

NEWS SNAPS

Three jailed for posessing illegal arms

UNB, *Kushlia*
A court here Tuesday sentenced three people to different jail terms in an arms case.

Of the convicts, Mohirul Islam of village Kakiladaha and Imdadul Islam of village Asan Nagar in Mirpur upazila were awarded life-term imprisonment while Sirajul Islam of Asan Nagar 10 years' rigorous imprisonment (RI).

According to the prosecution, police raided the house of Imdadul on May 22 this year and arrested them along with a revolver, one shutter gun, some bullets and other lethal weapons.

15 hurt during eviction drive in Rangpur

UNB, *Rangpur*
At least 15 people, including eight lawyers, were injured when police swung into action while evicting makeshift shops from the compound of Ainjibi Samity Bhaban at Kachari Bazaar here Tuesday.

Witnesses said the trouble began when the lawyers prevented police from evicting the stalls set up to sell iftar items during Ramadan. Police charged baton, lobbed teargas shells and fired shots in the air to bring the situation under control.

Soft loans for rabi crops farmers

UNB, *Pirojpur*
About 29,300 hectares of land will be brought under rabi crop cultivation in seven upazilas of the district this season with a production target of 2,25,518 MTs.

Commercial banks will provide soft loans to the farmers to achieve the production target, agriculture officials said.

Officials said boro paddy would be cultivated on 15,800 hectares of land, potato on 800 hectares, sweet potato on 850 hectares, mustard on 300 hectares, lentil on 1,000 hectares and Khesari variety of pulse on 4,000 hectares of land.

Besides, chilly will be cultivated on 100 hectares of land, vegetable on 3,750 hectares, pulse on 800 hectares and sugarcane on 700 hectares of land in the upazilas.

Tk 4.27 cr uplift projects undertaken in Pirojpur

UNB, *Pirojpur*
Some 64 development projects will be implemented in seven upazilas of the district in the current fiscal involving Tk 4.27 cr.

Of the projects, seven will be implemented in Sadar, two in Nazirpur, nine in Zianagar, 17 in Mothbaria, 12 in Bhandaria, four in Kaukhali and 13 in Nesarabad upazila.

The project works include repair and maintenance of rural roads and culverts, development of rural infrastructure and construction of a building for the upazila land office.

Jobless women to be trained

UNB, *Madaripur*
A four-month long training programme, organised by Youth Directorate for the unemployed young women, is going on here.

The women are being imparted training on embroidery and dress designing. The trainees will be provided with necessary loans for their self-employment upon completion of the training programme that began on November 14, officials said.

Firearms looted from southwestern dists yet to be recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Magura*

The firearms looted in the last seven years from on-duty policemen, members of Ansar and from different offices in the southwestern region could not be recovered even during the ongoing army crackdown on criminals.

Official sources said, at least 79 firearms were looted during January 28, 1995 to March 9, 2002 from different parts of the southwestern districts. Of the looted arms, only 10 were recovered in different police drives held earlier.

DIG (Deputy-Inspector General) of police in Khulna, AKM Enayetullah Dewan was contacted by this correspondent over telephone. He said to him "After collecting the lists of the firearms recov-

ered at different police stations in the region, I can be able to inform you whether any looted firearm has been recovered or not in the ongoing joint drive."

On March 9, 2002, the armed miscreants swooped on policemen at Custom Ghat No 2 in Khulna town and snatched two firearms with some ammunition from them while they were on duty there.

The miscreants snatched four rifles and 140 rounds of bullets from policemen on March 23, 2001 while they were on patrol duty in Satkhira town.

An armed gang looted 12 firearms from Akiz Jute Mills in Jessore on September 19, 1999.

A total of 21 arms were stolen from the Malkhana of Khulna Collectorate on September 4, 1998

and 10 arms from a cable factory in Khulna were snatched on August 1, 1998 while five arms were looted from the on-duty Ansars of a passenger launch in Bagerhat on May 5, in the same year.

The miscreants took away one firearm from Sonali Bank in Bagerhat on December 30, 1997, five firearms from a sea food factory in Khulna on December 29, 1997 and eight firearms from the on-duty policemen in a train at Barobazar in Jhenidah district on August 24 in the same year.

The culprits looted seven firearms from the Baruli police camp at Pikegachcha upazila in Khulna on August 22 in 1996 while four firearms from the on-duty policemen at Utholi railway station in Chuadanga on January 28, 1995.

Train derails at Gafargaon

OUR CORESPONDENT, *Mymensingh*

Two compartments and the engine of Balaka mail train were derailed at the home signal of Gafargaon station at about 5.50 pm on Monday.

Ten passengers were injured following the incident.

Two compartments and engine of the mail train were derailed due to problems in the engine. But the authorities concerned could not be contacted.

