

# Tk 3 cr 'rotten' imported wheat seized at Syedpur

700 mt out of 2020 unloaded: 11 truckloads taken to police station

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Nilphamari

Police on Sunday seized 11 truckloads of "rotten and stinky" wheat while a consignment imported from India was being unloaded at the goods yard of Syedpur railway station.

The seized wheat is part of 2020 metric tons of wheat valued at Tk three crore, carried to the railway station through Darsana land port.

The consignment carried in 30 wagons of Indian railway reached Syedpur railway station on Friday.

Prior to the police raid, about 700 metric tons were unload and taken out of the station since the unloading began on Saturday, police and other sources said. Unloading had continued till late hours Saturday night, sources at the station

claimed.

The wheat was imported by Hazi Mostaq Ahmed, owner of Sonia Enterprise through L M J International of Punjab in India under LC No.13, opened on September 7 through Syedpur Islami Bank.

The seized trucks have numberplates as Dhaka Metro-Ta-11-1250, Dhaka Metro-Ta-02-08-74, Jessore Ta-0240, Nilphamari Ta-05-003, Dianjur Ta-11-00052, Dianjur Ta-1100053, Dhaka Metro-Ta-11-0973, Dhaka Metro-Ta-11-3973, Rangpur Ta-02-0028, Rangpur-Ta-02-0051 and Rangpur Ta-9100.

Police detained the wagons and took all the trucks to Syedpur thana. A case is yet to be filed, police said.

On Sunday afternoon,

Nilphamari Deputy commissioner Shaiful Alam, Police Superintendent Choudhury Abdullah-Al-Mamun, District Controller of Food, Deputy Director of District Agriculture Extension (DAE) and Syedpur Upazila Nirbahi Officer visited the spot and inspected the seized wheat, trucks and wagons.

Samples of the wheat have been collected for test, official sources said.

When contacted yesterday, Hazi Mostaq Ahmed said he has been importing wheat and rice from India for long and such a thing never happened earlier.

Part of the present consignment could be damaged by rainwater seeping into the wagons on the way, he told this correspondent.

Hazi Mostaq has a flour and

wheat mill named Australia Flour and Atta Mills at the BSCIC estate in Syedpur.

Meanwhile an influential quarter in Syedpur is trying to hush up the matter, it is alleged.

In 1999, another consignment of 3000 metric tonnes of unwholesome wheat imported from India by another importer was seized.

The import of allegedly rotten wheat during the present near-monga situation in northern districts has created resentment among people. Many in the town say poor people are now compelled to take unwholesome food because they do not have any work.

At least two persons died and over 2000 have been attacked with diarrhoea in the last few days in several villages in Syedpur.

They pour salt water to destroy saplings

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Believe it or not, they are watering saplings not to nurse but to destroy those. They are pouring salt water.

Over 10,000 saplings of valuable timber and fruit trees were planted on both sides of the 10 km Bangdah-Kundur road in Brahmarajpur union in the Sadar upazila.

The Satkhira Social Afforestation Centre, an organisation comprising people of all classes, planted the saplings with the help of Satkhira Forest Department. Marichhap Banayan Samitee, a women's voluntary organisation and Palli Chetana, a local NGO, were also involved.

Now, some accomplices of a local UP Chairman are pouring salt water stealthily to destroy the saplings on the plea of re-constructing the road, the planters alleged while talking to this correspondent. Authorities concerned were verbally informed but no action was taken against the persons, said Anisur Rahman, director of Palli Chetana.

## Attack at DU condemned

RUTA, CUTA issue statements: Students hold rallies

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Teachers of Rajshahi and Chittagong universities and different student bodies have strongly condemned Saturday's attack on the office of Dhaka University Teacher Association (DUTA) President Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique and students' procession on DU campus.

OUR RU CORRESPONDENT REPORTS:

Teachers of Rajshahi University (RU) in a statement on Sunday condemned ransacking of the office of DUTA President and attack on processions brought out by Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and five left-learning students' organisations.

They urged the government to ensure security of teachers and students on campuses.

The teachers also warned of tougher program if the government fails to punish those responsible for ransacking of the DUTA President's office.

The teachers demanded arrest and punishment of the attackers and their expulsion from the university immediately.

The 174 signatories to the statement include Progressive Teachers Association Convener Prof Entajul Haque, Ruta Join Secretary Sadekul Arefin Matin, former Ruta president Prof Sayen Uddin, Prof Moloy Kumar Bhownik, Prof Anando Kumar, Prof Hasibul Alam, Social Science Faculty Dean AHM Zihadul Karim and Prof Anser Uddin.

Different student bodies and cultural organisations also condemned the Saturday's attack on DUTA president's office and on students' procession on the Dhaka University campus.

Samajtraintrik Chhatra Front (SCF) brought out a procession on the RU campus and held a rally in the city protesting the attacks.

SCF General Secretary Shusantho Singha led the procession.

Speakers at the rally held ruling BNP responsible for the attack and demanded arrest of the culprits.

Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote, Anushilon Drama Group,

Bangabandhu Parishad and Gonoshilpy Ghosti also condemned the attack, expressed deep concern over the incident and demanded arrest of those involved in the incident.

Rajshahi University Teachers, Officer and Workers Welfare Association in a statement condemned the attack and demanded security of teachers on campuses.

"Incident of such attack on the DUTA president's office is an attack on the teachers community as well as a threat to the society", CUTA said in a statement issued here on Sunday. It also demanded punishment of those involved in the attack.

The statement was signed by CUTA President Prof Dr. Nurul Anwar and General Secretary Prof Gazi Saleh Uddin.

## SNAPS

### Lubo League leader held with arms

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Barisal

Barisal Kotwali police on Sunday arrested Lubo League leader Abdus Salam Monu alias Banga Mona, 35, an alleged criminal along with a firearm.

He is accused in more than half a dozen cases including those for murder, extortion and dacoity. He was one of the ring leaders of notorious Panama Bahini, led by Faruk Ahmed alias Panama Faruk, a Jubo League leader. Police sent Banga Monu to jail.

### Pistol recovered from Alliance procession

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Rangamati

Police on Sunday seized a pistol from a person in a procession led by Shah Alam, Four-Party Alliance-backed candidate for the post of chairman in Rangamati municipal polls.

Alam was going to submit nomination paper. The pistol slipped from the pocket of one of his supporters and fell on the road.

Police sub-inspector Mahmudul Huque, who was in the police team that followed the procession, picked up the pistol, witnesses said.

Police did not arrest any body in this connection.

Yesterday was the last date for filing nomination for the Rangamati Municipal Polls.

When contacted later, the duty officer at Rangamati thana said he did not know anything about recovery of any fire arm from the procession of the four party alliance.



PHOTO: STAR

A town flooded with rain water... as all roads are under knee to waist deep water, a man is trying to net fish on the road at Kandirpar, in front of Comilla Town Hall. The photo was taken yesterday.

### HORROR IN 14 SATKHIRA VILLAGES

## Males flee homes after outlaw lynched

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Most of the males in 14 villages in Bardal and Khajra unions in Assasuni upazila are fleeing homes fearing arrest by police and retaliation by armed accomplices of slain Damodar Mondol, a leader of outlawed Chinnamul Communist Party (CCP).

Damodar Mondol was killed and five of his accomplices were seriously injured in a mob attack on them at Bamondanga village in Assasuni upazila when they came to collect tolls on the night of September 8.

Now, nightfall brings horror in the 14 villages. Only elderly males are staying at homes.

"My son stays at Satkhira town for safety," said an elderly school teacher seeking anonymity.

It was gathered from local people that CCP activists led by Sangram had created a reign of terror in the area. Since 1997, they had been committing crimes including murder, extortion and abduction. Sangram was later murdered by activists of outlawed New Biplobi Communist Party (NBCP) led by Minal to establish supremacy in the area.

After the murder of Sangram, Tarun took leadership of CCP in Assasuni upazila. He sheltered Damodar Mondol of Hadda village in Koiria upazila in Khulna.

In 2003, armed cadres of CCP led by Tarun and Damodar Mondol killed Shankar Kumar, niece of Minal to avenge the murder of Sangram.

The local Union Parishad chairman has also gone into hiding following the murder of Damodar.

The local people alleged that police failed to nab outlaws. Now they have lodged a case against

innocent villagers, many people this correspondent talked to said.

When contacted, Assasuni thana OC Forkan Shikder admitted that there is tension in the area but police is trying to nab outlaws.

The situation is under control as special police force has been deployed there, he said.

### Teenagers held with bomb-making materials

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Betagi thana police in Barguna arrested six teenagers with bomb-making materials in the early hours of Sunday.

A police patrol team challenged a boat carrying some teenagers hours at Vagoler Paar on the Jhokhali-Vanir Khal canal.

Police after a search found a huge quantity of sulfur, tin pots, broken pieces of glass and other materials used for making cocktails and hand bombs and arrested them.

The six are Jalil, Shahin, Sagir, Sujon, Majid and Hassan, all aged between 14 and 16.

During interrogation, they admitted that they were from Mirzaganj in Patuakhali and Kathalia in Jhalakati districts. They supplied bombs on orders, they told police.

## Minipuri weavers seek time to repay loans

12000 affected by flood

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Moulvibazar

Flood affected weavers of Monipuri community in Kamalganj upazila in the district need more time to repay loans distributed by the Bangladesh Handloom Board. There are about 1200 weavers in the community there.

Talking to this correspondent, many of them said they have become badly affected by the recent flood, because most of their houses and handlooms have been damaged and crops lost. The croplands at many places are now covered by sand carried by the floodwater from Dholai river and are now uncultivable.

Basanti Rani Singha of Adampur Monipuri Para said most of the weavers in five unions in Kamalganj upazila are members of the Handloom Board, which give them loans to produce fashionable items including colourful saree, bedsheet, napkin, lungi and wrappers. These are in good demand in cities.

