

Thousands more bags of illegal fertiliser seized

AGENCIES

Law enforcement agencies continued their country-wide drive to recover fake and illegally hoarded fertiliser and arrest the dishonest traders.

Several thousand more bags of fertiliser were seized in the last 72 hours.

UNB from Jessore says, 2,696 bags of spurious fertiliser were seized from a factory in the district on Monday.

Witnesses said the army men raided different godowns of Meghdut Agro Limited in Sadar, Jhikargachha and Bagerpara upazilas and seized the fake fertiliser.

They also seized five fertiliser-producing machines and sealed one of the factories at Malanchi.

The army men, looking for the

Raids in districts continue

owner of Meghdut Agro Limited, cordoned off the factory. But the owner managed to flee the scene.

In Savar, army men, in their separate drives, unearthed two fake fertiliser factories and seized 690 bags of spurious fertiliser from there Monday night.

In one drive, the army men detected a fake fertiliser factory in Uttar Jamsing area and seized 590 sacks of spurious fertiliser and some fertiliser producing materials and machines.

They later unearthed another factory, 'K & S Company,' in the municipal area and seized 100 sacks of spurious fertiliser.

In Sirajganj, army men recovered 776 sacks of urea fertiliser

from the house of a fertiliser seller at Simantabazar in Kazipur upazila Monday morning.

Army sources said, acting on a tip-off, they raided the house of Maqbul Hossain at about 8:30 am and seized the fertiliser.

Army personnel later arrested Maqbul and his brother Amir Hossain for hoarding the fertiliser illegally. After interrogation, they were handed over to the police.

BSS from Narail adds: Police on Monday seized 1,100 bags of urea fertiliser from Sadar upazila of the district.

Police yesterday said, on a tip-off, they raided Agdiabazar and the house of Akibur in the upazila and recovered 1100

bags of urea fertiliser from four godowns.

A case was filed with Sadar Police Station in this connection.

In a similar drive in Nilphamari, police seized 20 bags of urea fertiliser at Domar Sunday night.

Police said they seized a rickshaw van with 20 bags of urea fertiliser while being sent to 'unknown destination.'

In Chuadanga, joint forces, in a raid, seized 2,588 bags of urea and 802 litres of diesel from Ashmankhali Bazaar under Alamdanga Upazila in the district on Friday.

Police said some fertiliser and fuel traders hoarded these for selling at exorbitant prices to farmers.

Later, the seized fertiliser and diesel were sold to the farmers of the area at fair prices.

Smuggled medicine, fake CDs seized

BSS, Khulna

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) seized huge quantity of smuggled Indian medicine from the city's Heraz Market and arrested one in this connection on Monday night.

Rab sources said, acting on a tip-off, a special team of Rab raided the city's biggest medicine market, Heraz Market, and seized a huge quantity of smuggled Indian medicine worth about Tk 15 lakh from three drug stores -- Joya Medical Hall, Babul Drug House and Shati Medicine Corner.

Rab sources said they arrested the owner of Joya Medical Hall, Riaz Uddin Ahmed Sujat, 35, son of Mohiuddin Ahmed of the city, from the spot.

The owner of Babul Drug House, Samir Kumar Pal, 30, son of Kshitish Chandra Pal of Khamar Bari under Khalishpur Police Station and the owner of Shati Medicine Corner, Abdul Latif Shaikh, however, managed to escape the scene.

The arrested and seized medicine were handed over to police yesterday.

FAKE CD FACTORY

Joypurhat police unearthed a fake Compact Cassettes (CDs) producing factory, recovered huge quanti-

ties of CDs including porno CDs and arrested four persons in these connections in separate drives conducted in Joypurhat town on Monday.

Police said, incharge of Bangladesh Audio Cassette and CD Producers' Association Abdul Alim Khan and representative of Sound Touch Pradip Chakroborty jointly filed a case in this connection with Joypurhat Sadar Police Station.

Accordingly, police raided Japan Electronics on the main road and recovered two fake machines and many porno CDs of Laser Vision Company which were being used for producing fake CDs and seized 400 fake CDs of Sound Tech, Sangeeta, Beauty Corner and Anupam companies.

Later, police also raided Borsha Electronics and Sabuj Electronics in Rail Ghumti area in the town and seized over 100 more fake CDs including porno CDs.

Police also arrested employees of Japan Electronics Azad and Jiban Kumar Burman; Suman of Borsha Electronics and Kamrul Islam of Sabuj Electronics.

A case was filed in this connection against the arrested persons and their owners with Joypurhat Sadar Police Station, sources said.

Illegal structures demolished as eviction drive on

STAR NATIONAL DESK

The joint forces on Monday conducted eviction drives to demolish illegal structures in Kishoreganj, Khulna and Narsingdi districts.

