

Upazila roundup

SIRAJGANJ

Two commit suicide

Dec 8 : Two people including a young man reportedly committed suicide in two upazilas of the district during the last 24 hours, police and family sources said, reports UNB.

Abdus Salam (22) of village Joyen Bordul of Kamarbandh Upazila committed suicide. However, reason behind the incident could not be immediately known.

In another incident, Sonabanu (25) of village Brommogachha or Raiganj Upazila committed suicide Thursday night by hanging herself with a tree. Family feud led her to suicide.

Also in Shahjapur Upazila, police today recovered the body of an unidentified woman aged about 40 from a paddy field in Gala Union.

PABNA

One killed, 12 hurt in clash

Dec 8 : A ploughman was killed and 12 others were injured, 2 of them seriously by a rival group in Shampur village of Ishwardi Upazila Wednesday police said, reports UNB.

Witnesses said, while the victim Abdul Aziz (35) and other ploughmen were tilling their croplands, a rival group of the same village attacked them with lethal weapons.

Aziz died on the spot while seriously injured Abdul Mojid (32) and Abdul Rashid (30) were rushed to Pabna General Hospital.

A case was filed with upazila police in this connection but no one has so far been arrested.

SATKHIRA

Thieves slaughter witness

Dec 8 : A man was slaughtered by thieves for being a witness to a theft on Wednesday night, police here said, reports UNB.

The victim, Abdur Razzak (40) of village Kalikapur in Kaliganj Upazila, was killed when he saw five the thieves decamping with stolen paddy bags. They attacked and slaughtered him with sharp weapons, police said.

Family sources said, Razzak went out of his house for fishing on the fateful night. The body was sent to morgue for autopsy.

Police arrested Jamil, Siddique and Jabbar in this connection. The accused, however, confessed their guilt.

NARSINGDIH

Muktijoddha Sangsad executives

Dec 8 : The annual conference and election of the Muktijoddha Sangsad of the district unit was held here on November 27, reports UNB.

The conference chaired by Imdadul Haq, Commander, Narsingdi District was addressed, among others, by Mahfuzur Rahman, Chairman and Kabir Ahmad Secretary General, Bangladesh Muktijoddha Sangsad Central Committee, Col. (Retd) Zainul Abedin, Managing Director, Muktijoddha Kalyan Trust.

Imdadul Haq and Manju Mridha were elected Commander and Deputy Commander of the district unit respectively.

Other office-bearers are : Abdul Mannan, Imanuddin, Idris Mollah, Altamash Islam, Abul Khayer Bhuiyan and Lakat Ali were elected as Assistant Commanders.

Besides, Abdul Hanif Bhuiyan, Abdul Mannan Miah and Moniruzzaman were elected as the members of the unit.

MAGURA

Demonstration plots

Dec 8 : Agriculture Extension Department will set up a total of 1,990 demonstration plots on rabi crops in six districts of the Khulna Division during the current season, reports UNB.

According to Regional Director of Jessore Agriculture Zone, out of the total demonstration plots, 312 will be set up in Magura, 431 in Jhenedah, 304 in Jessore, 232 in Meherpur, 421 in Kushtia and 290 in Chuadanga district to acquaint the farmers with the modern methods of rabi-crop cultivation.

Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation will supply essential HYV seeds, pesticides, fertilizers to the farmers.

MADARIPUR

House rent up at Madaripur

Dec 8 : House rent in the district headquarters has increased abnormally in the recent years due to shortage of residential accommodation, reports UNB.

With the increase of population, demand for residential houses has gone up sharply causing hike in rent.

At present, a single unit house is being let out for Taka 1200 or more a month which was less than half few years back.

Meanwhile, sources of the House Building Finance Corporation and the Government said, there was no immediate plan to build residential houses in the town.

Irrigation engines

At least 75 per cent of the engines for shallow tubewells are being used in the country boats hampering irrigation in the district, farmer's representatives have alleged.

