

Upazila roundup

JHENDAH
One killed, two hurt in road accident

Dec 13: A minor boy was killed and two others including his father sustained serious injuries when a Kaliganj bound sugarcane loaded tractor turned turtle at Hamdah Bus Stand of the town Tuesday night, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the victim Hasan (11) and his father Muktar Khan (45) of village Bantabahu of Sadar upazila with another pedestrian Abul Majid (35) were standing by a roadside shop and the tractor all on a sudden fell upon them killing Hasan on the spot.

The injured were rushed to Sadar hospital.

Following the accident, agitated people of the locality blocked the road for two hours and demanded a speed breaker on that point of the road to check recurring accidents.

Police seized the vehicle but the driver fled. A case has been filed with Sadar police.

CHITTAGONG
Ataur's death condoled

Dec 13: Bangladesh Janata Dal, Chittagong South District Unit, at a meeting at Feriaghee Bazar here on Sunday expressed deep condolence at the death of Mr Ataur Rahman Khan, a party Press release said, reports BSS.

The meeting, presided over by Convener of the unit Advocate M A Sattar, was addressed by party leaders Muhammad Ali, Aminur Rahman Chowdhury, Kamal Uddin and others. They recalled political contributions of late Ataur Rahman Khan and prayed for the peace of the departed soul.

Chittagong City Muslim League General Secretary Prof Nurul Islam Siddiqui in a separate statement mourned the death of the aged politician Ataur Rahman Khan. He prayed for the eternal peace of late Ataur Rahman Khan and expressed sympathy with the bereaved members of his family.

NETRAKONA
Annual police rally held

Dec 13: The annual police rally and annual police athletic meet '91 of Netrakona district were held on Tuesday at Netrakona Police Line Maidan here, reports BSS.

Deputy Inspector General of Police, Dhaka Range, Mr M Ashraf Huda attended the rally as chief guest while Mr Anwar Hossain Khan, Police Super, (MTF) Netrakona presided over the function.

The chief guest in his speech called upon the members of police to discharge their duties with sincerity, devotion and impartiality.

He distributed prizes among the winners.

KUSHTIA
Suhrawardy Cup football tourney opens

Dec 13: Magura District team defeated Jessore Education Board Team by 2-0 goals in the opening match of the 8th Suhrawardy Cup National Youth Football Tournament, Kushtia Zone at the local stadium Saturday, reports UNB.

Alamgir of the winning team scored both the goals.

The tournament was inaugurated by Syed Hafiz Ahmed, Deputy Commissioner of the district while S P Abu Bakar Siddique was present as special guest.

Bangladesh Football Federation representatives Mohiuddin Ahmed Chowdhury, Abdur Razzak and Moshir Rahman handed over a cheque of Tk. 15,000 to the President, of Kushtia District Sports Association to meet the expenditure of the tournament.

TANGAIL
Night guard stabbed by his son

Dec 13: Two persons, a night guard and a blind street beggar were admitted to Sadar hospital on Monday with stab injuries, reports BSS.

Raisuddin, night guard of Bindubashini High School was allegedly stabbed by his son Ali, who is also a night guard of the same school.

Another victim Abdur Rahim, a blind street beggar was stabbed by unknown miscreants at Beparipara near Ial Veterinary Hospital.

Tajjima (10), a student of Bhatkura Primary School was killed in a road accident on Sunday on Tangail-Dhaka road.

On her way to school she was crushed under wheels of a bus.

COX'S BAZAR
Cultivation of rabi crops in progress

Dec 13: Cultivations of different rabi crops are going on in full swing in this coastal district, reports BSS.

According to District Agriculture Extension Department, 94,970 acres have been brought under rabi-boro cultivation while 9,000 acres under other crops in seven upazilas of Cox's Bazar.

Potato will be cultivated in 1,640 acres of land. Pulses have been cultivated in 250 acres while various winter vegetables in 4,350 acres, the source said.

One thousand and ninety-nine power pumps, ten deep tubewells and 965 shallow tubewells have been engaged for irrigation rabi-boro fields.

Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) will sell about 13,200 kgs of boro seeds, 4,800 kgs of potato seeds and 300 kgs of mustard seeds to the farmers.

PABNA
Protection needed for migratory birds

Dec 13: The local and migratory birds are gradually disappearing from the beel and haor areas of the district due to indiscriminate hunting and scarcity of fish, reports UNB.

According to an expert, of about 1,000 species of birds seen here, 400 are winter birds which migrate from the Siberian region to avoid the biting cold.

The birds locally known as Balishur, Dighari, Kaldighari, Saralis, Pankour, Baristork, Herons, Dahuk, Kunjerj and Koa are found abundantly in the canals, beels and haors here during the winter season.

But scarcity of fish, the main food of these birds has compelled large flocks to fly elsewhere.

Meanwhile, a large number of hunters are engaged in killing the guest birds indiscriminately here despite government ban.

BARISAL
Training course on duck, hen farming

Dec 13: A five-day training course on ducks and hens farming concluded in village Rakudia under Babuganj upazila of Barisal District on Thursday under the joint auspices of the Ministry of Youth and Development Associations of Barisal (DAB), reports BSS.

The programme was inaugurated by Mr Rajata Pal Choudhury, Zonal Co-ordinator of the local Ministry of Youth.

A total of 30 youths took part in the training course.

RANGPUR
Students demand arrest of Shafiqul's killer

Dec 13: Students of Rangpur Charnichael College brought out a procession here Saturday protesting the murder of Shafiqul Haq, a student of first year honours of Mathematics Department of the college, reports UNB.

Shafiqul Haq was killed by unknown miscreants early Thursday.

About 5,000 students paraded the main thoroughfares of the town and demanded immediate arrest of the killers.

They submitted separate memorandum on their demands to the Deputy Commissioner and the Superintendent of Police.

GAIBANDEHA
Hanadar Mukti Dibash observed

Dec 13: Hanadar Mukti Dibash was observed here on Monday under the auspices of Muktojodah Chetana Parishad, Gaibandha in a befitting manner, reports BSS.

All the areas of Gaibandha District were freed by the Freedom fighter on December 9, in 1971.

A colourful procession was brought out in the town to mark the day. The processionists carried banners with patriotic slogans. The victory procession ended in a big gathering at Shahid Minar. The rally was addressed among others by parishad convener Mohammad Khaled, Sadrul Kabir, Ganesh Prasad and A. Siddique.



JESSORE: A low-cost winnowing Machine — the four and a half feet high and three and a half feet long machine costs only Taka 2000. It can winnow a large quantity of crops within a very short time. Halima Pervin Lira, the inventor of the machine and her two assistants are with the machine. —Star photo

Use of firewood in brickfields unabated

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Dec. 13: Trees are on the verge of total destruction in the district following the huge use in brickfields as the only item of fuel.

There are over 135 brickfields in seven upazila of the district whose daily requirement of firewood is 50,000 maunds. The entire requirement is supplied from the local areas.

Each of the brickfield requires 25 maunds of firewood to burn 1,000 bricks. It is informed. This figure however goes up when the brickfield owners run their fields in full swing during the period from January to March.

Besides, a considerable amount of fire wood is required to feed the local and adjoining areas consumption.

So, the reliance on trees results the indiscriminate cutting of trees. On the other hand trees are not planted in the areas proportionately. This no doubt destroying the ecological balance.

According to a statistics, 16 per cent of the surface land of the district were treated as forest area in seventies. Two years back, it stood at 9 per cent only.

A survey conducted recently reveals that many of the villagers have no tree in their house and they still not planting trees on their homesteads.

Finding no other alternatives, the farmers sold the trees of their homesteads to buy their livelihood, a source disclosed.

What is surprising is that nobody is found interested to go social forestry nor they care for planting trees.

It can be mentioned here that the use of firewood in brickfields had been banned by the government. But in spite of that the brickfield owners are consuming huge firewood in their fields unabatedly. The law enforcing agencies are seen inactive regarding the implementation of the government ban, it is alleged.

