

Upazila roundup

BHOLA

PHED installs 525 deep tubewells

Dec 24 : The Public Health Engineering Department has installed 525 deep tubewells in Bhola district for ensuring supply of pure drinking water in the rural areas, reports BSS.

According to an official source, of the total, 251 deep tubewells were installed under post-cyclone rehabilitation programme while 274 deep tubewells installed under Annual Development Programme.

A total of 2,10,000 rural people have been getting pure drinking water after installation of the deep tubewells.

BOGRA

Procurement of aman paddy hampered

Dec 24 : Aman paddy procurement drive is being hampered in 16 districts of northern zone in the current season as the demands of the mill owners for an enhancement of crushing rate and transportation cost was not fulfilled yet, reports UNB.

Procurement has also been hampering because market price and government purchasing rate are said to be parallel. Per maund paddy are being sold in the markets here between Tk 235 and 250.

Aman procurement target has been fixed at 3.84 lakh metric tons in northern zone. District wise target are as follows: Bogra-1.5 lakh, Jaipurhat-25 thousand, Rangpur-20 thousand, Lalmonirhat-4 thousand, Kuri-gram-6 thousand, Gaibandha-8 thousand, Nilphamari-10 thousand, Sirajganj-3 thousand, Pabna-5 thousand, Rajshahi-10 thousand, Natore-62 thousand, Naogaon-20 thousand, Chapainawabganj-10 thousand, Dinajpur-70 thousand, Thakurgaon-25 thousand and Panchagarh-10 thousand.

It is gathered that one third of the total rice production in the country was produced in Bogra district alone this year. But out of total target, only 50 metric tons were procured so far since November 15.

SHARIATPUR

Wheat will be cultivated in 6000 hectares

Dec 24 : A total of 6000 hectares of land has been earmarked for cultivation of wheat in 6 upazilas of the district during the current season, reports UNB.

According to Agriculture Extension Department, 530 hectares will be brought under wheat in Sadar, 975 hectares in Naria, 1930 hectares in Zanjira, 1435 hectares in Bhederganj, 470 hectares in Damudya and 660 hectares in Goshatir upazilas.

At least 11,820 metric tons of wheat are expected to be produced during the season, the source added.

Another report adds : Agriculture Extension Department has taken up a programme to bring 700 hectares of land under sugarcane cultivation in 6 upazilas of the district during this season. It is expected that 34,900 metric tons of sugarcane will be produced after the implementation of the scheme, it is learnt.

JESSORE

Help ensure modern urban facilities

Dec 24 : Minister for Social Welfare and Women Affairs Tarikul Islam on Saturday emphasised the need for building up every municipality as an effective and better service oriented organization to ensure modern urban facilities for the inhabitants, reports BSS.

He was addressing a discussion meeting at Jessore Municipality premises arranged by the Jessore Municipality Employees Union. Among others the meeting was addressed by Md. Ishaque Chairman, Jessore Municipality, and leaders of Jessore Municipality Employees Union.

The Minister said that poor people should pay their taxes regularly to help make municipality a better public service oriented agency and implement the government town planning programme successfully.

Later, the Minister visited Jora Dah village under Hafiznagar Sadar upazila which was attacked and ransacked by the terrorists last week. He went round the different parts of the village and talked to the distressed villagers.

SATKHIRA

Nine hoodlums arrested, arms recovered

Dec 24 : Police arrested nine alleged hoodlums from Assasuni upazila and recovered one country made gun, 5 live cartridges and 22 crackers from their possession, reports UNB.

Acting on a secret information, police raided Nakerkhali and Muktakhal Shrimp Culture Field camps of Assasuni upazila and caught them red handed recently.

The arrested nine are Rajab Ali, Harazhan, Lufor, Mozam, Moksed, Abdul, Majid, Abdur and Rajid.

Police said, the alleged miscreants were preparing to take possession of a disputed plot of land at the instance of a shrimp culturist.

Two separate cases were registered with the police.

PABNA

Biting cold leaves 2 dead

Dec 24 : Two people including a woman died of biting cold in the town here during the last two days, reports UNB.

Abel Ali (55), day labourer died at the bus terminal on Sunday night. Another unidentified woman (45) died of biting cold in front of Pabna Town Hall Saturday morning.

Chilly weather has been prevailing in 16 northern districts during the last three days causing extreme suffering to poor and distressed people. The lowest temperature recorded here Sunday was 8.6 degree Celsius, official sources said.

GAIBANDHA

42 phone lines disconnected

Dec 24 : Telephone Department disconnected 42 telephone connections here to recover overdue of about Taka eight lakhs, reports UNB.

About Tk 7.72 lakh remained outstanding from 42 more cases filed against the consumers of the district.

The department has also issued notices to further 153 consumers to pay their dues.

