

National

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, Chaitanabagan-1 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 Bheringarh, 470 hectares in Damduda and 660 hectares in Goshurhat 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 sugar-cane 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 Tarigul 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 Jessoror Municipality premises arranged by the Jessoror Municipality Employees Union. Among others the meeting was addressed by Md. Ishaque Chairman, Jessoror Municipality, and leaders of Jessoror 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 Hatibpur of Sadar upazila which was attacked and rankshacked 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, Lutfor, 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.

Abed 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 overdues 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 Jessoror during the current fiscal year, reports UNB.

According to the Executive Engineer of Roads and Highways Department, Jessoror circle, Tk 23.98 lakh has been sanctioned for construction of Jessoror-Jhendah Road, Tk 11.93 lakh for Jessoror-Narail Road and Tk 19,000 for Jhendah-Jessoror 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 24 : 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 workers, 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 24 : A 6-day fair began at the local Poushava square on Wednesday on the occasion of the Victory Day, reports BSS.

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. Atful 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

PATIYAL, 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.

The local Member of Parliament (MP) Mr. Enamul Haque 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.

But this year no appropriate measure has yet been taken up by the higher authorities concerned to contract the cross dams for reasons unknown.

According to official sources,

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 Muhis Sunnah (Dakkhil) 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 (Lobnus) wife of Alhaj Sirajul Hoque Chowdhury of North Narailab village under Moheshkhali 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 Sikdarpara 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 Chaitanabagan 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 build 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 quo 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.

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 these non-professionals who are widely exploiting the genuine fishermen.

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

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

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

Leaps of garbages 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.

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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

Construction of road for new ferry ghat demanded

SIRAJGANJ, Dec 23 : BIWTA has demanded construction of a road between Nolcia 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.

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

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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