

Upazila roundup

**MAULVIBAZAR**  
Implementation of Coop institute plan demanded

Jan 11: The scheme for the construction of Co-operative Zonal Institute building here in the town remained shelved since 1977, reports UNB.

The scheme was taken up in 1977 at an estimated cost of Taka 1.50 crore and 5.49 acres of land have been acquired for the purpose at a cost of Taka 2.90 lakh.

The Co-operative Zonal Institute was established in 1967 for the trainees of Greater Sylhet and Brahmanbaria districts. The institute has been housed since inception in a rented incomplete building at the Court Road of the town.

Every year trainees from different Co-operative Societies are participating in the training course on Co-operative Movement and facing acute problems for want of proper accommodation and other necessary amenities.

**SYLHET**  
Dacoity at Airport Road

Jan 11: A dacoity was committed in the house of Nasir Uddin Ahmed, at Airport Road near Sylhet Cadet College, at the early hours of Tuesday, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, at about 2 am, a gang of dacoits numbering about 15 armed with fire arms entered the house by breaking its collapsible gate and looted valuables including 10 tolas of gold ornaments and cash Taka 15,000 at gun point.

Sensing the arrival of police, the dacoits managed to escape with the booty by blasting cocktails and bombs.

A case has been lodged with Kotwali police and a man was arrested in this connection.

**TEKNAP**  
Voters urged to elect honest candidates

Jan 11: Communications Minister Oli Ahmed said, the government was pledge-bound to give the hard-earned democracy a solid and sound base, reports BSS.

The Minister was addressing a public meeting here at the southern-most part of the country on Wednesday. State Minister for Forest, and Environment Mr Goyeshwar Roy, Begum Rozi Kabir MP and local MP Shajahan Chowdhury addressed the meeting.

Col Oli Ahmed said, BNP was the first political party in the country to initiate the politics of production.

**LAXMIPUR**  
2,500 teachers for government colleges soon

Jan 11: Education Minister Barrister Jamir Uddin Sircar said here on Thursday that the government would appoint 2,500 lecturers soon in the government colleges to meet the shortage of teachers as well as to improve the standard of education, reports BSS.

He was addressing as the chief guest the installation ceremony of the students union of Laxmipur College.

Presided over by Mr Mustafizur Rahman, Principal of Laxmipur College, the function was addressed, among others, by Khairul Alam MP, Abul Khair Bhuiyan, President Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) Dhaka City Unit, Shahid Uddin Chowdhury Any, A DUCSU Member and Rezaul Karim Liton, VP of the college.

The Education Minister said the government had already given promotion to 1,600 teachers from their respective posts, who were rendering services without promotion for a long time.

**PABNA**  
759 tara pumps, 50 tubewells to be installed

Jan 11: District Public Health and Engineering Bureau will install 759 tara pumps and 50 tubewells in nine upazilas of the district this year under Annual Development Programme, reports UNB.

According to the Bureau officials, 56 tara pumps will be installed in Aghoria, 77 pumps and 4 tubewells in Ishardi, 121 pumps in Chalmohar, 110 pumps in Sadar, 66 pumps in Faridpur, 55 pumps in Bhangoora, 110 pumps in Sunjanagar, 110 pumps and 20 tubewells in Santhiya and 55 pumps and 26 tubewells in Bera.

At least 5 lakh people will be benefited with the installation of the pumps and tubewells, source added.

**RAJSHAHI**  
Student front stage sit-in

Jan 11: Bangladesh Chhatra Union, Rajshahi University College unit staged a 3-hour sit-in demonstration on the road in front of the main gate of the institution to press home their 3-point demand, reports UNB.

The students urged the college authorities to hold college students union election immediately and punish the terrorists responsible for the closure of the college.

Meanwhile, a three-member student delegation of Bangladesh Islami Chhatra Shibir met the college authorities and Deputy Commissioner separately on the same day and submitted memoranda demanding immediate reopening of the college, announcement of new schedule for holding the college students union election, exemplary punishment for the terrorists.

**RANGPUR**  
Medical College reopens Jan 19

Jan 11: Rangpur Medical College will reopen on January 19 after an unscheduled closure of 114 days following a gun battle between two rival groups of students, reports UNB.

According to the decision of Academic Council of the College, the residential hostels will be reopened on January 15.

Students of the college have been instructed to report to the authority with two passport size photographs immediately.



RAJSHAHI: Mr Peter Boon, First Secretary (Political) of British High Commission in Dhaka called on Acting VC of RU Prof Atul Hai Shibli recently.

