

Upazila roundup

TANGAIL

Seven hurt in clash over drama

Dec 17: Seven persons were injured in a clash between two rival groups in village Nikla under Bhuapur upazila on Thursday on a dispute over the staging of a drama, reports BSS.

One Ratsuddin and Ramizuddin were admitted to sadar hospital with stab injury, two others were admitted to sadar local health complexes and the rest were given first aid.

UP polls

Election in ninetyone of the one hundred union parishads under eleven upazilas of the district will be held in the first phase in January.

Elections in the rest of the unions will be held later.

CHANDPUR

One gets 4-yr RI for kidnapping housewife

Dec 17: A man has been sentenced to four years of rigorous imprisonment for kidnapping a housewife and forcibly marrying her, reports UNB.

Court sources said, the convict was also fined Taka 5 thousand and in default would suffer one year RI more.

District and Sessions Judge delivered the judgement on December 6.

According to the prosecution story, convict Md A Aziz, father of four children of village of Shahrastra upazila kidnapped Farida Begum (20), a housewife of village Ullahsar of the same upazila of the district in broad day light on December 13, 1989 while she was going to her relative's house along with younger brother.

Later, the convict forcibly married Farida against her will. Farida's husband was then working in Bahrain.

Her father filed a case and after investigation, police submitted charge sheet against Abdul Aziz and his associate Anwar Hossain.

The learned judge, examining record and witnesses, awarded the punishment to Aziz and acquitted Anwar.

Advocate Sheikh Matjur Rahman and Advocate Md Siddiqur Rahman conducted the case as prosecutors while Advocate Quazi Habibur Rahman defended the accused.

FARIJPUR

AGM of Red Crescent unit held

Dec 17: The 19th annual general meeting of Bangladesh Red Crescent society district unit was held here recently, reports UNB.

Presided over Acting Chairman of the district unit Md Kamruzzaman Jansu, the meeting was also attended by a good number of members of the Society.

Secretary of the district unit Kazi Anwar Ali, presented the annual report on activities of the unit.

Referring to the activities of Red Crescent he said the organisation distributed relief goods among the flood affected and distressed people in the district.

The goods included 12 metric tons of rice, 22 metric tons of wheat, 8 metric tons of flour, 1450 kgs of pulse and other necessary materials including medicines.

NARAIL

Shortage of bullocks hits cultivation

Dec 17: Acute shortage of bullocks is hampering cultivation throughout the district during the current season, reports UNB.

About 70 per cent of the farmers in the rural areas of the district have no bullocks to till their lands. Most of the farmers, cultivate their lands on share-basis as they can not afford to purchase bullocks at an exorbitant price. As a result many plots of land in the district remain uncultivated every year, informed sources said.

At present, a pair of bullocks is being sold between Taka 12,000 and Taka 15,000.

According to farmers, cattle diseases claim a good number of cattlehead every year causing suffering to them.

Moreover acute scarcity of fodder has been prevailing in the district after the recent floods. Milk production has also declined to a great extent.

PIROJPUR

Pry students to get 5.99 lakh sets of books

Dec 17: About 5.99 lakh sets of books for primary students in 6 upazilas of the district will be distributed in the year 1992, reports UNB.

According to official sources, of the total books, 1.30 lakh sets will be distributed in Pirojpur Sadar Upazila, 86,243 sets in Nazirpur, 81,910 in Bhandaria, 1.24 lakh in Nesarabad, 41,697 in Kaulkhali upazilas of the district.

The distribution of the books will begin in January next, the sources added.

PATUAKHALI

26 lakh tons aman paddy output likely

Dec 17: A total of 25.70 lakh metric tons of aman paddy is expected to be produced in 11 southern districts in the current season, reports UNB.

Local Agriculture Extension Department said, about 16.50 lakh hectares of land were brought under aman cultivation in the district this year.

Of the total land, 3.96 lakh hectares were cultivated in Patuakhali, 2.48 hectares in Borguna, 3.61 lakh hectares in Bholia, 2.75 lakh hectares in Barisal, 1.13 lakh hectares in Jhalakathi, 1.71 lakh hectares in Pirojpur, 14,200 hectares in Faridpur, 3600 hectares in Madaripur, 17,000 hectares in Shariatpur, 3700 hectares in Rajbari and 2000 hectares in Gopalganj districts.

MANIKGANJ

Dredging of Jamuna in progress

17 The dredging work on the river Jamuna near Aricha ferry terminal has been geared up to facilitate ferry movement, official sources here said, reports UNB.

About 45,000 cubic metre of silt would be removed from the river bed.

Riverine communication has been hindered in the last few days due to sharp fall of water level in the rivers Padma and Jamuna at Aricha and emergence of 100 shoals in river beds.

