

Tk 25 LAKH SEIZED SPURIOUS MUSTARD OIL

Opposition MP trying to hush up racket

RAFIQUE SARKER, Rangpur

A local lawmaker belonging to an opposition party is trying to hush up the detection of spurious mustard oil worth bout Tk 25 lakh in the town, police said yesterday.

Detective police led by DB sub-inspector Ashok Shingh on Friday night raided Nababgaj bazaar and Haripotti in the town and detected the huge quantity of spurious mustard oil.

They arrested an employee -- Nirmol Chandra-- and seized a truckload of the oil. Police said that they seized 2000 containers labeled with attractive marking.

Police lodged a case with Kotwali thana against five persons including Bablu Bonik, one of the alleged producers of the spurious oil.

Police said they had been producing spurious mustard oil and baby food for long and marketing

those in northern districts.

The mustard oil was produced by mixing a harmful chemical - Thyocyanide -- with substandard palm oil. The chemical is very harmful for human health. It causes asthma, heart disease and skin disease, doctors said.

The accused including Bablu Bonik is absconding.

Sources in the Detective Branch police said the lawmaker is lobbying to hush up the case but declined to disclose his name. The lawmaker shelters the culprits as they contribute funds to his party, police said.

Police said during interrogation Nirmol told them that Bablu Bonik and some other traders in Nababgaj bazaar and Haripotti had been producing the spurious mustered oil and baby food for long and marketing those in eight northern districts.

But the place where the spurious

food items were produced is yet to be located, DB Sub-inspector Ashok Shingh told this correspondent.

But he reconfirmed that Bablu Bonik is the main man behind racket.

They had been doing the illegal activity in connivance with a section of corrupt police officials, police sources at the Kotwali thana said.

During investigation by this correspondent, a trader at Nababganj bazaar bazaar said that some dishonest businessmen there used to produce spurious mastered oil, substandard soybean and palm oil ahead of the holy month of Ramadan every year.

They were doing the same ahead of Ramadan this year also to earn more profit, he said. The Ramadan is only three weeks from now.

Barisal Board HSC results on Sept 27

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Results of HSC examinations held under Barisal Education Board will be published on September 27, its Chairman Anowar Ul Haque said on Monday.

It has been decided at a meeting in Dhaka that that HSC (Higher Secondary Certificate)results of all boards in the country will be published between September 26 and 30 subject to approval of the Prime Minister, he told this correspondent.

Barisal Board results were earlier scheduled to be published on September 20 but has been delayed due to the flood, he said.

Result of Alim, Kamil, Fazil, Business Administration and H S C Vocational will also be published at the same time, he said.

About six lakh 25 thousand students appeared at the HSC examinations under all the boards that ended on June 20.

An educated youth with vision

Rafiqul Islam says commercial fruit cultivation has good prospects

OUR CORESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Md Rafiqul Islam Titu did not hanker after job after having Masters degree in Management from Dhaka University in 1991. He now owns a big nursery with over 500 species of plants including some rare ones, which draw visitors of all classes and also dignitaries round the year.

Besides flower, orchid and ornamental plants, his collections include rare medicinal plants White Chandan, Rahu Chandan, Turi Chasdal, Naglingam and fruit plants like Thai Jamrul, Avocado (a foreign fruit) and Vim Bhutan.

Tree lovers from different areas of the district come to his nursery in the town also to collect saplings of high yielding and good varieties of mango and other seasonal Bangladesh fruits.

Starting as a hobby, Titu now earns a profit of about Tk three lakh a year and employs ten people.

Any body talking to his educated young man would become interested in tree plantation.

"Planting a sapling is better than opening an insurance or a bank account for the family because it needs no investment", he said while talking to this correspondent at his stall at the annual tree fair on the Town Hall premises on Sunday last.

He has a clear vision also. "Fruit output in our country can be multiplied within a few years opening up good export potential if commercial orchards are developed by replacing traditional fruit trees with high yielding ones", he said. "Government should come forward to patronise the sector with unlimited prospects".

