

### Upazila roundup

#### BARISAL

#### Sugarcane cultivated in 15,465 hectares

January 20: About 15,465 hectares have been brought under sugarcane cultivation in 11 southern districts under Barisal circle this year, reports BSS.

The districts are: Barisal, Jhalakati, Bhola, Pirojpur, Patuakhali, Barguna, Faripur, Rajbari, Gopalganj, Madaripur and Shariatpur.

According to Agriculture Extension Office sources, 725,800 metric tons of sugarcane will be produced in these districts this year.

The Agriculture Extension Department has set up 108 demonstration plots in these districts to teach the farmers the scientific method of sugarcane cultivation.

Besides, Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) has supplied seeds, fertilizers, insecticides and other necessary inputs to the sugarcane growers.

#### TANGAIL

#### Principal assaulted

January 20: Professor Alifur Rahman, Principal, Kumudini Government Women College was injured Friday night at his residence by a gang of miscreants. He was called out and assaulted by the miscreants, reports BSS.

He was given treatment in Sadar Hospital. A case was filed in Tangail thana.

The teachers and students of the college condemned the incident and boycotted classes the following day.

#### SIRAJGANJ

#### Ex-Chairman arrested

From Our Correspondent: Sirajganj police arrested Mr. Abdul Karim Khan, ex-Chairman, Sonamukhi Union Parishad under Kazipur Upazila on charge of misappropriation of 148 maunds of wheat recently.

It is gathered that acting on allegation, the District Anti Corruption Bureau enquired into the matter and found the allegation to be genuine and filed the case with Kazipur Police station for allegedly misappropriation of 148 mds of wheat of the project.

#### KHULNA

#### Call to ensure social justice

January 20: Speakers at a meeting of the Khulna unit of Bangladesh Ex-soldiers Association on Wednesday at its city office called for ensuring social justice in all spheres of national life so that the people could live in peace and prosperity, reports BSS.

The meeting presided over by Sheikh Amjad Hossain, Chairman of Khulna divisional unit of the Association and was addressed by Major (Rtd) Sheikh Jamshed Hossain as chief guest. Mohammad Rafiquzzaman, Ershad Ali and Md. Sultan Ahmed and others spoke.

The speakers called upon the people to elect honest, patriotic and dedicated persons in the coming parliamentary polls.

The speakers also extended their full support to the Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed for his leadership in establishing a democratic process in the country.

January 16: Seven jute mills here were halted for more than 12 hours on Tuesday due to an wildcat strike by the workers, reports UNB.

The jute mill workers at Khulshapur and Atm industrial belts went on an wildcat strike at 9.30 Tuesday morning protesting non-implementation of incentive bonus in their mills.

The affected mills are: Platinum Jubilee Jute Mills, Star Jute Mills, Crescent Jute Mills, Daulatpur Jute Mills, Alam Jute Mills, Eastern Jute Mills and All Jute Mills.

The workers resumed their duties at 10 pm following a meeting between CBA leaders and the mills authorities.

#### RANGPUR

#### 239 prisoners released

From Our Correspondent: January 20: Release of prisoners from Rangpur jail has been completed yesterday. In all 239 prisoners were freed under general amnesty declared by the government, this was told by Jailor of Rangpur Jail.

#### NETRAKONA

#### Transport worker killed

January 20: A transport worker was run over by a truck Thursday at Satal area in Netrakona town, reports BSS.

Police said the victim Husain Ali (20) while trying to get down from the speedy truck he was travelling in slipped off and went under the wheel. He was rushed to Netrakona Sadar Hospital, but on way to Mymensingh Hospital he died.

A case has been recorded with Netrakona Kotwali police.

#### KISHOREGANJ

#### One killed by miscreants

From Our Correspondent:

January 20: Selim aged 15 of village Bhangakhali in Karimganj upazila was killed by miscreants on January 14. According to police, the miscreants entered the house by cutting earth at dead of night and hit Selim with an axe on the head while he was asleep. He died on way to hospital. A case was registered with Karimganj police. The A.S.P (Sadar circle) visited the spot. None was so far arrested.

#### KUSHTIA

#### Hospital for burn injuries

January 20: The foundation stone of the country's only hospital for burn injuries was laid at Alampur here recently, reports UNB.

