

Upazila roundup

KISHOREGANJ

Tk 25 cr for development of roads

Dec 23 : Communications Minister Oli Ahmad on Sunday said, Taka 25 crore has been allocated for the development of road network in the district, reports BSS.

"The implementation work has already started for the development of the road communications in the district," the Minister told a public meeting held at the Pakundia High School field.

The Communications Minister said, the construction work of the 622-feet bailey bridge, the longest in the country, at Motkholia will begin this month. He announced an allocation of Taka 20 lakh for the first phase construction of the bridge which, after its completion, will considerably improve the overall road communication in the district.

Mr Oli Ahmad said that the present government was committed to bring welfare to the people through its development activities. The past autocratic regime destroyed the country's economy though there was a heavy inflow of foreign assistance during the last nine years.

The Minister said the autocratic regime and its collaborators had misappropriated all the foreign assistance received during that period.

NARAIL

170 contest for 36 posts of chairman

Dec 23 : A total of 196 candidates for chairmen and 953 candidates for members for 36 union parishads in 3 upazilas of the district have submitted their nomination papers for the ensuing Union Parishad Election, reports UNB.

Of the total, 9 nomination papers for the posts of chairmen and 54 for the posts of members were rejected in scrutiny.

Besides, 17 candidates for the posts of chairmen and 45 for the posts of members have withdrawn their candidature.

Meanwhile, Azizur Rahman Bhuiyan has been elected Chairman uncontested of Chandaborpur Union Parishad in Sadar upazila and 3 candidates of ward no 1 in Perali Union Parishad in Kalia upazila have been elected members unopposed.

RANGPUR

Woman gives birth to quadruplets

Dec 23 : A housewife of village Nichpara of Aditmari upazila of the district gave birth to quadruplets within an hour Thursday, reports UNB.

Mariamunessa (30), wife of Kasiruddin and a mother of nine children, died after giving birth to the babies — two boys and two girls.

The boy-child are alive while two girl-child expired soon after their birth.

Mariam had earlier given birth to twins twice.

FARIDPUR

Ananda mela

Dec 23 : A 3-day Ananda Mela Organised by Shahid Suli Samaj Kalyan Sangstha concluded here at the historic Ambika Maidan Wednesday, reports UNB.

Awami League leader Advocate Mosarraf Hossain, MP, inaugurated the fair as chief guest.

Speaking on the occasion, he called for practising democratic norms in our personal, social and national life and upholding the spirit of the Liberation War.

The AL leader congratulated Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia for her declaration to form a new administrative division at Barisal and requested her to form another administrative division in Greater Faridpur district as demanded by the people.

SYLHET

District Medical Assoc executives

Dec 23 : A 19-member executive committee of District Medical Association was elected with Dr Rakib and Dr Shamim as the President and General Secretary respectively, reports UNB.

They were elected for the next two years by direct vote of its members in the election held here recently.

Out of 558, a total of 476 voters cast their votes in the elections.

Dr Kabir bagged 274 votes, while his rival Dr Hafiz scored 196 votes. Dr Shamim obtained 282 votes as against his rival Dr Mahbub's 185.

NOAKHALI

Honours courses from this year

Dec 23 : Honours courses of Bangla, Political Science and Accountancy will be introduced in Noakhali Government College from this year, reports UNB.

College sources said teachers for those subjects have already been appointed after getting recognition from the university.

It may be mentioned that introduction of honours courses was a long felt demand of the local people and students.

SIRAJGONJ

Constables violate woman, one held

Dec 23 : Railway police arrested a constable on charge of violating a woman at Bazar Station here Saturday while that other managed to escape, GRP police sources said, reports UNB.

Constable Yusuf Ali and Hannan abducted a 38-year old woman from the Irswadi bound local train and raped her in an abandoned compartment near the riverside at night.

A case has been filed with Railway police. Both the constables were suspended temporarily, the sources said.

BORGUNA

New revenue office demanded

Dec 23 : Patharghata Upazila Revenue Office of the district has been facing manifold problems for a long time, reports UNB.