The trend has been gradually increasing over the last few years and the Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation sources said, it was made easy by recent relaxation of restrictions on the use of such engines.

Agricultural output is bound to suffer a set back if irregular use of pump driving machines is not halted, the farmers said.

FENI

Press Club executives

Dec 8 : Mahfuzul Haque (The Daily Azad) and Jahanaara Begum (The Jatiya Barta) have been elected unopposed President and Secretary of the Feni Press Club for 1991-92, reports UNB.

The annual election of the club was held at the club Bhavan on November 24.

The other office bearers of the committee are : Vice President — Narayan Sengupta, Assistant Secretary — Abdul Haque, Treasurer — Abdur Rahim and Cultural Secretary — Abu Taher.

COMILLA

Five convicted for robbery

Dec 8 : Five people have been awarded different jail terms and fined for committing robbery, court sources said here today, reports UNB.

Additional District Magistrate, Rezaul Karim convicted and sentenced Humayun Kabir to suffer rigorous imprisonment for five years and to pay a fine of Taka 5000 and in default to suffer RI for another six months. Abdul Haq, Shaif Mia and Kashem Ali were convicted and sentenced to undergo RI for two years each and to pay a fine of Taka 1,000 and in default to suffer RI for further three months.

Another accused Ashkar Ali was convicted and sentenced to undergo RI for six months and to pay a fine of Taka 500 and in default to suffer RI for two months more.

The ADM after examining the records and witnesses delivered the judgement recently.

The prosecution was conducted by Wahidul Islam Advocate, while Atiqul Islam Advocate appeared for the defence.

MAJDEE COURT

Vaccination drive in progress

Dec 8 : Vaccination and inoculation drive have been progressing well in the district, reports UNB.

District Health officials said they achieved 69.3 per cent of DPT, 80 per cent of BCG and 66.5 per cent of measles target during the last 10 months.

Under the programme in 3 municipal areas and 79 unions of 6 upazilas, DPT was given to 53,718 babies, BCG to 63,987 babies and measles' vaccinations to 51,515 babies during the period.

Workshop

A workshop for orientation of the Female Health Assistants, was held at the District Health Education and Auditorium here.

District Health Department arranged the one-day workshop last week for implementation of government Health Programme 'Health for all by the year 2000'.

Presided over by Civil Surgeon Dr Abul Hossain, Deputy Commissioner M A Kamal were present on the occasion as chief guest.

Among others, Anisuddin Mia, ADC (Rev), Dr Abul Khair Bhuiyan, Dr Badrur Rahman spoke on the occasion.

Official sources said, 67 female Health Assistants participated in the orientation workshop.



GAZIPUR : Students of Joati Smiri Government Primary School attending classes under a banyan tree due to shortage of accommodation and benches. The school house damaged by cyclone some seven years back is yet to be reconstructed due to acute fund shortage. — Star photo

No security of property in Biswanath UZ

From A Correspondent

SYLHET, Dec 8 : Law and order situation in Biswanath upazila has deteriorated during the last two months. Some organised gangs of miscreants are active causing a serious sense of insecurity among the people in general.

Five armed dacoities were committed in different areas during two months in which money in cash and valuables worth a total of Taka ten lakh were looted by the armed dacoits from the in mates. Seven inmates of the houses were also injured by the dacoits.

These took place at Khajanchigaon, Chandpur, Lounergaon, Gashigaon, and Daulatpur villages. Anonymous letters are also reportedly reaching to a number of rich people of the upazila in which the miscreants are demanding money. They write the letters asking the people to keep money and ornaments ready as they demand. The miscreants also warn the people with dire consequences for failure in keeping the money or ornaments ready.

Haji Taimus Ali and Alauddin of village Kandigram, Osman Ali of Gashigaon, and Abdus Sobhan of Rahimpur got separate letters in which the miscreants had asked for keeping the money or ornaments worth Taka two lakh for them. All these letters were bearing, Both Bengali and English words are found used in these letters, it is alleged.