KHULNA

Arms, ammunition recovered

Dec 17: Railway police recovered 20 rounds of bullets from a Security Guard of Pubali Bank Branch here, reports UNB.

Police said, on suspicion, they challenged Abdul Khaleque (30), returning from Jessore by train Saturday and recovered the unauthorised bullets from his hand bag. Khaleque was travelling without ticket.

Police arrested him and sent him to jail hajat.

Another message said Khulna Metropolitan Police in separate drives recovered 35 unauthorised fire arms and 292 rounds of live ammunition during the last ten months.

The recovered arms included 3 country made rifles, 4 revolvers, 7 pipe guns and 20 pistols.

COMILLA

Smuggled goods worth Tk 46 lakh seized

Dec 17: Bangladesh Rifles arrested 20 alleged smugglers and seized smuggled goods worth about Taka 46.19 lakh during the last month from the border areas here, reports UNB.

They seized contraband goods worth about Taka 45.64 lakh while being smuggled into the country included Indian sarees, lungis, blouse pieces, woolen wrappers, sugar, medicines, spices.

The seized goods worth about Taka 54,859 while being smuggling out of the country included fish, dry fish, electronic goods, old garments and powder milk.

At least 212 cases were lodged with different police stations during the period.

According to another report, police arrested one alleged smuggler and recovered about 1100 kgs of Indian sugar worth about Taka 30,000 on December 4.

Acting on a tip, police recovered the sugar from a canal near Bhananpur in Devidwar upazila of the district.



RAJSHAHI: Rnshahi University teachers, officers and RUCSU officials led by Acting VC, Professor Atful Hye Shibli placing floral wreath at the university shaheed minar on Shaheed Intellectual Day.

Shaheed Intellectuals Day observed

From Our Correspondent.

RAJSHAHI, Dec 17: Shaheed Intellectuals Day was observed here with due solemnity.

Bangladesh Nationalist Party, Awami League, Jatiya Party and other political parties chalked out programmes to observe the day.

The organisations arranged rallies, meetings, cultural functions, reception to the families of shaheeds and special prayers.

Speakers at the meeting held at RU Shaheed Minar Square paid rich tributes to the memories of Shaheed intellectuals. They called upon all to make united efforts to materialise the dreams of the Shaheed intellectuals.

The meeting was addressed among others by RU Acting VC, Professor Atful Hye Shibli, Dean of Arts Faculty, Professor Wazed Ali, Director, TSCC, Mr Nazim Mahmud.

Bangladesh Students Union accorded a reception to the families of Shaheed intellectuals held in front of RU Central Library to mark the day.

Begum Wahida Rahman, widow of Shaheed Professor

Habibur Rahman and Mrs. Mastura Khatun, widow of Professor M. Abdul Kayum were present among the Shaheed families.

Different cultural organisations staged dramas and musical soiree in the town which were attended by a large number of spectators.

A BSS report adds: Rnshahi University, RUCSU, Shaheed Smriti Sangrhalah and other organisations placed floral wreaths at University Shaheed Minar. University teachers and other brought out "provat ferry" and offered special prayer for salvation of the martyr's souls and progress and prosperity of the country.

Speakers at the discussion called upon the people and the pro-liberation forces to fight unitedly for establishing an exploration free democratic society.

Muktijoddha Sangsad Rajshahi also observed the day in a befitting manner. The organisation chalked out three-day programmes highlighting the significance of the intellectuals and victory day.

Sunderban, treasury of nature needs care

Bees crossing border for safer places

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Dec 17: Swarms of bees are crossing the border from the Sunderbans in quest of safer places due to large scale collection of honey.

According to an estimate, about 4500 maunds of honey are collected from the Sunderbans annually.

Honey is not only a nutritious food but it also used as a basic raw material in the pharmaceutical industries.

When contacted, an experienced honey collector regretted that random destruction of forests was mainly responsible for the disappearance of the bees. The ecological balance of our country is also greatly hampered by the destruction, he continued.

The honey collector continued that the rock bees known for its poisonous strings find it convenient to build hives in branches of trees, ceiling of buildings, and in gardens and groves. People due ignorance drive away the bees from their honey combs, he expressed.

The Sunderbans are abound with wild bees. They are crossing the border for want of suitable accommodation in the Sunderbans. The bees are migrating to the West Bengal ar-

reas in India, it is informed.

An expert suggested that the forest authorities should immediately take up plans to increase honey output in the Sunderbans which might help the country to earn a huge amount of foreign currency.

Khal needs re-excavation

The Pran Shayer Khal running through district town has almost silted up polluting the environment.

The Khal has now been turned into a garbage reservoir with the regular dumping of wastages. The proportion of contamination of the atmosphere has turned into a alarming state that it helps break out of various diseases in the town.