Sponsored by the National Burn Society of the country, the foundation stone was laid by Col. Billi Kirk Collins, President, Phoenix International, U.S.A.

Collins assured all possible help for the smooth running of the hospital.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Patron of the society, Dr. S. R. Khan said this hospital would be a prototype of India's Valore Hospital at Madras.

He also thanked the local people for providing necessary land for the hospital. Chaired by Zulfikar Ali, the function was also addressed by S. M. Kausar and Motiur Rahman.

Date juice extraction decreases

The extraction of juice from date trees is decreasing day by day in Kustia, Chuadanga and Meherpur districts which were one famous for dategur (molasses).

The threat to this indigenous industry comes from the brick furnaces which consume thousands of date trees as fuel. Poverty has hit the tree owners and they are often compelled to sell trees to the brick manufacturers.

In the face of crisis the traditional industry needs financial support and protection for survival, the farmers said.

#### MAULVI BAZAR

#### NAP leader's death condoled

From Our Correspondent: January 20: The death of central leader and President of Rajshahi district National Awami Party (NAP) Advocate Mohoshin Pramanik was condoled here recently at an emergency meeting of Maulvibazar district NAP.

The condolence meeting was presided over by Advocate Santi Pada Ghose, Vice President of Maulvibazar district NAP.

The meeting was addressed by Mr Abdul Bari Chowdhury, Mr Golam Mostafa Chowdhury, Mr Sadar Uddin Ahmed, Mr Altaf Hossain, Advocate Samar Kanti Chowdhury.

The speakers recalled the contributions of the late NAP leader to the progressive and democratic movement of the country.

#### Anti-socials active

The serene atmosphere of the town has been threatened by anti-social activities.

According to witnesses, prostitutes roam in the main thoroughfares freely to allure customers. Drunkards and drug addicts, mostly young, are seen taking intoxicants at different points of the town with impunity.

These people often resort to looting and hijacking to collect money for buying drug and liquor.

Some medicine shops are allegedly selling sedatives without prescription promoting drug habits among the young generation.

Local elders have urged the authorities to arrange strict police vigil in the area and take stringent action against the drug-peddlers to combat the rising menace.



SYLHET: With the advent of winter guest birds from Siberia and other places of the world migrate to Bangladesh to escape biting cold. - STAR photo

## Welcome guest birds

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Jan 20: Guest birds have started crowding khal, beels and haors of seven upazilas of the district.

Experts say, with the advent of winter, different types of birds locally known as Dighari, Piggal, Kalighari, Sarils, Balihash Pankuri, Kuatra, Platinus, Red Danga and Kaira fly in Bangladesh every year from many countries, especially Siberia to escape biting cold.

About 200 species of such winter birds usually through different water bodies of Jamalpur Sadar, Madarganj,

Sarishabari, Islampur, Dewanjanj, Bakshiganj and Melaudah upazilas.

Killing of these birds by amateur hunters which is going on indiscriminately violating the government ban will discourage the arrival of these guest birds in future, experts added.

UNB from Maulvi Bazar adds:

About 300 species of migratory birds through different waterbodies including Barlekha, Kulaura, Rajnagar and Srimongal upazilas of the district.

Only a few years ago, at least 600 species of local and migratory birds were abundantly available in the beels, haors and canals of Moulavibazar in the winter season. But due to decrease in fish population and indiscriminate hunting, the number of migratory and local birds has come down to a great extent.

Experts called on the government to take necessary steps for protecting the wild birds to help promote generation of birds to maintain ecological balance.

### 54 degree examinees expelled

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, Jan 19: So far 54 degree examinees were expelled for adapting unfair means in different centres of Chandpur district. B. A., B. Com, B. Sc (pass) examination under Chittagong University began here from January 12. Of them three were expelled from Chandpur Government College, two from Chandpur Government Women's College and 49 from Kachua College centres.

About 2 thousand examinees are appearing at examination from different centres of Chandpur district.

Strict measures have been taken to check the unfair means in the examination halls.

