

COLD WIND STARTS BLOWING IN NORTHERN DISTRICTS

Rush for warm clothes hikes price

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Sale of warm clothes and blankets has started to increase in Thakurgaon, Panchagarh and Lalmonirhat districts as winter is about to set in.

A good number of buyers, especially belonging to low-income group, were seen at the makeshift shops, the main source of buying warm clothes in Panchagarh and Thakurgaon towns in the last couple of days, reports our Thakurgaon Correspondent.

All types of second hand woolen sweaters, jackets, cardigans, trousers, mufflers and woolen gloves and kids' wear were being sold at the temporary markets, also by roadside vendors.

Taking the advantage of good demand of winter clothes, shop owners and roadside vendors are trying to make unusual profits.

The price of a single blanket (made of cut pieces of garment factories) varies from Tk 150 to 300 according to its size and quality. The price of a second hand sweater is between Tk 100 and 300 according to its quality while

the price of a jacket varies from Tk. 300 to Tk. 1200.

Usually the winter comes at the end of November or early December in the northern districts and it become severe from end of December.

With the experience of previous year's severe cold, people belonging to low and fixed income groups are crowding the makeshift shops in these districts to buy warm clothes to protect themselves from the biting cold, several buyers and shop owners said.

Porimal Chandra of Collegepara in Thakurgaon Municipality area said, "We suffered a lot last year due to severe cold. I think the cold weather will sweep with more severity in the region this year also as cold wind has already started to blow from mid-November."

Anwar Pervez, a student of Abdur Rashid Degree College said, "I have come to the market to buy warm clothes for me. But the sellers are demanding high price compared to new ones."

Replying to a query over higher price, shop-keeper Dulal Miah said that the price of a bale

People belonging to low-income group buy second hand warm clothes from roadside vendors at Muktijoddha Chattar (square) area in Lalmonirhat town yesterday as winter is about to set in in the country's northern region.



PHOTO: STAR

of secondhand clothes this year much higher than last year's. This season we had to buy a sweater bale at Tk 30,000-40,000 and a bale of muffler at Tk 35,000-Tk 45,000 while these were only Tk 25,000 and 30,000 respectively.

Our Lalmonirhat correspondent adds: Sellers of warm clothes are doing brisk business in the district town and other areas as people crowded roadside makeshift shops and different markets to protect themselves from

severe cold in the region.

People, particularly those from low and fixed income groups, are buying sweaters, jackets, cardigans, woolen caps and mufflers.

"I have sold a number of second-hand warm clothes. Demand for used warm clothes is much higher than the new ones," said Bhuttu Miah, owner of a roadside shop near Mogholhat railway gate in the town.

He said low and fixed income-group people includ-

ing day-labourers, rickshaw-pullers and employees of different government and private organisations were crowding his shop.

Afiab Hossain, a rickshaw puller, who lives at a hut on the embankment of the Teesta River at Kalmati village of Lalmonirhat Sadar, said they had been suffering extremely for severe cold for the last few days.

"But prices of the clothes are much higher compared to the last year's," he said.

Gas cylinder explosion injures 12 in Manikganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

At least 12 people were injured, six of them seriously, in a gas cylinder blast at a fair at Bangla village in Singair upazila of the district yesterday.

The seriously injured are Balloon seller Kubbat Sheikh, 24, Rozina Begum, 25, her daughter Jonaki, 7, Bilkis Begum, her son Bijoy, 6 and Arfin, 6.

They were admitted to Manikganj Sadar Hospital and Singair Upazila Health Complex while the rest given first aid at the hospital and local clinics.

Hospital sources said Kubbat Sheikh was later shifted to Dhaka Pongu Hospital as his condition deteriorated.

Witnesses said the incident took place at noon when a gas cylinder of balloon seller Kubbat went off with a big bang at the fair, organised by locals, marking a religious function at the house of Jaher Boyati.

PSC EXAMS ON BANGLA

3 teachers jailed for question leaking

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Bogra.

A mobile Court on Sunday night sentenced three teachers to one year imprisonment each for leaking question paper of Bangla to the candidates of Primary School Certificate (PSC) Examinations at their respective coaching centres in the town.

