

SNAPS

Price of LP gas up in Jessore

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

Price of LP gas registered all time high here in the ongoing month of Ramadan. A cylinder of LP gas is being sold at Tk 490 against Tk 450 a few days back. Owners of LP gas shops cannot give any justified reason for gas price-hike. However, a dealer of LP gas, on condition of anonymity, told The Daily Star some LP gas producing companies like Basundhara, Cleanheat and Summit raised the price of LP gas by Tk 15 per cylinder at the advent of Ramadan suddenly.

VGF rice distribution thru' army

BSS, Satkhira

Rice distribution among Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) cardholders started from Saturday. Army has been deployed in every upazila for monitoring the distribution programme which will continue for three months. District Relief Office sources told this correspondent the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief sanctioned 40,000 cards among destitute people in six upazilas and two pourasavas.

## Puja brings no cheers for 1500 Hindu families

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari**

The Durga Puja this year did not bring any cheers for about 1500 Hindu teachers and other Hindu employees at non-government secondary schools, junior high schools, colleges and madrasahs in the district.

They neither got any festival allowance nor the salary for the month of September.

According to sources at the district education office, there are about 1000 Hindu teachers and 200 other employees in 180 non-government secondary schools, 112 junior high schools and 23 colleges in six upazilas in Nilphamari district. Besides, there are about 300 Hindu teachers in the 143 madrasahs who teach Bangla, English and science subjects.

The government gives 90 per cent of their salary and a festival bonus, paid during Durga Puja.

But they are yet to get their salary for the month of September and the festival bonus for the current year, the sources said.

"I have no words to console our children as we could not meet their demands during Puja", said Sholien Roy of Laxmichap Non-government Secondary High School in Sadar upazila while talking to this correspondent yesterday.

## 100 hurt in B'baria clash

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria**

At least 100 people were injured in a clash between two groups of people in Abiztula and Nushati villages in Sarail upazila over children's game with marble on Sunday.

Two children, one of Abiztula village and the other of Nuathati village were playing with marble beside a road, according to eye-witnesses and police. At one stage, they started an altercation. Following their altercation, the villagers of Abizthula and Nuahati equipped with lethal weapons looked is a clash which lasted for five hours.

Being informed, Sarail Thana police headed by Officer-in-Charge (OC) Md Rafiqul Islam rushed to the spot. Later riot police from Brahmanbaria rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

## Obituary

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj**

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD- Inu) leader and Garpara Union Parishad Chairman Nasirul Haque Khan Patal died of cardiac arrest yesterday. He was 45.

He was also the organising secretary of the district unit of National Union Parishad Forum (NUPF). Patal left behind his wife and four sons to mourn his death.

His quikhwani will be held at his Garpara village home in Sadar upazila after Maghreb prayers tomorrow.

3x2

# A new onslaught in Sundarbans

### Fishes being destroyed, animals affected as fishermen use high powered insecticide in water to net fish

**ABU AHMED, Satkhira**

Fishes and animals in the Sundarbans now face a new onslaught. A section of fishermen spray high powered insecticide in certain canals to net fishes in large quantities.

A section of fishermen mix high powered insecticides like Ripcord, Thiodine and Sambush with boiled rice and 'chira' (flattened rice) and spray those in the canals.

Fishes after eating those float on water and also jump on banks. The unscrupulous fishermen then catch those in large quantities.

According to sources, forest guards in a recent drive recovered 30 kilograms shrimp and a bottle of Ripcord from a fishing boat at Dhabri area. Sensing presence of forest guards, other fishermen fled away leaving their boats.

This is destroying fishes and also affecting animals, fishery and livestock officials and local people said.

Some fishermen who oppose the criminal practice, said the unscrupulous fishermen are active in Chunar, Kabodak, Kholpatua, Roymongal, Mamundo, Jamuna, Arpangashia, Kachhikata,

Jhatamukho, Ansarbaria, Chandimukho, Ulobaria, Dumuria, Dhabri, Takarkhal, Dhanchebaria, Alibandha and Shapla canals in the Sundarbans.