### Prize-awarding ceremony of BAU Ladies Club

AGRI-VARSITY (Mymensingh), Jan 20: A colourful function for distribution of prizes among the winners of annual indoor competition for the year 1990 under the auspices of Bangladesh Agricultural University BAU Ladies Club was held at the BAU Club premises recently, says a press release.

The function was presided over by Mrs. Merina Rahman, the chairperson of BAU Ladies' Club and it was attended by the Vice-Chancellor of BAU Prof. M. Asadur Rahman as the chief guest.

The Vice-Chancellor in his address as chief guest laid special emphasis on the importance of women's role in social development and urged all concerned to redirect their energies in favour of creating a situation that will facilitate women's participation in economic activities in a planned manner. He further expressed his firm optimism on the dynamic leadership of BAU Ladies' Club and said that it would play a significant role in upholding the cause of women's liberation in the days to come.

The chief guest distributed prizes among the winners of the competitions. Mrs. Mariam Halim and Mrs. Mazeda Begum become joint champion by securing the highest points among the winners.

The function was conducted by Mrs. Asiya Zoha, General Secretary of the Club while the vote of thanks was delivered by Prof. Dr. Lutfun Hossain, Vice-President of the Club.

This was followed by an attractive fun-making programme.

## Political scene

### Villagers pass wakeful nights

Star report

Villagers in remote areas are now passing wakeful nights as activists of political parties have geared up polls campaign. Almost throughout day and till midnight campaigners continue ceaseless drive to mobilise voters in their favour. During night campaign the party workers carry torches and banners. They arouse villagers from their deep sleep in winter nights and approach politely for votes. In the short villages are now full of election activities. All eyes are set on election date.

Our Khulna Correspondent writes: Khulna district and city unit of Bangladesh Muslim League jointly held a discussion meeting and a Milad Mahfil to mark its founding anniversary and 78th death anniversary of Nawab Sir Saltmullah.

Muslim League candidate for Khulna 2 and 3 constituencies Md. Sirajul Islam presided over the meeting, while candidate for Khulna 4 constituency S.M. Amzad Hossain attended it as chief guest. It was addressed by Md. Amir Ali, Saikh Abu Mohammad, Saikh Amzad Hossain, Md. Sahib Uddin and Ashraf Hossain.

Our Sirajganj Correspondent states: A total of 60 candidates have submitted nomination papers for seven constituencies of Sirajganj district. Constituencywise break up is: Six candidates in Sirajganj-1 (Kazipur), 10 in Sirajganj-2 (Sadar), Six in Sirajganj-3 (Raiganj), Eight in Sirajganj-4 (Ullapara), 14 in Sirajganj-5 (Belkuchi Kamarkhanda), eight in Sirajganj-6 (Shahzadpur).

Of the candidates eight from Awami League, seven BAKSAL, eight BNP, seven Jamaat-e-Islami, seven Zaker Party and the rest are Freedom Party, JSD (Inu), JSD (Rab) and Independent.

Our Cox's Bazar Correspondent adds: To contest the forthcoming polls a total of 51 candidates of different political parties have submitted their nomination papers in the four constituencies of Cox's bazar district to the Assistant Returning Officer of respective upazilas.

The candidates included Awami League, BNP, NAP, Five Party Alliance, Independent, BAKSAL and Jatiya Party.

Among the candidates two are female. They are Mrs. Khorsed Ara Haque of Jatiya Party and Mrs. Monawara Jobaida Kader, daughter of the Fazlul Kader Chowdhury of Muslim League. She is a nominee of Muslim League (Kazi Kader). Both are contesting from Cox's Bazar-3 seat.

Advocate Nital Roy Chowdhury, former minister (JP), Advocate Asaduzzaman former MP (AL), Maulana Mufti Golam Rahman Chowdhury (Islami Oikya Jote), Golam Akbar Hossain (Jamaat), Wahiduzzaman (Independent), Abdur Rashid Biswas (BAKSAL), Habibur Rahman (JSD Rab), Kawseruddin Biswas (Jaker), Abdul Jalil (Independent), Professor Abdul Kasem Maridha (Freedom Party) are contesting from Magura -2 constituency. Mojibul Huq (BNP) is contesting for both the seats.

