

Fake fertilisers flood markets in Rajshahi, adjoining dists

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

Adulterated fertilisers have flooded the markets of Rajshahi and its adjoining districts just before the cultivation of Rabi crops, much to the concern among the growers.

Spurious fertilisers are being made secretly at houses and underground factories in different upazilas of the district, said police and officials.

A section of dishonest fertiliser dealers of Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) are also allegedly engaged in selling spurious fertilisers.

A group of unscrupulous traders are manufacturing fertilisers rampantly in many houses of Nandangachhi, Shimulia, Baidyanathala, Faridpur, Gobindapur and Barkatpur villages of Charghat upazila, locals said.

They are selling triple super phosphate (TSP), di-ammonium phosphate (DAP) by mixing smuggled Indian fertilisers with local ones while

muriate of potash (MoP) by mixing sand or salt with brick dust and colours, said a number of farmers.

Against this backdrop, the Agriculture Extension Department (AED) has alerted its upazila offices and warned farmers about adulterated fertilisers.

"We asked our staff to remain alert and create awareness among farmers," said Rabintra Kumar Majumder, additional director of Rajshahi regional AED.

He said use of sub-standard and adulterated fertilisers poses threats to the farmlands, environment and health. Finally, it leads to suffering losses by farmers.

Meanwhile, the authorities launched several drives against spurious fertilisers.

On October 25, a mobile court seized 79 sacks of MoP and 60 sacks of NPKS (a mixture of nitrogen, phosphate, potash and sulfate) from the godowns of Ishaq Ali and Zakir Hossain

in Bagmara upazila for not having production seal.

On the same day, the authorities arrested Mohammad Bablu while preparing adulterated fertiliser at his house at Baidyanathala village in Charghat upazila and seized six sacks of MoP from his house.

"Samples of the seized fertilisers were sent to Dhaka for laboratory test. If it is found spurious, its possessors will be punished," said Braja Hari Das, deputy director of Rajshahi District AED.

Durgapur upazila administration fined BCIC dealer Lal Mohammad with Tk 30,000 after some 146 sacks of adulterated MoP fertilisers were seized from his godown on October 6.

In August, the Detective Branch (DB) of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police busted a clandestine spurious fertiliser factory near Rajshahi city and arrested its owner M Waliullah and manager Abdul Alim. They seized 500 sacks of spurious fertiliser from the factory.

3 hurt as BCL, Moitree clash at Rajshahi Polytech

A RU CORRESPONDENT

Three students were injured in a clash between Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and Bangladesh Chhatra Moitree (BCM) at Rajshahi Polytechnic Institute yesterday.

The injured are BCL Polytechnic unit president Nizam Uddin, activist Babu and Sakil. Of them, Nizam was admitted to Rajshahi Medical College and Hospital (RMCH) in a critical condition.

Sources said, at around 2:30pm a group of Moitree activists led by its president Jewel Rana attacked the BCL leader and activists with iron rods, hockey sticks and sharp weapons on the campus as a sequel to previous clash over football match issue.

Nizam Uddin alleged that Moitree cadres led by its president Jewel Rana, secretary Shisir and joint secretary Rafi all of a sudden launched the attack.

Cadres of Moitree are trying to disrupt the academic atmosphere on the campus and tarnish the image of BCL leaders and activists, he said.

Contacted, Jewel Rana denied attack on BCL men by Moitree activists.

Additional police have been deployed on the campus to avert further clash.

BCL, JCD clash in Nilphamari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Four people were injured and the district BNP office was partially damaged during a clash between the activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) on Saturday night.

Police said the clash ensued centering a football match at Nilphamari College ground in the morning. The BCL activists assaulted JCD leader of the college unit, Shishir, leaving him seriously injured.

In protest, the JCD activists brought out a procession at night. When it reached Bata intersection, the BCL activists attacked the procession with rods and hockey sticks. Within moments, the activists of the two student organisations locked in a fierce clash resulting in injuries of four activists of both the groups.

The general secretary of district unit JCD alleged that the unruly BCL activists attacked their peaceful procession without any provocation. On the other hand, the district unit secretary of BCL said the JCD activists raised provocative slogans against their organisation.

SNIPPETS

Rivals assault BNP men

A CORRESPONDENT, Feni

Two local BNP leaders were assaulted allegedly by their rival party men at Lemua Bazar under Sadar upazila on Saturday night. The injured are Lemua Union BNP Convener Ferdous Qureshi and Joint Convener Azizul Haque. Party sources and witnesses said the two came under attack when they were campaigning for recruitment of party members at the bazar. They said a group of workers led by Shipon and Sujol Haque, supporters of VP Joyal and Jalal Master backed faction, beat up Ferdous and Azizul at around 8:30 pm, leaving them injured. When contacted, Azizul Haque confirmed the attack on him by the activists of his rival faction.

25 houses gutted in Comilla

UNB, Comilla

A devastating fire at Mafizabad Colony in the town gutted at least 25 dwelling houses early yesterday. Locals said, the fire originated from the house of one Aslam at about 2am and soon engulfed the adjoining houses. On information, two firefighting units rushed to the spot and extinguished the flame with the help of local people after one hour of frantic efforts. Victims claimed that cash and other valuables worth about Tk 50 lakh were gutted by the blaze.