Due to use of pesticides, waters of the rivers and canals are being polluted, they said.

"Fish resources in the Sundarbans will be extinct due to use of poison for netting fish", District Fishery Officer Krishibid Rezaul Karim said.

"Fish production is gradually declining as a good number fish species has already vanished", he added.

On contact, District Livestock Officer Mrinal Kanti Mitra said Royal Bengal Tiger, deer and other animals may fall sick as they drink the water polluted with poison.

The Sundarbans is known as a natural storehouse of different varieties of fishes. But the criminal practice by a section of fishermen is destroying fishes including fries eggs in large quantities.

The canals will be devoid of fishes soon as there will be no natural breeding if the practice continues, they said.

This is also affecting the biodiversity, they said.



PHOTO: STAR

Construction of a bridge over Bangali river at Dewantola in Gabindaganj upazila in Gaibandha district that began 10 years ago is yet to be completed. Pillars are threatened by erosion during rainy season but nobody knows when the bridge will be completed.

## APPOINTMENTS AT CMCH JCD to stage hunger strike, rally

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg**

The Chittagong Medical College (CMC) unit of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) on Tuesday announced a fresh agitation programme including one-hour token hunger strike every day until cancellation of the recent appointments in 101 posts of 3rd and 4th class employees at the medical college hospital.

The appointments were made in an irregular way, the JCD leaders alleged at a press conference held at Chittagong Press Club. Some "aggrieved" job seekers were also present there.

The programme also includes rally and procession on the hospital premises today.

They warned of tougher agitation if the demand is not met.

The JCD leaders at the press conference put forward 16 "specific instances of corruption, nepotism and irregularities in the appointments".

They said the 101 posts included 45 for MLSS and 29 for cleaners. The age limit was from 18 to 30. But a good number of people below 16 and above 50 have been appointed. There are instances that two to

three persons of a family got appointments.

Many of the illegally appointed persons are relatives of hospital staffs, they claimed.

They also claimed officials were bribed for the appointments.

Four persons named in the FIR in the case for attack on the then opposition leader Khaleida Zia at the CMCH were also among the fortunate persons who got appointments, they said.

CMC JCD Vice-President MdShafiqullah, General Secretary Masud Rana, Chittagong city JCD leader Shahabuddin and Tanvir Adeel Babu were present at the conference among others.

## T-aman on 25,000 acres damaged

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria**

Standing transplanted aman (T-aman) crops on 25,000 acres of land were badly damaged in Sarail, Nasirnagar, Kasba and Akhaura upazilas due to ceaseless rains for several days.

The badly-affected areas are Shahjadapur village, Dhauria village, Hathguria village, Tantar village, Dawra village, Gajipur village, Murahati village, Shahbajpur village, Bariura village, Majlilshpur village, Rajabaria Kasndi village, Panishar village, Chunta village, Gangasagar village, Mehari village, Reeghar village, and Niamatpur village.

On contact, Shahjadapur Union Pasrishad (UP) chairman told this correspondent, on average 1,500 to 2,000 taka were spent for cultivating 30 decimals of land. The people of his union would face a severe crisis due to aman loss, he added.

However, the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), Brahmanbaria informed about achievement of 87 per cent of the target of aman cultivation. But 40 percent of their cultivated lands already went under water.

## DIG Prison sued by jail warden

**Attempted sexual abuse alleged**

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jessore**

The DIG (Prison) of Jessore Central Jail has been sued for alleged attempted sexual harassment of a jail warden.

Razia Sultana, jail warden at Jessore Central Jail, lodged a case with the Women and Children Repression Control Special Tribunal.

In the case filed on Saturday, Razia Sultana alleged that since her joining at Jessore Central Jail on April 9 this year, the DIG (Prison) tried to harass her sexually on several occasions.

