

SNAPS

500 grams hashish recovered in Barisal

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal**  
Detective police recovered 500 grams of hashish from Balur Math in the city on Friday.  
The drug was left in an abandoned condition.  
Police also recovered 850 bottles of phensidyl from Beni Shing Habib area of the city on Thursday.

52 women victims of violence in Rajshahi in a month

**RU CORRESPONDENT**  
At least 52 incidents of women repression took place in Rajshahi division last month, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad's Rajshahi University said in its survey report.  
The report is based on newspaper reports. Of the victims, five were killed, eight committed suicide, seven raped and two abducted.

50 hurt in clash

**A CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur**  
At least 50 people including a police sergeant and four constables were injured as police tried to quell a clash between two rival groups of villagers at Baradargah under Pirganj police station Wednesday night.  
Police fired 22 rubber bullets and some tear gas shells and arrested 32 people.  
The villagers clashed a fair over establishing supremacy.

3 children leave Barisal Safe Home with parents

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal**  
Authorities of the government Barisal Nirapan Abashan Kendra (safe home) on Friday handed over three children to their parents.  
The children - Liza (9), Mini (10) and Zannatul Ferdous (7) - were housed at the safe home since they were taken there on February 14 by some people from Barisal launch terminal.  
Abdul Halim, official in charge of the safe home, said before the handover, information about the three children was given to all police stations in the country and through the media for their parents or relatives to come and take their children. Liza and Mini were handed over to Liza's father Md Litu, a driver who lives in Pallabi in Dhaka. Mini is Liza's cousin.  
Zannatul Ferdous was handed over to her father Shahid Mia, who lives in Rupnagar in Dhaka.

Lemon export promises affluence for growers

Farmers earn Tk 50,000 to Tk 75,000 a year from 30 decimal land

**JAHANGIR ALAM, back from Bhaluka (Mymensingh).**

**NETRAKONA:** Lemon has found its place in the export basket, opening the door to affluence for farmers.

The credit goes to farmers in Dhidpur in Bhaluka, who cultivated high yielding variety (HYV) lemon under the supervision of local Agriculture Extension Department (AED) officials.

They earned between Tk 50,000 and 75,000 in one year by cultivating HYV lemon on only 30 decimal land.

Its cultivation is easy and involves little expenditure but has export prospect because it is very cheap, the AED officials told this correspondent during a visit last week.

Starting last year with inspiration from AED Block Supervisor Mohiuddin, 25 farmers have now taken to cultivation of HYV lemon on lands earlier left fallow.

A token quantity was exported to a Middle East country in January this year AED officials there said. Large quantities will be exported in

June-September, the peak production season, they hope. Lemon grows well during rainy season.

A vegetable exporter from Dhaka who bought lemon from farmers in Dhidpur told them that there is good prospect for its export because of its very low price compared to that in Middle East countries. The AED officials also said the HYV lemon evolved by Bangladeshi scientists has good scent and would be likeable in foreign countries.

There is good prospect for expansion of its cultivation in the vast barren lands in Mymensingh region, they said.

Mohiuddin said so far, they trained 25 farmers in scientific cultivation of lemon and supplied them with seeds and fertiliser.

About 240 sapling of lemon plants can be planted on a 30-decimal land. The plants start bearing lemon after about two months.

Farmer Alauddin Sarkar said one plant yields at least 400 lemons in a year. The yield is more in rainy season. Alauddin said he earned Tk

72,540 in about a year from his small lemon garden.

Another farmer, Samshul Huda Akand, said lemon farmers earn extra money by selling grafts. At least 10 grafts can be sold from one plant in the Bangla month of Baishak. Each graft is sold at Tk 10 at the minimum.

Mazharul Aziz said he planted lemon saplings in June last year and plucked around 100 lemons from each plant in September. He earned about Tk 24,000 in four months.

Bulbul Sarkar showed this correspondent his nice and well-nursed garden. All the green plants bore lemon but not to mature. He irrigates the small garden regularly.

Bulbul said he was encouraged by Block Supervisor Mohiuddin to grow lemon.

Agriculture Officer Md Tofazzal Hossen at Bhaluka said HYV lemon can be cultivated on high lands in all areas of the country. This item holds good export prospect because its production is very easy and cost is negligible.



Agriculture Extension Department officials with Bulbul (far right) at his lemon garden at Dhidpur. The photo was taken last week.

No hartal in Netrakona as AL divided

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona**

No hartal activity was visible here on Friday due to division in the district and upazila units of Awami League (AL).

Local workers have lost faith in both the leadership of Samsuzzoha and Fazlur Rahman due to their selfish attitude.

Samsuzzoha group has no political strength while Fazlur Rahman group won't observe hartal. The group wants to prove that Samsuzzoha and Ashraf Ali Khan Khasru lack leadership quality.

