

Upazila roundup

SAVAR

'Irradiate food items for preservation'

Dec 11: Education Minister Zamruddin Striar on Tuesday stressed for irradiation for reducing problems of preservation of agricultural products, reports BSS.

He said, the government has given permission to use irradiation technology on 13 food items for their preservation.

The Education Minister was speaking at an international workshop on "Economic and technical viability of irradiation on food items" here. Jointly organised by International Consultative Group on Food Irradiation (ICOFI), Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission and Gamatech Limited, the inaugural session of the workshop was also addressed by FAO Representative P. Mayer, ICGFI Representative Dr Moynuddin Ahmed, International Atomic Energy Commission Representative Dr. B. Johnson and Beximco Representative Salman Rahman.

CHUADANGA

Students clash, two injured

Dec 11: Clash between rival groups at the Chuadanga Government College on Tuesday left two people injured, a student activist and a 10-year-old beggar, reports UNB.

Abdul Gani (25), said to be a JCD activist, and Biplob (10), a street beggar, were taken to the hospital for treatment.

Campus sources said four rooms of the college hostel were also ransacked during the clash between pro-BNP Jatatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Awami League-backed Chhatra League (A-A).

The activists of the two student organisations attacked each other with lethal weapons, including pistols, due to difference of opinions over admission of fresh students, the sources added.

BHALUKA

Call to support govt efforts for uplift

Dec 11: LORD and Cooperatives Minister Abdus Salam Talukder on Tuesday called upon the people to lend support to the governmental efforts for expediting the process of comprehensive national development through implementation of the 19-point programme initiated by Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman, reports BSS.

The Minister was addressing a big public meeting at Bhaluka Girls' High School Ground. The meeting was also addressed by Whip of Jatiya Sangsad M A Karim, Alhaj Aman Ullah Chowdhury MP, AKM Fazlul Huq MP, Anwarul Hossain Khan Chowdhury MP, Keramat Ali Talukder MP and Noor Jahan Yasmin MP.

Mr Salam Talukder said the government has attached priority to the socio-economic uplift of the rural people who contribute the bulk of our Gross Domestic Product (GDP). He said, the programme of canal digging, mass education and boosting production at farmers and factories as pursued by the present government were aimed at improving the standard of living of common man.

Referring to the political and economic commitments of the present government, the LORD Minister said that pragmatic policies were being pursued by towards democratisation of the local government institutions and ensuring greater peoples participation in running those local bodies.

RANGAMATI

70 tribal families rehabilitated

Dec 11: A total of 70 dislocated tribal families have been resettled at the tribal Palti at village Mora Ujanchari in Borkal upazila of the district, reports UNB.

The rehabilitation work, carried out with the spontaneous participation of Bengali settlers, had been financed by the Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board.

These tribal families were once forced to leave their dwelling houses from the villages of Bairagipara, Latibansh Chana and Ujanchari.

He called upon the tribals and non-tribals of Borkal upazila to live peacefully and resist the insurgents morally, socially and economically.

RAJSHAHI

RU degree exam results announced

Dec 11: The result of BA and BSS (pass) on examinations under the Rajshahi University were announced Tuesday, official sources here said, reports UNB.

A total of 9253 candidates out of 26,876 of BA pass has become successful in the examination. Of them, 794 students got 2nd class and 8459 placed in 3rd class. The percentage of pass stands at 34.42.

While 1,207 examinees came out successful, out of 3,101 in the BSS examination. Among them, 94 placed in 2nd class and 1113 in 3rd class. The percentage of pass is 38.92.

However, none was placed in first class in BSS and BA examinations this year.

KUSHITIA

Law, order situation improves, claims DC

Dec 11: Deputy Commissioner of the district Syed Hafiz Ahmed said, law and order situation here has been improved and stringent measures are being taken to stop the crimes, reports UNB.

He was presiding a monthly review meeting on law and order situation held here Monday morning at Collectorate Conference Room. District police personnel, Upazila Nirbahi Officers and representatives from various organisations attended the meeting.