When contacted some of the brickfield owners, they said that non-availability of coals had compelled them to use firewood. The exorbitant price of coal also discourage them as its use will increase the cost of production, they disclosed.

The trend is allowed to continue, the entire district is likely to be turned into a desert in the near future, some experts expressed.

The people of the locality have urged the concerned authorities to take immediate necessary steps to stop the use of firewood in brickfields and take social forestry programmes in the district.

House rent in the District Headquarters has increased abnormally in the recent times due to shortage of residential accommodation.

With the increase of population, the demand for residential houses has gone up but houses were not constructed proportionately.

At present, a single unit house costs Taka 1200 monthly whereas it was available at Taka 600 few years back.

Meanwhile, the sources of House Building Finance Corporation informed this correspondent that there was no immediate plan to build residential houses in the town.

Shallow engines

About 40 per cent shallow tubewell engines of the district are being used in the country boats hampering the irrigation in the district.

The trend has been increasing gradually over the past years. The relaxation regarding the use of shallow tubewells by the Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation has made it easy which is hampering the total irrigation system, it is alleged.

The government have been urged to stop the use of shallow tubewell engines in boats to facilitate the irrigation which can increase the agricultural production.

Sharifa, an insurgent victim dies in hospital

RANGAMATI, Dec 13: Sharifa Akhtar (14), of Taracharapara village of Belachari Upazila succumbed Friday to injuries received from an insurgent's gun-shot after 11 days of her fight for life, reports UNB.

Sharifa received bullet injuries on November 26 when the tribal insurgents were firing indiscriminately on the villagers.

She was under treatment at the Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

It may be recalled here that four people were injured and seven houses were burnt to ashes by the tribal insurgents on that day.

Condition of three others have been improving at the hospital, family sources said.

Pirates loot Tk 25 lakh fishing goods

BORGUNA, Dec 13: Thirty fishermen were injured when pirates raided a fleet of eight trawlers and decamped with valuables worth about Tk 25 lakh on the high sea, police said here today, reports UNB.

According to sources, the pirates numbering about 30 boarding with two trawlers raided the fleet on the night of November 29 and looted cash, fish and nets and fled away towards Cox's Bazar.

The seacraft of the Bangladesh Navy engaged in patrol duty rushed to the spot and arrested four suspected pirates from a boat. They are Rab (30), Nanna (35), Khalil (32), and Fazlu (36).

According to sources, about 17 trawlers fell victim to the pirates in this area earlier.

Another report says: Stomach ailments and skin diseases have been spreading alarmingly in the district causing concern among the people.

Doctors said a large number of patients are pouring into the hospitals everyday with gastro-intestinal and other skin diseases.

Scarcity of pure water and consumption of adulterated foods and edible oils are learnt to be the main reasons behind the outbreak of the diseases.

Adulterated foodstuff including edible oils, milk and ghee are being sold unabatedly in open markets, consumers complained.

Local people urged the government to take measures against the sale of adulterated foodstuff.



RAJSHAHI: Treasurer Rajshahi University (RU) giving away the championship trophy of the Inter-department Football Contest to captain of Economics Department. —Star photo

2559 contest UP polls in Faridpur
Election campaign in peak

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, Dec 13: A total of 368 candidates has filed nomination papers for 78 posts of Chairman and 2195 for 621 posts of member for election in 78 union parishads of the districts.

In all 2559 candidates are contesting for 699 posts of Chairman and Member.

Mr. Akram Hossain and Md. Najibur Rahman have been elected chairmen unopposed of Gopalpur and Alifadanga union parishads.

Of the total, forty-nine candidates are contesting for 11 posts of chairman, 335 for 99 posts of member from Faridpur Sadar upazila, 44 candidates for 9 posts of Chairman and 293 for 81 posts of member from Madhukhali upazila, 43 candidates for 11 posts of chairman and 368 for 99 posts of member from Boalmari upazila, 79 candidates for 17 posts of chairman and 401 for 117 posts of member from Nagarkanda Upazila, 19 candidates for 4 posts of chairman and 95 for 36 posts of member from Charbhadrasan Upazila, 44 candidates for 9 posts of chairman and 240 for 81 posts of member from Sadarpur Upazila, 70 candidates for 12 posts of chairman and 338 for 108 posts of member from Bhanga Upazila and some candidates are contesting for 16 posts of chairman and 125 posts of member from Alifadanga Upazila.