On contact, Fazlur Rahman Khan told this correspondent that he won't take part in the hartal as councilors elected Samsuzzoha their president who is unfit for the post. So, councilors should understand the reality now, he added.

Meanwhile, the newly-elected president of Netrakona district AL, Samsuzzoha told this correspondent that because of division in party, the feuding groups try to undermine each other.



An IRRI-Boro field in Charfasion upazila, Bhola is drying up due to lack of irrigation.

High price of diesel, fertiliser Rice output to fall by one third in 11 S dists

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal**

High prices of diesel and fertiliser have started taking a heavy toll on IRRI-Boro production in 11 districts under Barisal Agriculture Extension Directorate (AED).

Irrigation is being greatly hampered due to abnormal price hike of fuel, now selling at up to Tk 30 per litre in rural areas against Tk 17 fixed by the government, according to field level officials of AED and farmers.

Urea, the main fertiliser used for rice production is selling at between Tk 380 and Tk 400 per 50 kg bag against Tk 280 three weeks ago.

AED sources said the production may be reduced by one third if the situation continues two weeks more.

January to mid-March is the prime time for IRRI-Boro cultivation.

The AED fixed a production target of 10.25 lakh tonnes of IRRI-Boro rice from 3,15,600 hectares in the 11 districts. These are Barisal, Jhalakati, Pirojpur, Patuakhali, Bhola, Barguna, Faridpur, Madaripur, Gopalganj, Rajbari and Shariatpur districts.

Of the total lands, 2, 81,600 hectares have been brought under cultivation of HYV varieties and 34,000 hectares under local varieties.

The sources said rice production will be dependent mainly on use of ground water as most of the small canals have dried up. But a sizeable number of deep and shallow tube wells are inoperative due to high price of diesel, they said.

Wadud Ali Khan, BADC block supervisor in Kalapara said a number of tube wells in his command area can not be put into operation due to high price of fuel.

Ruhul Amin Molla, IRRI scheme manager in Charfession under

Bhola district, said production target will not be achieved due to high price of fuel and fertiliser. Besides Urea, TSP, DAP and MOP fertilisers are also beyond the reach of farmers.

TSP is selling at around Tk 600 against Tk 740 two weeks back, DAP at Tk 880 against Tk 700, MOP at Tk 650 against Tk 400 and AFP at around Tk 900 against 750.

The dealers and retailers blame each other for the high price of fertilisers.

Retailers say dealers have enough stock of fertiliser but do not sell those unless higher prices are offered.

But dealer Shishir Kumar Kundu of Gournadi claimed that he received only 520 bags of fertiliser in January and not a single bag in February where as the daily demand is for 500 bags.

Fake names in voter list CEC asks Patuakhali DC to investigate

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali**

The Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) has asked the Deputy Commissioner of Patuakhali to investigate an allegation of inclusion of fake names in the voter list of Kalapara Poursabha.

The district election office sources said Alhaj Sayeed Abul Hashem, a probable chairman

candidate of Kalapara Poursabha lodged a complaint to the CEC on February 5. In his complaint he said that a large number of fake voters have been enlisted in the list by the existing municipality chairman Humayun Sikder to ensure his victory in the election.

The investigation will start soon, EC sources said.



Acting President of the Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FBCCI) Abul Quasem Haider distributing Sekander Trust Scholarship for 2004 to meritorious students at a function held at Sandwip in Chittagong on Tuesday.

Norwegian city mayor visits Rajshahi

**RU CORRESPONDENT**

A home for disabled people will be established soon in Rajshahi with the financial assistance of Norway.

Visiting mayor at the city of Kristiansand, Norway Jan Oddivar Skisland told this to local journalists at a press conference organised by Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) at its conference room on Friday.

RCC Chief Executive Khalilur Rahman presided over the conference.

There is a good prospect of exchanging information technology between the two countries, he further said.

There is also scope for establishing a linkage programme between Rajshahi University and the universities of Norway, the visiting mayor hoped.

Jan Oddivar said there are many identical problems in the cities of Norway like those of Rajshahi city. He discussed with the Rajshahi city mayor some problems and wanted to take initiatives to resolve the problems.

During his visit here he went to Rajshahi Central Park, Varendra Research Museum, Rajshahi University, enjoyed sunrise across the Padma river and other city spots.

He also invited the Rajshahi mayor to visit Norway at a convenient time.

PM opens inter-city train at Lalmonirhat today

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha**

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will inaugurate the second inter-city train between northern districts and Dhaka at Lalmonirhat station

Two JCD men held in Sylhet for 'mugging'

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet**

Vice-President (VP) of Sylhet city unit of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) Ashrafuddin Jewel and a JCD cadre Anwar Hossain Manik alias Kala Manik were arrested on Thursday.

Kotwali police arrested him on charge of mugging from the city's Nayasarak area.

