

## Upazila roundup

## SHERPUR

## College beset with problems

Dec 1 : Sherpur Government College has been facing manifold problems due to shortage of teachers, lack of furniture and science apparatus, scarcity of water supply and recreational facilities, reports UNB.

According to informed sources, the college is now running with about 1,200 students but there are only 33 teachers out of 56. There has been no Vice Principal and a demonstrator since a decade last.

A good number of teachers are residing in the college hostel owing to shortage of staff quarters. The hostel building is now in a dilapidated condition and may collapse any day, some of them said.

Books are scarce in the library located in a very small room which is unable to meet the requirement of the students.

Lack of sitting accommodation, recreational facilities and transport are stated to be other problems being encountered by the college.

The students as well as the local guardians have appealed to the government to take necessary steps for removing these problems.

## SIRAJGANJ

## Discussion on Dr Milan observed

From Our Correspondent

Dec 1 : Bangladesh Medical Association, Sirajganj district unit observed Shaheed Dr. Shamsul Alam Khan Milan Day at the MATS auditorium on November 27.

The programme included Milad Mithil and discussion meeting.

Presided over by district BMA President Dr. Suzabuzaman the discussion meeting was addressed among others by Dr. Mottur Rahman, Dr. Rafiqul Islam and Dr. Nurul Islam Talukder. The speakers lauded the role of Dr. Milan during the mass-upsurge against autocratic Ershad regime.

It may be mentioned that Dr. Milan was shot dead by some assailants on Nov 27, 1990.

## KISHOREGANJ

## House rent up

From Our Correspondent

Dec 1 : House rent has increased manifold at Kishoreganj town due to acute shortage of accommodation over the last few years.

The middle class people as well as the small traders are badly affected because of house rent rise.

At present a single unit of residential quarter is being let out at a monthly rent of Taka 1000 to 1500. In many cases the house-owners realise advance rent from the tenants. As a result, many tenants especially the fixed income groups find it difficult to manage their accommodation here.

Due to accommodation crisis, a large number of professionals, both in private and public organisations are to live in this town leaving behind their families at village homes.

## HABIGANJ

## Samabaya Samity executives

Dec 1 : The election of the executive parished of Banijahong Upazila Kendrio Samabaya Samity (UCC) was held here recently.

Mr. Motabir Hussain and Mr. Iqbal Hussain Khan were elected Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Parishad respectively.

A report from Ajmiriganj said, the election of Ajmiriganj UCC executive parishad was held at Ajmiriganj UCC office room recently.

Mr. Alhaj Md. Hafizuddin and Mr. Humayun Chowdhury were elected Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the parishad respectively.

## Uplift schemes

UNB adds : Local Government Engineering Bureau (LOEB) has taken up three development projects at a cost of Tk 44.58 lakh during the current fiscal year, reports UNB.

According to officials, the projects are : Reconstruction of Ratanpur-Sytilain road at a cost of Tk 24 lakh, construction of two kilometre Ratanpur-Sytilain road costing Tk 20 lakh, reconstruction of one kilometre road and 4 culverts on Chunarughat-Balla road costing Tk 11.38 lakh.

The sources also said an estimated amount of Tk one crore scheme has already been submitted to the higher authorities for development of different roads of the district.

## RAJSHAHI

## Northern dists hard-hit by river erosion

From Our Correspondent

Dec 1 : River erosion has become a chronic problem in northern districts destroying dwelling houses and a vast tract of croplands along the banks.

Sirajganj, Kurigram, Chapai Nawabganj, Gaibandha, Rajshahi, Rangpur, Panchagar and Bogra are largely affected by the massive erosion.

The intake canals of main pump house under Ganga-Kabotak project at Bhramara have been seriously threatened by the erosion of the Padma. About 30 per cent areas around the intake canal have already been washed away.

Erosion has affected about 60 upazilas in 16 northern districts and condition of 25 upazilas are reported to be worst, informed sources said.

## COX'S BAZAR

## BKB to disburse Tk 11.50 cr among farmers

Dec 1 : Bangladesh Krishi Bank will disburse an amount of Taka 11.50 crore among the farmers of Cox's Bazar district during the current season, reports BSS.

According to an official source, of the total amount, Taka 2.09 crore have already been disbursed among the farmers.

The loans are meant for cattle purchase, cottage industries, salt production, rubber plantation and irrigation.

