

Upazila roundup

MALJDEE COURT

Municipal park set up

Jan 6: A municipal park has been set up at Maljdee Court Headquarters of the Noakhali District, reports UNB.

The Deputy Commissioner formally inaugurated the park, first of its kind, in the district on Wednesday at a simple ceremony. A large number of people from various strata of the society were present on the occasion.

Noakhali Municipality completed work on the park recently at a cost of about Taka 12 lakh.

The DC urged the people to maintain sanctity of the park and assured to provide all necessary amenities so that the park can be used by all age groups of people.

BARISAL

Seminar on irrigation

Jan 6: A seminar on Barisal irrigation project — success and failure — was held at the seminar room of Water Development Board (BWD) recently, reports BSS.

Mr. Tashlim Uddin presided over the seminar. Dr. Md Shahjahan, Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh Engineering University and Chairman of Bangladesh Engineers' Institution was present as chief guest.

Mr. Abdul Aziz, an engineer of Water Development Board presented a paper. Mr Golam Sadek, Mr Kamruzzaman, Mr Ali Akbar Hyder and Kazi Md. Shahjahan took part in the discussion.

RANGAMATI

Killing of fishermen condemned

Jan 6: A number of protest meetings were held in Khagrachari and Rangamati hill districts condemning the recent killings of 7 fishermen by the tribal insurgents, reports UNB.

The security forces recovered the bodies of the fishermen from the deep forest of Baghatat Area on Sunday and brought to the Dighinala Upazila Headquarters.

The bodies were later taken to the Khagrachari District Headquarters. A big protest meeting was held there at Shapla Square Sunday arranged by the Sonaroti Samaj Kalyan Parishad. It was presided over by Benimadhab Talukdar. After the meeting a big procession paraded the main thoroughfares of the town.

Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Human Rights, Rangamati branch and Central Puja Samanoy Parishad jointly organised another protest meeting at Bonorupa, Rangamati on the same day. Chaired by Maqsood Ahmed, President of the society, the meeting was also addressed by Harshadhan Chowdhury, Dilip Dev, Abdul Kader, Jahangir Alam Munna, Manunur Rashid, Azam Ali, Mahfuzur Rahman, Nurul Amin Patwari, Abu Nasir and Manruzzaman Manir.

Two separate protest meetings were also held Monday at the Shapla Square in Khagrachari protesting the killings. Khagrachari District Kalyan Parishad and Bangladesh Krishak Samaj Kalyan Parishad arranged the meetings.

FARIDPUR

Untimely rains damage crops on 21,650 acres

Jan 6: The untimely heavy downpour that continued for three days ending on December 27 throughout the district caused extensive damage to standing crops on thousands of acres of land, reports UNB.

Local Met Office recorded 153 mm rainfall during those days.

Standing crops on 21,650 acres of land worth about Taka 15.50 crore were damaged by the torrential rain. Agriculture Extension Department sources said.

The damaged crops included wheat, potato, oilseeds, onion garlic and pulses.

Seed-beds on 215 acres were also damaged by the rain. Meanwhile, General Manager of the Faridpur Sugar Mills KMA Kaushik said that due to chilly weather compounded by intermittent rainfall, the mills remained closed for 67 hours hampering the production valued at Taka 1 crore.

He also said that the heavy rainfall affected sugarcane procurement which might affect the target of production.

DAUKANDI

Call to maintain communal harmony

Jan 6: Energy and Mineral Resources Minister, Dr Khandaker Mosharrar Hossain on Sunday called upon the people to maintain communal harmony and peace and discipline to ensure development and progress of the country, reports BSS.

He was addressing a function of the Hindu Community at North Satanandi here. State Minister for Forest and Environment Gayeshwar Roy also spoke on the occasion.

Dr Mosharrar Hossain said Bangladesh is a land of communal harmony which has set a unique example in this field in the world. He said, we had to maintain this harmony at any cost for the development and flourishing of our country.

Every citizen, irrespective of religion, creed and party affiliation, has same rights and responsibility to the nation, he added.

Mr Gayeswar Roy said a selfish section of people had been capitalising religion for realising their ill-motives.

FENI

Tk 76 lakh for construction of institutions

Jan 6: Government has sanctioned Taka 76 lakh for construction and reconstruction of 2,082 educational and religious institutions in 5 upazilas of the district under post cyclone rehabilitation programme, reports UNB.