Compulsory pry. education plan Information gap likely to hamper implementation

COMILLA, Jan 11: The proper implementation of Compulsory Primary Education Programme is likely to be hampered in the district due to the shortage of information.

The district administration disclosed that though the survey had not yet been completed, they expect to collect information within a very short period of time.

The concerned officials and related agencies are working hard to start the implementation of the programme but it is not known how far they will be successful.

It can be mentioned here that the implementation of the programme was scheduled to begin from January 1 as per the government declaration.

The primary education in the district has been facing manifold problems for a long.

District Primary Education Office sources said that there were 7 lakh 3 thousand 342 students in 147 government primary schools in 1990. Of the total, 71,774 are in the Sadar upazila primary schools of whom 33,495 are boys and 38,279 are girls.

There are 30 non-government primary schools in the district which are also running in a severe crisis.

According to District Education Office source, about 90 per cent of children between the age group of six to ten are going to schools. But the elite of the district are not

ready to accept the percentage.

The children of the underprivileged classes in slum areas are not provided with the primary education, it is alleged. The number of children of these areas is greater as their parents are not practising the family planning programme.

One Jamila Khatun of the adjacent area of the district town told this correspondent that her nine-year-old boy is earning Taka 20 per day. If she sends her to school, who will give them daily food.

The number of working children is also high and they are totally deprived of the education. For example, there are many children in Lalmai Hill areas who never get the opportunity of education.

Ninety per cent primary schools of the district are in dilapidated condition which also can not accommodate the existing number of attending students. Most of the school houses in the district have no door and window for which these have become the shelter for the cows and goats. In some cases, these have turned into an anti-social element centre, it is alleged.

The school houses which were blown away by the past cyclones have not yet been repaired. As a result, the students have been attending the classes under the open sky.

The educational appliances such as benches, tables, chairs, blackboards, chalks, khata and

books are quite inadequate to meet the demand. The absence of latrines and tubewells also cause sufferings to the teachers and the taught.

The shortage of teachers is also hampering the teachings of the schools of the district. There are reports that the teachers who have passed from madrasahs are not capable of teaching English and other subjects, it is alleged.

It is alleged that dependence on Education Department officials may largely hamper the successful implementation of the programme. It is further informed that the Education Officers and Inspectors were seen very irregular in discharging their duties.

When asked about the accommodation problem and teachers crisis, the District Education Officer informed that they would use the madrasahs and unemployed youths of the respective areas to implement the programme.

Meanwhile, 'Society of education for all', a voluntary organisation has been formed to play a pioneering role in implementation of the Compulsory Primary Education Programme a success.

A good number of youths have also been organised to contribute a better service for the purpose. Seminars and workshops were also arranged to train the youths regarding the technique and process of teaching the children.

Notes from Gaibandha

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Jan 11: One person was stabbed and a chairman candidate was attacked in a clash between two rival group of supporters during election campaign at village Monoharpur under Palas-hbari upazila recently.

According to report, the supporters of one Abu Zafar Mia, a candidate for the post of chairman of Monoharpur Union brought out a procession in support of his candidature recently. Meanwhile, a group of rival supporters attacked on the procession using deadly weapon. In which one Ranju Mia sustained stab injuries who was removed immediately to local health centre.

Body exhumed

Gobindaganj Police exhumed the body of one Hazrat Ali (32) of village Fulahar under Gobindaganj upazila recently.

The body of the victim was found hanging in a mango tree on December 29. Later the body was buried at the instruction of local influential persons.

On hearing the fact, Gobindaganj thana police accomplished by upazila Magistrate, Mr. Golam Rasool came to the spot and exhumed the body of victim for post mortem. The death of Hazrat Ali created doubt among the people.

Hashish recovered

A contingent of Narcotics and Liquor Department in a surprise drive recovered 300 grams of hashish from the homestead of one Bangshi Lal of village Keshalidanga under Sadullapur upazila.

The price of the recovered goods was estimated at Tk 10,000.

The accused was however managed to fled away.

Highway robbery

A highway robbery was committed near Gobindaganj upazila recently. The miscreants looted away cash creating barricade on the road at dead of night.

A gang of armed miscreants stopped a Bagabari bound oil tanker lorry creating barricade on highway and looted away cash Tk 5,645 from the driver Muzammel Haq at the point of sharp weapon.

A case was filed with local thana. Police however arrested four persons in this connection.

Founding anniversary

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, Gaibandha Zila Unit observed the 13th founding anniversary of the organisation at its office on January 1 and the function was presided over by Mr. Amin Chowdhury.