Another VP of the district JCD Shah Saidur Rahman Hiru has been absconding after facing the same charge, police said.

Jashim Miah, a businessman in South Surma area was mugged by an armed group near Shahjahan Hotel at Zindabazar while he was on way to Standard Chartered Bank in Dargah gate area. He was robbed off Tk one lakh at gun point.

Tk 3 cr dev projects completed in Barisal city

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal**

Sixty-six development projects in Barisal city involving Tk 3.57 crore is nearing completion.

Work on the projects including 18.3 kilometre roads in the city began last year.

Besides, tender will be floated this week for another Tk 3.11 crore development works. Mayor Mozibur Rahaman Sarwar told newsmen at his office on Thursday.

He said proposals on development projects involving Tk 167 crore have been sent to the local government ministry.

Steps have also been taken to reduce traffic jam in the city, he said.

Other party leaders including district BNP general secretary Nazrul Islam Bajon, city BNP president Golam Salek, Asaduzzaman Khasru and district Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami Moazzem Hossain Helal were also present.

Abducted youth rescued

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha**

Young man Abdullah, 19, abducted from Hospital Road in Gaibandha town six days ago, was found under treatment at Solanga Upazila Health Complex in Sirajganj district on Friday.

Gaibandha police with the help of Sirajganj police brought him from Solanga after his father Yousuf Majumder got a phone call that his son was at the hospital. He was admitted to a hospital in Gaibandha.

Abdullah told police that the abductors had made him unconscious by using chloroform. As he regained sense, he jumped from the microbus and was injured.

The abductors sped away as people gathered there seeing him injured beside the road. The local people took him hospital.

It was not known why he was abducted.

Notorious outlaw killed by rivals in Uzirpur Husband kills wife in Barisal

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal**

Outlaws belonging to Zia group cordoned a market in Uzirpur, terrorised people by firing shots and killed rival outlaw Khokan Chowkider alias Khoka belonging to Kamrul group.

Khoka was returning to his Rakudia village home in Babuganj from the Uzirpur veterinary hospital with medicine for pets Wednesday afternoon.

As he reached Kalir Bazar launch ghat, armed cadres of Zia group cordoned the market. They fired at least 20 shots and

created a panic. They shot at Khoka, but the target was missed as he jumped into the Sugandha river.

The attackers on board a trawler chased and caught him. They took him to a shoal, tortured him and cut off his two hands and one leg.

As the gang left, local people took him to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital, where he

died at night.

Police later said Khoka was a notorious cadre of local Sarbahara Kamrul group and wanted in many cases for toll collection, dacoity, murder and rape.

Khoka was a relative of Sarbahara Kamrul group cadre Shahjahan, murdered on February 5, and also the main witness in the murder case.

In another incident in Barisal city on the same night, a husband hacked his wife to death in front of their three-year-old daughter.

The killer husband - Shah Alam - a construction worker, is absconding, police said. The body of the victim - Mahira (26) - was sent to hospital for autopsy.

The incident in Ganpara-Kashipur area of the city took place following family feud, police said.



Lux Beauty Anuja Budhata handing over a packet of lux to Fatema Begum at Shotgram in Assassuni upazila, Satkhira on March 2.

Tk 50,000 given to Rangamati fire victims

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati**

The district administration in a letter to the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Affairs Ministry has sought Tk two lakh and 20 tonnes of foodgrains as relief for 115 victims of the recent fire incident at a village in Rajstholi upazila.

The families are now homeless as the devastating fire gutted their houses and over one hundred shops. Deputy Commissioner Dr Jafar Ahmed Khan told this correspondent.

The Rangamati Hill District Council (RHDC) has distributed Tk 50,000 among the victims, the DC said. members.

Youth shot dead

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet**

A young man was shot dead by unidentified assailants on Thursday night.

The body was recovered from Baluchar field near Shahi Eidgah area on Friday.

Suman Chowdhury, 22, hailing from Aushkandi in Nabiganj upazila of Habiganj came to the city on Thursday for his wife's treatment at a private hospital. His friends called him out of the clinic. Since then he had been missing, family sources said.

Later, family members identified the body. The body bore marks of bullet injuries, police said.

Kalapara Press Club office-bearers

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali**

A new 14-member executive committee of Kalapara Press Club has been elected with Bipul Howlader as president and Nesar Uddin Tipu as secretary through an election held at Kalapara on Tuesday.

Other office-bearers are Vice Presidents: Delwar Hossain and Rafiq Biswas, Treasurer: Mosharrar Hossain Mintu, Office Secretary: Shariful Haque Shahin, Joint Office Secretary: Hafizur Rahman, Cultural Secretary: Mejbah, Social Welfare Secretary: Enamul Haque and Library Secretary: Ashok Mukherjee.

Members: Mejbah Uddin Mannu, Parbhej Mohsin and Hasan Pervaj.