

NEWS SNAPS

Body of man recovered

UNB, Jhalakathi
The body of a middle-aged man was recovered from a water body at Choto village Galua in Rajapur upazila here Sunday.

Police said Mir A Hashem, 55, went out of his house on that evening and later his body was found in the water body. The body was sent to local hospital morgue for autopsies and a case was filed.

Body of schoolboy recovered

UNB, Chapainawabganj
The body of a schoolboy was recovered from a field at village Dadanchak in Shibganj upazila here Sunday.

Police said, Shimul, 11, son of Shajahan Ali's first wife, was missing since Saturday. His body was recovered from a field on the following day. He was believed to have been killed by his stepmother Selina. Shajahan Ali and Selina were arrested in this connection.

Tk 64000 looted from Janata bank

BSS, Siraganj
A gang of armed robbers looted Taka 64,000 from Janata Bank's Daulatpur branch in Belkuchi Upazila Monday night.

Police and witnesses said he robbers entered the bank by braking open the gate of the bank and took away the money from the vault.

A case has been lodged with Belkuchi police station, but none was arrested till filing of the report.

Abducted housewife rescued

UNB, Jhalakathi
A housewife abducted by armed robbers one month back was rescued from village Manmi of Rajapur upazila here Sunday.

Police said a gang of bandits led by Sobhan abducted the housewife, 25, on October 11. He took her to Barisal town and raped her. Later, police rescued the woman when she was brought to her village. Sobhan managed to flee but one of his associates Mortuj Ali, 35, was nabbed. A case was filed.

Attack on Chuadanga journalist

UNB, Chuadanga
A local journalist was injured critically in an attack by miscreants in the town Sunday.

Police said the criminals swooped on Alauddin, district Correspondent of The Daily Independent, on his way home and stabbed him indiscriminately. Later, local people rescued him and sent him to sadar hospital in a critical condition. District Press Club protested the heinous attack on Alauddin, and demanded immediate arrest and exemplary punishment to the culprits.

3 brothers hurt in clash over land

Our Correspondent, Magura
Three brothers were critically injured in a clash over cultivation of a disputed land at village Badanpur in Sreepur upazila in the afternoon of November 7.

The critically injured Hashem Ali, 30, Kashem Ali, 32, and Nurul Islam, 26, all sons of Ismayeel Mandal were admitted to Magura Sadar Hospital. No case was lodged in this connection.

Textile mill workers clash leaves 12 hurt

UNB, Narsingdi

At least 12 people of a textile mill were injured in an attack by another mill owner at Chouala in the town Monday.

Police said Dulal Mia, owner of Russel Textiles, and Nazrul Islam, owner of Nazrul Textiles, had an altercation in the morning over appointment of workers.

In sequel to the brawl, Nazrul Islam with his gang attacked the Russel Textile mill at 3.30pm, injuring 12 people and damaging its furniture. They also allegedly looted goods worth about Tk 50,000.

The injured were admitted to the Sadar Hospital and local clinics. Of them, Mujibur Rahman, brother of Dulal Mia, was shifted to the DMCH with serious stab injuries.

A case was filed with Sadar police.



As winter knocks at the door, (left) quilt makers in Magura passing hectic days in preparing quilts while (right) old warm cloth vendors doing brisk business of second hand clothes at their makeshift shops in the district town.

Artificial scarcity of boro seeds in Satkhira, Narail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Acute scarcity of boro seed has been prevailing in Satkhira and Narail.

Our Satkhira correspondent reports: Boro cultivation is likely to be hampered in seven upazilas of the district this season due to artificial crisis of seeds created by the dealers.

However, the authority is indifferent to tackle the situation. The situation has created an apathy among the farmers of the district which is one of major boro producing areas in Khulna division.

According to the Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC) sources, the demand for boro seeds in the district is 1500 metric tons (MT) this season.

Meanwhile, the government took a decision to distribute 30 per cent seeds through BADC Sales Centres while the rest quantity of seeds will be distributed through selected dealers. The seeds are of BR-26, BR-28, BR-29 and BINA varieties.

In absence of any sales centre in Satkhira, the dealers have been entrusted with the task of selling seeds. The dealers are supposed to sell a 10kg packet of seed at Tk 150, but a section of dealers are now selling the same at Tk 250, it has been alleged. There are allegations that almost all the 27 dealers have

been engaged in selling seeds at Tk 25 per kg against the fixed rate of Tk 15 per kg.

Moreover, at places some unscrupulous dealers are cheating the farmers by selling adulterated and poor quality of seeds.

Meanwhile such dealers are also realising excess prices than the fixed rate by selling quality seeds supplied by some non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and reputed farms.

Though the selling price of high yielding variety of seed of Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC) is Tk 260 per packet, the dealers are selling each packet between Tk 300 to Tk 320 to the farmers.

There is a upazila level committee to monitor the seed market position, but nothing is done by the same committee. BADC sources said that the crisis is mainly due to inadequate supply from the government. At least 500 MT of seeds could have kept the situation under control in the district, BADC sources added.

Our Narail correspondent reports: A severe scarcity of IRRi and boro seeds is prevailing in the district.

As per demand of the farmers, BADC failed to supply the seeds. The demand is at least eight times higher than BADC's present storage capacity.

