

Upazila roundup

PABNA

Five commit suicide

Dec 4: Five people including three women allegedly committed suicide in Ishurdi and Sadar upazilas of the district, police and family sources, said on Tuesday, reports UNB.

Hazera Khatun (18), wife of Abu Taleb of Ambagan village allegedly committed suicide on November 25 due to extreme poverty.

Haashenara (35), a housewife of Sher Shah Road and Hasina Bana (25), wife of Fazlur Rahman of Mahmudpur village met the tragic end by hanging themselves from the trees on November 27 and December 1 respectively.

Both the victims allegedly took their lives following family feuds.

Nazmul Haque (25) of Baghall village allegedly committed suicide by taking insecticide on November 28.

One unidentified man aged about 28 also allegedly committed suicide under the running intercity train on November 29 near Ishurdi Police Station.

Five separate UD cases were filed with Sadar and Ishurdi police.

MANIKGANJ

Smuggled goods seized

Dec 4: Police seized a huge number of contraband Indian goods worth about Taka 5 lakh from a coach at Tara Ghat on Dhaka-Aricha Highway Saturday, reports UNB.

Acting on a secret information, Sadar police stopped the Dhaka bound coach from Benapole (Dhaka-Metro BA 02-0059) and seized 212 pieces of ladies' shawls, 170 pieces of shawres, 250 pieces of scarves and other cloth.

A case was registered but no one has so far been arrested.

PATUAKHALI

92,046 shallow, deep tubewells installed

Dec 4: A total of 76,570 shallow and 15,476 deep tubewells were installed in 65 upazilas of 11 southern districts in the last fiscal year, reports UNB.

According to official sources, 6,852 deep and 2,836 shallow tubewells were installed in Barguna and Patuakhali districts under Patuakhali Division.

A total of 8,333 deep and 28,208 shallow tubewells were installed in Pirojpur, Jhalokati, Bhola and Barisal under Barisal Division and 291 deep and 45,526 shallow tubewells were installed in Madaripur, Gopalganj, Rajbari, shariatpur and Faridpur districts under Faridpur Division.

Besides, 117 deep pump sets were also installed in Faridpur Division by June this year.

It is learnt that 1648 deep and 3152 shallow tubewells were sunk in the 11 districts during the current fiscal year. According to report, 2150 shallow tubewells will also be reinstalled in those districts in this fiscal year.

Acute shortage of bullocks

Dec 4: Acute shortage of bullocks has been prevailing throughout the district causing immense harm to rabi cultivation, reports UNB.

According to report, 45 per cent farmers have no bullocks to till their lands. They can not afford to buy bullocks as prices are beyond their purchasing capacity.

Farmers said, at present, a pair of bullocks cost 15,000 to Tk 20,000.

Diseases and flash flood in the region last year took a heavy toll of cattlehead.

Market sources said, slaughtering of bullocks has also increased to a great extent following the scarcity of fish in the markets. Besides, economic hardship has compelled many farmers of the district to sell their cattlehead to the butchers, which also contributed to the shortage of bullocks in the district.

Meanwhile, milk production has fallen in the district due to rapid decrease of milk cows. According to milkmen, scarcity of fodder is the main cause for rapid fall of milk cows.

According to another report, various cattle diseases have also broken out in the rural areas of Patuakhali and Barguna districts in the current season.

Farmers apprehend that if proper steps are not taken to control the disease, the situation might turn worse causing further loss of cattlehead.

GAZIPUR

Anniversary of Dr Milan's death observed

From A Correspondent

Dec 4: The district unit of Bangladesh Medical Association observed the first death anniversary of Shaheed Dr Milan on November 29.

A milad mahfil, blood donation and a discussion meeting were arranged on the occasion.

Presided over by Dr Shorabuzzan, the discussion meeting was addressed by Dr Abu Taleb, BMA District Secretary, Dr Mazharul Alam, Dr Jalal Ahmed and Dr Sharif Ismail Hossain.