Outlaw held with pistol

UNB, Rajbari

Police on Friday night arrested a regional commander of an outlawed party along with a firearm and ammunitions at Bhagalpur village in Goalanda upazila. Arrested Abdul Jalil, 45, was a regional commander of the outlawed Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP). On a tip-off, police raided the village at about 9:30pm and arrested Jalil with a foreign made pistol, a magazine, two bullets and four cartridges.

Press club executives

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

A 21-member executive committee of Gaibandha Press Club was elected with Gobinda Lal Das (Jugantar) as president and Abu Zafar Sabu (Janakantha) as secretary. The other office bearers are: vice presidents-K M Rezaul Haque (Daily Star), Sayed Nurul Alam Jahangir (Karotoa), Abdus Samad Babu (Ghagot), Dipok Kumar Pal (Janosanket), joint secretary-Abdur Rahman Swapon (Inqilab), Siddique Alam Dayal (Manab Zamin), assistant secretary-Shahabul Shaheen Tota (Prothom Alo), organising secretary-Amitav Das Himun (Samokal), treasurer-Idrisuzzaman Mona (ATN), publicity secretary-Nuruzzaman Prodhan (Juger Alo), office secretary-Jahangir Alam (Aj o Agami Kal), cultural secretary-Uttam Sarker (Banglar Chokh), social welfare secretary-Mostafizur Rahman (Dinkal), sports secretary-Nazrul Islam (Destiny) and members-Abdul Mannan Chowdhury (Sangbad), Jubayer Ali (Sangram), M. Abdul Salam (Ajker Janogon), Rasel Ahmed Liton (Madhukar) and Quddus Alam (Focus Bangla).

Udichi founding anniversary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

The 41st founding anniversary of Udichi Shilpi Gosthi was observed in a day-long programme on Thursday. The cultural activists brought out a colourful rally from Udichi office premises in the morning which paraded the main thoroughfares of Gaibandha town. Later, a discussion meeting and cultural function were held at victory monument. Presided by Zaharul Kaiyum, president of Gaibandha district unit Udichi, it was addressed by Prof Mazharul Mannan, Aminul Islam Golap, Shahnewaz Tuku, Lutfur Rahman Ranju, Mihir Ghosh, Debasish Das Debun, Masudul Huq and Mosthafizur Rahman. Those who rendered songs at the cultural function are Moshir Rahman, Lutfur Samad Rose, Chuni Islam, Nilufar Jesmine Bithi, Trishna Roy Tapu and Nimmi Ferdousi. Later, child artists of Udichi performed a dance drama directed by Tusher Chakrabarti.

Woman's body recovered

UNB, Sylhet

Police on Saturday recovered the body of a young woman from the Surma River near the jetty of Lafarge Cement Factory in Chhatrak upazila of Sunamganj district. Police said, locals located the floating body of the unidentified young woman, aged about 20-22, and informed them. Later, police recovered the decomposed body at about 12 noon and sent it to hospital morgue for autopsy.

RHD engr faces graft charge in Barisal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) here has filed a case against Nurul Amin Shikdar, sub-assistant engineer of Roads and Highways Department (RHD) Barisal office, on charge of corruption.

M H Rahamatullah, assistant director of Barisal ACC filed the case under sections 26 (2) and 27 (1) of the ACC Act with Barisal Kotwali Model police station on Wednesday evening.

Shaheduzzaman, officer in-charge (OC) of Barisal Kotwali Model police station told The Daily Star that the ACC will investigate the case.

According to the case, Nurul Amin Shikdar submitted Tk 17.20 lakh wealth statement on January 15, 2009 following an ACC notice issued on December 23, 2008.

Nurul Amin, in his statement, concealed information and gave false information by showing lower expenditure and lower price rates of property purchased by him. He also showed wealth possessed by him in the name of his family.

The property shown in the statement includes three houses in Barisal city, Bagura Road and Dhaka, 12 decimal land at Bagura Road and bank balance in Sonali Bank, ICB Islamic Bank and City Bank.

In the case, the plaintiff said, Nurul Amin illegally accumulated Tk 1.47 crore while concealed property worth Tk 1.30 crore in his wealth statement.

According to the case, Nurul Amin is working in RHD for the last 20 years and at present posted at Jhalakati district office of the department.



Drivers and owners of locally designed vehicles Nasimon, Karimon and Bhotbhoti join a procession organised by locals in Chapainawabganj town yesterday to press home their demand for stopping 'conspiracy' against plying of the vehicles and BRTC buses in the district.

Stop conspiracy against BRTC buses, locally-made carriers

C'nawabganj people submit memo to DC

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Nagorik Adhikar Adai Committee (committee for realisation of citizens' rights) yesterday brought out a procession in the district town and submitted a memorandum to the deputy commissioner demanding not to stop plying of BRTC buses and locally designed vehicles Nasimon, Karimon and Bhotbhoti.

