

Upazila roundup

BHOLA

Teacher shortage in schools

From Our Correspondent

January 23: About 200 posts of primary teachers have been lying vacant in seven upazilas of the district, hampering the implementation of the Universal Primary Education Programme.

According to official sources, the number of teachers in the government primary schools here is not maintained properly.

Some of the schools with a large number of students, it is alleged, have been facing shortage of teachers while many schools having a few students have excess teachers.

It is learnt that school authorities in different areas have been maintaining false attendance registers of both the students and teachers.

JANUARY 22: The Ministry of Health has taken up a programme to build 77 two-storey union health centres at a cost of Taka 10.15 crores in 77 unions of six southern districts during the current fiscal year.

The districts are Bhola, Barisal, Barguna, Jhalakati, Patuakhali.

The ground floors of the buildings will be used as office and first floors as residences. Of the total, nine two-storey buildings will be constructed at nine unions in Bhola district, 14 in Barisal, 11 in Barguna, 6 in Jhalakati, 19 in Patuakhali and 18 in Patuakhali.

The construction work is expected to be completed before June this year, it is learnt.

THAKURGAON

Integrated approach for village sanitation

From Our Correspondent

January 23: A seminar on integrated approach for village sanitation and water supply, was held at Rantisaukail of Thakurgaon district under the auspices of Public Health Engineering Department, recently.

The seminar was presided over by Mr. Ali Akbar, Upazila Chairman, Rantisaukail and it was addressed by the U.N.O. Sub-Asst. Engineer, PHE and zonal representative of UNICEF at Bogra. Social leaders, local representatives and a large number of villagers attended the seminar.

According to PHE Department at Rantisaukail, a total of 2003 sets of village latrine and 1299 hand driven tubewells were distributed among the villagers of the upazila.

It may be mentioned that with the assistance of UNICEF, the Government has distributed a total of 13 lakh 50 thousand hand driven tubewells throughout the country.

BARISAL

Co-op societies to get Tk 1.9 cr

From Our Correspondent

January 23: Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) has undertaken a programme to distribute taka one crore nine lakh among 17 thousand members of 426 cooperative societies in Barisal and Jhalakati districts during the current financial year.

Distribution of money has already been started and to be completed by the end of this financial year, it is expected.

Eight thousand nine hundred and ninety crimes of different nature had been committed in the last seven years (1984-90) in the district.

Of the total crimes, there were 339 cases of murders, 112-dacoities, 178-burglary, 930-theft, 873-rustings and 4,494 other crimes within that time.

WDB plan to rebuild damaged roads

From Our Correspondent

NETRAKONA, Jan 23: The Water Development Board, south-western zone, has taken up a programme to reconstruct the flood damaged water control structures, roads, embankments, bridges and culverts in 15 districts.

The districts are Netrakona, Jhenidah, Nari, Jessore, Magura, Kushtia, Meherpur, Chuadanga, Faridpur, Gopalganj, Saripatpur, Bagerhat, Khulna, Satkhira and Rajshahi.

It is learnt from a source close to the Board that 36 sluice gates and 14 water control structures will be constructed to protect low-lying areas from floods. Moreover,

NETRAKONA

Development projects discussed

From Our Correspondent

January 23: A meeting of the District Development Co-ordination committee was held here recently with Mr. A.H.M. Abul Kashem, Deputy Commissioner, Netrakona in the chair.

An official source said, progress of various on-going development projects were discussed in the meeting. Law and order situation in the district was also reviewed in the meeting. All the district-level officers attended.

RAJSHAHI

Painting show ends

January 23: A three-day long children and juvenile painting exhibition organised by Rangtuli Academy, an organisation of Kishore Kurir Mela concluded here on Monday at Rajshahi P.N. Girls High School, reports BSS.

Additional Commissioner (revenue) of Rajshahi Aminul Islam inaugurated the exhibition. The function was presided over by chief adviser of the mela Wazed Mahmud.

On the inaugural day children were awarded for painting and a cultural function was held.

Paintings of over hundred children were exhibited in the three-day-long exhibition which was witnessed by a large number of spectators.

Seminar

A day-long seminar on economic emancipation through establishment of democracy organised by Combined Bank Employees Parishad was held here Monday at local Shaheb Bazar Agrani Bank premises.

Presided over by Mr. Afzal Hossain, convener of Combined Bank Employees Parishad the seminar was addressed by advocate Moqbul Hossain, President of Rajshahi Bar Association, Dr. Dayemuddin, General Secretary, BMA, Rajshahi branch, Mr. Abdur Razzaque, Secretary of Rajshahi University Teachers Association, Mr. M. A. Mohaimin, President of Rajshahi Press Club and Dr. Shah Aminul Islam, Deputy Director, health of Rajshahi division.