Of the injured, two were admitted to Gafargaon Upazila Health Complex. Rail communications between Dhaka and Mymensingh was disrupted for several hours after the accident.



PHOTO: STAR

Prominent freedom fighter and a valiant sector commander of the War of Liberation in 1971, Major General Chitta Ranjan Datta Bir Uttam, speaks at the triennial conference of Moulvibazar district unit of Bangladesh Puja Udjapon Parishad (a body to observe puja befittingly) at the Moulvibazar Ram Krishna Mission on November 15.

M'bazar puja committee's triennial confce

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Moulvibazar*

The triennial conference of Bangladesh Puja Udjapon Parishad (a body to observe puja befittingly), Moulvibazar district unit was held at the Moulvibazar Ramakrishna Mission on November 15.

Presided over by Radhika Mohan Goswami, president of the Parishad, Moulvibazar district unit, the conference was attended by prominent freedom fighter of the country and a valiant sector commander of the War of Liberation in 1971, Major General Chitta Ranjan Datta Bir Uttam, as the chief guest. Dr Nim Chandra Bhawmik, Basuder Dhor and Advocate Subrata Chowdhury central leaders of the Parishad attended the conference as special guests.

Nihir Kanta Deb Mintu, general secretary of the Parishad, Moulvibazar district unit, presented his report. A discussion on the report held which was participated, among others, by Shusil Sen Gupta, Prof Mohan Chandra Deb, Bijoy Krishna Dhar, Sattendra Kumer Dutta, Kamala Ranjan Bhattacharjya and Joytish Chandra Roy. All the speakers in the conference expressed their satisfaction for peaceful observation of Durga Puja this year in Moulvibazar district as well as in the country.

Indian rice worth Tk 1.24 cr seized from Mongla

BSS, *Khulna*

The members of Bangladesh Coastguard (western zone) seized 16,582.5 maunds of smuggled Indian rice worth Tk 1.24 cr from a cargo vessel named 'Zanda' in the Chunkuri canal under Mongla Port on November 16.

M V Helal which was carrying the coastguard members challenged the rice carrier cargo vessel, but it could not show any valid paper to the coastguards in support of importing the Indian rice.

The coastguard members arrested eight persons from the vessel while several others fled the scene by jumping into water.

The vessel carrying Indian rice entered the canal without informing the Mongla Port Authority to evade

tax. The coastguards recently decided to carry on a drive against illegal unloading of goods in the port area.

Later, they handed over the arrested persons, seized Indian rice and the carrier to the Dakope Police Station and requested the local Customs authority to take legal action in this regard.

In another routine drive, the members of Bangladesh Coastguard (eastern zone) seized 5,000 maunds of smuggled Burmese crude salt. The salt was being smuggled in for processing at salt mills across the country.

The Coast Guards decided to carry on a drive against smuggling of Burmese salt to protect the interest of the local salt producers.

Law and order in Sirajganj improves

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Sirajganj*

The law and order in Sirajganj district has improved significantly following the joint operation launched by the law enforcers under army leadership. People can now move on the streets without fear of muggers. Roads are now free from trafficjam.

A hawkker named Alom of Sirajganj told this correspondent that before the army deployment frequently the robbers looted our petty income of the whole day at the time armed in buses was a daily affair in the area he said, adding they feel secured now. A noted physician Dr Awal said that joint

operation was the need of the hour. It relieved the people from all types of sufferings "We can now move very safely anywhere and at any-time when we need he said. Dr Awal said over one lakh police men could not curb the criminal activities which has been done by only about 20,000 army personnel deployed across the country. But army should nto be allowed to stay outside for long because they might loe their image adn neutrality, he observed.

When contacted Farida Yeasmin a banker, told The Daily Star although rate of violence and crime came down, army deployment can never be a total solution of lawlessness in a state.

Historic relics in Magura face ruin



PHOTO FEATURE: HOSSAIN SERAJ

Some historic relics in Magura still stand as the silent witness of our glorious past. Enthusiasts from home and abroad come here to have a glimpse of our valuable heritage. Unfortunately due to lack of proper maintenance the buildings face ruination. Here are the remains of (top left) Kacharibari (a rest house) of Raja Sitaram at Mohammadpur upazila headquarters, (right) Gopalgram mosque in Shalikhia upazila, built during the reign of great Mughal emperor Akbar, (bottom left) about 400-year-old Siddheswary monastery at village Atharokhoda in Sadar upazila which was built accroding to a directive of Captain Man Singh of emperor Akbar and (right) a neglected massgrave of some of our valiant freedom fighters at village Soyghoria in Shalikhia upazila who were brutally killed by local collaborators of the occupation Pakistani soldiers in 1971.