It is observed that, the dacoits attack the houses within a short time of sending the threat letters.

The people of different vil-

lages of the upazila have been passing their nights sleepless. The activities of the law-enforcing agencies are quite unsatisfactory, it is alleged. The people had already informed the Deputy Commissioner and SP of the situation, but the situation is yet to be changed, it is alleged.

Arrested man missing

Though more than ten months have passed, the police is yet to recover a person who was mysteriously 'missing' from police custody. The incident took place in Banibazar upazila. Even no step has yet been taken against any police personnel responsible for the offence.

Meanwhile, Anwara Begum, wife of the victim, Lal Miah, has been eagerly running from door to door in search of her husband.

According to the reports, Police of Beanbazar PS arrested Lal Miah of village Panditpara in a theft case on February 13 this year. Police at first sent him to the upazila court and on the next day took him on remand for two days from the court for interrogation. But police failed to produce him before the court on the scheduled date. Since then, Lal Miah had been missing.

The police informed the court that, Lal Miah had absconded from the police custody when he was handcuffed. But this wife informed the court that she saw her husband in the PS on the next day of her husband's arrest. She saw her husband with bleeding in-

juries, she alleged. After one day, she again went to the PS and requested the police for permission to meet with Lal Miah, but the police denied. She alleged before the court that, the police had involved her husband with a baseless case.

The incident had created an abnormal situation in the area.

The upazila court had in the meantime informed the District Magistrate and the Superintendent of Police of the matter. No action has yet been taken regarding the arrest, missing and negligence of duty of the concerned police personnel for unknown reason.

DSA installation

A UNB report says : The installation ceremony of newly elected office bearers of District Sports Association was held here Wednesday at the Gyanistam Stadium Hall.

State Minister for Sports and Youths Sadek Hussain Khoka attended the function as chief guest while Khondakar Abdul Malik MP was present as special guest.

Addressing the ceremony President of DSA Khaleque Bhuiyan urged the government to solve the various problems faced by the stadium.

In was also addressed by Azizul Mallik Chowdhury, Borhanuddin Khan, Abdul Gaffar, Badruddoza Badar and Rana Ferdous.

A colourful cultural show was also held after the meeting.

Rally against terrorism held in Magura

MAGURA, Dec 8 : Student supporters of the Magura District Jatiya Party have demanded effective measures against terrorism and establishment of law and order in the district, reports UNB.

They brought out a procession on Friday and paraded the main thoroughfares of the town chanting various slogans which included demand for release of the Jatiya Party Chairman H.M. Ershad and other political prisoners.

A meeting held at Jatiya Party Magura District Office compound was presided over by Tariqul Islam (Shipu).

The meeting was also addressed by Advocate Hassan Siraj Suja, Secretary of Magura District Jatiya Party, Abu Naser Majnu, Anisuzzaman, Rofiqul Islam and others.

Rabi crop farming plan in Narsingdi

NARSINGDIH, Dec 8 : A massive programme has been taken up to cultivate winter crops on 53,351 hectares of land throughout the district during the current winter season, reports UNB.

According to Agriculture Department, boro would be cultivated on 40,250 hectares of land with production target of 1.06 lakh metric tons of rice.

Wheat will be cultivated on 2,000 hectares of land with a production target of 3,940 tons, potato on 2000 hectares of land with a production target of 16,500 tons, vegetables on 3,500 hectares of land with a production target of 30,240 tons.

Ground nut will be cultivated on 100 hectares of land with a production target of 80 tons, sweet potato on 1,500 hectares of land with a production target of 16,500 tons.

Rape seed will be sown on 2,301 hectares of land with a production target of 2066 tons.

Noakhali Bar Assoc executives

Mr Kamaluddin and ABM Zakaria have been re-elected as President and Secretary respectively of the District Bar Association, Noakhali for the year 1992, says a press release.