Of the total, 9 colleges, 1 technical college, 1 teachers training college, 110 high schools, 22 junior high schools, 462 primary schools, 4 madrasas, 1393 mosques, 79 temples and 1 church will be brought under the programme.

At a Press conference the owners of the specialised textile mills complained that due to the delay in government action non-cooperation of the commercial banks, power disruption, faulty credit system and smuggling are creating obstacles to the industrialisation of the area.

Although the government has declared the textile mills of the district as sick industries, the commercial banks

MAGURA

4 pry schools to be reconstructed

Jan 6: Government has sanctioned Taka 15.60 lakh for reconstruction of four government primary schools in Sadar upazila during the current fiscal year, reports UNB.

A Sadar Upazila Parishad official informed that, out of the total amount, Taka 3.90 lakh would be spent for reconstruction of Berollipatia Primary School, Taka 3.90 lakh for Barasol Primary School, Taka 3 lakh for Dhanpara Primary School and Taka 3.90 lakh for Ghoranach Primary School.

The source also informed that the construction work will start this month and would be completed by March next under the Annual Development Programme.

BORGUNA

Use of firewood in brickfields unabated

Jan 6: Indiscriminate cutting of trees in the district for use as firewood in the brickfields is going on unabated, reports UNB.

There are about 50 brickfields in the district and at least 2.50 crores of bricks will be burnt during this season. The owners of the brickfields despite government ban are using firewoods to manufacture bricks.

It is learnt that at least 2,000 maunds of firewood are being used in the brickfields in the district every year, although coal is available for the purpose. As a result, scarcity of firewood has been prevailing in the district affecting the low income group of people.

Local experts said, if felling of trees is going on unabated, it might adversely affect the ecology.

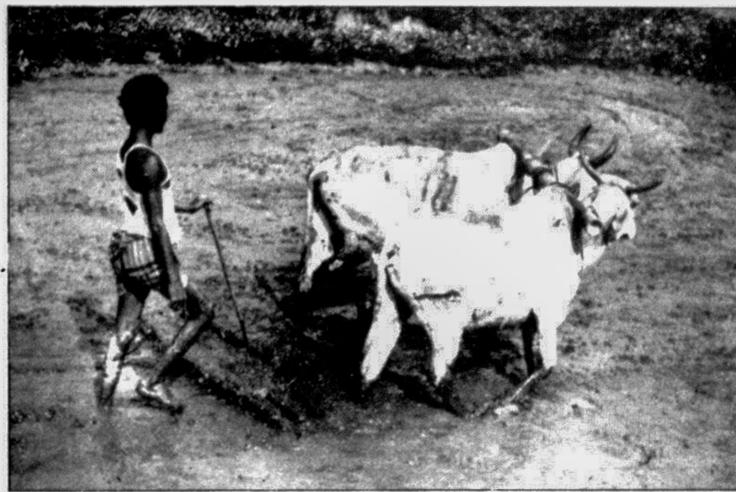
JAMALPUR

Dacoity at official's house

Jan 6: A dacoity was committed in the residence of Road and Highways Executive Engineer here Thursday night, reports BSS.

A gang of dacoits broke open the doors, entered into the house and decamped with goods worth Taka about one lakh. They also injured the wife of engineer.

A case was lodged with Jamalpur thana in this connection.



IRRI-BORO CULTIVATION: A farmer is preparing a plot land for the cultivation of paddy. — Star photo

Textile mills in Pabna need protection

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Jan 6: Many textile mills including 13 specialised textile mills and power-loom factories of the district are now closed for improper decision of the concerned authorities.

The specialised textile mills were established in 1983 with the assurance of power supply to the mills. The non-supply of electricity has left many of the industries idle. The owners of the mills are now in uncertainty about the future of the industries. The owners of the mills have become economically handicapped, it is learnt.

At a Press conference the owners of the specialised textile mills complained that due to the delay in government action non-cooperation of the commercial banks, power disruption, faulty credit system and smuggling are creating obstacles to the industrialisation of the area.

Although the government has declared the textile mills of the district as sick industries, the commercial banks

are unwilling to extend loan facilities to the industrialists, they informed.

The helpless specialised textile mill owners have submitted a seven-point demand before the government to consider those for keeping the industries running.

The demands include declaration of the power-loom factories sick, remittance of all back dated interest, providing working capital at a simple interest rate, import of thread without any tax, supply of electricity at subsidised rate and withdrawal of certificate cases against the mill owners.