The meeting disclosed that 68 crimes were recorded in last September while 70 crimes including 7 murders and 2 kidnappings were also filed in October. But a less number of crimes than the last two months were lodged with the police in November following stringent actions taken by police.

The meeting stressed the need for people's cooperation to resist crimes including smuggling and arrest criminals for greater interest.

The DC also said taking advantage of transport strike, smugglers have been smuggling low quality of Indian diesel into the country for use in power pumps.

NARAYANGANJ

Teachings of Islam can ensure peace

Dec 11: State Minister for Religious Affairs Prof M A Mannan on Tuesday emphasised the need for adhering to the Islamic tenants for individual and social life, reports BSS.

He was addressing as the chief guest an Islamic religious gathering organised by Narayanganj Nayamati Hossery Business Association here.

The State Minister said in order to achieve peace, progress and stability in personal, social and state level, we should remain stick to the guidance of religion "Islam is the religion of peace and we can get temporal and eternal happiness by abiding the teachings of Islam," he said.

Regretting the present unrest, chaos, confrontation and violence in the society, the State Minister said these were because of our deviation from religious teachings.

JHENDAH

Ganja plants recovered

Dec 11: A team of Narcotics Control Department recovered ganja plants worth about Taka 50,000 from village Tikari in Sadar upazila of the district Saturday, reports UNB.

Acting on a secret information, the team led by Inspector Abu Bakar Chowdhury raided four houses of the village and recovered the contraband item.

Four separate cases have been filed with Sadar police in this connection but no one has so far been arrested.

Protest meeting

Awami League backed Chhatra League, district unit, organised a meeting at local Agrani Bank Square Sunday afternoon protesting attack on the Friday's meeting of Awami League in Dhaka.

Presided over by district Chhatra League President Sajdul Karim Mintu, the meeting was addressed, among others, by district Awami League leaders Matkur Rahman and Advocate Yakub Ali and BCL leaders Jibon Kumar Biswas and Nazrul Islam.

Speakers blamed the ruling party and its student front Jatatabadi Chhatra Dal for the attack.



Prof M Asadur Rahman, the Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh Agricultural University inaugurating the two-day "Plant Tissue Culture Conference 1991" in a function held at the auditorium of Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture (BINA) on December 7. Presided over by Dr A J Mia, Director of BINA, the function was attended by Dr M S U Chowdhury, Executive Vice-Chairman of BARC as the special guest. — Star photo

PDB—REB tussle

Over 10,000 power consumers suffer

From A Correspondent

SYLHET, Dec 11: A tussle between the Rural Electrification Board (REB) and Power Development Board (PDB) has been causing unusual delay in commissioning three power sub-stations constructed by the REB at a total cost of about Taka three crore. The construction works of all these sub-stations were completed more than one year ago.

According to the reports, REB constructed the sub-stations at Khashikapon of Balaganj upazila, Sheela of Beanbazar upazila, and at Sylhet Sadar upazila. Taka one crore was spent for each of the sub-station, an official source informed.

It is learnt from a reliable source that the REB had requested the PDB authorities to supply power to these sub-stations several times but PDB is yet to oblige showing no satisfactory reasons.

It is further learnt that, at least 5500 domestic subscribers in 100 villages of the adjacent areas of Khashikapon Sub-station, 400 subscribers in the Sylhet Sadar Sub-station and about 4200 subscribers in the adjacent areas of Sheola Sub-station would get electricity facilities.

The delay in extending connections by the PDB authorities is depriving a large number of people of the vast area from getting electricity facilities.

A good number of irrigation schemes and small and cottage industries are facing losses for the delay of the connections.

Cricket contest

Anirban Kriachakra, Sylhet emerged as the champions in the 1st Misir Smriti Cricket Tournament by beating the Sunamganj Anirban Kriachakra in the final match of the tournament held at the

Sylhet Stadium on Wednesday last.

