

DISRUPTION IN FUEL, FERTILISER SUPPLY

Boro farming likely to be hampered in 16 N dists

HASIBUR RAHMAN BILO, Bogra

Boro cultivation is likely to be hampered in 16 northern districts due to disruption of supply in fuel and fertiliser as water level marked abnormal fall in the 25-kilometre river route stretching from Bagabari to Kazirhat in Pabna.

About 34,000 metric tons of urea and other fertiliser allocated for northern districts were on way to Baghabari Land Port in Sirajganj. But at least 19 fertiliser-loaded vessels are now stranded at various points along the route, sources in the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority

(BIWTA) said yesterday.

BIWTA official Emdadul Haque said many cargo remained stranded at Mohongon, Pheakola and Shafulla shoal along Bagabari-Kazirhat river route. Besides, most tankers carry fuels half their capacity because of poor water level, he said.

He said the dredging will not start before February.

Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) is going to set up a temporary fuel distribution point in Kazirhat area to ensure supply of fuel to 16 northern districts in view of current boro cultivation season, said a senior official of BPC.

On contact, BPC regional coordinator (RC) admitted that smooth supply of fuel to Baghabari port is being disrupted due to fall in water level. However, BPC is thinking to set up a temporary distribution point at Kazirhat for smooth supply of fuel, he said.

Crop production specialist (CPS) Mohammad Dalil Uddin of the Department of Agriculture (DAE), Bogra, said boro production is likely to be hampered seriously if fertiliser cannot be applied within the next 15 days.

Moreover, farmers could not apply urea in boro fields in many areas in the northern region. Urea is a must within 35 days of plant-

ation to ensure satisfactory production, he said.

Bogra BCIC regional manager said 45,000 metric tons of urea fertiliser is lying at yard of Baghabari Land Port and another 35,000 tons are on the way to the port. A huge stock is ready for supply from 14 godowns but they cannot reach farmers due to lack of transport, he said.

A BCIC official said at least 4 lakh 20,000 metric tons of urea fertiliser and 36 crore litre of diesel are needed in this Boro farming season.

But it may not be possible to ensure supply of fuel and fertiliser, he lamented.

A bad day for an ex-lawmaker

Nobody turns up at the public meeting of Nadim Mostafa in Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

campaigned all around the upazila through microphones saying Nadim Mostafa will attend the meeting as the chief guest.

Accordingly, Nadim Mostafa along with his supporters on 40 motorbikes arrived at the spot at around 1-30 pm but only to find an empty meeting venue. Nadim became very angry and rebuked the organisers who insisted that even after all out efforts and publicity, no one turned up at the meeting.

Nadim Mostafa was accompanied, among others by general secretary of Durgapur upazila BNP and chairman of Durgapur municipality.

Saidur Rahman Montu, general secretary of Durgapur municipality BNP Hasanuzzaman Laltu, chairman of Naopara Union Rezaul

Karim, president of Naopara union BNP Shamsul Haque and principal of Naopara College Hussain Ali Shah.

On his way back, supporters of BNP stopped the vehicle of Nadim Mostafa and complained that local BNP leaders never keep contact with them and they even did not know about the meeting. Nadim Mostafa assured them of looking into the matter later and left the place quickly.

Contacted over telephone, Shamsul Haque, president of Naopara Union BNP informed that the meeting was actually invited at 3-00 pm but Nadim Mostafa arrived at the venue some two hours earlier. That is why there was no audience at the venue, he explained.

PHOTO: STAR

Abducted PCJSS leader released

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati



PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (BSD), Sirajganj district unit (top) and Ichhamoti Samaj Unnayan Udgog, a social organisation, distributing warm clothes and blankets recently among the poor in Sirajganj and Satkhira districts respectively.

PHOTO: STAR

ON SECOND DAY OF BLOCKADE



PHOTO: STAR

On the second day of countrywide blockade programme yesterday, (from left, clockwise) the grand alliance activists burning the effigy of Chief Advisor to the caretaker government in Barisal, local leaders holding protest rally in Mymensingh, BDR vigilant at Nintoli point on the Dhaka-Maowa Highway and district unit leaders of Magura Awami League parading streets.

BCL leader killed in Patuakhali

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) leader was killed by unidentified assailants at Jhatibunia village in Mirzaganj upazila Sunday night, police and family sources said.

The victim is Tuhin 19, son of late Joynal Abedin of Jhatibunia village, also a student of Class XI of Rahmat Ullah College in Dhaka.

On receipt of a telephone call at about 9 pm, Tuhin left his house, but he did not return.

The body was found at a cropland near Mahishkata bazaar at about 11 am on Monday.

Two youths, Shaheed, 25, and Uzzal, 24, of the same village were arrested on suspicion.

Moulvibazar LDP body announced

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A 56-member district executive committee of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) was announced with Syeda Hasna Begum as its convener at a meeting held at a local community centre on Saturday.

Former lawmaker Syeda Hasna Begum presided the meeting while LDP presidium member MA Mukit Khan and central leader MA Rakib Khan attended as chief guest and special guest respectively.

Murder of Satkhira AL man sparks protests

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

The killing of Awami League (AL) activist Azibar Rahman allegedly by a group of BNP men sparked protests by local people and political parties.

Azibar was beaten to death on Saturday.

Leaders of AL-led grand alliance at a rally yesterday demanded immediate arrest and punishment to the killers including a Union Parishad (UP) chairman and a UP member.

The rally was held at Amtala intersection in the town with district JP convenor Abdur Rahim in the chair.

It was addressed by AL leaders Syed Firoz Kamal Shuvra, Firoz Ahmed, Saiful Karim Sabu and Monzur Hossain, JP leaders MA Jabbar, Ashrauzzaman Ashu and Sheikh Azhar Hossain, JSD leader Sudhangsu Sekhar Sarkar.

Condemning the killing of AL activist Azibar they said, BNP men backed allegedly by the UP chairman killed Azibar in a planned way because of dispute with him in the last UP election. They threatened to launch tougher agitation if the killers are not arrested within three days.

Locals also brought out a procession and held a rally in Dhulihar union yesterday afternoon protesting killing of Azibar Rahman and

BSF abducts Bangladeshi national

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) Sunday night abducted a Bangladeshi national from Telipara border of Tetulia upazila in Panchagarh, BDR sources and villagers said.

Abducted Md Abdur Rahim 35, is the son of Md Wahab Ali of Roychandipur village in Timaihat union of Tetulia upazila in Panchagarh.

Quoting villagers, BDR officials said that Abdur Rahim had lost his way in dense fog and went into Indian territory. BDR strongly protested the incident.

12X3

5X3

3X2