

120 parrots seized, 2 arrested

A CORRESPONDENT, Feni

Police on Friday arrested two people here on charge of carrying 120 parrots and seized the birds.

The law enforcers from Feni Sadar Police Station seized the parrots from a pick up van at Kazirbag on Feni-Parshuram Road. They also arrested one Mohammad Kamal, 35, and pick up van driver Shakil, 25.

Kamal told police that he bought the parrots from hunter Shawkat at Chandana village under Parshuram upazila and was taking the birds to Dhaka for selling.

Police released 118 birds at 4:00pm yesterday following a court order while two parrots died in police custody.

Kamal and Shakil were yesterday produced in Feni Judicial Magistrate's Court that sent to jail.

Bhairab, Kuliarchar continue blockade of Kishoreganj

Bus, train, launch services come to a halt

A CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj

People of Bhairab and Kuliarchar continued Kishoreganj blockade programme for the second day yesterday to press their demands for upgdaing Bhairab to a district and arrest of those who burnt the effigy of President Zillur Rahman during a hartal in Kishoreganj on November 2.

The non-stop blockade programme enforced by Bhairab District Implementation Committee and All-party Action Council began on Friday.

Hundreds of people took positions on highways, waterways and rail station in Bhairab yesterday morning. Train, bus and launch services between Dhaka and Kishoreganj via Bhairab and Bhairab-Kishoreganj launch service remained suspended.

However, vehicular movement on the

Dhaka-Sylhet highway was out of the purview of the blockade.

The agitating people halted Inter-city Egarosidur and Ishaka train and Dhaka-bound buses and other vehicles from Kishoreganj at Kuliarchar station. They also disrupted supply of oil from Padma, Megna and Jamuna oil depots and fertiliser and food to Kishoreganj from Bhairab.

The protesters formed a human chain at Bhairab in the morning demanding arrest and punishment of those who burnt the effigy of President Zillur Rahman in Kishoreganj on November 2.

On the other hand, a procession, led by lawmaker Mujibul Huq Chunnu of Kishoreganj-3 constituency, was brought out in Kishoreganj town yesterday afternoon demanding retention of 'undivided status' status of Kishoreganj district.



PHOTO: STAR

A colourful procession was brought out in Chapainawabganj town yesterday marking the World Diabetes Day. Similar programmes were also observed in other districts to create awareness among the people about the disease as the number of patients is on rise.

Fresh raid on RU hall, dining room staff held

A RU CORRESPONDENT

Police raided Mother Bux Hall of Rajshahi University (RU) again early yesterday and arrested a hall employee in connection with recovery of arms from Islami Chhatra Shibir cadres on Friday night.

Arrestee Akbar Hossain is a dining room staff and allegedly abetted the Shibir men. He was later taken to Motihar police station for further interrogation.

Police said, they arrested Akbar on receipt of allegation from Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) that on Thursday night Shibir cadres brought huge arms to the hall and Akbar helped them.

After quieting the employee, the law enforcers along with hall officials raided several rooms at around 2:00 am, said a sub-inspector of police.

The authorities sealed two Shibir controlled rooms but could not arrest anybody or recover anything during the raid, he said.

Sources said, several hundred Shibir leaders and activists

flexed muscle at different halls including Shamsuzzoha Hall and Latif Hall at late night creating panic among the general students.

Shibir cadres also threatened BCL activist Rabi with life at Sayed Amir Ali Hall, hall sources said.

Hearing the news, proctor Prof Chowdhury Zakaria along with hall provost Saiful Islam rushed to the hall to settle the matter.

RU unit BCL president Ibrahim Hossain Moon alleged that some Shibir cadres along with outsiders were residing at some halls.

He urged the university authorities and law enforcers to conduct further raids to flush them out and recover arms.

Earlier, police arrested two Shibir cadres Arifur Rahman and Sajjat Hossain, seized cocktails, Chinese axe, iron rods and pipes during raids on three halls early Wednesday.

Arif was arrested with a Chinese axe while Sajjat with two cocktails during raid on Mother Bux Hall. The two were produced in court and sent to jail.

UNB, Bagerhat

Pirates looted six fishing trawlers in the Bay and abducted 28 fishermen for ransom early yesterday.

Fishermen who returned from the Bay at noon said, a group of pirates numbering 15/16, swooped on six trawlers while they were fishing in Durbalarchar and Narikelbaria areas of the Bay at about 2:00am.