Other office-bearers are : Vice-President, Mr Dhiren Karmakar and Mr Abdur Razzak, Assistant Secretary, Mr Golam Rasul and Mr Neamat Ullah.

The election of the association was held on November 27.

Unemployment on rise in Rajshahi

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Dec 8 : The number of landless and unemployed people is on increase in all the nine upazilas of the district.

The total population of the district is over 17 lakh. Of them, sixtyfive per cent are agriculturists, fifteen per cent depend on other occupations and the 20 per cent are unemployed, according to a survey conducted recently.

Of the total farmers, 35 per cent are marginal farmers, 50 per cent are landless and the 15 per cent have their own lands to cultivate.

The per capita land ceiling is too small and the shortfall of foodgrains is a regular feature in the district.

Besides, hundreds of acres of land are being eroded by the mighty river Padma every year. As a result the number of landless people is increasing.

The farmers having few acres of land can not cope with the price hike of the agricultural inputs like seeds, pesticides, fertilizers and bullocks. The poor farmers even face difficulty to buy their livelihood.

Moreover, they can not sell their products at fair prices due to their pecuniary condition.

The farmers had to borrow money from the local mohajons at a high rate of interest. After harvesting, the farmers sell the products immediately to repay the loans with interest.

The unemployed people of the locality have to go elsewhere for earning their livelihood.

Prize distribution

The prize distribution ceremony of the annual indoor games of Islamic History and Culture Department of Rajshahi University was held here recently.

A total of seventy students of the department took part in five events.

Professor Moklesur Rahman former Director of Barindra Research Museum attended the function as chief guest and distributed prizes among he winners while Professor Shamsunahar Chairperson of the department presided over the function.

Massive pulse farming plan taken up

KISHOREGANJ, Dec. 8 : A massive programme has been taken up for cultivation of pulses to meet the growing needs of the people this year, reports UNB.

A total of 1.83 lakh hectares of land will be brought under pulse cultivation in 17 districts of Dhaka division during the current rabi season.

Agriculture Extension Department officials said that lentil will be cultivated on 49,330 hectares, khesari on 70,676 hectares, gram (chhola) on 30,931 hectares, mug on 7,686 hectares, mashaalul on 13,409 hectares, motardal on 11,282 hectares and arahardal on 610 hectares in these areas.

The production target of lentil has been set at 36,959 metric tons of gram (chhola) at 21,332 tons, khesari at about 52,178 tons, mashaalul at 10,614 tons, mug at 4608 tons and motardal at 6840 tons.

About 369 metric tons of arahardal are expected to be produced in these districts during the current season, official sources said.

Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADCO) will distribute seeds, fertilizers, insecticides and other agri-inputs among the growers for the implementation of the programme.

Diarrhoea and gastro-intestinal diseases have broken out in an alarming proportion in 13 upazilas of the district claiming 10 more lives and attacking 1800 during the last week, officials said.

With these, the death toll

rose to 161 and attacked 317,151 so far since September 1 while unofficial sources put the figure at 325 and 30,000 respectively during the same period.

The worst affected upazilas are : Tarail, Katiadi, Bajitpur, Hossainpur, Pakundia and Sadar.

According to district civil surgeon, of the total deaths, 15 died in Sadar, 13 in Hossainpur, 3 in Kartimganj, 7 in Tarail, 8 in Nikly, 53 in Bajitpur, 7 in Itna, 6 in Kullar-char, 38 in Katiadi and 11 in Pakundia.

A total of 17 medical teams have been working in the affected areas to prevent the diseases.

Meanwhile, proper supply of medicine and adequate number of preventive measures are attributing to the alarming proportion of the diseases, local people alleged.

They also complained that due to accommodation problem in the health complexes and Sadar hospitals, patients coming from far flung areas have been suffering a lot. Authorities of the health complexes and hospitals have not arranged extra beds to cure the patients.