MAGURA

Tk 36 lakh for construction of 3 roads

Dec 24 : Government has sanctioned Tk 36.10 lakh for construction and repair of three roads in Jessore during the current fiscal year, reports UNB.

According to the Executive Engineer of Roads and Highways Department, Jessore circle, Tk 23.98 lakh has been sanctioned for construction of Jessore-Jhenidah Road, Tk 11.93 lakh for Jessore-Narail Road and Tk 19,000 for Jhenidah-Jessore Road.

Work on the roads, started recently, would be completed by February next year, he said.

With the implementation of the scheme, road communication in the area will be improved to a great extent.

BARISAL

Floating dock needs repair

Dec : The floating dock of the Inland Water Transport Authority on the river Kirtankhola is feared to become fully inoperative for lack of maintenance and repair, reports UNB.

The dock, set up in 1968, was capable of repairing any marine vessel or craft of about 800 tons.

According to some workmen, the dock had not undergone any major repair work during the last 22 years.

Official sources said, repair work could not be undertaken for lack of fund.

RANGAMATI

6-day fair on Victory Day

Dec : A 6-day fair began at the local Pourashava square on Wednesday on the occasion of the Victory Day, reports UNB.

Organised by the Rangamati Youths Society, the fair was inaugurated by Freedom Fighter and Chairman of the Local Government Parishad of the hill district Goutam Dewan.

Thousands of people from all walks of life are visiting the stalls in the fair daily.

The Society has also arranged cultural functions to mark the occasion.



RAJSHAHI : Acting Vice-Chancellor of RU, Prof. Atul Hai Shibli addressing a meeting on "Joint declaration of three alliances" held recently at Kazi Nazrul Islam Auditorium of the University. — Star photo

50,000 acres under boro farming in Chakaria

Delay in dam construction to hamper boro cultivation

From Our Correspondent

PATIYA, Dec 24: The cultivation of IRRI-Boro on 50 thousand acres of land under Chakaria upazila will be hampered if four temporary cross dams are not built on Matamuhuri river on an emergency basis. It may be mentioned here that the fate of three lakh and 50 thousand peasants depends on this irrigation project.

It is reported that since the independence of the country over 50 thousand acres of land are brought under Boro cultivation and vegetable farming through erecting four temporary cross dams on Matamuhuri river every year under the initiative of Relief and Rehabilitation Ministry at a cost of Taka 20 lakh.

But this year no appropriate measure has yet been taken up by the higher authorities concerned to construct the cross dams for reasons unknown. According to official sources,

the District Administration of Cox's Bazar forwarded four schemes to the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation for allocation of 518 metric tons of wheat under Food for Works Programme (FWP) for this purpose under special consideration.

The local Member of Parliament (MP) Mr Enamul Hoque Manju called on personally the ministers concerned on November 10 and 26 respectively regarding the matter but unfortunately he did not get any positive assurance.

Besides, the Commissioner of Chittagong division despatched a telex message vide memo No. 269 (4)/4-12-91 to the cabinet Secretary, chief Secretary to the Prime Minister's Secretariat and the Secretaries of the Ministries of Relief and Irrigation regarding the matter.

Talking to this correspondent Mr. Hafiz Muhammad Amanullah, Vice-President of Social Welfare Federation, Chittagong division urged upon the Prime Minister to look into the matter for immediate implementation of the irrigation project by December of the current year in order to yield crops valued at Taka 50 Crore.

Mention may be made here that the peasants of the locality have been undergoing much economic hardship as they had lost their hearth and home by the unprecedented cyclonic storm accompanied by tidal surge on April 29 of this year which left a trail of terrible destruction throughout the area.

Local people are of the opinion that this irrigation project may usher in a new aspiration among the tornado victims of Chakaria upazila.

Elaborate programme has been chalked out to set up a new model religious institute namely Zainal Abedeen Mubius Sunnah (Dakhil) Madrasah at East Bara Bheola of Chakaria upazila soon under the initiative of local educationists and philanthropists. A strong committee has been formed to manage the institute.

Mrs. Alhaj Zakera Khanam Chowdhury (Lobnas) wife of Alhaj Sirajul Hoque Chowdhury of North Nalabla village under Mohekhkhali island donated a plot of 0.80 acres land to the proposed institute by a registered deed No. 3903 on November 20 last.

Mr. Hafiz Muhammad Amanullah and Mr. Shawkat Uthman, President and General Secretary respectively of Siddharta Samaj Kalyan Samity congratulated the donor for her benevolence.

All 18 institutions closed

No funds for trading medical assistants

From Our correspondent

MAULVI BAZAR, Dec 24: Ten Medical Assistants Training Schools (MATS) out of 18 in the country have been closed for want of necessary fund.

