

Upazila roundup

GAZIPUR
BKB to disburse Tk 1 cr agri loan
Jan 4: Bangladesh Kriahi Bank (BKB) has taken up a programme to disburse Taka 11 crore loan among the farmers of the five upazilas of the district during the current fiscal year, reports UNB.

CHAPAINAWABGANJ
Dacoits loot Tk 72,000 rice
Jan 4: A gang of armed dacoits looted 95 bags of rice worth about Taka 72,000 from LSD Godown at Nachol Upazila recently, police said, reports UNB.

PABNA
Pry education plan inaugurated
Jan 4: The Compulsory Primary Education Programme inaugurated here at local Banomati Institute Wednesday, reports UNB.

FENI
Smuggled goods recovered
Jan 4: Bangladesh Rifles have seized a huge quantity of smuggled goods worth about Taka 1 lakh from a train at Feni Railway Station, reports UNB.

TANGAIL
Discussion on democratic movement
Jan 4: Jayotabadi Chhatra Dal, Tangail District Branch held a discussion meeting on the 'Thirteen years of democratic movement from 1979 to 1992' recently at local Shahid Minar premises, reports UNB.

MANIKGANJ
Drama festival
Jan 4: A two-day drama festival organised by Ichhamati Natya Dal, a local theatre organisation, was held recently at Jhikka AM High School premises under Harirampur upazila, reports UNB.

KUSHIA
Muktijoddha Sangsad unit dissolved
Dec 4: The Central Command Council of Muktijoddha Sangsad has dissolved the district unit committee for alleged malpractices by the Unit Commander, reports UNB.

SIRAJGANJ
3 more bodies recovered from capsized boat
Jan 4: Police recovered three more bodies on Wednesday morning following Thursday night's boat capsizing in the Jamuna near Char Sainna of Kazipur upazila with 17 people on board, reports UNB.

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CHILD LABOURERS: Poverty forces them to work. The merciless employers engage them in hard and odd jobs at a minimum payment. — Star photo

Child labourers in hard, odd jobs

SATKHIRA, Jan 4: The number of child labourers is increasing in different areas of the district. The poor children who are expected in their teens to schools and in the playground have been compelled to engage themselves in different works for earning livelihood. These tender faces speak of their uncertainty of life and living. They can not realise their social value as they never knew how to read and write. It is observed that privileged people of the society were taking advantages of the poverty of these class of children and they are being exploited. According to International Labour Laws, the children below the age group of 15 are not allowed to take up hard work. But in our country, the law is not being enforced. The concerned authorities have been urged to take initiatives to rehabilitate the child labourers through opening institutions and thus help them enjoy the minimum rights for the greater interest of the nation. A ten-day-long eye camp was inaugurated here by Mr. Shahidul Alam, Director General NGO's at Satani High School premises.

Seven commit suicide, 2 killed in road mishaps

PABNA, Jan 4: Six people of the district allegedly committed suicide by taking poison and hanging and two others were killed in road accidents during the last week, police said, reports UNB. Those who committed suicide were: Shaicha Khatoun (35), wife of Raichuddin of Aitalkila village, Anisur Rahman (18), son of Asadur Rahman of Jalalpur village, Shobeda Khatoun (25), daughter of Jonab Ali of Mojidpur village, Rahima Khatoun (38), wife of Sultan Bari of Madipur village, Md Straj (25), son of Abdul Barok of Kumargari village and Shetu (18), daughter of Manna Sarder of Dasuria village. They all committed suicide due to family trouble. Two others who were killed in road accidents at Maltgasp area were Akter Ali (28) and Abdul Hakim (25). Eight UD cases were registered in different police stations in this connection.



SHIBALAYA: The artistes of jatra parties recently brought out a procession here demanding the withdrawal of restrictions to the exhibition jatra. — Star photo

Notes from Faridpur

From Our Correspondent
FARIDPUR, Jan 4: A 3-day Ananda Mela was held at the historic Ambika Maidan organised by 'Shahid Sufi Samaj Kalyan Sangstha' recently. Awami League leader Advocate Mosharrar Hossain MP, inaugurated the fair as the 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. BRCS meet held. The annual general meeting of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society District Unit was held at Faridpur recently. The meeting was presided over by Acting Chairman of the district unit Md Kamruzzaman Jasu. The meeting was also attended by a good number of members of the unit. Secretary of the district unit Kazi Anwar Ali said, the organisation distributed relief goods among the flood affected and distressed people in the district. The goods included 12 metric tons of rice, 22 metric tons of wheat, 8 metric tons of flour, 1450 kgs of pulse and other necessary materials including medicines. Loan scheme. 'Songog Faridpur', a service oriented social welfare organisation of the ex-students of Faridpur Zilla School and Faridpur Rajendra College, under a interest-free loan scheme distributed rickshaws to the poor persons recently. Three meritorious students of this district who secured highest marks in the last HSC examination were also awarded Taka 2500 each. The function was presided over by social worker of the locality Al-haj Ferozer Rahman, Md Abdur Kahim, DC and Abbas Sattar, SP, Faridpur attended the function. Shilpakala Academy. The annual general meeting of Faridpur Shilpakala Academy was held at its auditorium recently. The meeting was presided over by Deputy Commissioner of Faridpur and the ex-officio president of the academy Mr Abdur Rahim. Sheikh Abdur Samad, general secretary of the academy submitted his annual report about the activities of the academy. Boro cultivation. A total of 1,10,760 acres of land in nine upazilas of the district will be brought under boro cultivation programme in the current season.

