

NEWS SNAPS

Two commit suicide in Nilphamari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

A teenage girl and a boy allegedly committed suicide by hanging in separate incidents in Nilphamari on Saturday.

The victims were Tapon Chandra, 13, son of Upen Chandra of village Beltala in Sadar upazila, and Shirla Rani, 14, daughter of Sukumar Roy of village Pathanpara in Domar upazila. Family feuds were behind the suicide. Separate unnatural death (UD) cases were filed with the police.

Body of missing boy recovered

UNB, Keraniganj

The body of a missing little boy was recovered from a canal at Agrakhola in the upazila on Sunday.

The deceased was identified as Rubel, 10, son of Rafiq in the Hukkapatty area of Zinzira. Rubel was missing since Saturday. The body that bore some marks of injury was sent to Dhaka Mitford Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Tragic!

UNB, Thakurgaon

A minor schoolgirl died instantly as her teenage elder brother gave her a severe blow following a trivial matter at village Sandharai Ranishankail upazila Friday.

The deceased was identified as Nihar, 12, a class VI student and daughter of Noor Islam. Witnesses said her brother Jahangir, 16, picked a quarrel with her over the damage of his cloth by a rat and at one stage struck her abdomen with his fist. She died on the spot.

10 injured in road mishap

UNB, Munshiganj

Ten people were injured in a road accident in the Purattali area in Sadar upazila on Sunday.

Witnesses said the accident occurred in the morning when two tempos collided head-on leaving the tempo passengers injured. Four of the injured Khokon, 28, Alim, 22, Alamgir, 27, and Romel, 30, were admitted to sadar hospital.

Wheat distributed among destitutes

BSS, Sathkira

District Relief and Rehabilitation Office (DRRO) distributed 1438.92 metric tons of wheat under Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) programme in seven upazilas of Sathkira in the first six months of the current fiscal year.

An official source said the wheat was donated by the World Food Programme (WFP) for distribution among the poor widows, destitutes and divorcees.

A total of 7,994 VGD card holders are getting wheat at the rate 30 kg per month. Of the total VGD cards, 330 are in Assasuni upazila, 840 in Debhata, 1524 in Kalaroa, 1524 in Kaliganj, 1400 in Sadar, 2016 in Shymnagar and 360 in Tala upazila.

Wheat for destitute families

BSS, Barisal

A total of 487 tons and 90 kg of wheat were distributed among 4,310 destitute families in 10 upazilas of Barisal free of cost in the last four months.

According to official source, each family got 30 kg of wheat under Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) programme of the government. Of the total, 36 tons were distributed among 300 destitute families in Agailjhara upazila, 50 tons and 20 kg among 420 families in Gournadi, 25 tons and 20 kg among 210 families in Hizla, 50 tons and 40 kg among 390 families in Mehendiganj, 25 tons and 20 kg among 210 families in Muladi, 21 tons and 60 kg among 180 families in Babuganj, 180 tons among 1,500 families in Bakerganj, 36 tons among 300 families in Barisal Sadar, 67 tons and 20 kg among 560 families in Wazirpur and 28 tons and 80 kg among 240 destitute families in Banaripara upazila.

50 uplift projects taken up in Mymensingh

BSS, Mymensingh

Zila Parishad, Mymensingh has taken up 50 development projects in 12 upazilas of the district in the current fiscal.

The upazilas are Mymensingh Sadar, Muktagacha, Fulbaria, Trishal, Bhaluka, Gafargaon, Nandail, Ishurgonj, Gouripur, Fulpur, Haluaghat, and Dubawara. A total of Tk 50 lakh has been sanctioned for implementation of the projects. The projects include development of schools, madrasahs, colleges, mosques, orphanage, graveyard, Eidgha, dak bungalow and public library, repairing of roads and supply of furniture.



Lives of about 200 resident students of Abul Mansur Ahmad Hall and Shilpacharya Joyrul Abedin Hall of the Government Ananda Mohan University College, Mymensingh are at stake. The two halls built in 1908 are in dilapidated condition which may collapse at any moment resulting in loss of many valuable lives. The halls should immediately be declared abandoned and should be rebuilt suiting to the needs of students in this modern age.