The variety of orchids and other plants drew State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources AKM Mosharraf Hossain, Deputy Commissioner Shal Alam Bakshi and Divisional Forest Officer Mian



PHOTO: STAR

Rafiqul Islam Titu (extreme right) explaining to Mineral Resources Minister A K M Mosharraf Hossain the prospect of orchid export and commercial cultivation of high yielding fruits

Abdul Latif and other high officials to his stall. They were all praise for his efforts.

His hard labour and constructive ideas have also earned him fame and honour. He got the Best Nursery Award in the district last year.

Titu, a resident of Sankipara area of the district town, had

First started by collecting saplings from local nurseries and started those on the courtyard and on the roof of his house, said Titu.

When he found that there was a bright future of nursery business in local markets as well as in the country, he started his nursery programme on 10 decimal land at

his residence.

"After selling the first batch of plants, I did not get a handsome profit but it encouraged me", Titu said.

His Ever Green Nursery now covers about one acre of land.

Two years back, Titu leased a plot of land from the district council and opened a display centre on a land adjacent to the Town Hall premises.

"Now I earn about Tk three lakh a year after meeting all expenses including a staff salary of over Tk 15,000 a month", he said.

Father of a girl child, Titu said his wife Syeda Salma Akhter, also a

Graduate is also playing a unimportant role in heir business. She also looks after the nursery".

He hopes to earn the award this year also. The tree fair opened on September 18 and it will close tomorrow.

Titu, along with other nursery owners in the town has formed an association, which assists tree planters.

Titu is also a member of Bangladesh Plant Nurserymen Society (BPNS), a central body of the nurserymen.

He also rents flower tubs for different occasions at the rate of Tk 10 for pertub per day.

Tortured housemaid fighting for life

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

Fifteen year-old house maid Fatama Begum is now fighting for life at Modhupur Upazila Health Complex after she was hit with a iron rod by her mistress.

Police said they have filed a case against Arifa Begum under the Women Children Repression Act. But she is yet to be arrested.

Arifa is the wife of Mohammad Ali, Forest Officer at Modhupur. Fatima is the daughter of Nur Ahamed of Maipara village in Ukia upazila in Cox's Bazar.

Fatima was taken to the hospital on September 14. Hospital sources said she should be shifted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital for better treatment. But there is none to take care of her.

A different BSCIC estate

55 industrial units in operation in B'baria

Sk Md SHAHIDUL ISLAM, B'baria

The Nandanpur BSCIC Industrial Estate in Brahmanbaria is different from others in the country. While most others are virtually grazing lands, it is humming with activity, employing over 2000 people.

Floods kept most of the units closed for 18 days. After recession of water, most of them have resumed operation with renewed vigor.

The local BSCIC authorities said,

in view of the enthusiasm and good response from investors, they have taken up a Tk 1.79 crore plan to build and renovate infrastructures.

"We are trying our best to ensure all facilities like smooth power and water supply and ensure law and order", its Manager Abul Kasem A1 Muktadi told this correspondent during a recent visit.

Sources said all the 135 plots have been allocated to entrepreneurs. Among 67 proposals, 55

industrials units have already been set up and 46 of those are running well. Another will go into production soon. The rest eight are at different stages of implementation.

Construction work is going for setting up of another 12 units, said Assistant Engineer ANM Mujibur Roof.

The industries now in production include food processing units, chemical industries, floor mills, plastic factories, metal industries, cotton mills and a silica factory.

Talking to this correspondent, Abdus Salam, 'head mechanic' at a plastic recycle factory said he is happy with the atmosphere in the estate.

At his factory, plastic goods are made from waste plastic materials. This factory draws others attention because adequate measures have been taken to protect the environment.

Another factory producing chemicals for soap was seen operating without harming the environment.

Most of the owners and workers were found environment conscious.

A good number of women were working at an aluminum factory producing household utensils.



PHOTO: STAR

A chemical industry at the BSCIC estate producing raw materials for soap.

SNAPS

Withdrawal of OC demanded

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Assassuni thana Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), student front of ruling BNP, brought out a procession and held a rally on Tuesday demanding withdrawal of the officer-in-charge (OC) of the police station for releasing two Jamaat-e-Islami activists arrested earlier for attacking a JCD leader. Police had arrested Shukur and Abdus Salam but released them following alleged pressure from local Jamaat lawmaker Maulana Raisat Ali, sources claimed. The JCD activists also condemned the attack on JCD leader Montu, who was admitted to Satkhira hospital.

