

Upazila roundup

KISHOREGANJ

Govt decision on ration goods protested

From Our Correspondent

Dec 27 : Hundreds of Palli and Paura ration card holders brought out a procession in Kishoreganj Town recently in protest against the government decision to stop supply of the foodgrains to the card holders since December 16 last.

The processionists paraded the different thoroughfares of the town and later handed over a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner. The government have taken decision to stop supplying of the ration goods among the Palli and Paura ration card holders till February 29 next.

Toll collector held

From Our Correspondent

Dec 27 : Kishoreganj Police arrested an alleged mastan, Kashem Sarwar from Kachari Bazar area of the town recently.

He was taken into custody on charge of collecting illegal tolls, terrorism in the locality and other specific criminal activities, police said.

The arrested person is a terror of the locality and was attached with various anti-social activities.

The local people demanded exemplary punishment to the culprit.

MAULVI BAZAR

Newsman assaulted

From Our Correspondent

Dec 27 : Mr Syed Mohammed Ali, Editor of weekly 'Bahrni Shikha' and District Correspondent of 'Dainik Janata' was assaulted by a gang of miscreants at Sreemangal town recently.

He was assaulted in connection with a news item of toll collection by the leaders and workers of a political party from business men of Sreemangal published in his weekly 'Bahrni Shikha', it is learnt. A case was filed with Sreemangal Police Station in this connection.

Sreemangal Press Club arranged a protest meeting with Mr Bipul Chowdhury Correspondent of 'Weekly Jugovry' in the chair. The meeting condemned the attack and demanded exemplary punishment to the culprits.

In a joint statement signed by Mr Radhika Mohan Goswami and Mr Syed Ruhul Amin, President and Secretary of District Journalists Association and Mr Shafiqul Wahed and Mr Abdus Salam, President and Secretary of Maulvi Bazar Press Club also condemned the attack and demanded immediate arrest and exemplary punishment to so-called mastans.

RAJSHAHI

3-day Art Exhibition concludes

From Our Correspondent

Dec 27 : A three-day long Solo Art Exhibition of artist Swapon Bhawmik was concluded on December 19 last held at Rajshahi University Central Students Union (RUCSU) Bhaban recently.

Mr. Golam Faruk, Principal of Rajshahi Art College formally inaugurated the exhibition. A total of 20 paintings of the artist in different media were part on the gallery for display which was attended by a large number of spectators.

MYMENSINGH

Boro paddy farming plan

BAU Correspondent

Dec 27 : Mymensingh Agriculture Extension Department (AED) will bring about 2,70,000 acres of land under Boro paddy cultivation during the current season in 12 upazilas of the district.

Mr Nasiruddin Bhuiyan, Deputy Director of AED said, about 2,52,000 tons of Boro paddy is likely to be produced in the district.

Of the total land, 23,000 acres will be brought under Boro paddy in Sadar, 21,900 acres in Muktagacha, 24,000 acres in Fulbaria, 29,500 acres in Trishal, 23,757 acres in Bhaluka, 24,800 acres in Gaffarganj, 24,000 acres in Nandail, 11,500 acres in Gouripur, 35,000 acres in Fulpur, 32,120 acres in Dhahaghat, 13,000 acres in

Dhahauria upazila in Mymensingh district.

AED will provide agronomy and distribute HYV seeds among the farmers.

NARAIL

Absconding killer held with pistol

Dec 25 : An absconding murderer was caught red handed with an Indian pistol and four rounds of ammunition by the villagers of Malliat in Sadar upazila Sunday, reports UNB.

According to the villagers, the miscreant Sunil Roy attempted to shoot Sanat Kumar Roy (20), of the village but luckily the bullet was not fired and at this opportunity Sanat cried for help.

Hearing the alarm, the villagers rushed to the spot and caught him. He was later handed over to the police.

Five years ago Sunil murdered Sanat's father Narayan Roy and fled to India. Later he and his accomplices were tried in absentia, local people said.

KAMALAKANDA

Irregularities in bridge construction alleged

From A Correspondent

Dec 27 : The irregularities in construction of four bridges at a cost of Taka 15.10 lakh have left all the four collapsed after three months of completion, it is alleged.

Of the four, the bridge on Raghurampur Road was constructed at a cost of Taka 8,25,000, in the year 1987-88, the bridge on Naitapara-Kattapara Road was constructed at a cost of Taka 300,000 in the year 1988-89, the bridge on Rampur-Kattapur Road constructed at a cost of Taka 2,32,000 in the year 1986-87, bridge near Sibti High School constructed at a cost Taka 1,52,000.