A good number of camps have also been set up by chairman and member candidates of eight upazilas of the district.

Besides the incumbent chairmen, the defeated candidates of last year and some new faces are contesting for the ensuring union parishad elections.

The participants are found more active because the government has assured the holding of the polls free and fair.

In the meantime, the campaign of the election all over

Plan to set up Medical College at Faridpur hailed

FARIDPUR, Dec 13: Different political parties, socio-cultural organisations and elite of the district have felicitated the government for the announcement of setting up a medical college here, reports UNB.

In a press statement recently, they said the establishment of a medical college here would fulfill the long felt demand of the people of the district.

The statements were signed by the Presidents and Secretaries of district units of different organisations.

The organisations are: Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and its front organisations, Bar Association, BMA, Muslim League, Diabetic Association, Dr. Md. Zahed of Shishu Hospital, Bus and Minibus Owners Association, Press Club, Bangladesh Journalists Association, Faridpur Shahitya Parishad, Biswa Shahitya Kendro, Faridpur Muslim Mission and Shilpakala Academy.

The outbreak of cattle diseases has put the farmers of eight upazilas of the district at stake.

The disease locally known as Khura Rog has made the cattle of the locality unfit to walk even.

Another disease 'Haemorrhagic Septicaemia' locally known as Golafula Rog has broken out in an epidemic form affecting at least 900 cattle in different upazilas of the district.

Some villagers informed that the diseases had in the meantime claimed over 600 cattle in the district.

The farmers further informed that necessary drugs are not available in the market.

It is alleged that since the outbreak of the disease no attempt for vaccination of cattle was initiated by District Livestock Department. Fifteen per cent of the cattle return from the hospitals without any treatment due to lack of vaccines and other necessary drugs.

Notes from Sariatpur

From Our Correspondent

SARIATPUR, Dec 13: The law and order situation throughout the district has deteriorated further.

The situation in Kaneksar Union under Damudia Upazila has worsened. Some armed miscreants are seen active who killed four persons earlier and are extorting money from the peace loving people of the locality.

When contacted, the police said that they were almost helpless as the bad communication do not allow them to move quickly to the spots of the incidents. The number of police force is quite inadequate to cope with increasing demand, they added.

The local people urged the concerned authorities to increase the number of police forces and set up more police camps to halt the criminal activities in the district.

Cattle disease

The outbreak of cattle disease in all the six upazilas of the district has taken a serious turn.

It is reported that over 600 cattle died of the disease in the upazilas of the district. Most of the cattle died without any treatment, it is learnt.

The villagers complained that the field workers of the local Livestock Department do not come to the villages for treatment inspite of several requests. The Livestock workers said that they had no programme now, it is alleged.

The owners of the pharmacies are charging higher prices of the medicines as the concerned department are inactive.

Cattle lifting

Cattle lifting is increasing in the district day by day.

At least 100 cows were stolen from different villages of Damudia; Goshairhat, and Bhadarganj upazilas over the last few months.

Due to the fatal diseases and cow lifting, the farmers are facing very much difficulties.

Sub-register office

The Sub-register offices of the district have been facing very much difficulties for a long.

The accommodation problem, shortage of furniture are the main obstacles for which the normal activities of the offices are greatly hampered.

There is no waiting room for the ladies in all most offices. The absence of latrines causing health hazards.

The cultivation of nut is decreasing in the district due to the shortage of fund and other technical assistance.

It can be mentioned here that a huge quantity of nut was produced here but the cultivation is hampered for want of proper patronisation.

3 bodies recovered

Three unidentified bodies of newly born baby from a canal of the river Padma recently.

The local people at first located the bodies and later informed the police.

The police tried to trace out the identities of the bodies but failed.

A case has been started with the local police in this connection.