Built in British period with CI sheet, the building has been facing inward decay due to lack of proper maintenance and repair work. Furniture, record room and boundary wall are worn out.

Cracks have developed at many points of the roof and many valuable records were damaged by rain waters. Numerous pis have also been developed on the floor. As a result, valuable records are destroying by filth and worms.

As there is no boundary wall the office premises turned into a mini market. Rice, paddy and other essentials are sold in front of the office.

The office is too small to accommodate its officers and staff. Revenue Officer himself sits in a small room in one part of the veranda, where there is no space for a visitor.

Local people have urged the authorities to take steps to construct new Revenue Office without further delay.

MAULVI BAZAR

Seeds scarcity, rabi crop farming hampered

Dec 23 : The agricultural rehabilitation programme is being hampered greatly in the district due to high prices and scarcity of seeds of different varieties of rabi crops like boro and wheat, reports UNB.

The unprecedented and recurrent floods had caused colossal damages to the standing crops in the district. With a view to cover the huge loss, agricultural rehabilitation programme had been taken up by the government.

The farmers are to get seeds of high yielding varieties free of cost, but in reality scarcity and high prices of seeds have been hitting the farmers hard during the current season.

Farmers alleged that the poor stock of seeds supplied by the Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation has already been exhausted long before.

The government sanctioned sufficient loans for the farmers under the interim post-flood agricultural rehabilitation programme in the district.

It is apprehended that a good portion of the sanctioned loan will remain unutilised due to the non-availability of the necessary seeds and other inputs.

MALDEE COURT

1200 house sheds distributed

Dec 23 : A non-government organisation has distributed a total of 1,200 house sheds to the cyclone and flood affected people of Hattya upazila of the district, reports UNB.

The sheds were distributed to the distressed and helpless people of Burirchar and Char Iswar of Hattya upazila.

A representative of the Association for Social Advancement (ASA) said another 2,000 sheds will be distributed soon among the homeless families of the upazila.

Drugs dragging youths

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, Dec 23 : The number of drug addicts is increasing day by day in the district resulting in further rise of anti-social activities.

The youths are using the drugs in greater number. It is reported that the addicted youths are between the age group of 14 to 35 years. The unemployed frustrated youths are getting addicted. Besides, a large number of transport workers, young shop keepers, hotel boys and students are also becoming addicted, it is alleged.

The drugs are easily available in the medicine shops of the town and as well as in the upazila shops.

The addicts are found involved in anti-social activities for managing money. They do not even bother to murder for serving their purposes.

It is reported that when these criminals are arrested some influential persons use to come for their bail. The law enforcing agencies are found silent regarding the illegal sale of drugs, wine and hesh for unknown reasons.

It is alleged that some influential quarters are patronising the bad practices for which

the police fail to take necessary actions.

There is no slaughter house in Chandpur town for a long time.

The illegal and scattered slaughtering of animals leave an unhygienic situation in different areas of the town.

It is alleged that old, sick and injured cows, buffaloes, goats and rams are indiscriminately slaughtered in and around for want of slaughter house.

Meats are sold in the town and in other markets without any clearance from the health official. Some times people are attacked by diseases following the consumption of unhygienic meat.

Beef is sold in the market between Taka 60 and 70 and mutton between Taka 80 and 90.

It is reported that rejected parts of the slaughtered animals are thrown here and there for which the air become polluted.

The local people urged the concerned authorities to build a slaughter house and mitigate the sufferings of the people.

The 20th anniversary of Victory Day was observed at

Chandpur in a befitting manner.

Different social and cultural organisations chalked out various programmes to mark the day. The programmes include discussion meetings, cultural functions, mlid mahfils and sports.

On the Beginning of the day, National flag was hoisted atop all government and non-government buildings and floral wreaths were placed at the local Smriti Swadh 'Angiker'. The day other programmes included display by police, ansar, VDP, scout, BNCC, parade at the stadium. Improve diet was served to the patients of the hospitals. Special prayers were also offered on the occasion for the peace and prosperity of the country.