The gang looted fish, nets and other valuables worth about Tk 10 lakh from the trawlers.

As the fishermen tried to resist the band, they beat up five of the fishermen mercilessly, leaving them seriously injured.

"The band also abducted 28 fishermen from the six trawlers at gunpoint for ransom," said the returnees.

The pirates threatened to kill the abducted fishermen if not paid off Tk 5 lakh in five days for their release, they said.

Contacted, Lt Lokman Hakim, operations officer of Coastguard Mongla West Zone, said, they were looking into the incident.

"Coastguard members continued their patrol in the costal areas to track down the pirates," he said.

Fertiliser seized, one held

A CORRESPONDENT, Gopalganj

Police recovered 280 bags of fertiliser from Khandarpar under Muksudpur upazila on Thursday and arrested one Kabir Munshi on charges of trading fertiliser illegally.

Police also seized a truck carrying fertiliser. Later, the upazila agriculture officer filed a case in this regard.

Muksudpur police said, the seized fertiliser was brought from Noapara in Jessore. Police seized the truck from in front of Munshi Traders at Khandarpar.



PHOTO: STAR

Farmers put cauliflowers in a sack to take them to market for sale. The picture was taken from Rautnagar village under Patuakhali district where cultivation of the winter vegetable has become popular as a source of income.

Cauliflower, the money-spinner

700 families at Rautnagar village grow the winter vegetable on 400 acres

QUAMRUL ISLAM RUBAIYAT, Thakurgaon

Cultivation of cauliflower has become so popular as a source of income in Rautnagar that the place is now locally known as 'vegetable village'.

Today at least 700 families in the village are engaged in cultivation of cauliflower on 400 acres of land.

Deputy director of the Agriculture Extension Department (AED) Thakurgaon Daliluddin said, Ranishankoil upazila alone produces more winter vegetables than any district.

Before turning to cauliflower, farmers of Rautnagar used to grow paddy twice a year and often found it difficult to feed the hungry mouths.

Asked, farmer Motaleb Hossain said, "Now I earn more money through vegetable cultivation. My son goes to school, my daughter is

happy and I can fulfill many desires of my family members".

Hossain Ali, 60, an elderly farmer of the village, is a pioneer in cultivation of cauliflower. He learned the process of farming the vegetable when he visited his daughter in Balihara village in neighbouring Haripur upazila.

He saw how his son-in-law and some farmers cultivated cauliflower. He immediately decided to grow it in his own village.

He visited the 'Bizbandar' seed shop in Ranishankoil upazila Bazar and the went to the local agriculture office for advice.

In the first year, Hossain Ali earned Tk 12,000 and since then his profit increased every year. He now earns around Tk 3 lakh from cultivating cauliflower on his 5-bigha land.

When the other villagers saw him

making profit, they too began to grow it on their land.

Sub-assistant officer Diponkar Roy said, the local agriculture department is providing training and other facilities to farmers in the villages.

Principal of Khathaldangi Agricultural College in Ranishankoil upazila, Saiful Islam said, the farmers could profit more if the storage facilities were improved and if there were no middle men.

Farmers sell the cauliflower to traders who transport those to Karwan Bazar, one of the largest wholesale markets in the capital.

This winter, around 5,000 acres of land have been brought under cultivation of winter vegetables in the north-eastern district of Thakurgaon.

The AED aims to expand the area to 15,000 acres within a few years.

VACANCY NOTICE



United Nations Development Programme in Bangladesh announces vacancy for Project Coordinator's position for "Community Based Adaptation to Climate Change" project. The CBA programme in Bangladesh will seek to build community-level adaptive capacity and to reduce climate change risks that communities face, and in turn to influence policy and institutional arenas to facilitate sustainable community management of natural resources in the face of the anticipated climate change impacts. The portfolio of CBA projects in Bangladesh will contribute towards building ecological, social and institutional resilience of these benefits in the face of pressures stemming from climate change including variability.

The duration of the Service Contract is twelve months initially, which is extendable upon satisfactory performance and availability of funds.

For details of the Job Description and instructions to apply, please visit our website: <http://www.undp.org.bd/jobs>. Applications should be submitted no later than 17:00 pm, Saturday, 28 November 2009.

Submitted documents will not be returned to the applicants and only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

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