It may be mentioned here that Pran Shayer Khal was dug in 1860 by the then jaminder of Satkhira, Prannath Roy Chowdhury and later it was re-excavated by the British Government in 1901. It was again partially re-excavated in 1977.

A Dutch and Swedish team jointly visited the khal and agreed to provide financial assistance to the tune of Taka 50 lakh for the re-excavation of

the khal.

The team later sanctioned Taka 30 lakh for the said purpose, it is learnt. But the implementation of the scheme has not yet been started for unknown reasons.

Diesel price up

Scarcity of petrol and diesel has been prevailing in the district due to the transport strike causing immense sufferings to the travelling people and farmers.

Petrol and diesel are selling at Taka 30 and Taka 25 per litre as against Taka 14 and 11 respectively.

The Satkhira Hospital needs a child ward.

The hospital has only two wards — one for male and the other for women. In the absence of children's ward, the child patients are accommodated in women wards which is also not enough for the women.

Over 100 child patients come to the hospital from farflung areas of the districts daily. At best 8 to 10 patients get admission to the hospital and the rest patients have to return being disappointed.

Three awarded life-term for murder

COMILLA, Dec 17: Three people have been awarded life-term in a murder case by the Additional Sessions Judge here, reports UNB.

They were also fined Taka 5000 each, in default, to suffer two more years of rigorous imprisonment.

The court found the accused Abdoo Mia, his son Abdul Hossain and Roashan Ali of village Dargoop in Homna upazila guilty and sentenced them to life imprisonment.

Of the accused, Abdoo Mia and Abdul Hossain are absconding.

The court gave the verdict last week after examining 11 prosecution witnesses.

The case, in brief, was that on November 15, 1988 he victim Abdul Hamid Khalifa of the village Dargoop in Homna upazila was coming back home with his cattle.

Literate village

JHENIDAH, Dec 17: Andulia, a village of Harinakundau upazila has achieved 100 per cent literacy under a programme launched last year, reports UNB.

Bangladesh Islamic Foundation, district unit, took the initiative on October 90. A total of 24 volunteers including three females devoted themselves to eradicate illiteracy from the village.

After the successful implementation, the village has become the second literate village after Maidharpur in Sadar upazila of the district.

However, the village had a magnificent literacy rate of 85 per cent during the launching of the literacy programme last year. Only 190 people out of 1,280, were illiterate.

Shoals threaten ferry services

MANIKGANJ, Dec 17: Innumerable shoals have emerged in the rivers Padma and Jamuna threatening complete disruption of river transportation with the northern districts, reports UNB.

Ferry services between Aricha-Nagarbari, Aricha-Daulatdia, Aricha-Baghbari, Mawa-Charzanazat, Serajganj-Jahannathganj and Fulchuri-Bahadurabad ghats have already been greatly handicapped, BIWTA officials said here Saturday.

Over 4000 shoals have surfaced dangerously narrowing the navigational channel at many points. On the 280 km route between Bhaigyakul in Munshiganj and Daikha in Kurigram, hundreds of chars have been located, the officials said.

Hydrologists of Water Development Board attributed the emergence of shoals to abnormal fall in water level because of withdrawal of waters at farakka and large scale erosion in the rivers Padma and

Number of child labourers rising in Chapainawabganj

From Our Correspondent

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Dec 17: The number of child labourers is increasing day by day in Chapainawabganj district.

According to an unofficial source, about 10 thousand child labourers below twelve years are engaged in different odd jobs for earning livelihood.

The continuous floods, cyclones, drought and other natural calamities of our country have made the marginal and landless farmers destitute. At last they sail for unknown destination in search of food and shelter after disposing of their last resort, small house.

The poor parents are compelled to send their ward for earning bread instead of providing them with education. The hunger deprives them from having the free primary education.

Most of the poor parents have become sick for want of food for a considerable time. Losing the working ability they are compelled to send their sons and daughters to work for earning livelihood.

The child labourers are engaged in odd jobs. They work in hotels, restaurants, bidi factories, motor garages and

workshops and in houses as servants. Some of this child labourers are found plying rickshaws, working as hawkers, selling bidi-cigarettes and newspapers. In some cases this child labourers are to feed the members of their families.

Taking the advantage of their pecuniary condition, some unscrupulous businessmen and smugglers engage them in unlawful activities. This no doubt indulge the children in immoral activities.

This kind of child labourers use to stay at railway stations and abandoned places as they are not able to hire a house to live in. So various diseases can easily attack them who in the meantime have become weak for want of nutritious food. Most of the times they have to remain half-fed.

According to International Labour Laws, no children is allowed to engage in any hard work below the age of 15 years. But we see a different picture in Bangladesh.

Moreover the child labourers have to work for more than 12 hours at a minimum salary. Almost every where the child labourers are depressed and oppressed without any protest. The child manpower can be

used as a work force in certain sectors which we have now observing in Bangladesh. Before and after their work they can be provided with educational and health facilities and that can make their life happy and prosperous.