The mill owners have urged the concerned authorities to take effective measures to continue production in the mills smoothly.

It can be mentioned here that the textile sector in Pabna district manufactures, a huge quantity of lungis, sarces and other kinds of clothes by which a good portion demands are met.

Some businessmen of the district are also for the protection of the mills for national interest. Hundreds of textile workers have also become unemployed for the closer of the mills, they informed.

A UNB report says: A young housewife of Nawadapara village in Sadar upazila of the district was allegedly beaten to death by her husband for dowry.

According to family sources, Nazma Akhter (20), daughter of Taleb Biswas of Chataut village in Sadar upazila got married with Hashem Ali of Nawadapara village a year back. Since then Hashem was putting pressure on her to bring Taka 5,000 from her father as dowry.

On the fateful day on December 31 when Nazma refused to bring the money from her poor father, Hashem became furious and started her beating mercilessly. She died on the spot.

A case has been filed with Pabna police.

Results of mufassil colleges attract degree students

From Our Correspondent

KURIGRAM, Jan 6: A good number of final year students of degree classes from the urban areas are seeking admission to the colleges in rural areas with a view to enjoy illegal opportunities.

According to reports, a large number of degree students have taken admission to the colleges in rural areas to appear at the Degree Examination for 1991 to be held in 1992 under Rajshahi University after taking transfer certificates from most of the colleges of the district headquarters.

It is informed that the students were going to rural colleges for adopting unfair means in the examinations.

A section of teachers from mufassil colleges have now got opportunities to earn money from the opportunistic students. As a result, the number of degree class students at the district headquarters has dramatically decreased.

Due to influx of students, an acute accommodation problem has been created in the rural college premises.

Some teachers of the district level expressed that the situation has been created to adopt unfair means in the examinations. This influx of students from district to rural areas has begun before three years back. The students have chosen this path as the percentage of pass in rural col-

leges is more than the urban colleges. This happens as the students in the rural areas get chances for adopting unfair means in the examinations, it is alleged.

According to a source, the rush of the examinees was observed in Bhurungamari, Nagেশ্বর, Ullpur, Hatbandha, Domar, Polashbari, Golendaganj, Pirgacha, Mitlakur and Naldanga colleges in Greater Rangpur during the last Degree examinations.

It is alleged that the adoption of unfair means in the examinations is encouraged in many rural colleges instead of preventing the students from doing so. On the other hands, strictness is maintained in the urban colleges for which a total of 100 students was expelled from Kurigram Government College Centre alone.

It is further gathered that a section of teachers are also involved in this illegal activities. The fact was placed before the concerned authorities for many times but no effective measures have not yet been taken for reasons not known.

The sixth founding anniversary of the Jatiya Party was observed at Kurigram with much enthusiasm on January 1.

In this connection, a mital maulifi and a discussion meeting were arranged at the zila Jatiya Party office premises which were chaired by Mr Azal Hossain.

Among others, Mr Abu Bakar Siddique, Secretary District Unit, Mr Shaiful Islam Ruku, a local of the party and Mr Bulu participated in the discussion meeting.

Md Masud Hossain of Kurigram secured 12th position in the combined merit list from Rangpur Cadet College in the HSC examination under Rajshahi Board this year.

He obtained total 890 marks with distinctions in Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Biology.

They were fleeing after committing a dacoity recently in a house of Khandaker Abul Khayer of village Shahali, 8 km east from the town.

Family sources said, they looted cash and valuables worth about Taka 8,000.

Police said, when the dacoits were fleeing by the Bhairab bound 181 up train, railway police, on suspicion, challenged and nabbed them.



COX'S BAZAR: Police has arrested 10 pirates from Buckhali River during the preparation of a dacoity recently. Police also recovered rifles and ammunition from their possessions.

Notes from Agri Varsity

Jan 6: An attractive training manual under the title "The Village and Farm Forestry in Bangladesh" has recently been published in Bengali language for the first time under the joint auspices of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) and Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC), says a press release.

Termining this publication as a timely and important one, the Vice-Chancellor of BAU Prof. M. Asadur Rahman stated that it would play a significant role in popularising the village and farm forestry in Bangladesh.

He further stated that the large scale and drastic deforestation had resulted in frequent occurrence of natural disasters in our country. He advocated to take up appropriate afforestation programme to meet the challenge.