A discussion meeting was held at Hasan Ali School ground which was presided over by Md Yakub Ali, DC of Chandpur and it was addressed among others by Principal Maitur Rahman, Shafuluddin Ahmed, Harunor Rashid Chowdhury.

Another meeting was arranged by BNP, Chandpur unit at its office on the occasion.

Civic amenities absent

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Dec 23 : More than one lakh people of the local pourasava have been deprived of the civic amenities for a considerable period of time.

The poura residents are facing the problems include bad communication, inadequate street lights, scarcity of pure drinking water, absence of proper drainage system and garbage dumped in scattered way.

Satkhira Pourasava at present covers an area of 12 square miles but there is no sign of development for the last few years.

The drains of the town are filled up with garbage and these overflow during rainy season. As a result, bad smell spreading always and the movement of the pedestrians become very difficult.

Shops have been developed on both sides of the roads and this creates traffic jams and unhealthy situation.

The roads of the town have become unfit for both traffic

movement and pedestrians. Some of the roads are so narrow that two rickshaws cannot cross at a time. The condition of most of the roads had become deplorable for want timely repair and reconstruction. The Ellarchair Road is existing with a very sad look for about twenty years.

There are more than 5,000 kancha latrines in the poura areas for which the travellers and the local people find it difficult to move as bad smell is coming out always and it causes health hazards. The poura authority have not been taking any step regarding the matter.

It is reported that out of 6,000 rickshaws and 1,000 vans, only 2,000 rickshaws and 50 vans have requisite licences.

After sun set, a very few lights are seen in the area due to the absence of bulbs. Irregular power supply has also become a regular feature in the town.

Information to help boost output in mills

CHITTAGONG, Dec 23 :

Participants at a workshop on Printing and Packaging Sector held at the Chamber House here on Tuesday stressed the need for providing necessary information, statistics and research works for setting up small scale industries based on locally available raw materials.

The workshop held under the auspices of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry was inaugurated by former Chamber President, Mr Shafiqur Rahman, Chamber Director Mr Kamal Uddin Ahmad presided over the workshop while Acting Chamber President Mr S M Abul Kalam, Journalist Moyeenul Alam, Press Owners' Association General Secretary, Mr Afsar Uddin Chowdhury, Chamber Vice-President Zafarul Islam Chowdhury took part in it.

They pointed out that though the government had adopted liberal policy for promotion of small industries in the country necessary infrastructures were lacking in this sector. They called upon entrepreneurs in the private sector to come forward to develop more and more infrastructure for small-scale industries. They said, promotion and development of small-scale industries would help boost economy of the country when necessary infrastructure, research works and information were provided for the same.

The workshop was held in two sessions. Mr Zafarul Islam Chowdhury, Vice-President of the Chamber presided over the second session. It was participated by Kazi Obaidur Rahman of Bangladesh Tobacco Company, Mr Mohiuddin Islam, Editor monthly Biggan Barta, Mohiuddin M Jalal of Computer Club.

Tk 4cr PDB bill outstanding

SIRAJGONJ, Dec 23 : Taka four crore electric bill has been lying outstanding from the consumers of the district for a long time, reports UNB.

According to Power Development Board, the main defaulters are Sirajgang Gaumi Jute Mills, Spinning and Cotton Mills, Sadar Pourashava, Kazipur and Kamarkhand Upazila Parishads.

Meanwhile, a special squad of Power Development Board snapped at least 200 illegal electric connections and re-leased a huge amount of fine.

PDB disconnected the electric connection of Spinning and Cotton Mills which was declared lay-off in November 17, 1990. The mill is scheduled to be resumed production from today.



AGRI-VARSITY (Mymensingh): Prof. M. Asadur Rahman, the Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) inaugurating the Victory Day programme by hoisting the National Flag in a colourful function held at the BAU Stadium. —Star Photo

Rickshaws create jam

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Dec 23 : The increase in the number of rickshaws has been causing a lot of sufferings to the residents of the town over the last one year.

It is reported that over 5,000 rickshaws are now plying on the narrow 16-mile metalled roads within 5.07 square area of the pourasava.