The remaining 8 MATS are also running with many problems. Admission into new session have also been stopped for want of fund and decision from the respective ministry since 1987.

The MATS were opened with the financial assistance of the Netherlands Government in Maulvi Bazar, Bagerhat, Faridpur, Bogra, Noakhali, Comilla, Tangail, Kushtia, Sirajganj, Munshigonj, Pirojpur, Magura, Kurigram, Thakurgaon and Chapainawabganj in 1980.

In 1985, out of 18 Medical Assistants Training Schools (MATS), 10 were closed as the contract with the Netherlands Government was not reviewed. After closure of ten MATS the remaining eight MATS are running in the districts of Noakhali, Comilla, Bagerhat, Faridpur, Kushtia, Sirajganj, Tangail and Bogra.

It is learnt that, from 1980 to 1985 more than 5000 students were trained up in these MATS. Later on, most of them are absorbed in rural health centres, hospitals and family welfare centres.

It may be mentioned here that MATS had been built up Second Grade physicians by three years course and one year Internship training. After completion, successful students got registration from Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council as Diploma Physician.

A Medical Assistant (Diploma Physician) who served in a rural health centre at Maulvi Bazar as Assistant Physician told The Daily Star that though the government absorbed them in Health and Family Planning Departments but their status of post, remained undecided. Present designations of the post of Medical Assistants is impractical and it is not their identity, he disclosed. A Diploma Engineer is serving the country as Sub-Assistant Engineer

and everywhere their pride of post is — same. But in the case of the Medical Assistants, their identity yet to be finalised. So in the service life they were deprived of due position. He also added that the government had taken a decision about service and designation of Medical Assistants in 1985 but even now it is under consideration Health and Family Welfare Ministry of government.

In behalf of country's Medical Assistants, he demanded prompt decision of government on the job description and designation of Medical Assistants for greater interest of better health service.

Fishermen's problems

A UNB reports says: Fishermen of the district have been facing difficult in pursuing their vocation for want of fund and price hike of the fishing appliances.

About 10,000 fishermen of six upazilas have been so badly affected that a majority of them are forced to take up other vocation for mere survival.

The abnormal price of fishing nets, boats and other related appliances have crippled the economic condition of the fishing community.

A number of fishermen of the district said that they were not getting financial support because of undue interferences of the local influential people.

The jalmahals, beels and other water bodies are being leased out to these non — professionals who are widely exploiting the genuine fisherman.

Genuine fishermen are prevented from catching fish by hired mastans who forcibly take away their boats and nets, they told UNB.

Construction of road for new ferry ghat demanded

SIRAJGANJ, Dec 23 : BIWTA has demanded construction of a road between Noleia and Shingulchar to complement its plan for a new ferry ghat at the route, reports UNB.

It is an alternative to the ferry route between Sirajganj and Bhuapur which remained closed for the last two months, officials here said Saturday.

The new waterway has been proposed at Shingulchar as water level at that point of river Jamuna remained sufficient at all time of the year.

The Sirajganj-Bhuapur Ferry Service was suspended October 29 and since then Arichaghat has been used for ferrying the transports.

Moreover, they feared impending suspension of railway ferry service between Jagannathganj and Sirajganj due to the emergence of shoals in the Jamuna.

The proposal to construct a connecting road between Noleia and Shingulchar was accepted but the construction work is yet to be started due to unknown reasons, the officials said.



SATKHIRA : A view of the 3-day 'Bijay Mein' arranged here at the Jubilee Primary School premises by the local Mahila Samity — Star photo

Divorce rate up in Chuadanga

Court verdicts not carried out

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, Dec 21 : The rate of divorce in four upazilas of the district has become alarming and the existing laws of the country are yet to be implemented regarding the issue.

According to an unofficial report, about 4,000 women are being divorced by their husbands every year in the district.

Most of the upazila courts have noticed the rate of divorce and maintenance cases. The presence of young women and expectant mothers at the courts regarding divorce has become a regular scene.

In most cases, the court verdicts are not carried out properly, it is alleged. Some unruly persons in co-operation with local influential men do not bother to oblige the court orders, it is further informed. Naturally, the divorced women and their relatives become hopeless and their respect towards law of the country, decrease.

Many of such cases do not appear before the court being disheartened with such examples. Some of the cases do not dare to appear before the court for fear of existence.

The correspondent had talks with a good number of divorced women of the localities and came to know that they had been deprived of the claims after the divorce. The poor parents can not provide them with food and shelter and so they had to find their own ways to live. The prevailing situation compels them to indulge in anti-social activities. It is gathered that most of

the divorced women have in the meantime engaged themselves in smuggling of Indian goods. In some cases, they had chosen the profession of a prostitute for mere livelihood.

The people of the locality have identified the demand of dowry as the main cause of the divorce. The pecuniary condition of the village is also responsible for the huge cases of divorce.