The recent flood made them virtually destitute and they have no ability to refund the loans.

Suna Moni Singha and Padma Mohan Singha of the same area are also weavers said they can not even produce crops for survival as lands are covered with layers of sand. Removal of the sand is very costly.

Almost all the Monipuri families have handlooms and they get loans from different organisations including the Handloom Board. Most of their looms are now inoperable. It will not be possible to repay loans in next few months, they said. They demanded extension of time to refund the loans.

Sources at Kamalganj office of the Handloom Board said each of

community was given Tk 10,000 loan. Seeking anonymity, they acknowledged that Monipuri weavers were badly affected by the flood. They said they visited their houses and handlooms after the flood and saw their pitiable condition.

But the decision to reschedule loans is taken by higher authorities, they said.

### Rangpur poura market traders down shutters

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Businessmen at Rangpur municipal market observed a day-long strike on Sunday in protest against filing of a case against some of the traders by Municipal Chairman Abdur Rouf Manir for allegedly ransacking his office and assaulting him.

The shop owners at the poura market had swooped on the municipal office and attacked the chairman protesting Saturday's eviction of seven shop owners from the establishments allegedly built encroaching the Bazar Road. The chairman was saved by some ward commissioners.

They held the municipal chairman responsible for the eviction.

After the incident, the municipal chairman lodged a case with the Kotwali thana.

On the other hand, all the commissioners at a meeting on Sunday with the municipal chairman in the chair declared that they would launch a tough programme if the attackers were not arrested.

### Boy killed in attack on Milad

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Unidentified armed miscreants swooped on a Milad Mahfil (Muslim religious function) and shot a minor boy dead at Chandpur village on the outskirts of Barisal city Saturday night.

The eleven year-old victim Imran is the son of Rafiqul Islam, the main witness in Mahafuz Begum murder case.

Local people claimed that the targets of the killers were Nizam Khan, brother of Mahafuz and complainant in the case and Rafiqul Islam, his cousin. The targets were missed and the minor boy was killed, they claimed.

Critically wounded Imran was rushed to Barisal Medical College Hospital (SBMCH), where doctor declared him dead at 9 pm.

According to the Officer-in-Charge of Kotwali thana, the Milad Mahfil was arranged on the occasion of chehram of Mahafuz Begum, who was the complainant of the case filed in connection with the acid attack on engineer Eva on August 9. Eva died from acid burn injuries.

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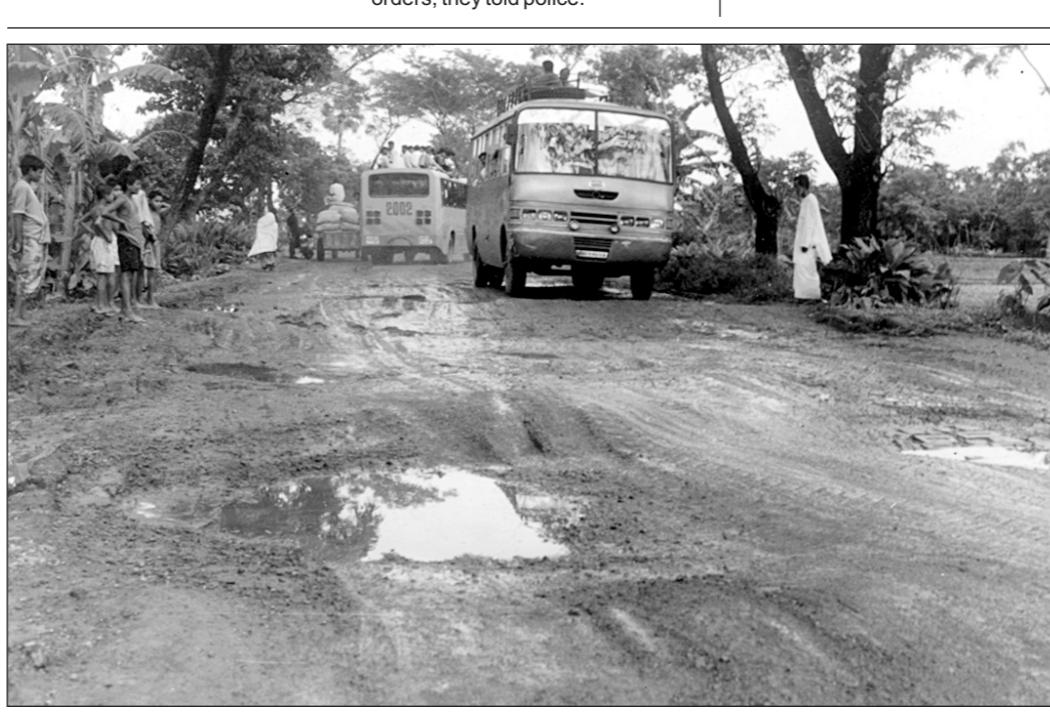


PHOTO: STAR

The flood damaged Mymensingh-Kishoreganj road. The photo was taken from Ram Gopalpur in Gouripur upazila.

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