

Upazila roundup

BAGERHAT

Scout movement can curb moral degradation

Jan 7: Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control M. Majidul Haque has said that "Cub Kumpuri" and scout movement helped children to grow as the future worthy citizens of the country, reports BSS.

He was addressing the concluding and prize giving ceremony of Third Bangladesh National Cub Kumpuri of Khulna region at the local Bagerhat PC College ground on Sunday, a PID handout said on Monday.

The Minister asserted that cub and scout movement could play a vital role in creating brotherhood, discipline, fellow feeling and leadership among the future generation.

Shaheed president Ziaur Rahman had intensified this movement so as to curb the trend of moral degradation among the youths and to build them to shoulder the future leadership of the country, he added.

Earlier, the Minister was introduced to cub and scout members and leaders.

Later, he distributed prizes among the participating teams, team leaders and officials of the management parishad.

MAGURA

Farmers asked to apply modern technology

Jan 7: Agriculture and Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Minister M. Majidul Haque on Monday asked farmers to apply modern technology in farming through proper training to boost production in fields, reports UNB.

He was inaugurating a day-long training course for owners and managers of various irrigation pumps of the district at the Sadar upazila auditorium.

"Bring increased acreage under irrigation facilities by checking wastage of water and using more pumps for this purpose," the Minister told the farmers.

referring to government's priority to attaining food autonomy, he said all steps had been taken to achieve the goal.

Director General of Agriculture Extension Department M. Shihidul Haque, the Deputy Commissioner and agriculture officials of the district were also present at the function.

Later, the Minister also addressed a meeting of the district canal digging committee.

GAZIPUR

Tk 89 lakh for reconstruction of pry schools

Jan 7: Facilities Department under Ministry of Education has taken up a programme to reconstruct 22 government primary schools of the district with a cost of Taka 85.80 lakh, reports UNB.

The programme includes construction of school buildings and supplying of necessary furniture.

According to official sources, four schools will be constructed in Sadar, Kaliakur and Kapasia upazilas each, and five each in Sreebordi and Kalliganj upazilas.

The construction works of the schools is expected to be completed soon.

BORGUNA

Power supply erratic

Jan 7: Frequent power failure and voltage fluctuations in the district headquarters, Amtali, Bamna, Betagi and Patharghata upazilas of the district have been affecting life and living of the dwellers hampering production in mills and factories, reports UNB.

Residents of the upazilas complained that break-down in electric supply occurs almost in every night. Hardly a day or night passes, without power disruption.

The mills, factories, godowns, offices and industrial units have to stop production and other operations, incurring considerable financial loss. Voltage fluctuations have been damaging valuable electrical gadgets at homes.

Prices of rice, wheat, flour have gone up as the mills and factories have stopped operation due to frequent load shedding.

Domestic, industrial and commercial consumers have urged the authorities to look into the problem.

MALDIVE COURT

Press Club AGM held

Jan 7: The annual general meeting of the district Press Club was held recently with Rafiquddin Ahmed, President of the club in the chair, reports UNB.

Secretary of the club presented the annual report before the meeting and submitted the budget for the next year, which was approved duly.

Later a committee was formed for the smooth functioning of the club.

CHITTAGONG

Cultural Forum formed

Jan 7: A new social-cultural organisation styled Cultural Forum-Chittagong, was formed at a meeting of eminent citizens held at Lakhan Bazar here recently, a forum press release said, reports BSS.

Principal, Muhammad Solaiman presided over the meeting.

The Cultural Forum-Chittagong has in its objective projecting and fostering Bangladeshi culture, literature and traditions.

The meeting elected an executive committee for the forum for the year 1992-93 with the following: Chairman — Principal, Muhammad Solaiman, Vice-Chairman — Majed, General Secretary — Taufiqul Islam Chowdhury, Joint-Secretary — Syed Zakir Hussain and Mahfuzul Haque Manik, Secretary Education and Research — Prof. Kazi Azizuddin Ahmad, Secretary Literature and Publication — Iskandar Ali Chowdhury, Organising Secretary — Manjur Morshed, Secretary Social Welfare — Bayazid Mustaba Siddiqui, Secretary Youth — G. M. Azmal Khan, Publicity Secretary — Mustafa Naim.