The speakers recalled the great sacrifice of Dr Milan and called upon all to materialise his dream.

TANGAIL

DU team visits Islamic varsity

Dec 4: A Dhaka University inspection team headed by Mr Arshad Ali, Inspector of Colleges visited Kumudini Govt College and Santosh Islamic University on Monday, reports BSS.

The team went round the library, laboratories, hostels of the college and exchanged views with the Principal, Vice-Principal and science teachers.

RANGAMATI

Shantibahini activist held

Dec 4: Police Monday arrested an activist of the outlawed Shantibahini insurgents from Languda Upazila of the district, reports UNB.

According to official sources, Janojoyti Chakma (30), son of Niro Ranjan Chakma of village Kanukhka Chara in Dighinala Upazila of Khagrachari Hill District was arrested from a house in Kanikka Chara Khopajara in Languda Upazila.

Janojoyti was an absconding accused wanted by Dighinala police on charges of a number of criminal cases.

He was sent to jail hajjat while co-accused Sunil Kanti is yet to be arrested.

NETRAKONA

House-rent up

Dec 4: House-rent in the district headquarters has increased manifold in the recent years due to shortage of residential accommodation, reports UNB.

With the increase of population following upgradation of the former subdivision, demand for residential houses has gone up sharply with the consequent hike in rent.

At present, a single unit of residential quarter is being let out between Tk 1,000 and 1,500 per month, with several months' of advance payment.

As a result, many of the town-dwellers especially those belonging to the fixed income group have to leave their families behind in the villages.

New houses are not coming up because of the high cost of building material.

KISHOREGANJ

Body of young girl recovered

Dec 4: Police recovered a body of an unidentified young girl aged about 20 from a sugarcane field in village Para Kapan near Nilganj Rail Station here Sunday, reports UNB.

The body bore several cut marks on her neck which was sent to sadar hospital morgue for autopsy.

The victim wearing coloured shewar-kamij was covered by a veil (borka). Police also recovered a letter from her possession.

Police suspected that she was killed after rape.

A case was registered with police in this connection.

CHUADANGA

4 toll collectors arrested

Dec 4: Police arrested four notorious miscreants while collecting tolls from Dihikestapur villagers in Sadar upazila of the district Friday, reports UNB.

The arrested miscreants are Shajahan of Fakirpara, Shahidul Islam of Goaland, Abdur Rashid of Laknathpur, Mantu Fakir and Shizar Fakir of Jhutedanga of Mirpur upazila in Kushtia.

Acting on a secret information, police raided the area and nabbed them. A case has been lodged in this connection.



Illegal extraction of forest wood is causing ecological imbalance. Photo shows a vast tract of forest land has been denuded in Khagrachhari in Chittagong Hill Tracts. —Star photo

Tiger preservation plan still awaits approval

From Our Correspondent

SATHKHIRA, Dec 4: The preservation of tigers especially the Royal Bengal Tigers which are rare in the subcontinent is needed.

The Forest Department took up a scheme at a cost of Taka 10 crore to increase the number of tigers and its preservation. The scheme has not yet got the departmental approval for unknown reason.

At present there are over 450 tigers in the Sundarbans, experts estimate. It may be mentioned here that about 53 people who went inside the forest to collect honey, wood and catching fish during the last three years did not return. The local people say that they have been killed by the tigers or other dangerous animals of the forest.

The Royal Bengal Tigers are mainly man eaters. To preserve them, the Forest Department took up a scheme which include 125 square miles forest in three different locations of Sundarbans.

In the scheme, there was a proposal for constructing observation towers in the Sundarbans which could facilitate preservation. The towers could further help watch the movement and activities of the tigers of the Sundarbans.

It can be mentioned here that the preservation could not only increase the number of tigers but also help earn a huge quantity of foreign exchange.

The concerned authorities

have been urged to approve the scheme immediately for the greater interest of the nation.