The concerned authorities have been urged to take steps to rehabilitate them in a creative way to remove the child problem.

A UNB report adds: Bangladesh Rifles arrested three alleged smugglers and seized goods worth about Taka 39.05 lakh from border areas of the district last month.

According to official sources, smuggled goods, worth about Taka 25.50 lakh were seized while being smuggled into the country and goods worth about Taka 5.46 lakh were seized while being smuggled out to India.

The seized goods included fertilizers, bicycles, buffaloes, eggs, sugar, clothes, salt, tobacco, onion, sarees, rice, yarn, Indian rupee, skins, gold, polyester.

About 160 cases were registered with respective police stations, the sources added.

Health complexes face problems

JAMALPUR, Dec 17: Most of the health complexes in the district have been facing manifold problems due to absence of ambulance, shortage of staff and medical apparatus, reports UNB.

Hundreds of patients from far flung areas of the district coming to the health complexes everyday are to go back disappointed in the absence of proper treatment facilities.

Most of the complexes are operation with shortage of staff, X-ray machine, blood bank, dental or ophthalmic treatment facilities.

Emergency patients can not be moved due to lack of ambulance. Moreover, paucity of pure water and lack of proper drainage system in the complexes have also increased sufferings of the patients.

It is alleged that valuable medicines including life-saving drugs supplied to the health complexes are being sold in the blackmarkets.

The supply of medicine from the health complexes is quite inadequate to meet the requirement of the patients, it is alleged. The patients are to very often buy medicines from the market at exorbitant prices.

The people of the district have urged the authorities to take necessary steps to mitigate the sufferings of the patients.

Fish diseases have broken out in an epidemic form in almost all seven upazilas of the district, fishery officials said.

The diseases known as ulcerative syndrome, have affected different varieties of fish like taki, soal, gazar, puti,

boal, magur and shing. With the outbreak of the diseases, the demand for fish had abruptly fallen in the local markets, fish traders said.

Nutrition experts feared that low income group of people who mostly live on fish are likely to suffer from protein deficiency following the outbreak of fish diseases.

Local people urged the authorities to spray lime water in the affected waterbodies to combat the menace.

Madaripur, Shariatpur

The health complexes of Madaripur and Shariatpur districts have been facing manifold problems for a long time.

According to informed sources, paucity of drinking water, lack of proper drainage system in the premises of hospitals, absence of ambulance, blood banks, dental and ophthalmic instruments are common problems in the health service institutions of the two districts.

Most of the health complexes do not have X-ray machines causing much inconvenience to the suffering patients.

Hundreds of patients who come to the health complexes for medical attention everyday from remote areas go back disappointed due to absence of proper treatment facilities.

It is learnt that due to shortage of ambulance, emergency patients cannot be shifted to the hospitals in the district headquarters in time.

Notice Inviting Tender

No. 3-1991-92

Dt. 11.12.91

Memo No. UE/Char/681

1. Sealed tenders in Form "A" are hereby invited from the below mentioned enlisted contractor of all Upazila Parishad (Defunct) of Rajshahi district, pre-qualified contractor of LGEB and Zila Parishad, Rajshahi for the undermentioned work and will be received by the undersigned in his office and office of the Executive Engineer, LGEB, Rajshahi up to 12.00 Noon on 31.12.91 AD and will be opened on the same day at 12.30 P.M. in presence of the tenderers who may like to remain present. Each tender shall be in a sealed cover with the name of work superscribed on it.

Sl No.	Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Contractor (enlisted)	Price of schedule	Time for completion
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Re-construction of Chorghat Govt. P.ry. School.	Tk. 3,90,000/-	Tk. 7,800/-	A	Tk. 400/-	60 days
2.	Re-construction of Vatpara P.ry. School	Tk. 3,90,000/-	Tk. 7,800/-	A	Tk. 400/-	60 days
3.	Re-construction of K.G. Rampur Govt. P.ry. School.	Tk. 3,90,000/-	Tk. 7,800/-	A	Tk. 400/-	60 days

3. Contract document consisting of Form "A" schedule of item additional terms and conditions, etc. can be seen and obtained from the office of the undersigned and Executive Engineer, LGEB, Rajshahi during the office hours on all working days on payment at fixed amount (Non-refundable) per schedule up to 30.12.91 AD. The tender form may be purchased by the contractor himself or his representative on production of authorised letter bearing the signature of the representative duly attested by the contractor. No tender form and schedule will be sold on the date fixed for opening of tender.

4. Authority reserve the right to accept any tender or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason.

Sd/- Md. Aminul Islam
Upazila (Defunct) Engineer,
Chorghat, Rajshahi.

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