The convicts are Mahabubur Rahman, 42, an assistant teacher of Gabtoli Model Government Primary School, Shafiqul Islam, 45, headmaster of Gabtoli Atbaria Government Primary School, and Golam Sarwar, 45, an assistant teacher of Gordaha Government Primary School.

The examination on the subject was held across the country yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, a mobile court led by Sadar Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Abdur Rahim raided Mohona and Summit Coaching centres in Jaleswaritola area of the town at around 8:00pm and arrested the three teachers with question paper of

Mahabubur Rahman and Shafiqul Islam were arrested from Mohona Coaching Centre while Golam Sarwar was arrested from Summit Coaching centre. They were later sent to jail.

The court also fined a teacher named Shahin Kadir of Bogra Yakubia Girls' High School Tk 5,000 for keeping Summit Coaching Centre open during the PSC examinations.

The Department of Primary Education also suspended the three teachers for leaking the question paper.

Contacted, UNO Abdur Rahim said the teachers were found distributing Bangla question paper of PSC examinations among some candidates at the two coaching centres and sending messages to other candidates over cellphones.

District Primary Education Officer (DPEO) Md Abdus Salam said they have suspended the teachers and are taking preparation for filing departmental case against them.

SNIPPETS

Man to die for killing wife

UNB, Manikganj

A court here yesterday sentenced a man to death for killing his wife in 2007. The convict was identified as Shafiqul Islam, 25, son of Tara Mia of Akashi village in Saturaia upazila. The court also fined him Tk 20,000. According to the prosecution, Sheuly, 20, wife of Shafiqul and daughter of Ayub Ali of Shyamtoli village in Narsingdi district, was strangled to death by Shafiqul at Thatanga village in Ghior upazila on April 22, 2007. Shachindra Nath, a village police, filed a case in this connection. Police arrested Shafiqul on December 7, 2007. After examining the records and witnesses Additional District and Sessions Judge Al Mahmud Faijul Kabir handed down the verdict.

Clash over football match

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bhola

At least 20 people, including some players of two local football clubs, were injured when a clash erupted between the two clubs at Gaznabi Stadium on Sunday. Sources said, a match between Ward No-1 and Ward No-8 of Mayor League kicked off at 3:40pm on the day. The clash took place when the players of Ward-1 attacked Nigerian footballer Dudu when the later made a serious tackle on his opposition player Shamim on the 40th minute of the match. At this, supporter of both the clubs swooped on each other breaking the bamboo fence around the gallery, which left 20 people injured. Earul Alam Liton, secretary of District Sports Association in Bhola, said all the matches of the competition have been suspended after the incident.

Kidney dialysis centre

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chandpur

Kidney Awareness Monitoring and Prevention Society (Camps) on Saturday opened a kidney dialysis centre at Mission Road in the district town. The organisers also held a seminar on kidney disease on the occasion where the speakers pointed out the steps for prevention and cure of the disease. Describing the causes of the disease, they said that Camps had come forward to create awareness among the people. Former foreign minister Dr Dipu Moni, who attended the seminar as chief guest, earlier inaugurated the dialysis centre in the morning. Besides Chandpur Mayor Nasir Uddin Ahmed, Civil Surgeon Rathindra Nath Mojumdar and president of Chandpur press club Golam Kibria were present.

One held for killing councillor

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole, Jessore

Police arrested a youth in Abhaynagar upazila of the district on Sunday evening on charge of killing Oliar Rahman, councillor of Noapara municipality, also joint general secretary of the Abhaynagar upazila unit Awami League. The arrestee was identified as Yunus Ali, 30, son of late Abdul Hakim Molla of Sarankhola village of the upazila. Oliar was shot dead by a gang at Guakhola village in the upazila on Sunday morning. Quoting locals, police said Oliar came under attack by a gang on his way back home after saying Fazr prayers at a local mosque around 7:30 am.

10 rescued from traffickers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole, Jessore

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) rescued 10 people while they were being trafficked to India through Putkhali border point on Sunday night. The rescued which included two women and kid from Madaripur, Naogaon, Sherpur, Rajbari, Pirojpur, Shariatpur, Noakhali, Narail and Jessore districts. BGB battalion-3 commanding officer Lt Col Rahim said, on a tip-off, a team of border guards launched a drive in the border area and rescued the 10 at night. Sensing the presence of the border force, the human traffickers fled the scene, he said.