Some wealthy and influential people of the locality used to marry and divorce according to their sweet will as there is no body to resist them.

The concerned authorities have been urged to take steps to help implement the law of the land to save the poor and peace-loving people from the suppression and oppression of well-to-do classes.

The most of the roads in the pourashava areas are now in a pitiable condition and need urgent improvement for smooth running of vehicular traffic and movements of the pedestrians.

The condition of most busy and important Kedarganj-Barabazar and Barabazar-Railway Station roads have become unworthy for vehicular movement due to lack of proper maintenance. Cracks and potholes have developed in most of the roads for which the rickshaws, push carts can even ply without any loss.

The inhabitants of the town have urged the concerned authorities to take steps for immediate repair and improvement of the roads of the town for better vehicular traffic movement.

Taltoli Market needs expansion

BORGUNA, Dec 24: Taltoli Market, one of the busiest business centre of the district has been facing multifarious problems for long, reports UNB.

Inadequate drainage system, scarcity of pure water, shortage of accommodation and dearth of conservancy services have been hampering the smooth functioning of the market.

During the last few years the market was not expanded commensurate with the growth of buyers and sellers creating problems in business transaction.

The roads inside the market are not spacious enough to facilitate easy movement of the vehicles and pedestrians. Unplanned erection of shops has further narrowed the roads. About a hundred unauthorised shops have been constructed recently by some dishonest businessmen.

The market authorities care little to keep the market neat and clean, although they realise increased tolls and taxes from the traders and shopkeepers, it is alleged.

Heaps of garbage and filth are always dumped in various places of the market polluting the atmosphere. In the absence of drainage system the markets become muddy and slippery after a slight rainfall.

The market goes here to take contaminated water from the nearby ponds and canals as the only tubewell remains out of order for a long time.

Besides, the people respond to the call of nature in open space in the absence of sanitary latrines and urinals polluting the environment.

The market has not yet been properly electrified and the major portion of the area plunges into darkness after sundown giving rise to anti-social activities.

Traders coming from far flung areas of the district have been facing much difficulties in the absence of residential hotel in the market.

Local people have urged the authorities to take immediate steps to remove the problems.

Villagers at Borguna have been turning to banana cultivation which they find more profitable than the traditional coconut, pulse, betel-nut, jute and pepper.

Plenty of various kinds of banana are growing in Amtali, Bamna, Detagi, Patharghata and Sadar upazilas.

Sagar, sabri, khatoli are the main varieties which grow in this district abundantly.

According to sources, banana is being cultivated in 10,000 acres of land in 5 upazilas of the district and the acreage is gradually rising every year.

At present, the cultivators are said to be earning Taka 3 to 4 crore annually from banana production on about 7000 acres of land.

They can earn nearly Taka 25,000 by investing Taka 15,000 on banana in one acre.

More and more investments are being made on banana cultivation and its potentials are still widening, an informed source said.

Villagers said the production could be doubled if irrigation and credit facilities were extended.

Experts said that the country could earn huge foreign currency every year by exporting banana.

Massive boro paddy cultivation plan

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Dec 24 : A massive programme has been taken up in all the four districts Greater Sylhet region during the current season to cultivate Boro Paddy on 3 lakh 50 thousand and 40 hectares of land.

The districts are Sylhet, Habiganj, Moulvibazar and Sunamganj.

According to an official source, the programme, 'Intensive Boro Crops Farming Programme' is being implemented with the help of the Agriculture Extension Department. The total area includes, 1,97,987 hectares of different High Yielding Varieties and 1,53,053 hectares of different local varieties.

The total target of paddy production has been fixed at 8,94,141 metric tonnes, the source added. It includes, 6,34,972 metric tonnes of High Yielding Varieties and 2,59,169 metric tonnes of local varieties.

Sufficient amounts of loan

had already been sanctioned by the government for disbursement among the farmers. The nationalised commercial banks including the Bangladesh Krishi Bank have started distributing the loan through their rural branches, the source informed.

Photo exhibition

A Solo photographic Exhibition of Mr. Narayan Dey Sanju was held at Kulaura Union Parishad Hall of Kulaura Upazila recently.

A discussion meeting arranged on this connection was presided over by Mr. Amanullah Headmaster, N.C. High School while it was also addressed among others by Mr. Ali Abbas Khan M.P., Mr. Sirajuddin Ahmed, Nani Bhatia charya, Mr. Sushul Sengupta, Mr. Iqbal Ahmed, Mr. Jamal Uddin, Prof. Saiful Ahmed, Quazi Sirajuddin, Mr. Mujibur Rahman, Mr. Shahid Ahmed Salman and the photographer Narayan Dey Sanju, Correspondent of Daily Khabar.