Ten chargesheeted in Tuhin murder case

ABU AHMED, Sathkira

The investigation authorities chargesheeted 10 persons in the sensational Tuhin murder case.

Two separate chargesheets were submitted, one in murder and the other in explosive act.

They chargesheeted persons are Bahauddin, son of Moksed Moral, Eshar Ali, son of Muslem Sardar and Alauddin, son of Moksed Ali all of village Kismat Elishpur, Rafiqul, son of Karim Dala of Shriga and Mofazzel Hossain alias Mofa, son of Hossain Ali of village Purbokota, all in Kalaroa thana and Sohrab Hossain of village Buruzbagan in Sharsha thana in Jessore district. Of them, Mofazzal and Alauddin are in custody.

Police charged them for killing Tuhin and under the

Explosives Act of 1908 for hurling bombs at Tuhin that caused his death.

Sources in the investigation authorities said they are convinced that the accused in the case in collaboration with others killed Tuhin.

Police submitted the two separate chargesheets to a magistrate's court after eight months of investigation.

Tofayel Ahmed Tuhin, 28, son of Khairbar Hossain of village Kismat Elishpur in Kalaroa thana while returning home reached near a mosque adjacent to his house then the accused Bahauddin Mofa, Mofizul, Alam, Amin, Rafiqul, Sohrab Hossain, Alauddin, Mahiuddin and Eshar Ali attacked him and killed him at about 10-30 pm on January 26, 2002.

Mosharrar Hossain, the victim's uncle filed a case with the Kalaroa police station on the following day.

Prices of 'Iftar' items soar in Faridpur

ABDUL MATIN FAKIR, Faridpur

Prices of essential food items including edible oil, pulse and rice have shown a sharp upward trend in all the markets of the district since the first day of the holy month of Ramadan which began on November 7.

Prices of 'iftar' making commodities have registered an abnormal rise to the great inconveniences of the pious Muslims. In spite of repeated government directives to keep the market steady in the month of Ramadan, some unscrupulous businessmen are busy in making wind-fall profit.

Essential food items, not to speak of other items, are being sold at different prices at different shops in the same market. It appears that there is none to supervise these anomalies regarding prices.

Coarse rice sells between Tk 12 to 14 a kg, medium quality of rice between Tk 15 to 17 and fine quality

of rice between Tk 18 to 23 while other fine varieties of rice between Tk 32 to 36 a kg.

Pulse of different types are being sold at prices varying from Tk 40 to Tk 44 a kg.

Soyabean oil is being sold between Tk 44 to 46 a kg in spite of tax-reduction on the item by 14 per cent, mustard oil between Tk 60 to 65 a kg.

An acute crisis of vegetables has been prevailing as winter vegetables are yet to appear in great quantity in the markets.

Green chili, the most essential commodity is on sale between Tk 40 to 50 a kg, potato at Tk 12, brinjal between Tk 20 to 24, radish at Tk 12, bean at Tk 16, tomato between Tk 35 to 40, cauliflower between Tk 25 to 30. Cabbage is on sale between Tk 20 to 25, papaya between Tk 7 to 10 a kg. A medium size bottle neck is selling here between Tk 15 to 25, a slice of sweet gourd weighing 400 grams is selling between Tk 10 to 12.

Leafy vegetables, though not always found, is being sold between Tk 12 to 15 a kg. Green banana numbering four sells between Tk 7 to 10 while cucumber is on sale between Tk 15 to 20 a kg.

Prices of fish and meat are also on the increase. Beef is selling between Tk 80 to 90, Mutton between Tk 130 to 140, chicken weighing 800 gram sells between Tk 70 to 75 while one pair of hen eggs at Tk 7.

Machine made puffed rice (Muri), the most favourite 'iftar' item is selling at Tk 26 a kg instead of Tk 22 a kg, two days before. But traditionally made puffed rice is selling between Tk 32 to 40 a kg.