Girl violated

Afroza Begum (14), a student of class VIII of village Bethkapa under Palashbari upazila was violated forcibly by some youngmen after lifting her from a rickshaw near Kalibari turning point recently. On November 24 at 9 am the victim was returning home after visiting her relatives. When she reached at the spot, a gang of five youngmen stopped the rickshaw and drugged her to nearby house where they raped the victim by turn. Later they fled away leaving the victim unconscious.

A case was filed with Gaibandha thana in this connection.

One gets life-term

A person has been awarded life-term on charge of killing his wife. The judgement pronounced by Mr. Abdul Hai, District and Sessions Judge, Gaibandha, recently.

The prosecution story is that the accused Nazrul Islam of Shaghata upazila use to torture his wife, Piyara Khatun. The husband, killed the victim by suffocation after being enraged through exchange of hot words. The learned judge found the accused guilty of murder and sentenced Nazrul Islam to suffer life-term in ab-

sentia. The case was conducted by Public Prosecutor, Mr. Rahmatullah Azad and Advocate Abdur Rahman Daku appeared in favour of the accused.

11 arrested

Police arrested eleven persons in connection with murder of JCD worker, Kamruzzaman from Paschimpara. The victim was stabbed to death by some miscreants on Tuesday evening in front of JCD office.

Sundarban needs care

The large-scale cutting of trees from Sundarban will push the country face timber and fuel wood crisis. It will also destroy the ecological balance of our country.

The Forest Department source disclosed that they are cutting the trees as it have been attacked by an unknown disease.

The department engaged an expert team lead by Dr Gibson in 1985 to findout the cause. They conducted a research and told the authority to cut all the affected trees. The source informed that they have in the meantime sold affected trees worth Taka 3.79 crore. They further told that they had to cut more trees as there are more disease-hit trees in the forest.

The authorities are cutting

the healthy trees also, a source informed. It is complained that the authority was not planting the saplings of different kinds of trees to replace the old ones.

The authority is planting less valuable trees, it is alleged. Despite a ban cutting sundari trees from the forest, the cutting of this sort of trees are going on unabated.

Contraband goods seized

A UNB report says: Bangladesh Rifles seized 120 grams of heroin and Indian medicines Monday from a local pharmacy of Shyamnagar Upazila of the district.

Acting on a secret information, BDR jawans raided the pharmacy and seized the contrabands. The pharmacy owner remained absconding.

The seized goods were handed over to local Customs Department.

A case was registered with upazila police in this connection.

3 lathials held

Another report adds: Police arrested three alleged lathials (hoodlums) Monday from village Baintala of Shyamnagar upazila of the district and recovered hand bombs from their possession.

Acting on a tip, police arrested Moksed Ali, Abdul Jabbar and Gahar Ali while they were visiting Protapnagar village of the same upazila.

120 refugees back home

RANGAMATI, Dec 4: Tribal refugees frustrated and disillusioned at the refugee camps in India have been returning home defying vigilance by the armed Chakma insurgents, reports UNB.

A total of 120 tribal refugees returned home over the last four days after spending about five years at various refugee camps of Tripura State including Shilachari, Karbuk and Kathaltuly.

Crossing the border adjacent to Puzarganj and Lohaganj of Panchhari upazila of Khagrachari hill district, these refugees are at present staying at the reception camps before returning to their villages, UNO of the upazila said.

Champa Lal Tripura, a refugee, said, tribal insurgents have been forcing them to stay in the camps with no food no medicine.

Many of the camp dwellers have died from starvation and disease, he said adding "We took the risk of life to trek back and crossed the border with much difficulty."

Wheat worth Taka 5 lakh embezzled in Jamalpur

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Dec 4: About 72 metric tons of steel relief wheat worth Taka five lakh allocated for the execution of the development schemes under Food for Works Programme have misappropriated by the Project Chairman under Melandah and Madarganj upazilas of Jamalpur district.