KHULNA

One strangled to death

Jan 7: An elderly man was killed over land dispute recently at village Andharmanik in Dumuria upazila, reports UNB.

Police said the victim Gopal Chandra Haldar (65) was strangled to death by his rivals.

Hariprada Dhal, Ponchanan Dhal and Gobinda Dhal were arrested in this connection.

A case has been lodged in this connection.

SHERPUR

Boro cultivation scheme

Jan 7: A scheme has been undertaken to bring 1,20,675 acres of land under boro cultivation in 5 upazilas of the district during the current season, reports UNB.

According to Agriculture Extension Department (AED) sources, 1,13,620 acres of land will be brought under High Yielding Variety and the rest 16,055 acres under local variety.

Bangladesh Krishi Bank and other financial institutions will provide credit facilities to farmers and Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation will also supply seeds, fertilizers and other necessary inputs for the implementation of the programme.

When completed about 1,24,460 metric tons of boro paddy are expected to be produced.

Meanwhile, AED also has taken up a scheme to cultivate masur in 1852 acres of land in five upazilas of the district.

According to official sources, 729 acres will be cultivated in Sadar, 149 acres in Sreebordi, 197 acres in Nallabari, 716 acres in Nokla and 61 acres in Jhenidaha upazilas.

At least 702 metric tons of masur are expected to be produced after the implementation of the scheme.

JHENIDAH

Attack on newsman condemned

Jan 7: Local journalists in a meeting Friday condemned the attack on Mostafa Mazed, district correspondent of the Dainik Janata by a gang of miscreants, reports UNB.

The miscreants attacked Mazed after a report published in the daily on bungling of tender of the Water Development Board of the district.

Held at the Jhenidaha Press Club, the meeting also called for immediate arrest of the miscreants and demanded exemplary punishment to them to stop recurrence of such incidents in future.



RURAL COMMUNICATION: The villagers are to face such situation at some points. They frequently cross dilapidated wooden bridges or shakos which is risky.

Power supply to schemes denied IRRI-boro cultivation on 1.50 lakh acres uncertain

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Jan. 7: IRRI-boro cultivation on 1,50,000 acres of land under six upazilas of the district has become uncertain due to lack of power supply to deep and shallow tubewells.

It is informed that on the assurance of power connection by Power Development Board (PDB), 80 deep and 70 shallow tubewells were installed in 1983 in the said upazilas. But power supply has not yet been provided. As such cultivation is being hampered to a great extent.

On the other hand, the cultivators who took loan have been facing utter difficulties.

A scheme was submitted to the higher authority of PDB under Annual Development Programme for providing power connections to the irrigation projects in Melandah Upazila. But the scheme was not approved for reasons not known.

It is informed that due to overpressure on two transformers in Melandah Upazila, power supply could not be extended to the irrigation projects. But it is learnt that the pressure was due to illegal connections to a number of

houses and industrial units.

The farmers are not getting IRRI-boro seeds to government rate from the local branch of Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC). It is alleged that the improved variety of seeds are being sold in blackmarket at higher prices. But there is none to check the illegal sale of the seeds.

Moreover, the seeds distributed by BADC among farmers are reportedly not germinating, it is alleged. When contacted, Melandah Agriculture Office admitted the matter.

It is apprehended that IRRI-boro cultivation in the district may suffer a serious setback this season for want of seeds and power supply. The concerned authorities have been urged to take immediate steps to extend power supply to the irrigation schemes for successful cultivation of IRRI-boro paddy.

UNB report says: Awami League activists recently staged demonstration in front of the office of Deputy Commissioner and Superintendent of Police of the district demanding proper distribution of relief materials

at Melandah Upazila.

The demonstrators also demanded holding of postponed elections to the students' union of Madarganj Government College and eradication of BNP-patronised terrorism in Melandah and Madarganj upazilas.

The 4-hour gherao programme from 10 am was led by district Awami League Joint Secretary Mirza Hossain Azam.

The Awami League supporters later brought out a procession from the railway station which terminated at DC office premises.

They warned that if their demands were not met they would go for a greater action programme.

The protesters also handed over two separate memoranda to the DC and SP.

BSS adds: A four-month-long training programme on radio and television repairing began at Dewanganj Upazila headquarters recently. Fifteen persons including six women have been participating in the training programme organised by Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC).