Date (low quality) is selling between Tk 35 to 40 per kg. Other imported fruits are selling at exorbitant prices which are beyond the purchasing capacity of the common people.

Pirates throw 3 into Padma from boat, loot valuables

UNB, Munshiganj

Armed pirates attacked a mechanised boat in the Padma river near Bangla bazaar in Sadar upazila and looted cash and valuables worth Tk 1.63 lakh on Sunday.

Witnesses said the armed bandits numbering 15-16 swooped on the Dighirpound passenger boat from Shariatpur and scared the passengers by firing blank shots.

They at one stage severely beat up the passengers and threw three of them into the river. Of them, Nazu Chowkider and Rashid swam ashore while Liton, son of Sunil of Tongbari remained missing.

The pirates, however, disappeared with booty in two other boats. Some 20 people were returning home by the boat after selling their commodities at Kachikata bazaar of Shakhipur upazila.



A tiny tot dances at a colourful function organised by the Udichi Shilpi Gosthi, a major cultural organisation of the country, while observing the organisation's 34th founding anniversary at the Gopalganj Shilpakala Academy auditorium in the district town recently.

Law and order improves in Narail, Chuadanga

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The law and order improved considerably in Narail, Chuadanga following the army crackdown on criminals throughout the country from October 17.

Our Narail correspondent reports: After the army crackdown on criminals, Narail is now free from killing, raping and other sorts of crimes. The district town, upazila and villages are quite calm than ever before.

Criminals have stopped plying illegal motor cycles while frequent gun fights ceased to occur.

A pipegun was recovered from one person named Sumon, son of Jahangir. The hardened criminals remained hiding after the army drive. Fourteen persons were arrested till Sunday and hundreds others were interrogated. Among others, the arrested persons included ex-Chairman of Narail Municipality, advocate Sohrab Hossain Biswas, Jahidur Rahman Milon, Chairman of Hobokhali union parishad (UP), Syed Mafizur Rahman of village Lakshimpasha, Razzak Farazi of village Bichhali, Siddique, Tito, Shafiqul and Sagore of Narail town, Wadud of village Durgapur, Sihabur of Tularampur, Ali Hassan of Aladatpur, Mohiuddin Molla of Lakshimpasha, Ashaful Huque Arbraf of Bhoakhali, Narail were arrested from the Dhaka Secretariat gate.

Army sources said they have a list of 2000 criminals

in the district, but according to police the number is little bit less. Police sources said that a good number of hardened criminals are still there in many villages whose names are yet to be enlisted.

The hardened criminals were trying to be united centering the coming union parishad (UP) election. But their moves were failed due to the army crackdown on criminals, said an army spokesman.

Now the businessmen are doing business safely, vagabonds do not assemble at the Victoria Government College gate or the court area. Incidents of acid throwing decreased much while acts of thefts and armed robberies came down.

The army control room spokesman said that they were trying to establish peace and harmony in society. Many criminals were already arrested. On the other hand, an Awami League (AL) leader said that 'Operation Clean Heart' is launched mainly to harass the opposition leaders.

Our Chuadanga correspondent reports: Since October 17, the day of army crackdown, the crime rate decreased in Chuadanga. People in the border areas told this correspondent that some notorious criminals have taken shelter in different places in Nadia district in West Bengal while others have taken shelter in the most interior areas of the district where the joint force might not go.

Bright prospect of orange cultivation in M'bazar

Growers seek govt patronisation

RAJAT KANTI GOSWAMI,

Moulvibazar

Prospect of orange cultivation in Moulvibazar is very bright.

People of different villages in Goalbari union of Kulaura upazila cultivate orange, a popular winter fruit. Besides this, orange is being cultivated in the Shahojpur and Niz Bahadurpur areas of Baralekha upazila. But the growers face problems of transportation and lack of government patronisation.

People at North Kuchaithal, West Kachurgul, Vandergul and Cheragi villages of Kulaura upazila and in Shahbajpur and Nizbuhadurpur areas of Baralekha upazila in Moulvibazar district cultivate orange in gardens. Almost in all the houses in the areas have one or more orange gardens.