Edited by Prof. M. Abdul Haque, Director of Village and Farm Forestry Project, the book consists of a total of twenty articles on various aspects of village and farm forestry.

BAU officers' parishad

UNB reports say: An 11-member executive body of the Bangladesh Agricultural University Officers' Parishad (BAUOP) for 1992 has been elected recently.

Md Ziaul Islam, Treasurer of BAU and Md Aminul Haque, Senior Section Officer of Veterinary Science Faculty have been elected as its President and General Secretary respectively.

Other office-bearers of the executive body are Md Shahid Qadri Khan and Md Saidduzzaman — Vice Presidents, Md Aminul Islam and Md Hasan Ali — Joint Secretary, Abdur Rob Bhuiyan — Treasurer, Md Abdul Khair, Riuzul Hannan Md Yusuf, Md Mohiuddin Fakir and Md Azizul Haque — members, says a press release.

M A Matin Akand conducted the election.

Seminar on higher farm education

Bangladesh Agricultural University Teachers Association (BAUTA) arranged a day-long seminar on "the unique features of higher agricultural education" at the Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin Auditorium recently.

Chairman of the University Grants Commission (UGC) Prof M Shamsul Haque and the Vice-Chancellor of the University Prof M Asadur Rahman was present as chief and special guests respectively.

The Emeritus Scientist of National Agricultural Research System Dr Kazi M Badruddin read out the keynote paper in the seminar.

The participants from the Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute, Fisheries Research Institute, Agriculture Extension, Agricultural Research Institute, Agricultural Research Council and the Faculty of Agriculture of the University spoke on the issue.

Plant tissue culture confce

A two-day Plant Tissue Culture Conference here has laid stress on Tissue Culture Research for modernising agriculture.

Held under the auspices of Bangladesh Association for Plant Tissue Culture (BAPTIC), the inaugural function was attended by the Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) Prof M Asadur Rahman as chief guest and the Executive, Vice-Chairman of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) Dr. M S U Chowdhury, as a special guest.

The chief guest in his speech said planned application of plant tissue culture technology could bring about a radical change in the agricultural system of Bangladesh.

Dr. Chowdhury said that the tissue culture research should get top priority in modern agriculture and centre of excellence should be developed at national level with the latest genetic research facilities.

Girl kidnapped, raped

MAGURA, Jan 6: A teen-aged girl of Nohata village in Mohammadpur Upazila of the district was kidnapped and allegedly raped by a young man of the same village Monday, reports UNB.

According to police, Nahida Parvin (14), daughter of Abdus Sattar and student of class nine was kidnapped from her house by Bangal Sheikh (24), son of Akhlaas Sheikh.

Police sent the victim to Magura Sadar hospital for medical examination.

The miscreant remained absconding since the incident. A case has been filed with Mohammadpur Police in this connection.

30,000 acres farm land silted up

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Jan 6: About 30 thousand acres of cultivable land went under thick sands following siltation during floods in four upazilas of the district.

The upazilas are Sunderganj, Gaibandha sadar, Fulchhari and Shaghata where huge sands fell on the fertile lands along the river belt of Teesta and Brahmaputra through overflow or breaching of embankments during rainy season.

Flood water from upstream that carried sands and fill on the cultivable lands turning the areas into a mini-desert.

Crops of any kind did not grow on such sandy land for the last four years. Cultivable land turned into barren land in many areas due to sand fall of two to five feet thick.

According to a statistics about 24 thousand acres of land under Sunderganj, Gaibandha sadar and Fulchhari Upazila went under 3 to 4 feet thick sand layer during the last consecutive floods. Besides, 6 thousand acres land of Shaghata Upazila became sandy during the period.

Many of the marginal farmers have been facing hardships as they cannot grow crops on

their limited land. Moreover prices of the said land have declined abnormally and none desire to purchase it.

Post-mortem house

Town dwellers of Pulbandi under Gaibandha Pourashava are facing untold suffering due to existence of post-mortem house in residential populated area.

The house was set up long ago when the area was almost lonely. But it has now turned into a residential area due to extension of pourashava. It is alleged that the post-mortem work is done in the house almost openly.

Moreover the house is not well protected. Very often, decomposed corpses are brought here for post-mortem. The bad smell emitting causes serious health hazard in this area.

