

Upazila roundup

JAMALPUR

Jamuna Fertilizer factory starts full production

Jan 1: The 1100 crore Taka Jamuna Fertiliser Factory started full production of granulated urea on Tuesday, reports UNB.

The factory established with the Japanese assistance of Taka 981 crore, said to be the largest urea production plant of the country, has the capacity of producing 1700 metric tons granulated urea per day.

Work on the construction of the factory began in 1986 at Tarakandi of Sharishabari Upazila of the district and completed on Tuesday, December 25.

DAUDKANDI

Help uproot terrorism

Jan 1: Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khondaker Mosharrar Hossain on Tuesday called upon the all concerned to extend full cooperation to uproot terrorism and indiscipline from the educational arena, reports BSS.

He was speaking as chief guest at the installation of Hasanpur Shaheed Nazrul Degree College students union here.

State Minister for Establishment Mohammad Nurul Huda, Deputy Minister for LORD Abdul Hay and ex-MP Rafiqul Islam Rani also spoke on the occasion.

Mr Nurul Huda said peace and discipline were pre-condition for any development of the country. He alleged that a section of political parties had been trying internationally to foil the present democratic process and stability of the country.

Mr Abdul Hay called upon the people to extend all out help and cooperation for the successful implementation of the compulsory primary education and mass literacy programme of the government.

JHENIDAH

Three killed in road mishaps

Jan 1: Two people including a minor girl were killed in two separate road accidents in the district on Monday, reports UNB.

According to police, Salina Khatun (8), daughter of Abdus Salam of village Dushara of Kotechandpur Upazila was hit by a Kaliganj bound jeep injuring her seriously. She was rushed to the Kotechandpur Hospital where she died.

Another unidentified man (40), was killed near Bhatobazar on Jhenidah-Kushitia Road in Saikakupa Upazila on Monday night.

The bodies were sent to the Jhenidah hospital morgue for postmortem.

The drivers along with their vehicles managed to escape. Two separate cases were filed.

Another message from Naogano adds: One college girl Shima (18), was crushed to death under the wheels of a speeding truck near the government women's college here on Monday.

She was returning home with her youngest sister after her (sister's) junior scholarship examination. Her sister was also injured seriously in the accident.

Girls students of Naogano town brought out a procession demanding punishment of the truck driver.

BRAHMANBARIA

Young housewife commits suicide

Jan 1: A young housewife of village Lalpur of Sadar upazila allegedly committed suicide by taking poison on Tuesday, reports UNB.

Police sources said Kulsum Begum (22), wife of Baschu Mia allegedly took poison in the afternoon. She was rushed to Sadar hospital where the doctors declared her dead.

The reason behind her suicide could not be ascertained immediately. A case has been lodged with the local police.

KISHOREGANJ

Lightning kills two people

January 1: Two people were killed Tuesday by thunderbolt in village Charkandi of Austagram Upazila of the district, reports UNB.

The victims were identified as Zinnat Ali (60) and Zahir (18) of village Kagi of the same upazila.

Villagers said, they were struck by lightning while taking shelter under a cow shed during the heavy rain fall.

BOGRA

Works on roads of northern dists in progress

Jan 1: Development work on highways in the northern region of the country is going on in full swing to be completed by 1995 at a cost of Taka 420 crore, reports UNB.

Financed by World Bank the work involves development of 300 miles of highways including Bogra-Rangpur, Ullapara-Nagarbari, Pabna-Pakshi Ferry Ghat, Natore-Chapatnawabganj via Rajshahi, and 60 miles of Dinajpur-Thakurgaon-Panchagarh Road.

Work on Pirgonj-Bogra Highway has already been completed and 90 per cent work has been done on Bogra-Ullapara Highway.

The second phase of work on the road from Ullapara to Pabna and Pakshi Ferry Ghat via Nagarbari Ghat will be started soon.

In the 3rd phase, work will be taken up on the highway from Dashuria of Iswardi Upazila to Chapalnawabganj via Natore. About Taka 300 crore will be spent on this project.