Number of orange plants in each of these gardens vary between 200 to 500. Orange growers said if the climate favours, each plant would produce 500 to 1500 oranges.

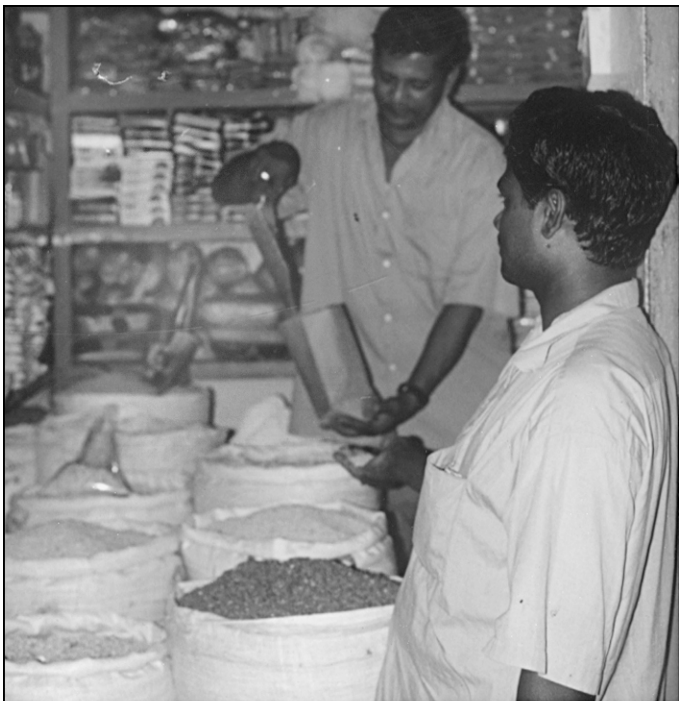
Every family of above mentioned villages in Kulaura and Baralekha upazilas show their interest in the cultivation of orange.

However, some of the families grow orange plants in a scattered way. They know nothing about orange cultivation as there is no motivation programme from the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE). When contacted with a Subject Matter Specialist (SMS) of DAE, Moulvibazar, he said there is no accurate figure of orange plants and its production. DAE has no programme to promote orange cultivation, though such programme would be helpful not only to the interested growers but also for economy of the district.

However, he mentioned that the Agriculture Research Centre at Akberpur works for the development of fruits.

The growers in Kulaura and Baralekha can not market their produced orange for transportation problem. The two orange producing upazilas areas are situated in remote areas where the road communication system is bad. Orange is being transported manually. So, the transportation cost of 500 to 600 oranges from garden to the local village market (Juri bazaar is the nearest market of Goalbari people) stands at Tk 80, said an orange grower of North Kuchaithal village. The growers face not only the

Earning a living in Ramadan



Now is the holy month of Ramadan. Muslim devotees observe the month with great religious fervour. During the Ramadan, most of the Muslims fast from dawn to dusk after taking 'Seheri' (food at late night). They break the holy fast taking 'iftar' after hearing the 'Azan' (call for prayer) of Magrib prayers in the evening. 'Iftar' items and other essential commodities are in great demand for 'Seheri' and 'iftar' of the fasting people. In places 'iftar' parties are arranged by some organisations. Some people earn a lot in this month doing a brisk business of these essential commodities. However, it is compulsory for a Muslim to keep prices of essentials stable so that poor people can observe fasting in a good manner. Here is a scene from Magura town. (Top left) A trader selling essential 'iftar' items such as pulse, vetch and other commodities essential for any 'iftar' party while a vendor sells fruits (as 'iftar' items) at his temporary shop at Chourangee square in the town (right). (Bottom left) A vendor engaged in a bargaining with his clients at his shop where he sells 'iftar' items and (right) another vendor sells 'Tupi' (caps) which is required for saying prayers.

PHOTO FEATURE: HOSSAIN SERAJ