Although the concerned authority issued orders occasionally for shifting the house to some lonely place, the house is yet to be shifted elsewhere.

People of the area urged the concerned higher authority to transfer the post-mortem house from the residential area.

Fund shortage hits hospital construction

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Jan 6: The delay in completion of the construction of the Health Complex at Chowgacha in Jessore has deprived over two lakh people especially the poor of the area from proper medical treatment.

It is learnt that the construction work of the health complex was taken up by Public Works Department (PWD) under the directives from Ministry of Health and Family Planning in 1987. The progress of the work was satisfactory upto 1990. But the work was found abandoned by the contractor for reasons not known.

On inquiry, it was known that exhaustion of fund was the cause of stop of the work.

When contacted, former Upazila Chairman told the correspondent that the Secretary, Ministry of Health assured him last September of more fund for the completion of the health complex. But the cause of shortfall of capital was not explained immediately.

It can be mentioned here that in 1986, upazila parishad at its own made local arrangement for accommodation of doctors in a newly built library building to render medical services to the people of the area. This was a temporary arrangement done for the demand of the general public.

At present, the daily atten-

dance of patients at the centre is over two hundred.

The number of diseases is increasing day by day and the serious patients need hospital for admittance where appropriate treatment can be obtained.

The people of the locality have urged the concerned authorities to complete the remaining work immediately for extending medical facilities to needy people of the area.

Observation team to monitor UP polls in Comilla

COMILLA, Jan 6: Two human rights organisations jointly formed an observation team here Saturday for monitoring the forthcoming Union Parishad election in the district, reports UNB.

The organisations are Bangladesh Society for Enforcement of Human Rights (BSEHR) and Bangladesh Foundation of Human Rights (BFHR).

A 17-member committee was formed for smooth observation of the election with Principal Delwar Jahid as Chief Coordinator, and MG Mahfuz and Salahuddin Ahmed, as Assistant Coordinators.

Passengers demand bus stands

MAULAVIBAZAR, Jan 6: Passengers of Sylhet-Comilla, Sylhet-Habiganj and Sylhet-Dhaka bus routes have been facing untold suffering for want of bus stands in Maulavibazar and Srimongal towns, reports UNB.

Chittagong Division Development Board had allocated Taka 4 lakh in fiscal 1979-80 for the construction of bus stands in those areas. But the scheme has not yet been executed.

Comilla Regional Development Board (CRDB) had also allocated Taka 4 lakh for the same purpose in 1985-86 financial year. But the allocated fund was later diverted to another development project.

Local leaders demanded construction of bus stands as early as possible.

Our Correspondent adds: Kulara Railway Station, a busy and large railway junction of Maulavibazar district has become the centre of floating prostitutes, smugglers and musclemen, local people alleged.

Anti-social and unlawful activities have been going on unchecked by the railway authorities and even the law-enforcing agencies.

Thousands of passengers who come and wait here are subjected to harassment by miscreants and prostitutes.

Same allegation have been coming from Srinangal Railway Station. Passengers of these two railway stations urged the authorities to protect them from these elements.

Executive Committee of District Medical Association (DMA) was elected with Dr Abdul Wahed Choudhury as the president, Dr Abdul Malik and Dr Alok Das as the vice-pres-

idents and Dr Shancwaz as the assistant secretary.

It may be mentioned here that the results of the posts of general secretary, joint secretary and one post of member were undeclared, as the candidates got equal votes.

Other elected office-bearers are cashier-Dr Shaifque Uddin, members-Dr Shah Nurul Islam, Dr Yetyeah, Dr Rana Ukugum, Dr Selina Sultana and Dr Saydur Rahman.

The district committee of DMA were elected for the next two years by the direct vote of its members in the election held here at Civil Surgeon's office recently.

Power supply irregular

MOULVIBAZAR, Jan 6: Frequent power failure in Sadar, Rajnagar, Kulara and Barlekha upazilas of the district has been affecting life and living of the dwellers and hampering production in mills and factories, reports UNB.

Residents of the district and upazila headquarters complained that break-down in electric supply occurs for nearly four hours every day.

The mills, factories, godowns, cinema halls, educational institutions, markets, offices and commercial centres have to stop production and other operations, incurring considerable financial loss.

Voltage fluctuations have been damaging valuable electrical gadgets at homes.

Transformers often go out of order due to overloading at some points where unauthorised connections have been given by corrupt employees.