Work on Dinajpur-Panchagarh Road will be completed soon at a cost of about Taka 120 crore.

KHULNA

Azam Khan College students' union election

Jan 1: Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) won the Khulna Azam Khan Commerce College Students' Union Election held on Tuesday, reports UNB.

JCD bagged 26 seats out of 39 seats, including the General Secretary while Awami League-backed Chhatra League (A-L) captured the rest including the Vice President.

Saiful Islam and Amir Reza Khan were elected Vice President and General Secretary respectively.

SYLHET

IG visits police line

Jan 1: Inspector General of Police M Enamul Haq on Tuesday visited the police line to assuage the constables who were agitating at the death of their colleague in a bullet at MC College compound on Monday, reports UNB.

He attended the nama-e-Janaza of Shaheed Mia held at police line on Tuesday morning.

The cop received a bullet while picking up a swayed-off rifle from the college ground while two rival student groups were engaged in a gun battle and died on way to hospital.

Police however claimed that the constable was shot dead by an armed student activist.

PATUAKHALI

UCCA executives

Jan 1: The election of the UCCA under Bangladesh Rural Development Board of Mirzaganj Upazila in the district was held recently, reports UNB.

Official sources said Anisur Rahman and Ashraf Ali Sikder were elected as President and Vice President respectively.

Besides, Abu Hanif Gazi, Anjad Hossain, Sakawat Hossain, Abdul Latif Mollah, Momtaj Begum, Azharul Islam, Abdul Majid Howlader, Abdul Jalil and Hafizur Rahman have been elected as Directors.

Another report says, an Ansar and VDP Club has been formed in Dashrkat Village in Sadar upazila recently.

Mohammad Enayet Ali Sheikh and Haider Ali have been elected as President and Secretary of the club respectively.

Mohammad Jalal Howlader has been elected as Adviser of the club.

KUSHITIA

Winter chill intensifies, one dead

Jan 1: Cold wave sweeping over the district and the adjoining areas for the last couple of days has claimed the life of an old woman in the town, reports UNB.

Local people said Rafiqan Nessa (65) of Chourasia in the town died from biting cold Tuesday.

The town wears a desolate look as the winter chill intensifies after sunset.

Income of the day labourers and rickshawpullers has fallen sharply as they are to keep themselves indoors to escape the biting cold.

People are also seen rushing to markets to buy old warm garments but price spiral of old clothes has been disappointing the low income groups.



POPULATION BOOM: It is considered as number one problem and thousands of family planning workers are in the fields. Are the poor out of target? — Star photo

Bright prospect for peanut cultivation

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Jan 1: The prospect for peanut cultivation in all the 13 upazilas of Kishoreganj district is bright.

An encouraging result has been achieved from the experimental cultivation of peanut on the charland of Meghna, Dhanu, Ghorauttra, Arialkhan, Kali, Narasunda and Brahmputra rivers and more farmers have become interested in cultivation peanut. A vast tract of fallow land have been brought under peanut cultivation.

Experts are of the opinion that charlands are suitable for the cultivation of peanut with low cost. During dry seasons, these charlands, emerge on the bed of the rivers Meghna, Dhanu, Ghorauttra, Arialkhan, Kali, Narasunda and Brahmputra where peanut could be cultivated easily. Peanut is found most profitable in these areas. The main peanut cultivable areas are: Austagram, Itna, Mitamain, Kuliachar, Hossainpur, Kat-

iadi, Bajitpur, Nikli and Bhatrab upazilas, it is learnt.

Informed sources said peanut has now become a cash crop in this flood affected areas where production of paddy and other crops are completely uncertain. Many of the farmers are now engaged in cultivation of peanut.

But a little effort has been made by the Agricultural Extension Department to produce improved variety of peanut. There is a wide market of the crop in and outside the country. Besides, a better quality of edible oil could be produced from peanut, experts opined.

The farmers have urged the concerned authorities to provide them with improved quality of seeds and financial assistance for the cultivation of peanut.

The sale of bidis without bandrolls in all the 13 upazilas of Kishoreganj district has been causing heavy loss to the government.