Those who spoke on the occasion were Mr. Rostum Ali, ex-MP, Rafiqul Islam Liton, Golam Kibria and Mahabubul Haq. The meeting was followed by milad mahfil.

Service holders urged to work for common people

The winter function and the installation ceremony of the Greater Faridpur Service Holder Welfare Association was held at the PG Hospital auditorium, says a Press release.

Former Adviser to late President Ziaur Rahman and a dedicated social worker Mr Akbar Kabir was the chief guest.

Speaking on the occasion Mr Kabir called upon the service holders to work sincerely and selflessly for the welfare of the common people.

Agriculture Secretary Mr K M Rabbani, Food Secretary Mr Ataul Haq and noted physician Dr KA Mansur who were special guests of the function also spoke on the occasion.

Earlier, General Secretary of the Association Mr Zahid Hossain welcomed the guests. President of the Association Prof Hedayatul Islam and Vice-President Mr Jalal Uddin Ahmed also addressed the function.

The function was rounded off with a cultural function.

Tobacco dust hits residents 5,000 TB patients at Pabna

PABNA, Jan 11: At least 5,000 people including women and children have been attacked by tuberculosis due to tobacco dust pollution, reports UNB.

At least 130 tobacco preparation factories have been set up in the residential areas near the TB Clinic, medical school, Muktiyoddah Sangsad Office, Shalgaria Road and other places violating government rules.

According to local physicians, tobacco dust affects human blood resulting in attack of bronchitis, pneumonia, tuberculosis, ulcer and gastric ulcer. The dust also creates problem for the eye sight.

The affected people have urged the authorities to take action against the unauthorised dust factory owners to save the people from the attack of TB and other related diseases.

alleged misappropriation of funds.

The Ministry of Communications had issued an order to probe the alleged misappropriation by the Executive Engineer of Roads and Highways Department of Pabna and asked the Additional Chief Engineer of Rajshahi R&H Department to submit a report immediately.

At least 100 families of different villages in Bera upazila of the district were rendered homeless by the erosion of the mighty Jamuna in the last week.

Of them, 35 families were affected in Gonopatia, 50 families in Madhupur and 15 in Nakalia villages of the upazila, said the UNO.

Meanwhile, mustard on 50 acres of land were also eroded by the river, he added.

About 75 affected families have taken shelter on nearby Flood Control Embankment and government has so far distributed 15 metric tons of wheat among them.

Tk 45 lakh cigarettes seized

MAIZDEE COURT (Noakhali), Jan 11: Police recovered a huge quantity of Benson cigarettes worth about Taka 45 lakh from Hatia upazila of the district during the recent anti-smuggling drive, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip, a police contingent led by Officer-in-Charge, Hatia, seized the contraband item while unloading from a trawler at Matiar Pool near the steamer ghat and nabbed Syed Noor in this connection.



Mr Akbar Kabir, a former Adviser to late President Ziaur Rahman and a noted social worker addressing the winter function of the Greater Faridpur Service Holders Welfare Association held in Dhaka.

Swoop on gamblers in jatra pandel hailed

From A Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Jan 11: Timely action of the District Administration in stopping gambling in Jatra Pandel in Poradah was appreciated by different section of people.

A spokesman of the Teachers' Association said that gambling and obnoxious Jatra performances had been eroding the moral character of the students community and urged upon the authorities not to allow any such permission for holding the same.

The District Administration along with high Police officials recently swooped upon the gamblers engaged in various types of gambling in a Jatra Pandel at Poradah, nine miles away from here and seized huge quantity of gambling materials.

The team was led by Sekandar Ali Mondal, Additional District Magistrate and Naba Bikram Kishore Tripura, Additional Superintendent of Police.

Earlier, a group of people informed that in the name of Jatra, gambling of various types were going on violating rules of government and vitiating social atmosphere.

It can be mentioned here that a permission for holding Jatra was secured in aid of a Junior High School which is being run by former Upazila Chairman Israel Hossain Apu.

Some people of the locality said that in the name of Jatra obscene dances and other anti-social activities were going on there.

The elite of the town opined that permission for holding Jatra and Housey should immediately be stopped in the greater interest of law and order. The District Administration permitted Kushtia District Sports Association to arrange sports once in a week for overall development of sports in the district.

Sixth Dipak Cricket Trophy competition 1991 was inaugurated here at Kushtia Govt. College ground recently by Mr. Anwar Ali former Pourashava Chairman as chief guest in presence of huge gatherings.