The tournament was organised by the Jimkaana Club with the assistance of Sylhet District Sports Association after Late Misir Ahmed, a renowned cricket player and organiser of Sylhet.

Sylhet Anirban told Sunamganj Anirban to bat first after they won in the toss. Sunamganj Anirban took 103 runs in 33.5 overs. In reply, Sylhet Anirban collected 107 runs for 3 wickets in 21.5 overs. Sriankan player Duminda took 50 runs who remained as not out. He was declared 'Man of the Match'.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Mr Sadeque Hossain Khoka enjoyed the final match and gave away trophies among the champion and runners up teams. The trophies were donated by the Sylhet Sports Writers Association.

Prisoners for early supply of winter clothes

MAIJDEE COURT (Noakhali), Dec 11: The Noakhali District Jail, constructed in 1978 in a low lying area is just good enough for the prisoners in the dry season only, reports UNB.

The jail house having capacity of 346 prisoners, turns into a swamp with stagnant water during the rainy season. Water enters the office buildings also as the jail has no drainage system.

Reliable sources said that it was brought to the notice of the higher authorities several times but no action was taken.

Even in winter, some prisoners pass nights with quilts and other winter cloths brought or sent by relatives from home when others shiver in cold until sun rise.

The jail officials, however, said winter clothes were expected to arrive at the jail soon.

College student killed in Rangpur

RANGPUR, Dec 11: Kotwali police recovered the body of a student of Rangpur Commercial College from Rangpur-Bogra Road near Rangpur Cadet College here Thursday, reports UNB.

Police identified the victim as Shafigul Haq, a student of honours first year of the Department of mathematics and a resident of Shourave Hostel.

Police recovered the body bored with several marks of stabbing and suspected that snatching his belongings when he got down from a night coach in the early hour of Thursday.

A case was lodged in this connection.

Teachers and students of the college condole the killing and demanded immediate arrest and trial of the killers of Shafigul.

Notes from Sherpur

From A Correspondent

SHERPUR, Dec 11: A gang of dacoits was arrested with a pipe-gun and one stolen TV set by the Sadar upazila police from village Shimaltoli recently.

Acting on a secret information, a police party led by SI Abdul Gani went to the spot and arrested the dacoits.

A case was registered with the local police station in this connection.

Obscene movies

A UNB report says: Obscene movies and blue-films are being shown indiscriminately and with impunity by the local cinema halls and video shops causing concern to the people, some guardians alleged.

Young people are attracted to these shows in increasing numbers leaving an impact on the society, they said.

School and college boys and girls often drop out of their classes to see the obscene films.

Some unscrupulous video shopowners have mini cinema halls at Raghunathpur Bazar, Kakoli Market, Tin Ali Bazar and Sazbar Bazar areas of the town where blue films are being exhibited regularly.

8 get life-term for murder

UNB report adds: Another Additional District and Sessions Judge Rajtar Rahman Chowdhury awarded life imprisonment to 8 people in a judgement on a sensational Nalitabari Murder Case.

Court sources said, the convicts were also fined Taka 10,000 each.

According to the prosecution, Nazmul was forcibly taken out of a house where he had taken shelter and killed with deadly weapons as a sequel to a land dispute.

The convicted are Chanu, Kafil Uddin, Piar Ali, Faroque, Taimuj, Ramzan, Jabbar and Hossain — all relatives of Nazmul of village Kapasia of Nalitabari upazila who was killed on April 13, 1989.

Most hotels unhygienic in Kishoreganj

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Dec 11: Mushroom growth of the hotels and restaurants in all the 13 upazila headquarters and districts town is posing health hazards to the inhabitants of the localities.

With the increase of population and development of towns, these hotels and restaurants have constructed beside roads and in lanes.

It is learnt that most of these hotels are dirty and uncleaned food is prepared and stored in most hygienic condition. It may be mentioned here that since there is no licenced residential hotel or restaurant in the upazila town people who come from different places have no other choice but to go to these hotels. The district and upazila level health administration are not paying any attention to this menace.