KUSHTIA

Wanton felling of trees

JANUARY 22: Wanton felling of trees has been affecting ecological balance and hastening the process of desertification in the district, experts fear, reports UNB.

Traders in collusion with a section of local farmers are chopping down the trees for use in brickfields despite government ban.

Owners say they have been compelled to use firewood in their brickfields due to shortage of coal.

But less price of firewood has prompted them to use it in brickfields instead of coal, it is alleged.

January 21: Handloom industries here are on the verge of extinction throwing lives of hundreds of weavers into prodigious uncertainty, reports UNI.

The industries which earned a country wide fame for their quality products, have been affected by the price hikes of yarn, dyes and other inputs.

Bangladesh Textiles Mills Corporation has raised the prices of cotton yarn forcing the owners to increase prices of their products.

But synthetic products and old imported garments have drastically reduced the demand for handloom product.

Owners of these industries said due to rise in cost of production, they were compelled to retrench a sizeable number of weavers.



COX'S BAZAR: Fishing season ahead. Two fishermen busy knitting nets before the anticipated big catch - Star photo.

Pro-Saddam rallies Call for early halt to Gulf war

RANGPUR, Jan 23: Massive protest against attack on Iraq by American led multinational forces switched on in greater Rangpur zone.

During the past four days since crackdown on Iraq, people of all ages irrespective of party affiliation held meetings and took anti-war demonstrations shouting full throated slogans condemning attack on Iraq and called for immediate halt to war.

In Rangpur town area, different political parties and enthusiastic youths staged protest demonstrations every day separately and most of them carried effigy of President Bush and later burnt it publicly. In some mosques special prayers are offered everywhere in Rangpur zone for victory of Saddam and muslims brought out anti-war procession in Rangpur town, rural areas and other district towns of the zone.

Our Brahmanbaria Correspondent adds: A procession was brought out in Brahmanbaria town by pro-Saddam group against President Bush on Sunday. The processionists paraded all roads of the town. They bore placard and Saddam's picture honour. They burnt the effigy of Bush.

The processionists chanted slogans supporting Saddam and called for an immediate end to war.

Netrakona Our Netrakona Correspondent writes: Different organisations brought out a big procession in protest against the Gulf war and chanted slogans for immediate withdrawal of the American soldiers from Arab land. They chanted slogans "Bush downfall, no blood for oil", "want peace". The protesters paraded the main roads of the town and called on all Muslim countries to forge unity against the killing of Muslims.

Chandpur Our Chandpur Correspondent writes: A big procession

was brought out in Chandpur town on Monday protesting U.S. attack on Iraq.

The processionists carried photos of Saddam and burnt effigy of Bush at Kalibari square. They offered special prayers saying "We want peace not war" in the Gulf.

Meanwhile, many people are seen crowding the telephone and telegraph office to contact their relatives in the Gulf states.

Kushtia Our Kushtia Correspondent writes: Processions were brought out in various parts of the on Friday afternoon which paraded main streets. The processionists chanted condemning attack on Iraq and eulogising the role of Iraq President Saddam Hussain. People crowd small shops in various town areas to listen to news from Voice of America, BBC and other stations. Outbreak of war in the Gulf has become the topic of the day in offices, clubs, restaurants and other gossip corners. Special prayers were offered in all mosques of the town after Juma for peaceful solution of the issue and solidarity of the Muslim Ummah.

Local leaders of political parties expressed grave concern over the armed conflict gripping the Gulf areas and said that this would seriously affect the economy of the third world.

Meanwhile tension and panic-buying of essentials have been gripping the town bazaars. People were seen buying essential commodities in anticipation of steep rise in prices. A section of unscrupulous traders have resorted to boarding the essential commodities and as a result prices of many essentials marked a sharp rise. The essentials include milk, power, salt edible oil, kerosene, rice, wheat, onion, garlic, chillis, pulses, sugar and many others required or the poor people.

Netrakona Our Netrakona Correspondent writes: Different organisations brought out a big procession in protest against the Gulf war and chanted slogans for immediate withdrawal of the American soldiers from Arab land. They chanted slogans "Bush downfall, no blood for oil", "want peace". The protesters paraded the main roads of the town and called on all Muslim countries to forge unity against the killing of Muslims.

Chandpur Our Chandpur Correspondent writes: A big procession

North-South gas pipeline

Govt losing huge money for work suspension

SYLHET, Jan 23: Work on the Taka 530 crore North-South pipeline to connect the gas fields in the greater Sylhet district with the national grid should be resumed immediately in the interest of the local people and the nation as a whole, concerned energy experts said, reports BSS.

Work on the 210-km pipeline at Gopalganj upazila in Sylhet district was stopped on December 22 by the local people who were demanding realisation of some local demands.