## NETRAKONA

## Smuggled goods seized

Dec 1 : The anti-smuggling task force seized a large quantity of smuggled onions, garlic, peppers, molasses and pulse worth about Taka 4.55, 631 from Machuabazar of Netrakona town Tuesday, report BSS.

The task force also arrested seven persons including two truck drivers for their alleged involvement in the smuggling. The arrested persons along with smuggled goods were handed over to Netrakona Kotwali police Wednesday. Officer-in-charge on Netrakona Kotwali police station said five cases were filed against these peoples.

## FENI

## WDB sanctions Tk 2.46 cr for 29 schemes

Dec 1 : Bangladesh Water Development Board has sanctioned about Tk 2.46 crore for completion of 29 schemes under Modhumoti-Nabaganga Flood Control Project during the current financial year, reports UNB.

According to Sub-divisional Engineer of WDB, over Tk 22.4 lakh has been sanctioned for construction of seven and half kilometre-long flood control embankment, Tk 20.59 lakh for four and a half km-long embankment, Tk 16.24 lakh for one and a half km-long embankment, over Tk 1.83 lakh for construction of 16 culverts and bridges and Tk 3.40 lakh for construction of half km-long 1183 road.

The work will begin from December and is expected to be completed by June, '92.

After completion of the schemes, flood control and irrigation facilities in Mohammadpur upazila of the district will be improved.

## PABNA

## Work on new sugar mill starts

Dec 1 : Work has begun on the setting up of a new sugar mill at Kalikapur on the side of Iswardi-Pabna road at a cost of Tk 120 crore under the 4th five-year plan, reports UNB.

The construction work of the factory building is expected to be completed by 1993.

According to Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation (BSFIC) sources, 15, 000 metric tons of sugar will be produced in the mill which will employ about 1500 people.

BSFIC is financing the project from its resources but 40 per cent mill share will be sold to the public.

The 60 per cent share of the BSFIC will also be distributed later to the private shareholders gradually.



Santal women in quest of job to earn a day's meal at Pirganj in Dinajpur. — Star photo

## Tubewell engines in boats: Irrigation hampered

From Our Correspondent

MADARIPUR, Dec 1 : At least 75 per cent shallow tubewell engines meant for irrigation are being used in the country boats hampering agricultural production in the district.

The trend of using these engines for non-irrigation purposes has become rampant for the last few years.

Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation sources said people had been using the engines in boats frequently as the concerned authorities have relaxed rules in this respect. At least 3.10 lakh shallow tubewells are needed in the country to facilitate irrigation, a BADC source informed.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Krishi Bank has started filing

cases against some engine owners for non-payment of bank loans granted for purchasing shallow tubewells.

## Guest birds

Guest birds have started taking shelter in the canal's, beels and hoars of four upazilas of the district.

According to the experts, with the advent of winter different types of birds from many countries especially from Siberia fly into Bangladesh every year to escape biting cold.

About 300 species of such guest birds usually take shelter in different water bodies of Madaripur Sadar, Kalkini, Shibchar and Rajoir upazila. Violating the government ban,

the hunters are killing these birds indiscriminately. Killing of these birds should be stopped to maintain ecological balance, experts opined.

## Mosquito menace

Mosquito menace has increased the sufferings of the district town dwellers.

Silted drains and stagnant waters, scattered garbage, are the main breeding centres of mosquitoes. The students are the worst sufferers of menace.

Local people alleged that the garbage dumped beside the roads and markets emit bad odour and pollute the environment.

The dwellers have urged the authorities to take effective measures in this respect.

## Doctors, medicines inadequate: Patients suffer

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Dec 1 : Sari-shabari Upazila Health Complex under Jamalpur district has been facing manifold problems due to the shortage of doctors, drugs and absence of other related facilities.

The existing doctors can hardly attend the hundreds of patients coming from different villages of the district. The absence of necessary appliances and other facilities further aggravated the situation.

The complex has been running without any life-saving drugs for a long time, it alleged.

Of the doctors, three are absent for a long time for unknown reasons. The people of the upazila have been deprived of the health care and family planning services due to the non-appointment of four health and family planning field workers since the beginning of the hospital.

For want of isolation words, the hospital authority accommodate all the patients in common wards. As a result, the patients are easily attacked by the infection diseases. Moreover, the visitors enter into the hospital wards at their sweet will which causes much disturbances to the patients.

The water supply to the hospital is very much irregular as the only motor has been lying out of order for a long.