Shallow power pump engine driven Nasimon, Karimon and Bhotbhoti play an important role in the rural areas for carrying vegetables and other agricultural products from remote corners to the district town and other places, speakers said at rally held before submitting the memorandum.

If it is stopped, prices of agricultural products including vegetables will go up in the district, they said, adding that the low cost transport is also used to carry passengers including patients, especially in rural areas and it is available at any time of the day.

At least 10 thousand families involved in the business will suffer greatly if it is stopped.

Alleging private bus drivers' and conductors' bad behaviour with passengers, the speakers said the private bus owners are hatching conspiracy to stop BRTC buses, which provide better service for the passengers, only to monopolise the business and fleece passengers.

The speakers also demanded plying of government-owned double decker BRTC bus every hour from Chapainawabganj to other districts, keeping fair of private buses under control, provision for concession for students bus fair, steps to make shallow power pump engine-driven Nasimon, Karimon and Bhotbhoti a legal transport through registration, arrangement of intercity train from Chapainawabganj to the capital and other districts and installation of a pipe line to supply gas in the town.

They urged the government and the local administration not to stop plying of

government-owned buses and vehicles run by shallow power pump engines in Chapainawabganj.

Torikul Alam Siddique, convener of Nagorik Adhikar Adai Committee, Motilul Islam Shipon, member of the committee, Bahram Ali, member of Chapainawabganj Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Younus Ali, president of district Mango Traders Association, and Firoj Ahmed, member of District Teachers Association, student leaders Akhtar Hamiduzzaman Khokon and Ziaur Rahman and Nasimon driver Abdul Halim spoke at the rally.

A large number of drivers and owners of Nasimon, Karimon and Bhotbhoti attended the procession and rally with their vehicles. Different organisations of vegetable, fish and mango traders, students and teachers supported their demands from the rally.

Earlier a procession organised by the committee paraded main streets of the town.

Picture tells the tale



Repaired only about a week ago by the Roads and Highways Department, this portion of Dhaka-Aricha Road at Joypara in Dhamrai upazila has gone back to square one.

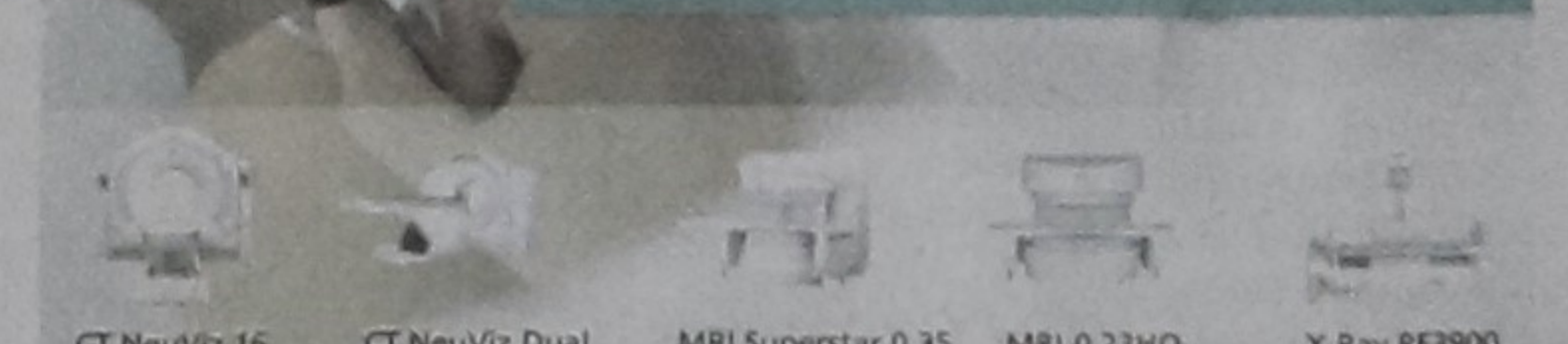
বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাইতেছে যে, বাংলাদেশ মেডিকেল এন্ড ডেন্টাল কাউন্সিল কর্তৃক স্বীকৃত নয় এমন কোন চিকিৎসা শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান (মেডিকেল/ডেন্টাল কলেজ) হইতে যদি কেহ ডিগ্রি/সনদপ্রাপ্ত হন তাহা হইলে চিকিৎসা কার্য পরিচালনার জন্য তাহাকে রেজিস্ট্রেশন প্রদান করা হইবে না এবং তিনি বাংলাদেশে কোন রকম এলোপ্যাথি চিকিৎসা করিতে বা চিকিৎসক বা ডেন্টাল চিকিৎসক হিসাবে পরিচয় দিতে পারিবেন না। এমতাবস্থায় কোন চিকিৎসা শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠানে (মেডিকেল/ডেন্টাল কলেজ) ভর্তিচ্ছুক ছাত্র-ছাত্রী এবং তাহাদের অভিভাবকগণকে প্রতিষ্ঠানটির সরকারি অনুমোদন (Uptodate), বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের অধিভুক্তি (Uptodate) এবং বাংলাদেশ মেডিকেল এন্ড ডেন্টাল কাউন্সিলের স্বীকৃতি সম্পর্কে অবহিত হওয়ার জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাইতেছে।

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