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Addressing a party workers' conference at Wajtullah Institute at playground here on Thursday, he said bickering, intolerance and terrorism among political parties would foil all efforts for a smooth transition to democracy after the mass victory against autocracy.

He urged the government to take more effective steps to recover illegal arms.

Expressing grave concern over the Gull war, the Jamaat leader called for an immediate halt to the war, saying it will destroy not only Middle East, but the whole world will have to bear the brunt of the war.

He asked his party workers to exercise patience during election campaign.

## Gloomy picture of Magura Pourashava

From Our Correspondent

MAGURA, Jan 20: Magura Pourashava area lacks basic civic amenities and lives of about 40,000 inhabitants have become miserable. The communication sector of Magura Pourashava offers gloomy picture where only 30 per cent of the total roads are pucca. Without repair and proper maintenance these roads get muddy even after a slight rainfall. Traffic is heavy and this is another reason of frequent damages of the roads. Immediate steps should be taken to make these roads pucca.

There is no planned drainage system in Magura town despite demands for the same, being raised for years together by all sections of the people. Only three or four drains have been metalled during the last 18 years but those too without any proper planning.

According to a reliable source, over 1500 divorce cases were recorded during the last few years in three upazilas of the district. The underaged housewives are the worst victims as their husbands divorced them mostly for dowry.

There are about a dozen of licensed marriage registrar offices in three upazilas of the district. As per government rule, none above 65 years of age is entitled to conduct marriage ceremony.

Our Narail Correspondents adds: The number of divorce cases and marriage of minor girls is gradually increasing in three upazilas of the district.

## Unplanned stone extraction causes huge revenue loss

From Our Correspondent

THIAKURGAON, Jan 19: The Government is deprived of a huge amount of revenue every year due to absence of any policy or system in the lifting of hard stones at Panchagarh.

Stones lifted from Tetulia and Bhojanpur in Panchagarh district met 75 per cent requirements of hard stones of the country for the purpose of development, it is reported.

Hard stones available at Panchagarh is found only at a depth of seven to eight feet. Boulders, chips and peagravel

of best quality are found everywhere even on the banks of the rivers korotoa, Mohananda, Khowal, Talma, Karum and Tangan.

According to a knowledgeable quarters, raw materials of glass industries silica sand and stones of about 11.5 crore cubic feet are available in Tetulia.

Hundreds of labourers are being engaged in stone lifting works by the owners are getting only Taka 25 per day.

The total sale proceeds go into the pockets of the land-

lords. Ten thousand cubic feet of different classes of stones are being supplied to different parts of the country everyday.

Meanwhile, Jemcon Pvt. Limited, a construction firm has started construction of electric poles by dusting boulder stones through a mechanical process.

There is a bright prospect for building stone and sand based industries at Panchagarh through the government patronisation.



COX'S BAZAR: While well-off go for recreation on the beach, the havenots like these forlorn conch-shell pickers struggle for livelihood - Star photo

## Absence of marriage deeds encourages divorce

From Our Correspondent

THAKURGAON, Jan 20: More than 10,000 marriages have been terminated during the last 24 months in 23 upazilas of greater Dinajpur district for non-payment of dowry, polygamy and immoral activities, it is learnt.

In most cases, women of the lower class have become the victims. Due to non-registration of the marriage deeds oppressed women did not get the legal protection for their ignorance. In cases of registration of marriage deeds, the oppressed women can approach the court for terminating their marriages with their husbands as their parents are unable to meet the demand of the dowry of their husbands.

The main cause of oppression of women is identified for non-registration of marriage deeds.

Besides, the marriage registrars in the remote areas demand higher fees than that of the actual one, it is alleged.

It is felt that Government should take measures to ensure registration of marriage deeds with a negligible amount of fee.

Besides, defying the Government restriction, many people marry more than once in far flung areas without the written permission of the first wife.

Similarly polygamy cases are also increasing. As a result moral values among divorced men and women are being eroded and social crimes are going up day by day.

It is alleged that many marriage registrars in the rural areas charge higher registration fees than the officially fixed rate. As a result, most of the poor parents do not take interest in the registration of marriage deeds.

Our Narail Correspondents adds: The number of divorce cases and marriage of minor girls is gradually increasing in three upazilas of the district.

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