Directorate of Relief and Rehabilitation allocated the said wheat during the current fiscal year for 36 development schemes which included improvement of roads, earth work of schools, madrasa and mosques.

It is learnt that the Project Chairman took delivery of the wheat in the month of October and had sold 90 per cent of the allocated wheat.

It is alleged that no proper measurement or survey in case of earth-work was done when the wheat was received from the Melandah and Madarganj LSD godowns.

The Project Chairman submitted fake master roll to the Project Implementation Officer.

Some people of Kulia union under Melandah upazila approached two bullock carts loaded with wheat while being

Borguna hospital faces problems

BORGUNA Dec 4: The fifty-bed district hospital here is beset with manifold problems due to lack of blood bank, shortage of medicines, doctors and accommodation, reports UNB.

According to informed sources, many emergency patients who come from remote areas go back disappointed without any medical treatment.

The number of doctors is also too small to cope with the needs of the patients. It is alleged that many doctors do not attend their patients in time.

Sufferers say most of the time they are to buy medicines from outside at exorbitant prices.

Surgical patients are the worst-sufferers due to lack of blood bank and appropriate instruments, it is alleged.

Moreover, patients are to stay on the floors and corridors of the hospital because of bed shortage.

Local people urged the authorities to turn the hospital into a properly equipped 100-bed one to meet the needs of the patients.

Potato growers face shortage of fund

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, Dec 3: The potato cultivation of the district is likely to face setback for want of better seeds, agricultural inputs, and fund.

It can be mentioned here that potato is an important cash crop of the district.

About 40,000 acres of land will be brought under potato cultivation during the current season. The target of production has been fixed at two lakh tons.

A small quantity of improved variety of potato seeds has been supplied to the local cultivators, the farmers alleged. The farmers also informed that improved quality of potato is rare in the market.

The farmers of the district have been suffering from acute shortage of fund. Besides, the prices of seeds, fertilizers and other agricultural inputs are so high that they find it difficult to purchase the requisite items.

It may be mentioned here that a bumper potato production last year helped cultivators to earn more.

The local farmers have urged the concerned authorities to arrange requisite fund for the successful cultivation of the potato this season.

Rickshawpuller killed in road accident

CHANDPUR, Dec 4: A teen-aged rickshawpuller, Elahi Talukder, died on the spot when his rickshaw was knocked by a passenger bus near Chandpur bus stand on Monday, reports BSS.

The passenger of the rickshaw was seriously injured. He is now undergoing treatment in Sadar hospital.

The bus has been seized by the police. The driver is absconding. A case has been registered with Chandpur thana.

Homoeopathic hospital opens in Netrakona

NETRAKONA, Dec 4: A homoeopathic hospital was opened at Court road of Netrakona town recently, reports BSS.

The Deputy Commissioner, Netrakona Mr A H M Abul Kashem, inaugurated the hospital.

The inaugural function was presided over by Dr Jagadish Chandra Datta, President of Netrakona unit of Homoeopathic Professionals Association.



RAJSHAHI: A procession parading the street in observance of National Youth Day recently. —Star photo

Afforestation plan faces setback

From Our Correspondent

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Dec 3: The government has to incur a heavy loss for the improper decision on the Babudanga afforestation programme at mid-point.

Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation, Chapainawabganj Zone took up the afforestation programme in 1989-90 on a vast tract of high land suitable for the purpose which had bright possibilities, too.

The afforestation programme of Babudanga on barren lands which could have contributed to the better economy of the district now faces setback due to the absence of proper irrigation and protection.

The BADC authority planted 1,50,000 saplings in the seven-mile long and five-mile breadth project area which looks like a range of moun-

tains. The saplings include mehagani, shal, argun, shisu, epil epil, segun and krishnochura.

The growth of grass could save the plants from sun heat of the area. But it could not done due to shortage of fund. In the absence of protection, the people from the near by areas destroying the plants mercilessly.