According to the reports, many bidi factories in the district which employed thousand of workers are selling bidis without bandrolls.

The consumption of bidis has increased during the recent times due to the rise in the prices of different brands of cigarettes.

As per the existing law Taka 37 must be paid as Excise Duty for each 100 packets of bidis.

It is found that the owners of the bidi factories supply their products to the markets without bandrolls. It is also observed that they use forged bandrolls.

The collection of the used bandrolls from the retail sellers is going on, it is alleged.

Besides, the actual production of the factories is not shown in the papers for evading government duties.

It is alleged that many custom officials were involved in such bad practices.

Notes from Shariatpur

From Our Correspondent

SHARIATPUR, Jan 1: Ashraf Ali Mirdha (30) was allegedly murdered by Bajlur Rahman Mollah only for fifty taka recently. The victim hails from Kagdi village under Sadar Upazila of the district.

According to police report, on the day of occurrence, Bajlur Rahman Mollah demanded the refund of the money lent to Ashraf Ali Mirdha.

Being refused he dealt Ashraf Ali Mirdha a fatal blow to which he died.

The body was sent to sadar hospital for autopsy.

Wheat cultivation

A total of six thousand hectares of land have been taken for cultivation of wheat in six upazilas of the district during the current season.

It is learnt that, 1930 hectares in Jajira, 1435 in Vhedarganj, 975 in Naria, 660 in Goshairhat, 530 in Sadar and 470 in Damudya Upazilas.

Agriculture Extension Department has also taken up a programme to bring 700 hectares of land under sugarcane cultivation in six upazilas of the district during this season.

BSIC estate

BSIC acquired 13.83 acres of land of Vagia, a village on the bank of kirtinasa river of the district to establish an industrial area in Shariatpur.

It is alleged that, BSIC put up a signboard three years ago but the scheme has not yet been taken up.

While contacted, the Deputy Manager of Shariatpur BSIC informed that the work of filling up the low land and the construction of administration building are not being taken up for want of funds.

Fish diseases

Fish diseases have broken out in an alarming form in different upazilas of the district creating panic among the buyers.

According to official sources, the worst affected upazilas are: Sadar, Naria, Bhedarganj, Damudya, Zanzira and Goshairhat.

The diseases known as "Ulcerative Syndrome" have been spreading in most of the beels, ponds, canals of the district. Fish like Koi, Shing, Magur, Puti, Shol and Gozar are being attacked by the diseases.

The low income group of people who mostly live on fish are the worst sufferers. The fishermen are also facing hardships as the buyers are reluctant to purchase fish.

Fish diseases alarming

Consumers in panic

From Our Correspondent

The consumption of fishes is now risky as diseases have broken out in an epidemic form in most of the districts in recent months.

The taking of fishes like shol, gozar, boal, puti, koi, magur and shing is not safe as most of them are in the meantime affected.

With the outbreak of the diseases, the open water pisciculture programme throughout the country is also facing a serious setback.

The low income group of people who mostly live on fish might suffer from protein deficiency, nutrition experts say.

Fishermen said the demand for fish has fallen abruptly in the markets causing hardships to them.

MAULVIBAZAR

UNB reports say: Fish diseases have broken out in an epidemic form in six upazilas of the district, fisheries officials said.

The diseases, known as ulcerative syndrome, have affected different varieties of fish like shol, gozar, boal, puti, koi, magur and shing.

Fishermen said the demand for fish has fallen abruptly in the local markets causing financial hardship to them.

Local people urged the authorities to spray lime water in the affected water bodies to combat the menace.

MADARIPUR

Fish diseases have broken out in an epidemic form in almost all the four upazilas of the district.

The diseases known as ulcerative syndrome have affected different varieties of fish like shol, takee, gozar, puti, boal, magur and shing.

With the outbreak of the diseases the demand for fish had abruptly fallen in local markets, fish traders said.

SHERPUR

Fish diseases have broken out in alarming proportion in different upazilas of the district creating panic among the buyers.

