

National

Tk. 4 cr already spent

Ganges barrage scheme faces uncertainty

From A Correspondent

BAGERHAT, Jan 24: The Taka 1,131 crore Ganges Barrage scheme undertaken over a decade ago now faces uncertainty. During this period nearly four crore Taka have been spent mostly for conducting survey.

The initial phase of the work will require Taka six crore, an official told this correspondent. During the current financial year (1990-1991) no fund has been allocated for the Ganges Barrage Project. Three probable sites have been selected for the construction of the barrage. But the finalisation of the site

will take some more time. Preliminary survey strongly suggests that West Bahirchar is most suitable for the barrage construction. Bahirchar is two and a half miles away from the Hardinge Bridge.

When implemented the Ganges Barrage scheme will provide irrigation and flood control facilities for 43,91,000 acres of land in 16 districts of Khulna Division and five districts of Dhaka Division. These districts are Bagerhat, Khulna, Satkhira, Jessore, Narail, Jhenaidah, Magura, Kushtia,

Chuadanga, Meherpur, Pirojpur, Jhalakati, Barisal, Barguna, Bhola, Patuakhali, Goalundo, Faridpur, Madaripur, Shariatpur and Gopalganj.

Besides, 28,73,100 acres of land will also get substantial irrigation and flood protection facilities in northern Bengal.

Moreover, the scheme includes construction of three pump houses with lifting capacity of 15,000 cuases of water, three main regulators and 465-mile-long flood control

embankments which would provide water storage facilities round the year. These three proposed pump houses would ensure adequate lifting of water for irrigation. This would also be helpful for the adjacent Ganges-Kobadak Project. It is hoped.

According to an official source, out of the total amount of Taka 1,131 crore required for the scheme the foreign exchange component is Taka 220 crore. It has also been estimated that when completed the annual maintenance cost of the project would come about Taka 16 crore.

Upazila roundup

BHOLA

UZ courts need waiting rooms

From Our Correspondent
January 24: Absence of waiting rooms at seven upazila courts is causing suffering to the litigants.

The peoples who come from the remote corners of the upazila courts have to wait under the open sky or in the corridors of the court building. The situation becomes worst in the summer and rainy season.

The people of the upazilas have urged the authorities concerned to take necessary steps to construct waiting room without further delay.

Illegal production of medicines

Some homeopathic doctors of the district are allegedly manufacturing medicines without licence.

Informed sources told the Daily Star, the medicines are being manufactured not in laboratory in any hygienic process, the sources added. The medicines include syrups, ointment, powder for various diseases.

People complained of adverse effects on the users and called for curbing the production of substandard homeopathic medicines in an unlawful manner.

MADARIPUR

Industries incur loss for erratic power supply

From A Correspondent
January 24: The industrial units of the district have been incurring huge loss due to erratic power supply.

Informed sources said sufferings of the domestic consumers have also multiplied enormously.

Power disruption at night for hours together has given rise to anti-social activities, people complained.

Rivers silted up

New chars and shoals have emerged in the rivers Arial Khan, Kumar, Kirtinasha and Padma adversely affecting navigation.

The rivers flowing over the district of Madaripur, Shariatpur and Gopalganj have been blocked by the formation of new chars.

Dry season accentuates the problem of unhindered movement of riverine transport bringing the local trade and commerce almost to a standstill.

DINAJPUR

Dishonest traders warned against hoarding

January 24: Food Adviser, Prof. Iajuddin Ahmed on Wednesday said that stern actions would be taken against those who would create artificial crisis in essential commodities including foodgrains on the plea of Gulf war, reports BSS.

Prof Iajuddin was speaking at a meeting of the district level officials here.

Mentioning the satisfactory food reserve in the country, the Food Adviser warned that people would not tolerate any attempt by any quarters to raise the price of foodgrains for profiteering. He urged all concerned to build up strong resistance against the dishonest traders and hoarders.

Prof Iajuddin directed the concerned officials to avoid food loss and monitor constantly the price of foodgrains and its supply.

Earlier, the Food Adviser visited Dinajpur CSD, Fulhat LSD and some purchasing centres. He also visited some local bazars to see for himself the market price of foodgrains when he also talked to the farmers present.

KISHOREGANJ

Bus journey hazardous

Form Our Correspondent
January 24: Journey by buses and coasters has become hazardous and risky due to overloading and reckless driving and bad condition of roads in the district causing frequent accidents on Kishoreganj-Bhatrab, Kishoreganj-Mymensingh, Kishoreganj-Kartimganj, and Kishoreganj-Nikli routes.

It is alleged that the drivers and conductors carry passengers on roof-top. The coasters and mini-buses carry goats,

sheep, vegetables, fruits, and betel-leaf baskets inside and roof-top of the buses. These vehicles halt at different hats and bazars to load and unload luggage. Moreover, undue delay in unloading goods from buses and trucks at the busy Kishoreganj town of the district also cause traffic jam.