It is alleged that some dishonest health administration officials take bribe from the hotel owners and other shopkeepers. As a result, these illegal shop-owners are running their business unabatedly.

Meanwhile, adulterated edible oil is being sold in the district town and other upazila towns freely.

On the other hand palm oil meant for preparation of soaps and other chemicals are being mixed with mustard and soyabean oil and is sold in the markets.

It is reported that a section of organised gang is selling these adulterated edible oil, ghee, coconut oil to the wholesellers.

Knowing the facts, some grocers are purchasing such adulterated oil and selling the same to customers. The poor customers getting the same at the cheaper price are buying them without any hesitation.

The law enforcing agency and the health and sanitary officials have been indifferent to the matter.

Bus journey

Bus journey on the Kishoreganj-Chamarghat road has become hazardous.

Overloading of buses has become a daily affair. The passengers are even allowed to travel on the roof of the bus and to stand on the bumper.

Bus conductors realise fare from the passengers at an exorbitant rate. They also misbehave with the passengers.

It is alleged that the bus drivers do not maintain any timetable. It takes none than one and a half hours to reach Chamarghat from Kishoreganj through the distance is only 10 miles. They drive their vehicles at a very high speed that accident may occur at any time.

Many of the drivers do not have valid driving licenses. The law-enforcing agencies can not find out the drivers who are responsible for accident.

The condition of buses plying on the roads is deplorable.

The number of passengers has increased with rapid increase of population but the authority has not introduced new buses to meet the increasing demand.

The condition of the bus stand is also pitiable. It needs early development. There is no waiting shed in the bus stand.

Cattle lifting

Cattle lifting has become rampant in Karimganj, Tarail, Hossainpur, Pakundia and Kishoreganj Sadar upazilas of the district creating panic among the farmers.

Farmers said, that 25 cows were stolen and skin of 10 others were peeled off recently. As a result, owners are compelled to stay in cowshed at night to protect their cattleheads.

It is learnt that the thieves break open the doors and locks of cowsheds to lift the cattle and smuggle them to India.

Blue films

A UNB report says: Indian and foreign blue films are being exhibited here openly causing moral degradation to the young generation of the district.

Indian Hindi films are also exhibited in villages through VCR. The school and college going boys and girls often drop their classes to enjoy the films, some guardians alleged.

Narcotics Control Dept inactive 25,000 drug addicts in Brahmanbaria

BRAHMANBARIA, Dec 11: The number of drug addicts is increasing alarmingly in the district giving rise to anti-social activities, reports UNB.

According to informed sources, more than 25,000 people of the district have fallen victim to the menace.

Most of the addicts belong to age groups between 14 and 35 years. Sources claimed that unemployment, family dispute and unhappy conjugal life were mainly responsible for inducing drug addiction.

Local leaders and worried guardians have urged the authorities to take measures to check illegal sale of drugs immediately.

A team of district Narcotics Control Department seized 145 litre of wine from Krishipara in the Pourashava area recently.

Acting on a tip, a contingent led by Inspector Liaquat Ullah Chowdhury raided the area and recovered the wine.

A case was lodged against four people in this connection.

Kishoreganj Another report adds: The number of drug addicts is gradually increasing here resulting in extensive anti-social activities in the district.

According to informed sources, more than 8,000 people of the district have been addicted to drugs like heroin, ganja and charas.

Most of the addicts belong to age groups between 13 and 40 years. Family dispute, unemployment and unhappy conjugal life were said to be the main reasons behind drug addiction.

Besides, a large number of transport workers, small shopkeepers, businessmen, female students, government employees and officials, restaurant owners and college students have become addicted to drugs, it is alleged.

Easy availability of drugs has aggravated the situation. According to sources, drugs are available in almost all the pharmacies in the town and urban areas and are sold with impunity.

Local leaders urged the authorities to take measures to check illegal sale of drugs and take action against anti-social elements.