The roads especially in the commercial areas of the town remain always blocked by rickshaws causing hindrances to the movement of the pedestrians. The people while moving on the main roads have to remain stranded in places due to the jam created by the rickshaws. The school going children are the worst sufferers.

Apart from this, the rickshaws from the outlying unions of Bhatrab Pourasava enter into the town and aggravating the situation.

It is alleged that a good number of these rickshaws have got no valid licence for plying in the poura areas.

All the health complexes of 13 upazilas of the district have been facing multifarious problems.

The normal activities of the health complexes are greatly hampered due to the paucity of drinking water, absence of ambulance, blood bank, dental and eye specialist, scarcity of medicine and shortage of staff and surgical instruments.

Everyday thousands of patients coming from the remote corner of the villages go back disappointed for want of treatment.

Due to absence of ambulances, the ill patients cannot be removed to the local hospital or else where of the country.

The absence of blood-bank and supply of pure drinking water have also leaving the patients to great sufferings.

The doctors, nurses and other staff of the hospital are residing outside the hospital for want of housing facilities. Most of the doctors do not attend their duties regularly, it is alleged.

The inadequate number of doctors and nurses cannot cope with the increasing demand of patients.

The supply of medicine especially the life-saving drugs are quite inadequate for which the patients are to buy medicines from outside at an exorbitant price.

The people of the district have urged the concerned authorities to take steps to mitigate the sufferings of the local patients.

Irregularities cripple textile mill

From Our Correspondent

MADARIPUR, Dec 23 : The only cotton spinning mill of the district, Mustafapur Textile Mills is on the verge of closure for the major irregularities in the mill.

The mill as a government enterprise was established at Mustafapur, eight kilometers off the district head-quarters in 1984 and it went into production in the same year.

The mill authority recruited 807 workers, 122 staff and 23 officers to run the mill. The 25,000 spindle mill was scheduled to produce 1,15,000 kg of cotton yarn monthly. The mill produces 20, 32, 40 and 60 counts yarns which are used in hosiery, bedsheet, lungi and socks factories.

The monthly production of the mill now stands at 80,000 kg instead of 1,15,000 kg though all the spindles are working fully, says Mr. Ashrafur Islam, DGM of the mill.

The production of the mill has come down due to the irregular attendance of the workers. It is alleged. Most of the workers are local and they do not bother to attend duties regularly. They even stop the work at their sweet will.

The mill authority do not dare to take action as most of the workers are members of trade unions or political parties. It is complained. The mill authority come under threat if any explanation letter is issued, it is further alleged.

The workers without any hesitation are attending meetings and other activities leaving the duty in the mill.

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On the otherhand, a huge quantity of cotton yarn is lying unsold which was produced during the last eight months.

A total of 1200 bales of cotton yarn worth Taka three crore is likely to be damaged for keeping these in the godown for an indefinite period, the DGM expressed.

The mill administration are unable take stern action for fear of assault, it is learnt.

JCD activist injured in arms attack

BAORGUNA, Dec 23: An activist of Jatiyatibadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) was seriously injured when a group of armed youths attacked him at Dakarpatti in the town recently, reports UNB.

Witnesses said Shahadat Hossain Milton (22) was struck by a group of five youths armed with 'ramdiao' when he went to Dakarpatti at about 11 am to call in a doctor for a patient at his residence.

Milton was admitted to Borguna Sadar Hospital. JCD blamed Chhatra League (A-A) for the incident and held a protest-rally in the town in the afternoon.

Pilferage of diesel, mobil going on

PABNA, Dec 23 : Pilferage of diesel, mobil, slippers and spares from locomotive shed of Ishuri Railway Junction has been going on with impunity, reports UNB.

An organised gang of miscreants in collaboration with the dishonest railway staff are engaged in pilfering almost every night. These are being sold in different markets.

Local people complained to the Railway authorities time and again but so far no action has yet been taken against the miscreants.



CHANDPUR : Relief goods worth Taka 50,000 were distributed among the erosion affected people of Chandpur and Haimchar Upazila. The goods were donated by Chandpur Branch of the Islami Bank Bangladesh Ltd. — Star photo