lakh from the houses of Anondo Kumar and Bimol Kumar at village Bharamagacha in Raigonj upazila on November 3 night.

The bandits also injured six inmates of their houses.

Police and witnesses said a gang of armed robbers numbering about 20 to 25 attacked the two houses and beat up the members and looted the goods.

People nearby tried to protect the victims, but the robbers fired blank shots and left the place with goods. A case was lodged with Raiganj police station in this connection. However, none was arrested.

4 JCD activists sent to jail

A CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

The Army handed over four more Jatiya Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists including one listed criminal to sadar thana police on Monday night.

Police said the army handed over listed criminal former (JCD) cadre Faruk-e-Azam, son of Waziullah of Jaleswaritola, JCD leader and activists Abdur Rouf, son of Mokbul Hossain of Nataipara, Mahmudul Hasan Apel, son of late Zillur Rahman of Uttar Chelopara and Shahidul Islam Uzzal, son of Siddique Hossain of Sutrapur of the town at about 9:30pm. on Monday night.

Police also said that they were later produced before the court and the court ordered them to be sent to jail on Tuesday.