The doctors of the hospital have been facing very much difficulties for want of necessary equipment, it is complained.

The hospital premises after remain dirty as there is no dustbin in the area. The cleaners do not clear the premises regularly, it is alleged.

## Cow lifting

The lifting of cow has become rampant in various parts of the district.

Over 100 cows were stolen from Dewanganj, Bakshiganj, Islampur, Melandah, Madarganj and Jamalpur Sadar upazilas during the last 15 days. Meanwhile, Melandah

thana police have recovered four stolen cows from a village of the upazila.

The farmers of the district have urged the concerned authorities to take necessary steps to stop the lifting of cows.

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society of the district unit distributed huge quantity of relief goods among the distressed people in all seven upazilas of the district.

## Notes from Barisal

BARISAL, Dec 1 : The government has allocated Tk 7,83,02,927 to implement 65 educational projects in five southern districts of Bhola, Jhalakati, Pirojpur and Patuakhali under Barisal education zone, reports UNB.

This projects include construction of 47 rural primary schools, six urban primary schools, nine senior madrasa and three primary education office buildings.

Construction of six urban primary schools and three primary education buildings will be implemented with the financial assistance of International Development Agency (IDA) under general education programme while Islamic Development Bank (IDB) will finance for the construction work of 47 rural primary school buildings and 9 senior madrasa buildings.

Each urban primary school will be provided with one tubewell, two-unit latrines, electrification and water supply system.

Besides, each rural primary school will be provided with one tubewell and one latrine.

Each primary education building will be furnished with water supply system, latrine and electrification while each senior madrasa will get one tubewell, furniture and a latrine.

## PHE will install 355 deep tubewells

The Public Health Engineering Department (PHE) with the financial and technical assistance of UNICEF will install 355 deep tubewells in six upazilas of Bhola district.

The tubewells to be sunk at a cost of Tk 1,55,13,540 will ensure supply of pure drinking water to at least 1.50 lakh people in the district.

Official sources said 72 tubewells will be installed in Bhola Sadar, 72 in Borhanuddin, 25 in Taimuddin, 24 in Daulatkhani, 73 in Lalmonirhat, 90 in Charfession and 24 in Manpara upazilas.

These tubewells will be installed within December next, officials added.

## 16.37 lakh hectares under Aman farming

About 16,37,564 hectares of land have been brought under Aman cultivation in 11 southern districts of the country during the current season.

The districts are Barisal, Patuakhali, Jhalakati, Bhola, Bogra, Pirojpur, Madaripur, Faridpur, Gopalganj, Shariatpur and Rajbari.

Land included for Aman cultivation in different districts are: Barisal-2, 74,819 hectares, Pirojpur-1,70,500 hectares, Jhalakati-1,13,330 hectares, Patuakhali-3,95,675 hectares, Barguna-2,48,065 hectares, Bhola 3,60,500 hectares, Faridpur-14,260 hectares, Madaripur-3,605 hectares, Gopalganj-2,020 hectares, Rajbari-37,250 hectares and Shariatpur-17,140 hectares.

## BNP-AL clash in Sirajganj: 10 injured

SIRAJGANJ, Dec 1 : Ten people were injured including five women in a clash between the activists of the ruling party and Awami League at Khaga village in Sadar upazila of the district this morning, reports UNB.

The injured persons are: Samela Khatun (20), Zahara Khatun (22), Aklima Khatun (25) Sharifa Khatun (30), Lal Banu (35), Habibur (40), Abdus Sattar (32), Abul Kamal (40), Shariful (28) and Satka Sheikh (45).

According to police and eye-witnesses, a group of BNP activists led by Shariful forcibly entered the house of Samela Khatun and started chopping off bamboo bush as a sequel to previous enmity.

## Record aman output in Satkhira likely

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Dec 1 : Record Aman production is expected in the district this year.

According to the Agricultural Extension Department sources, the favourable weather and timely supply of agricultural inputs helped the farmers to get better harvest of paddy this year.

The sources said that in Satkhira district 3,50,000 acres of land were brought under Aman cultivation and the production of paddy would be about 3,25,000 metric tons.

The farmers sowed 11th BR-10, BR-11, pujlam, rajashahi and kajalshahi this year.

Shyamnagar upazila may top the list of good harvest among the seven upazilas of the district.

The harvesting has already been started in most places of the district.

## Hats and bazars

The sick and old cattle are being slaughtered indiscriminately in dirty and unhygienic places of the district. Besides, most of the hats and bazars in the district are in deplorable condition.