Youth dies falling from tree

UNB, Jessore

A youth died falling from a tree at Churmonkati village in Sadar upazila on Sunday night. The deceased was identified as Masud Rana, 16, resident of the village. Father of the deceased Ibrahim Hossain said Masud was critically injured when he fell from a tree beside his house around 2 pm on Sunday. Later, he was taken to Jessore 250-bed General Hospital where he succumbed around 9 pm.



PHOTO: STAR

Vehicles ply the 32-kilometre stretch of Gaibandha-Saghata Road amid risk of accident as cracks, potholes and ditches have developed at several points of it. Photos show a subsided portion of the road near Bonarpara Bazar and numerous cracks and potholes in Saghata area as asphalt got eroded.

GAIBANDHA-SAGHATA ROAD

Cracks, potholes all the way

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Different modes of vehicles are using a 32-kilometre stretch of Gaibandha-Saghata road amid risk of accident anytime as huge cracks, potholes and ditches have developed at many points.

The Roads and Highways Department (RHD) took no major steps for the road's renovation since it was constructed in 1992, said sources including locals.

The bitumen coated road scaled off, turning it bumpy while it became narrow at several places due to mud collapse.

Sufferings of the passengers mounted as buses, minibuses and other vehicles ply the road amid risk.

Despite repeated pleas, the authorities did not take any steps to reconstruct the road, alleged people of Saghata upazila.

Contacted, Gaibandha RHD executive engineer Mahub Alam Khan admitted the bad shape of the road stretching from Saghata Sadar to Kachua.

"We have already written to the higher authorities for fund to renovate the entire road but yet to get any response," he said.

Fire at phone office disrupts services

STAR COUNTRY DESK

A fire incident at microwave station room of Bangladesh Telecommunications Company Ltd (BTCL) office yesterday disrupted telecommunication and internet services in Bhadrurghar area of Brahmanbaria town.

Being informed by the locals, a fire-fighting unit from Brahmanbaria Fire Service Station rushed to the spot and doused the flames after a hectic effort of an hour, reports UNB.

Brahmanbaria Fire Service Station officer Waliullah said the fire might have erupted from an electric short circuit in the microwave station room of BTCL.

Waliullah said the fire gutted telecommunication and internet equipments

around 6:30am. Telecommunications and internet services to more than 4,000 subscribers have been disrupted due to fire incident, said Mominul Haque, deputy assistant engineer of BTCL.

Our Bogra correspondent reports, at least four shops were gutted in a fire in bus-stand area of Dupchanchia upazila headquarters early yesterday.

Affected traders said, the fire broke out at the kitchen of a local restaurant and soon engulfed the adjacent three shops at the dead of night.

In Khagrachhari, at least nine shops were gutted when a fire broke out at Babuhara Bazar in Dighinala upazila early yesterday, reports our correspondent.

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Offer Detail	Handset Model	RRP (BDT)*	Monthly Installment 9 EMI (BDT)	Monthly Installment 12 EMI (BDT)	FREE Data	25% Discount on regular DATA/Smartpack price
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	iPhone 6 (64GB)	85,200	8,356	6,267		3GB 1Mbps Pack
	iPhone 6 Plus (16GB)	85,200	8,356	6,267		Smartpack 699 (1Mbps)

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- > 3GB FREE Data: After 72 hours of successful tagging, customers will get 3GB volume at 1Mbps speed
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- > Discounted Data Pack Opt-in Process:

Discounted Packs	Opt-in Process
Heavy Usage Pack 1Mbps	SMS "Pack 1" to 4724
3GB 1Mbps Pack	SMS "Pack 2" to 4724
Smartpack 699 (1Mbps)	SMS "Pack 3" to 4724

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- > To check internet balance, dial *567#
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- > Smartpack voice minutes will be applicable for all local operator call cases including community numbers.
- > F&F and Super F&F calls will be deducted from the main account 24 hours a day.
- > Smartpack voice minutes will not be applicable for any IVR based voice services like 121, 4000, 789 etc.
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- > To check remaining voice of Smartpack, SMS and MMS, customers need to dial *567*1# or send SMS typing VIEW to 5000 (no charges applicable).
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