Production in sugar mill likely to fall

RANGPUR, Jan 4: Sugar production in Shyampur Sugar Mills may face setback as sugarcane growers are reluctant to supply sugarcane as they are not getting fair price of their produce, reports UNB. According to growers the mill authorities failed to repay outstanding amount of Taka 1.66 crore to them. The growers also staged demonstration recently in front of the General Manager's Office demanding repayment of their arrears. The mill is running 12 hours a day instead of 24 hours during the present crushing season from November 22 due to shortage of sugarcane, Mill sources said. At least 5,200 metric tons of sugar worth about Taka 2.48 crore of last year are lying unsold at the Mills godown. As a result the mill is facing an acute fund crisis. The mill has fixed the target of sugar production at 12,000 metric tons by crushing 1.42 lakh metric tons of sugarcane during the present crushing season. Works on 25 development projects are going on in the full swing under the Food for Work Programme in Sadar upazila of the district during the current fiscal year. Official sources said, under the supervision of CARE, a non-government organisation, the Overseas Development Authority (ODA) has sanctioned 665 metric tons of wheat for executing the projects. The projects include construction of embankment, re-excavation of ponds, canals and beels and development of hats and bazars and play grounds of educational institutions. General meeting of Greater Rangpur Welfare Association which was scheduled to be held on December 20 (Friday) will now be held on February 7, 1992. A press release of the Association says, interested persons may send their articles for the souvenir to be published on the occasion, on or before January 20.

10,000 drug addicts in dist Availability of drugs aggravating situation

NETRAKONA, Jan 4: The number of drug addicts is growing in the district causing concern to the town dwellers, reports UNB. More than 10,000 people have been addicted to drugs like ganja and others, according to an estimate done by a social worker. Most of the addicts belong to age groups between 13 to 40 years. And the majority of them are transport workers, small shopkeepers, businessmen, female students, government employees and officials, restaurant owners and college students. Easy availability of drugs has aggravated the situation in the district. Drugs are available in almost all the pharmacies in the town and even in rural markets, where being sold with impunity, the sources added. Local guardians, elite and political leaders urged the authorities to take necessary measures to check illegal sale of drugs and take proper action against anti-social elements immediately. The District Electric Supply Authority, in a operation, disconnected 250 power lines of domestic and business corners of the district during the last few days due to non-payment of arrear bills. Besides, the Authority have also cut-off power lines between Netrakona-Durgapur and Netrakona-Purbadhabla for the same reason. About Taka 48 lakh is now lying outstanding in Durgapur and Purbadhabla upazilas. Sources said, the operation for collection of outstanding bills would continue. A total of 176,536 hectares of land will be brought under sweet potato cultivation in 14 districts of Dhaka Division during the current rabi season. According to the Agricultural Extension Department, 890 hectares will be cultivated in Narayanganj, 1,500 hectares in Narayanganj, 182 hectares in Munshiganj, 2,025 hectares in Tangail, 2,000 hectares in Mymensingh, 3,650 hectares in Jamalpur, 1,200 hectares in Sherpur, 243 hectares in Netrakona, 3,060 hectares in Kishoreganj, 100 hectares in Rajbari, 150 hectares in Faridpur, 400 hectares in Gopalganj, 146 hectares in Madaripur and 1,000 hectares in Shariatpur districts. To make the programme a success, Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation will supply seeds, fertilizers, insecticides and other inputs among the farmers at fair prices.

Spread of skin diseases alarming

BORGUNA, Jan 4: Stomach ailments and skin diseases have been spreading alarmingly in the district causing concern among the people, reports UNB. 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. Red Crescent Society has undertaken a programme to construct six cyclone shelters in the coastal areas of the district during this financial year. More than 7000 people will get emergency shelters during the time of cyclone and tidal surge. These cyclone shelters will be used as primary schools in normal times, the sources said. The annual rally and athletic competition of district police were held at police bazar maidan. Deputy Inspector General of Police, Khulna Range, Shuhidul Haque attended the rally as the chief guest while Fazul Haque, Police Super of the district, presided over the function held recently. The chief guest in his speech called upon the members of the police service to perform their duties with utmost sincerity, devotion and impartiality. Later he distributed prizes among the winners. The Annual General Meeting of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) concluded in Dhaka Monday with the passage of the budget for the year 1992.

Tk 8cr sanitation plan for Habiganj

HABIGANJ, Jan 4: A Taka 8 crore project has been taken up for development of drainage and sanitation systems and rehabilitation of the shelterless people of the district Pourashava, reports UNB. According to official source, the Asian Development Bank will finance the project. The project will also include construction of pucca drains, public toilet and dust-bin for the improvement of the sanitation in the area. Pourashava sources said the primary survey of the project was completed recently and the work will start soon. Migratory birds are being killed indiscriminately by amateur and professional bird-shooters in the district defying government ban. According to informed sources, different kinds of birds locally known as Balishuh, Parishuh, Panour, Sarails, Dahuk have flocked here in different water bodies of Baniachong, Azmirganj, Nabiganj, Lakhal and Sadar upazilas. Police seized a huge number of smuggled Indian birds worth about Taka 2.30 lakh from a house of Faduljah Village of Nabiganj Upazila of the district. Acting on a secret information, police raided the house of Abdul Hye of the said village and seized the contraband goods last week. A case was registered in this connection.

Breast feeding can prevent blindness

BORGUNA, Jan 4: Hundreds of babies in the district are suffering from blindness caused by vitamin 'A' deficiency, reports UNB. A recent survey showed that about 200 infants have already lost their eye-sight over the last few months, which could be prevented by regular breast feeding. The report also said that infant mortality rate were rising in the district as mothers showed reluctance to feed from the breast. About 35 per cent of the total children have been suffering from night blindness, malnutrition, skin and other gastro-intestinal diseases, the survey further said.