Speaking on the occasion Mr. Anwar Ali laid emphasis on games and sports for development of healthy nation and lauded the role of the organisers in arranging the same. Md. Majedur Rahman Mohsin, Secretary General, Kushtia Krira Unnayan Prokalpo expressed his gratitude to all who helped in holding the competition. It may be mentioned that 10 teams have participated in the competition this year and final game will be held on January 24.

4 dacoits held, 4 guns recovered

FENI, Jan 11: Police arrested four alleged dacoits and recovered 3 light guns and 1 country made pipe gun from a hotel in the town Thursday morning, reports UNB.

Police also seized a car (No Dhaka Ga-1671) from there.

Acting on a secret information, police raided the Feni Boarding in the town and arrested the dacoits.

The dacoits were: Md Noyemur village Durgapur of Mirersharai, Md Farooque of village Sheikhpara of Shitakundu and Shamsuddin Babul of Nandankanan of Chittagong and Md Feroz of village Charbati Laxmipur District.

Police said, they came from Chittagong by the seized car and stayed in the hotel.

Further police investigation is going on.

Wild boars damaging crops on vast land

BORGUNA, Jan 11: Wild boars have been damaging standing crops on vast lands in Patharghata upazila of the district for a long time, reports UNB.

Recently, the wild boars attacked two people named Ramesh Chandra Mistry (45), and Jatin Chandra Baroi (40), while they were working in the fields.

Later both the victims were admitted to the Patharghata Hospital in critical conditions.

Besides, the wild boars also attacked Hazrat Ali of the locality.

Local people said the boars were grazing freely in Baraitola and Harinbaria areas of the upazila for sometime past. But as per wild animal preservation act, they are not in a position to hunt the wild boars.

Bamboo production has been facing a set back in the district due to absence of proper maintenance and plantation.

A sharp rise in prices of bamboo in the local markets has been affecting construction work in the town and repair work of thatched houses in the rural areas.

At present, a standard size of bamboo is being sold at Taka 70 which is beyond the purchasing capacity of the villagers.

Bamboo-based cottage industry in which a large number of poor villagers are engaged to earn their livelihood is hard hit due to the price spiral.

The villagers, due to ignorance, uproot bamboo clusters and use them as firewood causing gradual decay in production.

RUCSU polls Feb 25

RAJSHAHI, Jan 11: The election of Rajshahi University Central Students Union (RUCSU) will be held on February 25, the Returning Officer announced on Thursday, reports BSS.

The date for filing of nomination papers will be announced later.

The Returning Officer, Mr A Q M Haroon, said that the election of five student representatives to Rajshahi University Senate will also be held on February 25.

Irregularities in seed distribution

From Our Correspondent

KURIGRAM, Jan 11: The production target of wheat and potato in all the nine upazilas of the district may not be achieved this year.

The farming of potato and wheat are likely to be hampered due to inadequate supply of improved variety of seeds and irregularities in its distribution.

Farmers said that distribution of three varieties of wheat were going on but some dishonest dealers are selling a good portion of the seeds in the black-market at a high price in collaboration with the BADC employees.

Moreover, the farmers are to purchase the seeds from the government godown at higher prices instead of government fixed price. A large quantity of seeds allotted for as relief was also being sold in the black-market.

Reliable sources said that the seed officers at upazila level with the help of some media men were selling seeds in the blackmarket. As a result, the farmers are compelled to buy seeds at an exorbitant price.

A UNB report says: About 300 hectares of land in six upazilas of the district have been brought under potato cultivation programme during the current season.

Agriculture Extension Department sources said, of the total land, 28 hectares have been brought under cultivation

Mustard to be cultivated in 31,298 hectares

BARISAL, Jan 11: A total of 31,298 hectares has been brought under mustard cultivation in 65 upazilas of eleven southern districts under Barisal Agriculture Zone (BAZ) during the current winter season, reports BSS.

The districts are: Barisal, Jhalakati, Pirojpur, Bhola, Patuakhali, Barguna, Faridpur, Rajbari, Gopalganj, Madaripur, and Shariatpur.

According to an official source, 1,6952 hectares have been brought under High Yielding Variety of mustard while 24,346 hectares under local variety.

Production target has been fixed at 25,482 metric tons this year.

A gang of miscreants snatched away cash and goods worth about Tk 10,000 at the point of sharp weapon in front of local BRAC office at Gobindaganj upazila recently.

One Azad Hossain, a trader was returning home from market with cash and goods worth about Tk 10,000.