Notes from Brahmanbaria

BRAHMANBARIA, Jan 7: Untimely rain caused an extensive damage to Rabi crops on 17,564 acres of land in seven upazilas of the district, reports UNB.

Of the total land, mustard on 13,749 acres, potato on 1,081 acres, wheat on 1,079 acres, pulses on 783 acres, chilli on 199 acres, vegetables on 445 acres and boro on 228 acres were damaged by the recent heavy township, official sources said.

Besides, boro seed-bed on 640 acres of land were also damaged.

Local agriculture officials apprehended that the target of production might not be achieved during this season due to this untimely rain.

List of maastans prepared

Police has made a list of maastans, illegal arms holders and hooligans indifferent parts of the district.

At least 50 people were arrested in the first phase of anti-miscreants drive during the last week. But no illegal arms were deposited during the deadline fixed by the district administration.

The second phase of the drive is expected to be started soon to make the programme a success, police said.

Five die of diarrhoea

Diarrhoeal diseases claimed five lives including two boys and attacked 25 others in pourashava area of the district recently.

The victims were identified as Sakhlina Khatun (20), wife of Enamul Haque and Muslima Begum (40), wife of Wad Ali of Bhadrughar, Rafia Khatun (18), Mutalim Miah (6) and Helal Miah (8) months.

Scarcity of drinking water and taking of adulterated food were attributed to the outbreak of the diseases.

Local people urged the authorities to take necessary measures to combat the growing menace.

Smallest Quran

The smallest volume of the Holy Quran was discovered here.

The holy book was found recently in the house of late Alhaj Abdul Mannan of Howlander Para.

The Quran printed 200 years ago was measured by 1.9 cm in length, 1.5 cm breadth, 1 cm thick and the 3.3 gram in weight.

The holy book is now under the possession of Advocate Abdus Sattar Bhuiyan MP, residing at Medda in the town.

A Pabna report adds: Another tiny Holy Quran was traced here recently.

The Quran weighing 2.2 gram, 2.1 cm in length and 1 cm thick has all features of a complete Quran with all 30 chapters.

Hafez Mohammad Ilias, Imam of Kadamtala Bazar Mosque displayed the Quran at the local Press Club claiming it as the smallest holy Quran of the world.

One killed, I hurt in road mishap

FENI, Jan 7: A man was crushed under the wheels of a speeding bus and his brother sustained serious injury when the vehicle hit them at Raut Bazar on Feni-Chhaganj Road Monday, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, Rahimullah (25), of Majlispur village in sadar upazila died on the spot and his brother Karimullah was rushed to the sadar hospital in a critical condition.

Both the brothers met the tragic accident. When the Khagachhari bound bus (No. Feni BA-6) hit them while they were crossing the road.

Tk 15 lakh goods gutted at Faridpur

FARIDPUR, Jan 7: Valuables worth about Tk 15 lakh of three bedding stores of Chawkbazar, the biggest bazar in the town here, were gutted in a fire at early hours today, a first hand report said, reports UNB.

Fire Brigade sources said, the affected stores include Kashem Brothers, Hasan Brothers and Bhagabati Store.

The cause of fire could not be ascertained immediately. But police suspected that the fire might be originated from electric short circuit.

Soon after the incident, Faridpur Fire Servicemen rushed to the spot and extinguished the fire within an hour.

None was injured in the fire. The extent of damage may be more than the first hand report, it is learnt.

It may be mentioned that there are more than 200 bedding and clothes stores in the Chawkbazar Area.

A case has been filed in this connection.

A BSS report says: Four shops were gutted in a fire at

4 am last night at Chawkbazar, the biggest market of the town.

The fire stated to have originated from electric short circuit. Faridpur fire Brigade rushed to the spot and brought the fire under control. Four firemen were injured while fighting the fire.

Carpets, rug, foam clothes worth several lakh taka were gutted in the fire.

A UNB report from Maulvibazar adds: The fire Brigade Station of the district has become crippled for want of adequate staff and equipments.

At present the fire station has only five firemen out of total requirement of 16 and only three drivers out of four while there is no driver for ambulance.

The condition of fire extinguishing vehicles is also in bad condition. The old vehicles go out of order every now and then hampering the service greatly.