Some jail staff including a Reserve Habilder and a Jail Guard helped the DIG in the immoral motive.

They took her to the residence of the DIG (prison) and left her there alone. Finding her alone, the DIG (prison) tried to abuse her sexually.

Razia Sultana went to Kotwali police station on October 14 to lodge a case against the DIG but the on-duty Sub Inspector (SI) refused to record the case.

She then filed a case with the Women and Children Repression Control Special Tribunal on October 16.

The Judge of the court recorded the case and asked the Deputy Commissioner (DC) for a judicial probe into the allegation and submit a report by October 25.

The court fixed October 26 for hearing of the case.

## Prices fall in Jessore

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jessore**

Movement of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in the town since Monday left a favourable impact in the kitchen markets. Prices of vegetables have fallen by Tk 5 to 6 in the last two days. Prices of different varieties of rice are also falling.

Aubergine was sold at Tk. 18 per kg yesterday against Monday's Tk. 24, long beans at Tk 28 against Tk 32, green pepper at Tk 50 to Tk. 60 against Tk 100, green papya at Tk 8 against Tk 12, cauliflower at Tk 40 against Tk 60 and beans at 60 per kg against Tk 70.

Coarse rice which was sold at Tk 16 earlier was sold at Tk 15 yesterday. Price of fine rice also came down to Tk 18 per g from Tk 19.

## 'Fake' NGO office at Puthia locked, 3 held

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi**

Police on Monday arrested three officials of a 'fake' NGO, Profit Concern Private Limited, and locked its office at Puthia following clients' allegations that they were cheated out of Tk 8 lakh.

The arrested persons include its Natore regional deputy general manager and Natore Correspondent of Dinakal Mustafizur Rahman Sumon, Puthia office manager Zakir Hossain Sujon and senior officer Md Ahad Ali.

Earlier, a client from Gondogohali village in Puthia, Sarwar Zahan Mithun, lodged a case accusing six officials including the three aforementioned persons of cheating.

Three other accused persons are the NGO chairman, Liaquat Ali, its finance director Bilqis Zaman Nice and managing director

Ferdous Ara Lovely.

Mithun mentioned in his complaint that started its activities at Puthia four months ago. When she became a member paying Tk 600, the NGO promised him to repay Tk 1,500 as profit within a month. Other clients also got similar promises.

"I bought 27 membership forms paying Tk 600 for each form in July. But the NGO authorities did not repay any profit", Mithun said adding that as many as 1,000 clients bought so many forms like him.

Mithun disclosed that Profit Concern DGM Sumon withdrew Tk 8 lakh of clients' money from a state-owned bank and attempted to flee with it.

Hundreds of clients laid siege to the office and at once called police.

# Patuakhali Polytech: 21 teachers for 40 posts

### Academic activities greatly hampered

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali**

Academic activities in Patuakhali Polytechnic Institute in being greatly hampered due to acute shortage of teachers for long. As many as 21 posts out of 40, including that of the vice-principal are vacant now.

According to official sources, four posts out of seven in Civil Department, five out of seven in Electrical Department, five out of six in Electronic Department, and five out of nine posts in Computer Department are vacant for long.

Often practical classes are not held due to shortage of teachers. This correspondent during a visit on October 14 did not see any student in Steel Metal Workshop and Wooden Workshop.

Joydeve Chandra Das, a student of the DIG (prison) and left her there alone. Finding her alone, the DIG (prison) tried to abuse her sexually.

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Sixty-four female students stay at the hostel for 64 students.

There is a rich library in the institute with about 7000 books but the post of librarian is vacant for long. So students are not getting the facility.

When contacted, Principal Dr. Khan Rezaul Haq said many letters were sent to relevant authorities for recruitment of teachers, but to no effect.

This polytechnic institute was set up in 1990 on 10 acres of land at the district town.



PHOTO: STAR

The Metal Workshop at Patuakhali Polytechnic Institute often remains empty as classes are not held due to lack of teachers.

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