Besides, 260 posts of Union Health Assistant have been lying vacant for long hampering the activities for creating health awareness in the rural areas.

Local leaders have urged the authorities concerned to take effective measures to combat the disease.

Irrigation hampered in Jamalpur

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Dec 8 : Emergence of chars on the belts of Old Brahmaputra and Jamuna have been creating obstacles to the riverine trans-ports in the Jamalpur district to a great extent.

The depth of the rivers at some points has reduced so much that even the small boats can not ply. The absence of dredging has aggravated the situation further.

At present launches and steamers to and from Bahadurabadghat are to ply on a far route causing delay and wastage of fuel.

The rivers have dried up at Dabibazar, Shampur bazar, Islampur bazar and Dewanjan bazar points causing total disruption of riverine communications of the locality.

Moreover, the connecting canals and beels have also been dried up. As a result the irrigation of the locality is being hampered to a great extent.

The ferry service of the Jagannathgongj Ghat is also facing closure. A large number of fishermen have also become unemployed due to large scale siltation the rivers.

A comprehensive dredging is needed on emergency basis, the experts expressed.

The authorities concerned have been urged to take immediate steps to dredge the silted up points of the rivers to mitigate the sufferings of the people of the locality.

Malpractice in procurement

The farmers of the district are not getting fair prices of their products due to the irregularities of the staff of the aman procurement drive. It is alleged that though the

local Food Department opened purchasing centres, they are not purchasing directly from the farmers. Under the prevailing circumstances, the farmers are bound to sell the paddy to the farias at lower prices.

Some farmers from different upazilas complained that many of them come to the purchase centres for selling their paddy but no body bothers to respond. In this way the staff of the procurement are earning money illegally. The farias and dalais are also gaining money through the malpractice.

When contacted some employees of the purchasing centres disclosed that there was no space to store the purchased paddy.

A UNB report from Jamalpur says: About 70,000 fishermen in the district have been facing problems in carrying on their age-old profession due to acute scarcity of fund and price hike of fishing appliances.

A fishing boat along with a net is being sold at Tk one lakh which is beyond the purchasing capacity of the poor fishermen.

A number of fishermen told UNB that fishing as an ancestral vocation was on the verge of decay being replaced by commercial undertakings.

Professional fishermen have been shifting to other vocations.

Beels and Jalmahals which are to be leased out to genuine fishermen are being allotted to businessmen not belonging to the fishing community.



RAJSHAHI : A colourful procession brought out by Masters final year examinees of RU on the campus on the occasion of 'Samapani Utsav' recently. — Star photo

Clash at Kushtia town, 10 injured

KUSHTIA, Dec 8 : At least 10 people were injured in a clash between two groups of people in the town here Friday, police said, reports UNB.

Witnesses said, the clash ensued when a contractor of Talipara area was beaten by a man of Courtpara area of the town.

Talipara area people caught the man responsible for beating the contractor and handed him over to the police.

People of the Talipara said, agitated, people with lethal

weapons from Courtpara entered the Talipara area in the morning and ransacked several houses injuring at least 10 people.

Police, on information, rushed to the spot, dispersed the mob and brought the situation under control.

The injured, were released after first aid in local hospital and clinics.

A case was filed by the Talipara people in this connection. Daulatpur Upazila police arrested three alleged criminals

including a woman and recovered 14 arms and 36 rounds of ammunition during the last week.

The arms include 11 shot-guns, two Chinese axes and 1 shot gun. The arrested Amirul Islam, Romesa Khatun and Sekendar were taken to police custody.

Statue recovered

Police handed over the recovered statue of Gopinath Zeor Temple to the Temple Committee Friday which has

stolen in last September. Committee member Tarun Kanti Chaki received the statue.

Jhikargacha police recovered the statue a few days back and sent it to the Kushtia police.

The Hindu community here thanked the police for their timely action in recovering the statue.

Earlier Hindu community here brought out a procession demanding immediate recovery of the statue.