Tk 50 lakh diesel misappropriated

SIRAJGANJ, Dec 13: About 1,700 barrels of diesel valued at about 50 lakh taka have been allegedly misappropriated by dishonest railway employees in last two years, reports UNB.

Unscrupulous railway employees of the local station regularly resort to misappropriation of diesel at the very nose of the law enforcing agencies, eyewitnesses and the Station Master alleged.

About 100 barrels were stolen from MV Suhrawardy which runs from Sirajganj to Jagannathganj Thursday night, a reliable source disclosed here today.

Moreover, two persons were reportedly beaten by armed miscreants recently for protesting the dishonesty of the employees and defalcation.

Concerned people of the area demanded immediate inquiry into the matter.

Our correspondent adds: Bangladesh Agricultural Extension Department have taken up an extensive plan to cultivate boro paddy and wheat in about 70,000 acres of land in 16 districts of North Bengal.

Boro paddy will be cultivated in 49,831 acres and wheat in 19,666 acres of land.

It is learnt that the plan has been taken up by the authority as Post-flood Rehabilitation Programme.

The breakup of the cultivation is: Boro will be cultivated in 11,600 acres and wheat in 4673 acres in two districts of Greater Rajshahi, boro in 2531 acres and wheat in 1613 acres in two districts of Greater Pabna, boro in 17600 acres and wheat in 6769 acres in Greater Rangpur, boro in 11800 acres and wheat in 2698 acres in Greater Bogra district, boro in 6500 acres and wheat in 3913 acres in three districts of Dinajpur.

It is further learnt that about 954 metric tons wheat seeds, 742 metric tons of boro seeds and 8,457 metric tons of fertilizers will be distributed free of cost among the farmers of the area.

Sirajgonj Free Day

The people of Sirajgonj today observe the 'Sirajgonj Free Day'. On this day in 1971, the occupation army surrendered after three days of face to face fighting.

More than 5000 Freedom Fighters of Sirajgonj gheraoed the town on December 10, 1971 and fought against the occupation army.

Different political and socio-cultural organisations have taken up day-long programmes to mark the day.

Pledge to maintain peace on campus

Agri-Varsity (Mymensingh) Dec 13: A joint meeting of all teachers, officers and employees of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) pledged to uphold peaceful and normal academic atmosphere in the University by uprooting the campus violence says a press release.

Held at the Shilpakarya Zainul Abedin Auditorium recently, the meeting was presided over by Prof. M. Asadur Rahman, the Vice-Chancellor of BAU.

In his speech, the Vice-Chancellor said that violence vitiates the academic atmosphere as a whole and, hence, the education and the violence can never go hand in hand in any sacred seat of learning. He urged upon the teachers, students, officers and employees of the university to concert their strength and will in playing the pioneering role to uproot campus violence and thus set up a new ideal before the nation.

The meeting expressed its firm determination to raise effective resistance against campus violence and resolved to form a committee comprising of representatives from teachers, officers and employees and the concerned teachers responsible for students management and discipline of BAU to attain the end.

The committee was given the responsibility of playing an effective role in generating awareness against campus violence among the university community and in identifying the wrong-doers directly involved in campus unrest.

The meeting raised its voice in clear terms against those who had been involved in campus violence including those giving them support and shelter.

The meeting was addressed by Prof. M. Azzul Huz, President of BAU Teachers' Council, Mr M. Mahfuzur Rahman, General Secretary of Teachers' Council, Mr Shahid Dad Khan, President of Officers' Association, Mr M. Rahmatullah, a representative of officers' body Mr M. Idris Ali, President of BAU Employees' Association, Mr Dharendra Chandra Ghose, Vice-President of Employees' Association, Mr M. Nurul Hoque, President of BAU Employees' Council and Mr. Moazzem Hossain, General Secretary of Employees' Council.

2500 tubewells out of order in Bogra

BOGRA, Dec 13: Scarcity of pure water has been prevailing as 2500 tubewells remained out of order throughout the district, reports UNB.

According to reliable sources, repair work of the tubewells could not be undertaken for want of money.

Out of a total of 28,929 tubewells in Greater Bogra District, 2,279 are out of order.