Bus conductors realise excessive fare from the passengers. They also misbehave with the passengers. Most of the drivers are illiterate. Many of them have no valid driving licences. They sometimes use fake names and addresses. The law-enforcing agency cannot find out the responsible drivers for the accidents. Buses plying on the road are of deplorable condition. These untold sufferings on their way causing untold sufferings to the passengers.

Local people have urged the concerned authorities to look into the matter and take necessary steps to mitigate the sufferings of the people.

BAGERHAT

Arms recovered, 3 arrested

From A Correspondent
January 24: Fakirhat police recovered one home-made pipegun and one round of ammunition from the village Arundang under Fakirhat Upazila recently.

According to a police source, acting on a secret information the police raided the house of one Sardar Mizanur Rahman of Arundang village and recovered the arms and ammunition from the heap of a paddy straws. In connection with the matter police arrested Sardar Mizanur Rahman, Sardar Selim and Masud Sardar.

Another report states that the police of Mongla Polices Station recovered two pipeguns and ten rounds of live cartridges from stacks of bricks near the office of

Mongla Port Authority at Mongla recently.

House gutted

A house was completely gutted when a fire broke out in the village Umajuri of Nishanbaria Union Parisad under Morelganj Upazila in the district.

It is reported that the house belonged to a destitute woman. It caught fire when she was absent from the house and consequently, all belongings were completely burnt to ashes.

NETRAKONA

Irri-Boro farming hampered

From Our correspondent
January 24: Irri-Boro production in vast areas of land has been hampered seriously in different parts of the district due to erratic power supply.

According to official sources, hundreds of deep tubewells have been installed in the district with a view to facilitating irrigation for Irri-Boro farming. But due to erratic power supply and shortage of spares, the total cultivations scheme including industrial production are being affected badly.

MYMENSINGH

Obituary

January 24: Principal Reazuddin Ahmed (48), a renowned educationist and social worker of Mymensingh died here recently, reports BSS.

Mr. Ahmed was the founder-principal of Nasirabad College, founder-Secretary of Muminunnesa Women's College and Mymensingh Mahila College, Syndicate member of Dhaka University and Agricultural University. He was associated with a number of socio-religious organisations.

Prof. Ahmed leaves behind his wife, three sons and three daughters.

MAGURA

500 ponds lying unutilised

From Our Correspondent
January 23: Over 500 ponds in different upazilas of Magura district are lying unutilised. If these ponds are brought under pisciculture, about 10,000 maunds of fish worth Taka six lakh could be earned every year, local elite think.

Fish cultivators feel that if the concerned authorities take appropriate step to reexcavate the silted ponds, and scientific method of cultivation is introduced with training arrangement fish production will rise substantially which will help raise the income of the rural people.



Respite after a day's work braving the winter chill under the open sky. -Star photo

Cattle disease breakout in Netrakona

From Our Correspondent

NETRAKONA, Jan. 24: At least 400 cattlehead died of different diseases in Netrakona district during the last months.

According to a source, thousands of cattlehead those escaped death after the attack of the disease have now been reduced to skeleton. These cattlehead cannot be utilised for service. As a result seasonal farming in the district is being hampered to a great extent.

Local agriculturists alleged that the death toll of cattlehead rose to a staggering figure due to indifference of animal husbandry offices of upazila and districts for not taking preventive measures against cattle disease.

The diseases broke out in the wake of the recent floods and took serious turn in Sadar, Purbadhala, Madan, Khaliguri and Atpara upazilas.

Meanwhile, scarcity of fodder has intensified threatening fresh outbreak of disease. The germs of the diseases being carried with water hyacinth, green leaves of various trees and rotten straw. Supply of consumable straw in the dis-

trict has seriously run short. It is being sold at Taka 300 per maund while the prices of oilcake, bran, husk have gone beyond the purchasing capacity of the majority farmers.

Meanwhile, the woes of Railway passengers travelling on Parbatipur-Panchagarh lines are increasing due to lack of basic amenities making the train journey troublesome.

Only one local train on this line and it can hardly cope with rush of thousands of travelling people. The only train is always overcrowded.

Only five or six small and old compartment are attached to the train. Passengers finding no room inside the compartments due to heavy rush remaining standing on the foot boards. Moreover many passengers travel on the engine and roof of the train at the risk of life.

The train often run without second class compartment as a result, the passengers booked for the second class have to travel in the overcrowded third class compartment. Beside the train

hardly maintain any time schedule, many persons carry goods such as cloths, fire, wood, rice, atta, vegetable and fish in the passengers compartments blocking the space that could accommodate some more passengers.