Mastans control Narsingdi hospital

NARSINGDI, Jan 7: The Sadar hospital of the district has been functioning to the benefit of some local mastans instead of the patients, local leaders alleged, reports UNB.

Doctors, nurses and other staff of the hospital have been passing their days in terror and have suggested shifting of the hospital from the present site.

It is alleged that the mastans have been collecting fees from the patients and tolls from the medical and non-medical employees in collaboration of a 4th class employee.

Sharbahara Party men surrender

BARISAL, Jan 7: Four more activists of outlawed Sharbahara Party have surrendered Sunday with arms and ammunition, official sources here said, reports UNB.

Sharbahara Party leader Hunayun Khan alias Swapan of Mashang and his three comrades at arms Abdul Salam Khan alias Dilip of Mashang, Fela Sardar alias Labu of Chenguria and Swapan Kumar Das of West Narayanpur of Uzirpur Upazila of the district have surrendered to the police.

The group is also said to be selling in the black market the medicines supplied for the hospital with the help of the mastans, the employees have also been controlling and regulating allotment of staff quarters.

The doctors, nurses and other members of the staff had submitted a written complaint against the employee in August, 1990, after which an inquiry was instituted.

The team visited the hospital and suggested proper action against the miscreants. But no action has since been taken.

Local elite and the employees of the hospital have urged the authorities to take action against the miscreants immediately and facilitate normal operation of the hospital.

Maulvi Bazar Sadar Hospital is in dire need of a children's ward, local leaders and hospital sources added.

Child patients of the hospital having only two wards — one for male and the other for female patients have been suffering a lot. Those accommodated in the crowded female ward have not been getting proper treatment.

Over 100 children come from far flung areas to the hospital everyday for treatment and 5 to 10 of them are admitted in the female ward while the rest are sent back without treatment, the sources added.

Problems hamper trading in bazar

COMILLA, Jan 7: Rajgonj Bazar, one of the biggest and busiest business centre of the town has been facing many problems for a long time.

There is no proper drainage system and supply of pure drinking water in the market. Moreover, shortage of accommodation and absence of conservancy services have been hampering smooth trading.

The roads inside the market are not spacious enough to facilitate easy movement of the small vehicle like rickshaw. Unplanned and unauthorised shops have further narrowed the roads for which the customers can not freely move.

The market authorities are collecting tolls and taxes from the traders and shopkeepers but there is no sign of development of the market.

The market has not yet been electrified properly for which the fish and vegetable market plunge into darkness after the sun set causing much difficulties both to the buyers and sellers.

Heaps of garbage and filth are kept here and there. The customers and sellers are to respond to the call of nature in the open places, for want of latrines and urinals. These no doubt unhealthy and pollute the atmosphere.

The number of buyers and sellers is increasing day by day but the authorities have no plan to expand and develop the market.

The concerned authorities have been urged to take necessary steps to develop the market for the interest of the town dwellers.

Beggar problem

Beggars are increasing day by day in the district including its upazila towns especially in the sadar upazila.

Among them, there are old, blind, crippled and a group of children, young men and women.

Above 10,000 beggars have

joined in this profession within last couple of years. The continuous floods, cyclones, drought and erosion of the rivers have compelled them to sail for unknown destinations.

They come to the town for work but most of them beg for mere existence. They pass the night at railway station and in front of markets or varendas of school and offices. So they have to respond to the call of nature at the open places and that pollutes the environment.

The beggars are creating problems to the dwellers of the concerned areas. It may be noted here that finding no other alternatives they find some illegal ways to manage their daily food. The young women beggars allegedly choose the profession of prostitutes for means of living. This kind of anti-social activities are very much harmful to young generations.

The local people urged to the district administration to take schemes for rehabilitation of floating people.

One more dies in cold wave

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Jan 7: The cold wave that sweeping across the country claimed one more life in the district Monday raising the death toll to six, reports UNB.

The victim was identified as Rafiqul of village Rehaichar in Sadar upazila.

Poor and low income group of people are the worst sufferers. Want of warm clothes has aggravated the situation, local people said.

The biting cold wave has been causing immense suffering to the people of Sadar, Shibganj, Nachole, Bholahat and Gomostapur upazilas of the district.



CHANDPUR: Mr. Yaqub Ali, DC, Chandpur addressing the journalists during his recent visit to the local Press Club.