It is informed that Taka 50,000 for earth cutting on two approach roads were totally misappropriated by the contractor in collaboration with the Sub. Assistant Engineer of the upazila. It is further alleged that the contractor was a relation of a highly placed man.

RANGPUR

Call to eliminate blindness

From Our Correspondent

Dec 27 : The installation ceremony of the Lions, Lioness and Leo-Club, Rangpur was held recently at the club premises with Mr. Humayun Zahri, Governor of the Lion District-315-A, as chief while Mr. Anwarul Haque, Lion Lt Governor as special guest.

A number of speakers including Dr. Animesh Majumdar, Dr. Ashim Bhowmik, Selina Akhter, Dr. Abdus Sattar and Abdur Rashid Chowdhury spoke on the occasion.

Lion Governor Mr. Humayun Zahri in his speech called upon the member of the Lion, Lioness and Leo-Clubs to begin movement on 'Mission for vision' to eliminate blindness from the country.

JHENAIDAH

One kidnapped, found dead

From Our Correspondent

JHENAIDAH, Dec 27 : One Rabul Islam (25) of Betai-Durgapur in Jhenaidah Sadar was allegedly beaten to death by some unknown armed miscreants recently.

Police and family members and relatives on the following night traced out Rabul from the village corn field and died on way to Kaliganj Hospital.

Jhenaidah police sent the body to Jhenaidah Morgue. The body of the victim, Rabul was found tied and bore sign of beating injury.

SHARIATPUR

Separate union demanded

From Our Correspondent

Dec 27 : The three posts of member will remain vacant in Ward Number One of Benodpur Union Parishad under Shariatpur Sadar Upazila as none filed nomination papers for those posts.

The inhabitants of the Ward Number One earlier decided to boycott the ensuing UP election to press home their demand for a separate union.

It may be mentioned here that the inhabitants of the ward had been demanding a separate union for a long time.

The people of the ward have urged the concerned authorities to declare the ward as a separate union immediately for the greater interest of the local people.



USED WOOLLEN CLOTHES : It's like cake in the winter. The biting cold due to the on-going rain and wind has made it hot-cake. — Star Photo

Notes from Chuadanga

CHUADANGA, Dec : Anwar Ali (14), a young boy of village Joyrampur under Damurhuda upazila of Chuadanga district was killed on the spot while he was run over by a speeding truck near at Joyrampur Kathal Tala nine miles from here on Chuadanga-Darsana Highway recently.

The driver of the truck absconded. Later Damurhuda thana police seized the truck and sent the body for post-mortem.

Crimes on rise

Theft, burglary, cattlelifting and other criminal activities have increased in different areas of the district for the last few weeks.

It is reported that two daring thefts were committed at the same night on December 2 last at Munshiganj Bazar under Alamdanga upazila at the district. The thieves stole away cloths and rice about Taka 80 thousand.

5 persons nabbed for tolls collection

Chuadanga thana police arrested five persons from village Dithikestopur under Chuadanga Sadar upazila on charge of collecting tolls recently.

The arrested persons are : Shahjahan of village Fakirpara under Damurhuda upazila, Shahidul of Golondo, Abdur Rashid of Loaknathpur under Damurhuda thana, Montu Fakir and Straj Fakir of Jutidanga under Mirpur thana of Kushtia district.

A case has been started with Chuadanga thana police in this connection.

Stones removed

One hundred and fortythree small stones like motor dal in size were removed from the gall bladder of one Muslima Khatun of village Darsana under Damurhuda upazila of district on December 1.

The stones were removed through an operation at Jiban-nagar Upazila Health Complex which was conducted by Dr Fazle Akbar, a junior surgeon of the health complex.

Dr Fazle Akbar was assisted by Dr KC Gangulee of the same health complex.

Founding anniversary

The 20th founding anniversary of 'Chuadanga GItiyan Music Academy' was observed here recently.

In this connection a discussion meeting was arranged which was presided over by Mr. Abdul Jobbar Sonar, the President at the Music Academy held at the local Sreemonto town hall. Mr Tajul Islam, Deputy Commissioner of Chuadanga was present on the occasion as the chief guest while Mr Abdur Rahim, SP, Chuadanga was present there as the special guest.

Smallest Quran

JAMALPUR, Dec 20 : The world's smallest holy Quran was traced out here on Wednesday, reports UNB.

The Quran weighed 2.4 gm, 2.25 cm in length, 1.7 cm in width and 5 mm thick has all features of a complete Quran with all 30 chapters.

Md Rezaul Haque, Proprietor of 'Rupam Medical Hall' displayed the Quran at local Press Club claiming it as the smallest of the world.