As regards amenities, fans, water supply and light in all compartments are absent causing great inconvenience to the passengers especially women and children.

Compartments and latrines of the local train are not cleaned regularly. There is no separate compartments for the women passengers, who can hardly board the train due to rush of the male passengers.

Arrangements in the stations are not satisfactory. Many railway stations on the line have on waiting rooms for the third class passengers. Some of the stations have no waiting sheds. Sufferings of the passengers multiply during the rainy season and summer.

The authorities concerned should take immediate measure to mitigate the sufferings of passengers travelling on this line as early as possible.



PAHNA: BNP Chairperson and 7-party alliance leader Begum Khaleda Zia addressing a public meeting at outer stadium here on Tuesday. -Star photo

Nurses' training centre needs better treatment

From Our Correspondent

MAULVI BAZAR, Jan 23: The Nurses Training Centre which came into being in February 1987 has been experiencing various problems.

The centre has no building of its own and it is being housed in a rented building at Sultanpur Road in a very unhygienic and congested place. It is learnt that although a substantial amount of money is annually earmarked for the

construction of Nurses Training Centre (NTC) building. Practically no step has been taken to start the construction at the site selected for the purpose within the modern hospital compound.

The 75-foot long rented building, which is being used as class rooms, staff quarters, hostel and office room, could not give accommodation

Notes from Bhola

From Our Correspondent

BHOLA, Jan 24: Adulterated edible oil is being sold in Bhola town and other upazila bazars of the district unabated for a long time.

Even palm oil, meant for manufacturing soap is also being mixed with the mustard oil and sold to the consumers. A number of organised gangs is running these practice and are supplying the adulterated edible oil, ghee, cocoanut oil, and soyabean to the wholesalers freely.

Knowing the facts most businessmen are purchasing such adulterated materials and selling to the people.

Besides, a section of unscrupulous traders is also engaged in manufacturing mustard oil and ghee in their hidden factories by mixing some indigenous materials and marketing them at cheaper rates.

The poor consumers getting the same at cheaper prices are buying without hesitation.

A number of businessmen told Daily Star that, adulterated edible oil from Dhaka and other places of the country had flooded the markets all over the district. As a result the genuine traders are facing a lough.

Power failure

Frequent power disruption and load-shedding have become a regular feature in Bhola town and other areas causing financial loss to the businessmen and inconveniences to the inhabitants. Owners of mills and factories complained that they are sustaining a huge financial loss as production decreased following erratic power failure and load-shedding.

The household electric and electronic gadgets were rendered in-operative due to voltage fluctuations, town dwellers said. The areas plunge into darkness as soon as the sun sets increasing anti-social activities.

The school text-books from class VI to class X are not sold without note-books in seven upazilas of the district, it is alleged.

In all upazilas of the district. The upazilas are: Bhola Sadar, Lalmoan, Charfession, Tazumuddin, Monipura, Daulatkhan and Burhanuddin.

On the other hand, note books supplied by the book shops are below the standard and as such students are facing a lot of troubles to buy text books.

If anybody, wants to buy only text books the shops keeper refuse to sell books on the plea that no such text-books are available in their stocks.

It may be mentioned here that sale of note books is banned.

Political scene

Polls campaigns turn into anti-war rallies

Star report

War in the Gulf has greatly influenced the politics in Bangladesh. Electioneering in every upazila and remote villages reached its peak long before the finalisation of candidates by different political parties and groups.

The hectic political campaigns suddenly came to a halt as soon as the war broke out. In most places election processions turned into anti-war and pro-Saddam processions. The call for an immediate end to war is now heard in otherwise quiet rural society.

However, political rallies are also being held at various places with the leaders making newer pledges to attract the voters. In one such gathering held recently at Kalihati in Tangail district Mr. Shahjahan Siraj, leader of the Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD-Siraj) has promised to exempt tax upto 10 bighas of land.

Our Sirajgonj Correspondent writes: Two Awami League candidates have withdrawn their candidature from parliamentary polls. Advocate Golam Hossain withdrew his candidature in favour of BKSAL candidate Abdul Latif Mirza in Sirajgonj (Ulboara) and District Awami League Secretary Anwar Hussain Rotu withdrew in favour of BKSAL Presidium Member Abdul Momin Talukder.

Our Pabna Correspondent says: In her first leg of election tour to northern district Begum Khaleda Zia, BNP chief addressed a huge gathering in the outer stadium on Tuesday. Abdur Rouf Abed Vice President, district BNP presided over the meeting. Begum Zia narrated the picture of Awami-BKSAL regime when freedom of newspaper and political parties were restricted.

Our Kishoreganj Correspondent writes: A total of 23 candidates withdrew nomination papers in the ensuing parliamentary election in Kishoreganj. With the withdrawal of these candidates the total number of candidates new contesting stands at 59. The following persons withdrew their candidatures.