AK-22 RECOVERY

Five remanded

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Five persons, arrested with sophisticated arms by Rab from Bandarban and Satkania in Chittagong on September 18, were placed on five days' remand on Monday.

Court sources said the First Class Magistrate however ordered police not to torture them during interrogation in remand.

The arrested persons had prayed for bail but the court rejected their prayer.

The Rab team had first arrested Abdul Gafur from Bazalia area in Satkania and recovered a sophisti-

cated AK-22 rifle from his possession. Acting on his confession, Rab later arrested four indigenous youths-- Lala Bowm, Victor Lancheo, Roat Sang and Ungai Bowm-- from Bandarban town.

The RAB team took them to its Chittagong office and after primary interrogation handed them over to Bandarban police on the following night.

Banadarban Sadar thana police filed a case.

Investigation Officer (IO) of the case Sub-Inspector Humayun said the youths were involved in arms smuggling and more arms may be recovered from them.

Prisoner dies at Comilla hospital

OUR CORRESPONDENT Comilla

A prisoner of Comilla central Jail died at Comilla Medical College Hospital yesterday. Hanife, 30, serving a jail term for dacoity, was sent to the hospital on September 7 for treatment of kidney. He died at about 2 pm, jail authorities said.

When contacted hospital sources said he was taken there when his condition turned critical.

The jail authorities said the prisoner was transferred to Comilla jail from Brahmanbari jail.

Woman commissioner threatened to withdraw case

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Alleged criminals are threatening a newly elected women commissioner of Satkhira pourasava to withdraw an extortion case filed with Satkhira thana against them.

Marzina Khatun, commissioner elected from reserved seat No 3 in the town, filed a General Diary on Monday seeking security of her life, police said.

They said a gang allegedly led by Mohammad Ali, president of Satkhira district Krishak Dal, peasant front of the ruling BNP, entered her house at Palasapole in the town on the night of September 10 and demanded toll. Refused, they snatched her gold chain at gunpoint.

She then filed a case with Satkhira thana accusing Mohammad Ali and 14 others under sections 143/147/385/323/427/379/506(2) of BPC.

Since then the miscreants are threatening her to withdraw the case or to face 'dire consequences.'

A gang held by Kala Jahmagir threatened her on Monday morning also to withdraw the case, police said.

2 killed in Manikganj road mishap

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Two people were killed and 15 injured, four of them critically, when a Paturia-bound pick-up van (Jessore-Da-11-0266) from Dhaka hit a roadside tree at Jagir in Manikgaonj Sadar upazila yesterday morning.

One of the dead was identified as Chan Mia Bepari, 60, of Char Bhadrasan village in Shibchar upazila in Madaripur district, police said. The other, aged about 35, could not be identified.

The seriously injured persons have been admitted to Manikganj Sadar Hospital. They are Salam, 35, of Chhoto Borai village in Manikganj Sadar upazila; Anisur Rahman, 28, of Gaibandha; Mukul, 30, of Fukurhati village in Saturia upazila in Manikganj and Mizanur Rahman, 30, of Kanaipur village in Faridpur district.

Most of the 25 passengers were fish and vegetable traders.

They were returning home after selling goods at wholesale markets in Dhaka.

2-minute foray

20 children hurt in Bauphal tornado

OUR CORRESPONDENT Patuakhali

At least 20 children were injured when a tornado battered their primary school and about 100 houses at Kowkhali village in Bauphal upazila on Tuesday.

Eleven of the children were admitted to Bauphal Health Complex and Patuakhali General Hospital.

The two-minute foray by nature

in the morning bewildered all in the village now reeling under flood.

At least 50 families are now shelterless, the Upazila Nirbahi Office Nurun Nobi who visited the village said yesterday.

Local lawmaker Shahidul Alom Talukder also visited the village.

The children admitted to hospitals are Kamrul, Elias, Asrab, Saiful, Nayma, Limon, Rajjak, Rajib, Seema, Faruq and Mafurjan.



PHOTO: STAR

The Kowkhali primary school tore down by tornado.

7x3

7x2

7x3