Rezaul Haque, a drop out of Punjab Medical College possessed the treasure in 1965 as a gift from an Afghan friend.

Last week, BTV said that the world's smallest Quran was found to one Mazur Murshed in Comilla. But it was weight 3.4 gm, 2.1 cm in length, 1.6 cm in width and 9 cm in thick.

25 hurt in clash over possession of land

SATKHIRA, Dec : Twenty five people including 3 women were injured in a clash between two rival groups over the possession of a disputed land at Nevakhali in Sadar upazila Sunday, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, the two groups led by Strajul Islam and Hamid Ali attacked each other on the possession of the land after hot exchange. Both the groups used ram dao, balam and brick bats injuring 11-people seriously.

Reception

The Rajshahi University Old Students' Association will accord a reception to the Ministers, State Ministers and MPs from the ex-students of the university under the present government, says a Press release.

The reception will be held on January 3 at the Shahu Academy Auditorium at 3.30 p.m.

The ex-students have been requested to contact Corona Corporation 62/1, Purana Paltan, Dhaka and attend the reception.

Use of firewood in brickfield unabated

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Dec 27 : The use of firewood including small trees and bamboo roots in brick-fields of 16 northern districts is unabated.

Despite government ban, firewood is widely used in about 700 brick-fields of the northern districts.

It is learnt that these brick-fields are in production with single and double chimneys and the owners have collected huge quantity of firewoods for the purpose.

The government banned the use of firewood in brick-fields and supplying coal for the purpose. There are 20 coal depots for supply of fuel in Rajshahi Division, it is informed.

The brick-fields owners are more interested in using firewoods in place of coal. As a result, the coal in the depots remain unsold, it is informed.

While contacted, some brick-field owners disclosed that firewood is cheaper and it can be procured on credit. The use of coal increases the cost of bricks, they informed.

The firewood is burnt in brick-fields openly but the law enforcing agencies are not taking any action for unknown

reasons. The large-scale cutting of trees are gradually destroying the ecological balance.

Our Rajshahi Correspondent reports : Despite government ban, the brick-field owners are using the firewood indiscriminately.

At least 20 crore bricks will be burnt in about 50 brick-fields during the current season, it is learnt. About 3000 maunds of firewood are needed to burn one lakh of bricks, it is informed.

Some of the areas or the district are becoming almost tree-less as a result of huge cutting of trees. On the other hand, the use of firewood leaving the coal deposit unsold.

The old trees are very rare in the district and as a result the scarcity of timber has been prevailing in different areas of the district.

It is alleged that the brick-field owners are managing the law enforcing agencies and thus there is nobody to stop use of firewood.

The people of the districts have urged the concerned authorities to take steps to implement the ban for the greater interest of the country.

Children suffering from malnutrition

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Dec 27 : Over one lakh children in seven upazilas of the district have been suffering from malnutrition.

A good number of mothers and children have become the victim of various water borne diseases due to continuous floods and drought. Many children are becoming crippled or blind for want of nursing foods.

The children of these upazilas are suffering from stomach ailments, blood dysentery, skin diseases and malaria. According to child specialists, the children should be given foods and drinks which contain requisite vitamins.

The mothers and guardians are not aware that consumption of vegetables, pulses, egg, rice, suji and fruits can meet the deficiency of vitamin.

The village people are poor but they can arrange home-made items for their wards, child specialists expressed. A wide spread campaign for

awareness regarding the food value is necessary to combat the situation, they added.

A UNB report from Borguna says : Hundreds of babies here are suffering from blindness, which doctors say is caused by vitamin 'A' deficiency.

A recent survey showed that about 200 infants have already lost their eight-sight over the last few months, which could be prevented by regular breast feeding.

The reports also said that infant mortality rate were rising in the district as mothers showed reluctance to feed from the breast.

About 35 per cent of the total children have been suffering from night blindness, malnutrition, skin and other gastro-intestinal diseases, the survey further said.

Quoting doctors, the report added that mother, both in the rural and town areas are preferring bottle to breast for their babies out of concern for physical beauty.

Accommodation problem hampers trading

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Dec 27 : Hats and bazars in different upazilas of the district are beset with multifarious problems causing inconveniences to the customers and sellers.