Besides, it has gone beyond the purchasing capacity of the farmers as 17 dealers of the district have already sold the seeds in black markets at high prices.

As a result the farmers are now unable to purchase the same. BADC sources said that 84 metric tons of seeds were supplied to the organisation for distribution at Tk 150 per bag of 10 kgs. Out of which 33 metric tons were sold at the BADC centres while the rest 51 metric tons were handed over to the 17 dealers of Kalia, Lohagora and Narail upazilas at the following quota: Lohagora 18 metric tons to six dealers, Kalia 24 metric tons to eight dealers and Narail nine metric tons to three dealers.

The dealers sold seeds to the farmers at Tk 240-200 per bag showing an artificial shortage in the markets.

The BADC personnel sold a little quantity of seeds to the farmers and they sold the rest packets of seeds at higher prices very secretly at black market. The dealers of all the three upazilas sold a little quantity of seeds to the farmers in presence of the administration while they sold the rest packets at very high prices in the black markets, it is widely alleged.

The actual demand of seeds here

Vegetable output target fixed at 70,400 MT in Gopalganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gopalganj

A total of 3,520 hectares of land have been brought under vegetable cultivation with a production target of 70,400 metric tons (MT) in five upazilas of Gopalganj this season.

Gopalganj Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) office sources said in Gopalganj Sadar upazila 1100 hectares of land have been brought under vegetable cultivation, with a production target of 22,000 metric tons (MT).

In Maksudpur upazila, 605 hectares of land have been earmarked for vegetable farming while the production target has been fixed at 12,100 MT.

In Kasiani upazila 660 hectares of land have been earmarked with a production target of 13,200 MT, in Katalipara upazila, 495 hectares have been earmarked with an output target of 9,900 MT.

In Tungipara upazila, 660 hectares of land have been earmarked with a production target of 13,200 MT.

While talking to Kamal Mollah, a farmer of village Goshirchar in Gopalganj Sadar upazila, he told The Daily Star that he cultivated vegetable on his 50 decimals of land this season. He sold Tk 6,000 vegetable this season. He further disclosed that vegetable cultivation is much more profitable than any other crop.

7 killers to die in Jhenidah

UNB, Jhenidah

A court here on Tuesday awarded capital punishment to seven people in a murder case.

The convicts are: Ismail Hossain Montu, Robiul Islam, Mizanur Rahman, Ohidul Islam, Zulfikar Ali, Abdul Wahab and Ajgar Ali.

According to the prosecution in brief, the convicts shot dead lawyer and headmaster of Subornasora High School Abul Hossain, 36, in Kaliganj upazila on March 5, 1997 as he refused to pay them Tk one lakh as toll.

After examining the records and witnesses, Additional District and Sessions Judge Md Aynul Haq handed down the verdict.

Four other accused persons were acquitted from the charge due to lack of sufficient evidences.

Rabi crops farming scheme

BSS, Chandpur

The Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) has taken up a massive programme to cultivate rabi crops in Chandpur in the current season.

According to official source, wheat, potato, mustard, maize, pulse, sweet potato, vegetables, onion, garlic and chili will be cultivated in all upazilas of the district in a large scale.

Thirty thousand hectares have been brought under wheat cultivation scheme and the production target is fixed at 70,000 tons. 20,000 hectares under potato cultivation with a production target of one lakh 20 thousand tons. 10,000 hectares under mustard cultivation.



Dilip Kumar De, chairman of newspaper hawkers' cooperative association receives a prize from A B M Shahjahan, Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Jhenidah on the International Cooperative Day which was held befittingly here recently. Dilip was adjudged the best cooperative businessman in the entire district this year.

Magura diary**Villagers clash leaves 30 hurt**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

At least 30 people were injured, nine of them seriously in a clash between two rival groups of villagers at village Shankachkhali in Gopalgram union in Magura Sadar upazila on November 1.

Locals said supporters of the incumbent chairman Afzal Hossain and former chairman Aftab Mian of Gopalgram union, equipped with sharp weapons and sticks locked in a clash following an altercation over distribution of water from a shallow machine.

The seriously injured persons identified as Ayub, 35, Zainal, 45, Azizar Mian, 45, Rejaul, 18, Moshir, 25, Rajon, 20, Akbar, 35, Nazrul, 30 and Milon, 30 were admitted to Magura Sadar Hospital.

Murder case accused arrested

Detective branch (DB) of police in Magura arrested a suspected accused in businessmen Rezaul murder case, from the Katchpur area in Narayanganj on October 30.

The arrested was identified as Selim, 25, son of Saifur Rahman of village Klashipur in Mohammadpur upazila of Magura district.

Official sources said, acting on a tip-off a DB police team led by sub-inspector Ashrafal Alam from Magura went to Katchpur and arrested the alleged culprit.

Rezaul Alam, a timber trader of village Kashipur was hacked to death at the adjacent Ruizani area on night of April 2, this year while returning home riding on a motorbike from his business establishment at Mohammadpur.

Villager stabbed to death

A villager was stabbed to death by unknown miscreants at village Jagdal in Sadar upazila on the night of November 5.

The victim was identified as Tharun, 35, son of Raihanuddin of the aforementioned village. Police recovered the body with injuries on chest and throat and sent to morgue for autopsy.