There are about 200 approved and non-approved hats and bazars in all the seven upazilas of the district.

On an average about two lakh cows and goats are slaughtered in a year in these hats and bazars. Large amount of revenues are collected but no development of these hats and bazars was done.

In the rainy season almost all the hats and bazars go under water and become muddy due to lack of proper drainage system. The rain water remain stagnant in these areas.

Lack of sufficient space obstruct the movement of buyers and sellers. Besides, paucity of pure drinking water is very acute. Most of the hats and bazars have no latrines and urinals. So, people often respond to call of nature beside the roads which pollutes the surrounding areas.

The unhealthy situation not only exists in the village markets but also in the markets managed by pourasava authorities.

The local people urged the authorities concerned to take immediate steps to solve the problems.

## Open-heart surgery done in Mymensingh

MYMENSINGH, Dec 1 : The first open-heart surgery outside Dhaka took place in Mymensingh yesterday with one patient operated upon, reports UNB.

The critical operation was done successfully at a three-day heart camp inaugurated by Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal

Ibne Yusuf at the Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) yesterday morning.

Dr. Alimuzzaman, assisted by Dr. Aftabuddin and Dr. Farooq Ahmed, Dr. Mahbubur Rahman, Dr. Nazim Mohammad and Dr. Kamrul Ahsan accomplished the surgery.

Mazeda Begum (35), a housewife has been kept under post-operation intensive care.

Another 130 heart patients have been selected for treatment at the camp, sponsored by the district unit of National Heart Foundation of Bangladesh.

Inaugurating the camp, the Health Minister said open-heart surgery outside the capital is a "historic event".

He lauded such a great work under private initiative. "Solving all problems by the government alone is not possible," he said and called for all to come forward to supplement its efforts.

The skill of country's doctors had been appreciated in a recent World Bank report, he said, but administrative lapses and negligence of duty had also got mention in it.

The inaugural function, presided over by Salehuzzaman Khan, district President of the heart foundation, was also addressed by foundation's Secretary General Brig (Retd) Abdul Malek, MMC Principal AIM Mofakharul Islam, MMCII Director Col Ziauddin Ahmed Dr. RK Islam and Prof Amanullah.

Two seminars on cardiovascular diseases were also held in the afternoon as part of the three-day programme.

## Alarming rise in number of smokers

MADARIPUR, Dec 1 : The number of smokers has been increasing alarmingly in Shariatpur and Madaripur districts, reports UNB.

According to a survey conducted by Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Research Centre in Madaripur, 50 per cent people in the towns and 60 per cent in the rural areas are at present addicted.

The report shows that 40 per cent of the rural women and 50 per cent youths also smoke in the two districts.

When asked how the habit developed, about 99 per cent smokers mentioned environment, fancy and friendship as the responsible causes.

In several cases, smoking cigarette or bidi has led to alcoholism, according to the survey.

Only two per cent of the smokers could give up the habit, the report says.

Quoting local doctors, the report says that 70 per cent of their patients are smokers and to them, 25 per cent have been suffering from different diseases caused by smoking.

## Newsmen threatened

Bimal Kumar Saha, Jhenidah District Correspondent of the Daily Ittefaq was allegedly assaulted and threatened to kill by some local influential persons recently.

It is learnt that he was assaulted for sending reports on increasing drug addiction and open sale of drugs.

The members of the Jhenidah Press Club immediately after the incident condemned the assault and demanded immediate action, against the culprits.

A case was recorded in this connection with the Shaikupa thana.

## Misir Smriti cricket tourney begins

From A Correspondent  
SYLHET, Dec 1 : Misir Smriti Cricket Tournament-91 began at the local stadium on November 24 last.

Organised by the Jimkhana Club with the assistance of Sylhet District Sports Association, the tournament is named after late Mr. Misir Ahmed, a renowned cricketer and organiser of the district.

Prof. Sadruddin Ahmed Chowdhury, Vice-Chancellor, Shahjalal University of Science and Technology formally inaugurated the tournament. Mr. Ahsan Raza Chowdhury, General Secretary of the District Sports Association and officials of different sports organisations were present at the inaugural function.



SYLHET: Prof. Sadruddin Ahmed Chowdhury, Vice-Chancellor, Shahjalal University of Science and Technology being introduced to the players of inaugural match of Misir Smriti Cricket Tournament. —Star photo