Our Kishoreganj Correspondent reports: At least 20 illegal structures were demolished on both the banks of the Norashunda in Kishoreganj municipality area on the day.

Captain Rezwan Ahmed led the drive conducted in Rakuail, Shikhak Pally and Hospital Road areas in Kishoreganj town.

Sadar Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Dilruba Shah Newaz accompanied the team.

Assistant Commissioner (Land) of Kishoreganj sadar upazila Sayeed Irtiza Ahsan who was also present during the drive said, 165 illegal structures along the banks of the river were earmarked for demolition. He further said, eviction drive will start soon at union level and the list of illegal structures are being prepared. He further said, eviction notices were served on all the owners of illegal structures three days before the drive.

However, a makeshift structure

of a poor family was also demolished. Panic-stricken children were seen under the open sky as their guardians fled from the scene in fear.

BSS reports from Narsingdi: A drive was conducted in Ghorashal Pourasabha area under Polash upazila in Narsingdi district and removed about 30 illegal establishments.

The five-hour long drive led by a first class magistrate started at 11 am and removed the illegal structures mostly stationary and tea stalls.

A number of owners of the shops tried to resist the operation work. Joint forces arrested one Amirul Haque Jona, former general secretary of Polash upazila Chhatra League in this connection.

Our Khulna Staff Correspondent reports: The joint forces yesterday demolished over 100 illegal structures in Khulna Baro Bazaar area.

Nazrul Islam, a first class magistrate led the drive.

The joint forces demolished all the illegal structures on both sides of the Kalibari Road, Bhairab Strand Road, Delta Ghat and Jutapatty.

However, owners of demolished shops alleged that they were not given prior notice ahead of the drive. They further alleged that property worth several lakhs of taka was damaged during the drive.

In a similar drive conducted in Dighinala and Paikgachha upazilas, over 200 illegal structures were demolished by the joint forces.

Freedom fighter dies in Chuadanga

BSS, Chuadanga

M. Faizuddin, a valiant freedom fighter, died after prolonged illness at his residence here on Friday. He was 60.

Faizuddin was buried with state honor after a namaj-e-janaza held on the premises of local Bitul Mamur Mosque.

Officials of the district administration, members of the district Muktiyoddha Command Council, political leaders and elite of the town joined the funeral.



PHOTO: STAR

Century-old Shyamsundari Canal in Rangpur town has turned into a narrow stream due to lack of excavation.

Drug peddler dies in Khulna, torture during interrogation alleged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Drug Peddler Mehedi Hasan, 25, arrested by DB Police on Wednesday in Dumuria upazila, died at 11:30 pm on Monday at the KMCH prison cell.

He was shifted to KMCH on Saturday from Khulna Jail Hospital.

Family sources said arrested Mehedi Hasan fell sick after interrogation by DB police. He was brutally tortured during interrogation, alleged his wife Kohinoor Begum.

SI Jaidul Haque of DB police of Khulna district said some heroin was recovered from the possession of Mehedi Hasan. But he brushed aside allegation of the physical torture during interrogation.

RANGPUR TOWN TO WEAR A NEW LOOK

Century-old Shyamsundari canal to be excavated

RAFIQUE SARKER, Rangpur

Two non-government organisations with the help of local municipality have taken up a scheme to excavate the century-old Shyamsundari Canal in Rangpur town.

RDRS Bangladesh and CARE Bangladesh in collaboration with Rangpur municipality will implement the programme. The initial cost of the project is Tk. 20 crore and it will start early February this year.

On implementation of the programme, about 75 thousand families under Rangpur municipality will be brought under direct drainage network, sources said.

A meeting of the local elite, stakeholders and local administration was held on Friday at the local town hall. A citizens' commit-

tee was formed to implement the programme.

Shyamsundari Canal, the main outlet that connects all the drains in the town is one of the heritages of Rangpur.

So far the history of Rangpur goes various diseases including small pox, diarrhoea, and cholera used to plague the town during the late Nineteenth Century.

A huge number of people of the town died of these diseases that time.

The then Zaminder of Rangpur, Janokibollov, engaged renowned physicians to find the causes of the diseases.

The physicians pointed out that germs of contagious diseases were growing in the town due to the lack of proper sanitation and drainage system.

They advised the Zaminder to

dig a canal surrounding the town for drainage.

The Zaminder in 1890 dug the 16 km long and 100 m wide canal surrounding the town. He named it after his mother Shyamsundari.

The canal starts from the upstream of the river Ghagot and falls in the downstream of the same river.

For about 150 years, Shyamsundari Canal served as the major means of drainage and sanitation of the town. But lack of renovation for long turned the canal into a very narrow stream and dysfunctional. Taking advantage, grabbers built structures on either side of it.

People of the town have long been demanding re-excavation of the canal for the sake of drainage, sanitation and healthy environment.

9X2

2X2

8.5X4

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