Kishoreganj-1 Asfor Uddin Ahmed (ML), Monirul Hoq (Independent), Harunur Rashid (Janata Dal), Kishoreganj-2 Forhad Uddin Khan (CPB), Kanchan Miah (Independent), Kishoreganj-3 Helaluddin Bhuyyan (JSD Inu), Abdur Rahim (JSD Rob), Saidur Rahman (ML), Rafiqul Alam (BKSAL), Mesba Uddin (JAGPA), Dulon Bhowmik (Gonotantri Party).



KHULNA: Pro Saddam rally parading the city streets on Tuesday. -Star photo

Kishoreganj-4 Syed Bodaruddin Hossain (Gonotantri Party), Kishoreganj-5 Forhad Ahmed Kanchan (Independent), Abdul latif (JP), Meraj Miah (Independent), Kishoreganj-6 Muzammel Hoq Khan (NAP), SK Nurunnabi (Gonotantri Party), A. Hamid (Jamaat), Azad (Freedom Party), Mohiuddin (Workers Party), Saileshar Das (CPB).

Kishoreganj-7 Abu Bakar Siddique (JP), Indrajit Das (CPB).

Chandpur

Fifteen candidates from five constituencies withdrew nominations on Tuesday. Earlier 72 candidates filed nomination papers for six constituencies. Fifty seven candidates will now contest the coming JS election.

Tangail

Sixteen persons withdrew their nomination papers on Tuesday.

According to Election Office sources, 69 persons are now in the run for 8 parliamentary seats in the district.

Feni

Six candidates withdrew their nominations for three parliamentary elections from this district. According to Election Office 28 persons will now contest the election.

The constituency-wise candidates are - ten for Feni-1, ten for Feni-2 and eight for Feni-3.

Chittagong

The leaders of Bangladesh nationalist party here on Tuesday demanded recovery of illegal arms and arrest of the arms holders so that people could cast their votes in a peaceful atmosphere.

They were speaking at a

party workers' meeting at a hotel in connection with the gearing up of their electioneering.

They appealed to the journalists to project news and views objectively so that the society could benefit from the government. They said it was Awami League that had switched over to Presidential system of government and that it was now the people who could decide what form of government they would like to have.

Central leaders, Oli Ahmed, Dr A F M Yousuf and Abdullah Al-Noman addressed the meeting.

Oli Ahmed and Abdullah Al-Noman are contesting from Chittagong eight and Chittagong thirteen constituencies respectively.

Jamaat

BSS from Khulna adds: Speakers at an election meeting held on Tuesday under the auspices of city Jamaat-e-Islami at Rupsa area here called upon the people to come under the banner of the party to help establish Islamic rule in the country so that the people could lead their lives in conformity with the Islamic principles.

Speakers also urged the people to vote for Jamaat-e-Islami candidates in the coming parliamentary polls.

Presided over by Mohammad Kamrul Islam the meeting was addressed by Moulana Shamsur Rahman, Secretary General of Jamaat-e-Islami Central Committee, who is also a candidate for JS seat from Khulna-2 constituency, as chief guest. Advocate, Mohamirud

Ansaruddin, Amir of Khulna city Jamaat, Sheikh Abul Kashem and Mohammad Elias Hossain.

Awami League

A report from Battighata adds: Speakers at an election meeting held at the Putmiria Primary School premises here under the auspices of Battighata thana unit of Awami League, called for casting votes in favour of Awami League in the coming parliamentary polls on February 27. Presided over by Babu Pulin Bihari the meeting was addressed by Sheikh Harunur Rashid, General Secretary of Khulna district Awami League, who is a candidate for JS seat from Khulna-1 constituency, as chief guest. Babu Panchanon Biswas, Bibhuti Bhushan Mallik, Abdul Aziz Golder, Prof. Nimai Chandra Roy, Advocate Rabindra Nath Mondal, Prof Feruzur Rahman, Ranjit Kumar, Dipal Mallik and Gaur Das Dhali addressed the Meeting.

A report from Chittagong says: Islami Shiktra Shibir Secretary General A Z M Obaiddullah has called for creating a congenial atmosphere to enable all concerned persons to depose before the one-man commission on December 22 incident of Chittagong University, a Shibir Press release said.

Addressing a protest meeting at Andarkilla Tuesday afternoon, he alleged that some rival groups attacked Shibir members at Agrabad when they were going to depose before the Commission regarding the Chittagong University incident. He demanded immediate shifting off the Commission office

Chhatra Shibir

Addressing a protest meeting at Andarkilla Tuesday afternoon, he alleged that some rival groups attacked Shibir members at Agrabad when they were going to depose before the Commission regarding the Chittagong University incident. He demanded immediate shifting off the Commission office