Transport strike hits consumers

KUSHITIA, Dec 11: Scarcity of petrol and other essential commodities has been prevailing here due to the transport strike which enters into eight consecutive day on Sunday causing great suffering to the travelling people, reports UNB.

The Motor Sramik Union and the Transport Owners Association failed to reach any agreement and issued controversial statements blaming each other for the situation.

1.57 lakh ton boro output likely Massive rabi crop farming plan

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Dec 11: A total of 1,02,041 acres of land will be brought under boro paddy, mustard, wheat, potato and sugarcane cultivation in seven upazilas of the district during the current dry season.

Of the total, boro paddy will be cultivated in 85,000 acres, wheat in 3,212 acres, potato in 4,942 acres, mustard in 5,997 acres and sugarcane in 2,890 acres.

The upazilas of the district are: Satkhira Sadar, Kalaroa, Tala, Debhata, Kaliganj, Shamnagar and Assassuni.

Boro paddy

Of the total lands, 37,200 acres will be cultivated in Satkhira Sadar, 18,000 acres in Kalaroa, 11,800 acres in Tala, 5,700 acres in Debhata, 6,100 acres in Kaliganj, 4,200 acres in Assassuni and 2,000 acres in Shamnagar upazila.

A total of 1,57,208 metric tons of boro paddy is expected to be produced in the district.

Wheat

One thousand acres of land will be brought under wheat cultivation in Satkhira Sadar, 100 acres each in Debhata and Kaliganj, 40 acres in Assassuni and 50 acres in Shamnagar, 922 acres in Kalaroa and 1000 acres in Tala upazila.

The wheat production target has been fixed at 2561 metric tons.

Potato

Upazila wise breakup of the cultivation is: Satkhira Sadar-1400, acres, Kalaroa-500 acres, Tala-1800, acres, Debhata-235 acres, Kaliganj-650 acres, Assassuni-150 acres, and Shamnagar upazila-227 acres.

Sugarcane

Out of the total, 250 acres in Sadar upazila, 200 acres in Kalaroa, 2327 acres in Tala, 15 acres in Debhata, 50 acres in Kaliganj, 25 acres in Assassuni and 23 acres in Shamnagar upazila.

A total of 58760 metric tons of sugarcane is likely to be produced during the season.

Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation will supply seeds, fertilizers pesticides and other necessary agricultural inputs to the growers to make the programmes success.

The Krishi Bank branches of the upazilas will extend loans to implement to programmes.

Jute industry to face set back

BSFIC packing plan to help price rise

CHITTAGONG, Dec 11: Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation (BSFIC) has suggested replacing jute bags with polythene laminated hessian bags for packing sugar and other food items, a Jute Ministry source here said, reports UNB.

It will involve an additional expenditure of Taka 4.50 crore for about 42 lakh bags this season to pack 2.8 lakh tons of sugar, the set production target of the season, the source said.

The bags, each costing Taka 31.21 can contain of 50 kg sugar but the jute bags used by BSFIC at present can hold 100 kg and costs Taka 21.24 each.

BSFIC has already sent a proposal for 15 lakh polythene laminated bags to the Jute Minister, the source said.

BSFIC officials said the decision to use polythene laminated bags was taken in order to protect sugar from melting

in the humid air. But experts disputed this contention saying sugar melts in the godowns for lack of care and left uncovered for long.

Besides, they say polythene bags are very harmful and injurious to health when used for packing foodgrains due to chemical reactions.

Private jute mill owners said the BSFIC's decision to buy hessian bags would cause a set back to the country's jute industry.

They said in the backdrop of government policy to discourage production of polythene as a measure to protect environment pollution this decision of a public corporation would definitely appear "contradictory" and counter-productive.

Government has already banned the use of polythene as packing material to protect the country's jute industry.



SYLHET: State Minister for Youth and Sports, Mr Sadeque Hossain Khoka speaking as chief guest at the installation function of the new Executive Committee of Sylhet District Sports Association held recently. — Star photo