Financed by World Bank, UNDP, British Overseas Development Authority (ODA) and the Netherlands under the second gas development project, the project will have two parallel pipelines, one carrying gas and the other condensate, and will have a two-way traffic system.

When completed, this pipeline will connect Kailashitla, Baniabazar and Rashidpur gas fields and will be extended upto Ashuganj as part of the national gas grid.

When BSS correspondent talked to the people of Gopalganj during his visit there recently, they said, "We have no objection in laying the pipeline which will benefit the whole nation, but we want fulfilment of our demands first." The demands are: establishment of fractionation and dehydration plants at Gopalganj to process the condensate (Mixture of diesel, petrol, kerosene and liquefied petroleum gas) and get diesel, petrol, kerosene and LPG separated for marketing.

The concerned government agency said without construction of the pipeline establishment of dehydration and fractionation plants could not be started on technical ground.

Loss Tk 3 lakh per day Delay in laying the pipeline would cost the government US dollar 34,000 and Taka three lakh per day as compensation to the pipelaying firm, Petrobangla sources said.

It would also hamper supply of gas to Jamuna Urea Fertilizer Plant in Jamalpur, boosting supply to the Fenchuganj and urgent repair of Kailashitla well number one.

The people organised by the local political parties and the All Party Students Unity also staged a sit-down demonstration in front of the offices of the concerned agencies at Gopalganj to realise their demands and threatened to take tougher stand if the demands were not fulfilled.

World Bank, the financing agency of the project, also put pressure on the government to resume work on north-south pipeline to receive the financial support.

Notes from Madaripur

From Our Correspondent

MADARIPUR, Jan 23: At least 50 welding factories have been set up on roadsides in the town in violation to the Factory Act. Apart from creating obstacles in the free flow of vehicles and movement of pedestrians, the illegal functioning of these factories have led to environmental problems. Physicians said that the residents are suffering from various diseases due to adverse effects of the welding factories.

Anti-smoking body formed

The students of Madaripur town have formed an anti-smoking association at a meeting on January 10. Md. Kamrul Hossain and F.M. Zakaria Habib were elected President and General Secretary respectively of the Association. The Association will launch an anti-smoking campaign among students and adults soon.

Accommodation problem

Increased house rents in the town since last six months are creating problems to low-income groups. According to the tenants, inadequate number of houses has given house owners the scope to increase rents. Construction of houses declined due to rise in price of construction materials. Some houses owners said that demand for rented houses are on increase because a large number of employees and workers are pouring into the town to attend offices in both private and public sectors. Many government and private organisations have opened their offices in the town.

2 killed in road accidents

A middle-aged woman of Bazitpur village of Rajoir upazila was run over by a speeding bus, police said. The victim, Jahura Begum (45) was knocked down by the bus while she was crossing a road near the village recently. She received serious injuries.

According to eyewitnesses, the vehicle veered on the walkways and knocked her down from behind. The bus was seized, but both driver and helper however, managed to escape.

In another accident a man died on the spot and six others sustained injuries near Mustafapur village, police said here. Eyewitnesses said that the incident occurred recently when a bus coming from Takhrat overturned and fell into a roadside ditch near the village. The deceased was identified as Khondokar Litu (22). The injured were admitted to the hospital. Police seized the vehicle but the driver managed to escape. A case has been filed in this connection.

Sangbadik Sangstha meet held

A meeting of the Jatia Sangbadik Sangstha Madaripur unit was held at Sangstha office premises at Puran Bazar on January 4.

Forkan Ahmed, President of the unit was in the chair, while it was addressed by Borhanur Sultan, Belal Khan, Delowar and Salim Farazi.

Women lack sports facilities

Lack of sports facilities in the town has been creating problems to pursue sports career for women. Sports-loving women complained that due to absence of playgrounds, gymnasiums and physical training centres, they are not able to get themselves trained to compete in national and international sport events. Moreover, most school and college girls do not have adequate sports facilities.

Political scene

War steals away polls fervour

Star report

Outbreak of Gulf war has dampened the spirit of electioneering across the country. Instead of holding processions for party nominees the political activists are engaged in staging demonstrations wishing victory for Saddam.

Everywhere in the country public protest against attack on Baghdad by US-led multinational forces continues. Saddam and Bush have become a household name in Bangladesh — not the candidate contesting for February 27 parliamentary polls.

Our Chapinawabganj Correspondent writes: Out of 36 candidates have withdrawn their candidature from the three constituencies of Chapinawabganj district on the last date of withdrawal of candidature on Monday. They are Tozammel Haque Babu (JSD-Inu) and Sadul Islam (CPI) from Nawabganj 1, Ziaur Rahman (BKSAL), Sadekul Islam (CPI) and Moinat Uddin (M-Kader) from Nawabganj 2, and Bazlur Rahman Charina (BKSAL), Sayed Ahmed Biswas (CPI), Nazrul Islam (NAP) Hossain Ali Peara (JSD-Inu), Hossain Ali (Freedom Party) and Yusuf Ali (Independent) from Nawabganj 3.