Bardal Bazar, Buddha Bazar, Protabnagar Bazar and Assasuni Bazar under Assasuni Upazila, Batholith, Suasheni and Jhethua bazars under Tala Upazila, Ronsopur, Nasimganj and Ishwaripur bazars under Kaliganj Upazila, Kuli and Dibutta bazars under Debhutta Upazila, Baliadanga, Ramkrashnapur, Kazrhat and Chandanpur bazars under Kalaroa Upazila, Agardari, Dulihar, Bangdah and Altipur bazars under Satkhira Sadar Upazila are now in a pitiable

condition. With the increase of the population of the number of shops have increased but the bats and bazars have not been expanded.

As a result, buyers and sellers face it difficult to move even. There is hardly any drains in these hats and bazars. So, the garbages are kept here and there which create unhealthy situation.

The people suffer much for want of latrine. The customers and shop-keepers are to respond to the call of nature at open places.

During rainy season, the people had to suffer much as there is no sufficient sheds for the purpose.

40,000 villagers to get electric connections

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Dec 27 : The works on the massive Rural Electrification Programme (REB) have been going on in seven upazilas of Sylhet district.

According to an official source, the programme is financed by the World Bank and being implemented by the Rural Electrification Board.

When contacted, the General Manager, Sylhet Palli Biddut Samity informed this correspondent that, 965 kilometres power distribution line would be constructed in seven upazilas of the district. The upazilas are: Sylhet Sadar, Golapganj, Beanbazar, Jaki-ganj, Balganj, Biswanath and Fenchuganj.

In total, 2315 villages in 65 unions of these upazilas would be covered by the programme. About 40,000 connections including domestic and commercial would be provided with the electricity facilities, the source informed.

Under the project, four power sub-stations of 5 M.V.A. capacity each and one of 10 M.V.A. capacity had already been constructed by the Board at Golapganj, Balaganj,

Beanbazar and Sylhet Sadar upazilas. When completed, the project, the project would improve the existing economic condition of the people in this under-developed region, it is expected.

It may be stated here that the Samity was formed on October 1986 under the guidance of the Rural Electrification Board.

3 held with stolen wire

QAZIPUR, Dec : Police arrested one truck driver and his two helpers while they were loading stolen electric aluminium wire worth about Taka 35,000 near Horitoki village in Kalitakor Upazila on Dhaka-Tangail Highway, reports UNB.

According to police, the driver Abdul Hamid with the help of his two helpers Haroon and Golam Mostofa while loading the wire measuring 1800 feet in his truck (No Dhaka Da 516) was caught red handed on December 16.

Armed terrorists active in Narsingdi

Free, fair UP polls uncertain

NARSINGDI, Dec 27 : Peaceful holding of the coming Union Parishad Election here has become uncertain due to rampant activities of the outlawed political parties including so-called Sarbahar Party in the district, reports UNB.

At least 50 people were killed and many others injured in the district by the outlawed political groups, during the last one year, police said.

Armed terrorists have been very active in Sadar, Polash, Shelepur, Monohardi, Belabo and Raipur upazilas. The situation worsened after the killing of a prospective UP election candidate recently. Local leaders of different political parties, police and administration sources told newsmen.

Several incidents of violence were reported during the submission of nomination papers, they said, adding 'it might affect the holding of free and fair election'.

Most of the popular leaders are not contesting in the election and leaving their residences as they are feeling insecure.

A local Awami League leader termed the law and order situation alarming adding that the UP election would be influenced by the outlawed armed groups.

He feared that the voters might be forced by the armed groups to cast votes in favour of their chosen candidates.

A senior police officer said the armed thugs expanded their activities in the rural areas also and patronised by local influential people.

Meanwhile, the government has declared a general amnesty to the members of the Sarbahara and other-outlawed organisations and urged them to lay down their arms and ammunition by January 8.

But the local leaders expressed doubts if it would create any dent to the district. They urged the law enforcing agencies to take effective measures to ensure voter's security during the Union Parishad Election.

Separate cases filed in 1989 against two Union Parishad chairmen of Sadar upazila for misappropriation of wheat worth about Taka 8 lakh, still remain suppressed, local leaders alleged.

The two persons of Hajipur and Alokabi unions are again contesting for the forthcoming Union Parishad Election.

Sources said the two chairmen lifted a huge quantity of wheat given for Fool-for-Work Programme and they submitted false master rolls to the authorities to show that the distribution of wheat was done and work completed.

But on allegation from the local people, an investigation team from Relief Ministry visited the unions and found that no work had been done.

The Bureau of Anti-Corruption filed two separate cases against the two chairmen but proceedings have not started in the last two years.

The cases are now being referred to by the opposing candidates in the UP electioneering.



KHULNA : M.A. Satter and Abdul Zaili Howlader were elected President and Secretary of the local hawkers union in the annual general election held here recently. The other office-bearers are also seen in the picture. — Star Photo