Meanwhile, the localouts have prepared papers to grab the lands, it is alleged. When contracted the Revenue Department authorities have denied their involvement regarding the matter.

Besides the economic return, the implementation of the programme could help maintain the ecological balance which is must for our survival.

The digging of ponds in the project area to facilitate irriga-

tion might have increased the fish production. The vast grass field in the project area could also be a source of foods of domestic animals.

The concerned authorities have been urged to take immediate steps for the full-fledged implementation of the project for the greater interest of the nation.

A UNB report adds: Agriculture Extension Department (AED) has taken up a massive programme to bring 2,95, 950 hectares of land under wheat cultivation in 16 northern districts during the current rabi season.

On completion of the programme, a total of 5,83,21,000 tons of wheat is expected to be produced in these areas.

According to AED sources, the district wise break-up is as follows: Chapainawabganj-10,500 hectares, Natore-

15,500 hectares, Naogaon-16,350 hectares, Rajshahi-22,000 hectares, Sirajganj-30,000 hectares, Pabna-26,000 hectares, Joypurhat-5,000 hectares, Bogra-13,000 hectares, Gaibandha-16,000 hectares, Kurigram-18,000 hectares, Lalmonirhat-6,000 hectares, Nilphamari-11,000 hectares, Thakurgaon-32,000 hectares, Panchagarh-20,000 hectares and Dinajpur-32,000 hectares.

Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation will provide seeds and fertilizers and other necessary inputs among the farmers to make the programme a success.

Meanwhile, 75,917 acres of land will be brought under post flood Agriculture Rehabilitation Programme in eight northern districts of the country during the current rabi season.

District wise break up under the programme is as follows: Chapainawabganj-12808 acres, Rajshahi 3440 acres, Natore 9000 acres, Naogaon 9622 acres, Joypurhat-6500 acres, Bogra-10,000 acres, Sirajganj-20,794 acres and Pabna-7753 acres.

Under the programme, boro paddy, wheat, mustard, mize, and mashkalal will be cultivated in these lands.

Official sources estimated that crops worth about Tk. 82.50 crore will be produced under this programme at a cost of Tk 7.50 crore, official source said.

BADC have already taken steps in districts and upazila level to distribute seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and other necessary inputs among the farmers to implement the programme.

transported to a Durmut Railway Station. Later the wheat loaded carts were handed over to the Melandah upazila police.

A case has been registered with the Melandah thana in this connection. Several written allegations were also submitted to the UNO, Melandah, Madarganj, District Anti-Corruption Department, Deputy Commissioner and other higher authorities. But the authorities and the police kept more for unknown reasons.

Serious food shortage is prevailing in most of the rural areas in the district particularly in Melandah and Madarganj upazilas.

Rural people are taking adulterated foods, most of whom are hungry and half-fed.

The suffering people urged the government to supply food and take necessary action against the TR Project Chairman.

Madrasa fund misappropriated

Take one lakh has also been misappropriated by the managing committee of Kutmani Al-haj Azimuddin Madrasa under Jamalpur Sadar upazila recently.

Md Akkas Ali, head teacher and five other teachers of the madrasa have submitted written complaint to the Deputy Commissioner, Jamalpur Upazila Education Officer and District Anti-corruption Officer, in this regard.

They informed that Mr Shabuddin, secretary of the governing body and five other members had misappropriated the amount.

The misappropriated amount includes Taka 30,180 sanctioned by the government for monthly salary of teaching staff, Taka 5000 collected from Kedua Kalibari Hat, 376 kilograms wheat donated by Serajul Haq MP, Taka 10,000 received for purchase of IC sheets, Taka 60,000 from selling trees.

The teachers of the madrasa urged to the higher authorities to take immediate action against them.

Workers meeting

A workers meeting organized by district unit of the united Jattya Samaj Tantrik Dal (JSD) was held at its party office with Zillul Alam in chair.