The diseases known as "ulcerative syndrome" have been spreading in most of the beels, ponds and canals in sadar, Sreebordi, Nokla, Nalitabari and Jhenaigati upazilas.

Koi, magur, shing, puti, shol and gozar are being affected by the disease. Low income group of people who mostly live on fish are the worst sufferers.

The fishermen are also facing hardship as buyers are reluctant to buy fish fearing health hazards. They also urged the concerned authorities to spray lime water in the water bodies to combat the growing menace.

MANIKGANJ

Fish diseases have broken out in an alarming form in all the seven upazilas of the district causing grave concern among the buyers.

The diseases known as "ulcerative syndrome" have affected different varieties of fish like shol, takee, gozar, puti, boal, magur, shing and koi.

With the outbreak of the diseases, demand for fish had abruptly fallen in the local markets, informed sources said.

Low income group of people who mostly live on fish are the worst sufferers.

Local people and the fishermen community urged the authorities to spray lime water in water bodies to combat the menace.

PABNA

Fish diseases have broken out here in 9 upazilas of the district in an epidemic form.

The diseases known as ulcerative syndrome is affecting different varieties of fishes like shol, magur, shing and boal, which are commonly eaten.

Thus, the crisis of fresh fish has increased and demand of affected fish have abruptly fallen in the markets.

Local people urged the authorities to spray lime water in the affected water bodies.

Problems hamper academic activities

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Jan 1: Ashek Mahmud Government College, Jamalpur has been facing manifold problems for a long time.

The shortage of teachers, accommodation problem, want of equipments in laboratories and insufficient space in libraries have been hampering academic activities of the college.

The college was established in 1952 and later it was nationalised in 1980 but no development was possible after the nationalisation for unknown reasons.

The students of the college are deprived of proper teaching due to shortage of teachers. Three laboratory rooms can hardly accommodate the existing number of students.

The class rooms are so small that these can not accommodate the number of students in each class. The students find it difficult to stay in class rooms during summer for want of fans.

The library has a good collection of books but the students can not read those for want of space and furniture. Naturally the students do not get any chance to acquire knowledge. Over and above, a portion of the library is used as store-room.

4 held, arms recovered

KISHOREGANJ, Police arrested four people including two women and recovered huge quantity of arms and body in two separate raids in Sadar upazila on Friday, reports UNB.

Acting on a secret information, police raided a house of village Katiachar and nabbed an alleged criminal Suruj Ali.

On his confessional statement, police recovered 2 pipe guns, 3 rounds of ammunition, 1 cartridge, 2 randaos, 2 spears, 1 kirich, 1 pair of police boot, 1 belt, 1 white and 1 tape recorder.

In another raid, police arrested three people including two women and recovered huge quantity of booty from a house at Nilganj Road in the town. The goods included one television set and one table fan.

Dredging of rivers demanded

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Jan 1: Dredging of the rivers of Kobadak, Ichhamati, Betna, Kholpetua, Kakshilal and Burigoini in the district has become essential for smooth flow of current and plying boats and launches during the dry season.

These rivers were once blessings for the district which provided better communication, fishing and irrigation facilities.

During the monsoon, the water overflows the banks of the rivers as these can not contain the water rolling down from upper stream. But during the dry season, all the rivers become almost dried up and the total irrigation and navigation systems are greatly hampered.

The inhabitants of the locality are facing economic crisis as their return from cultivation during dry season falls and trading are hampered due to large-scale siltation of the rivers.

The people of the locality have urged the concerned authorities to take up measures to dredge the rivers to mitigate the sufferings of the people of the district.

Over-loading in buses and mini-buses in different routes of the district has become a regular feature.

The drivers ply their vehicles at their whim. They stop the vehicles at their own sweet will as a result no service can maintain time-table.

Founding day

The 21st founding anniversary of the Institute of Diploma Engineers (IDE), Bangladesh was observed here recently by the district branch of the Institute of Diploma Engineers.

In this connection, a discussion meeting was held here at the local Zila Parishad auditorium with Mr MA Dyan as the chair.