Our Kushtia Correspondent adds: A procession was brought out by Awami League workers on January 17 in protest against arrest of Kader Siddique, a valiant freedom fighter of the country. The processionists paraded the main streets of the town and demanded immediate release of the freedom fighter. The processionists also held street corner meeting and expressed their indignation over the action taken against him.

NDP meeting BSS from Noapara adds: A big public meeting was held on Monday at the Noapara Muslim high school premises in Raizan Upazila of Chittagong under the auspices of the National Democratic Party, according to a Press release of the party.

Addressing the meeting, NDP leader Salauddin Quader Chowdhury said that the coming elections would be a people's verdict against those associated with corruption and misuse.

He said these elections were not meant to instal and other autocratic government.

Mr. Chowdhury said the polls would also prove whether the independence and territorial integrity of the country would remain intact.

The NDP leader also addressed a worker's meeting during the visit and said people were the only source of power in the country.

JHENIDAH, Jan 23: A total of 14 candidates withdrew their candidature in four constituencies in Jhenidah district. They are Dabiruddin Joarder (JSD-Rab), Tozammel Haq (JSD-Inu), Abdul Khalek (Islami Oikya Front), From Jhenidah-1, Kamrul Hossain (Jatiya Oikya Front), Tofazzal Hossain (NAP), Khandakar Mafiz Faruk (Gonatantrik Party), Abdul Wahed Joarder (BKSAL), Munshi Abdur Razzak (Independent), Monowarul Hoq Lal (JSD-Inu) from Jhenidah 2, Azizur Rahman (BKSAL) and Moidul Islam (Independent) from Jhenidah 3 and Golam Kibria (Independent), Abdul Wahed Joarder, (BKSAL), Aminul Hossain (CPI) from Jhenidah 4 constituency.

Chuadanga

Our Chuadanga Correspondent says: In all six constituencies of Chuadanga District Chuadanga-one and Chuadanga-two. Five candidates have withdrawn from Chuadanga while one candidate has withdrawn from Chuadanga-2 constituency. Now the total number of candidates in two constituencies stand at 15 of which six in Chuadanga 1 and nine in Chuadanga 2. The candidates who have withdrawn their nomination paper are Mokbul Hossain (JP), Moslemuddin (Jamaat), Habibur Rahman Labu (BKSAL), Moniruzzaman (NAP-Mozaffar) and Touhid Hussain (JSD-Rad) from Chuadanga 1 while Mr. Anisur Rahman (UCL) from Chuadanga-2.

Call to gear up research for uplift

From Our Correspondent

MYMENSINGI, Jan 23: A four-day workshop on Bangladesh Agricultural University Research Progress for the session 1989-90 under the joint auspices of BAU Research Education system (BAURES) and the committee for Advanced Studies and Research was recently held at University Auditorium. The inaugural session was presided over by Prof. S. M. Faruk, Director of BAURES while Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh Agricultural University Prof. M. Asadur Rahman was the chief guest. And Dr. Hamid Mian, Member-Director of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARE) was the special guest.

Addressing the session Mr. Asadur Rahman emphasised on strengthening research activities at the University level in a planned manner with a view to making higher agricultural education more meaningful. He called upon all to support fundamental as well as adaptive researches at the University level. The research Project must reflect the national development needs and the planners should be very careful in respect of prioritization of research areas, he added.

Dr. Hamid stressed the need for problem-solving approach of research in our country.

Prof. Faruk said that the BAU Research system should be made an integral part of national agricultural research system, which will accelerate the overall process of agricultural research in our country. The function was addressed by Prof. M. Idris, Coordinator

of CASR and Dr. Mosharrar Hossain Mian, Associate Director of BAURES.

In eight technical sessions of the workshop a total 87 project evaluation reports and 34 departmental research reports were presented for considerations.

Besides, five more technical sessions consider the progress reports on BAU Farming system Research and Development Projects.

The recommendation session of the workshop was held on January 18 and it was presided over by Prof. S. M. Faruk, Director of BAURES.

Buffalo kills one in Satkania

SATKANIA (Chittagong), Jan 23: A man was killed on the spot and seven others were injured when a mad buffalo attacked them at village Dharmapur in the upazila, police said, reports UNB.

The victim was identified as Niranjan Das (38). The incident occurred last week when they were cutting trees. Manindra Lal Das and Badal Das were admitted to the local upazila hospital with grievous injuries while the rest were released after first-aid.

23 arrested in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Jan 23: Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) arrested 23 persons from different spots on various charges during the last 24 hours, a CMP press release said, reports BSS.