

Upazila roundup

**PABNA**  
UP candidate held, 2 fire arms recovered

Jan 12: Police nabbed a UP member candidate of Hamidpur village in Goeapur union in Sadar upazila of the district and recovered two fire arms from his possession Saturday, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip, police raided the house of Munnas Ali alias Munnal and arrested him with the arms.

According to police, Munnal was involved with various criminal activities for a long time.

A case has been filed with Sadar police.

**MOHESHKHALI**  
People urged to safeguard democracy

Jan 12: Communications Minister Oll Ahmed called upon the people of all social strata to rise against any ill play to foil the hard earned democracy, reports BSS.

He said every conscious citizen of the country irrespective of political ideology, belief and affiliation to be ever vigilant to safeguard the democratic system established in the country through a ceaseless struggle for long nine years against autocracy.

The Minister was addressing a big public meeting at Bara Maheshkhali Natun Bazar Math here.

Presided over by Aktar Kamal Chowdhury, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Begum Rozi Kabir MP, Shahajan Chowdhury MP, Abdur Rashid, Akramul Huda Chowdhury and Akramul Karim.

Mr Oli said government had allocated increased funds for infrastructural development of the cyclone affected locality like Bashkhal by constructing goods, bridges and culverts.

**GAZIPUR**  
BES confce Jan 16

Jan 12: The first biennial conference of the Bangladesh Entomological Society (BES) will be held here at the auditorium of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI) on January 16, reports UNB.

Prof Dr S. D. Chowdhury, former Vice-Chancellor of the Bangladesh Agriculture University (BAU), will be present as the chief guest, says a press release.

The day-long conference includes a symposium on Integrated Pest Management.

More than 200 delegates will participate in the conference, it added.

**FARIDPUR**  
5,650 tons of wheat for road repair

Jan 12: Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation has sanctioned about 5,650 metric tons of wheat for repair and development of 102 rural roads of the district, reports UNB.

Of the total, 135 metric tons of wheat were sanctioned for 17 projects in Sadar, 309 mts for 7 projects in Charbhadrashan, 470 mts for 8 projects in Sadarpur, 1165 mts for 16 projects in Nagarkanda, 823 mts for 15 projects in Bhanga, 916 mts for 17 projects in Boalmari, 341 mts for 8 projects in Alifdanga and 690 mts for 14 projects in Madhukhal upazilas.

According to official sources, works on the projects under Food for Works Programme are expected to be completed during this year.

With the implementation of the projects, road communication in the district will be improved to a great extent.

**NARSINGDI**  
Nationalist Lawyer Forum

Jan 12: A 22-member district committee of Bangladesh Nationalist Lawyer Forum was formed here recently with Advocate Mizanur Rahman as Convener, reports UNB.

Narsingdi district BNP President Shamsuddin Ahmed MP, Secretary Abdul Ali Mridha MP, Sarkar Adam Ali Convener and Mahbob Alam joint Convener of district Zia Parishad congratulated the forum members.

They urged the lawyers to help improve the law and order situation in cooperation with the government and extend legal aid to the oppressed people of the district.

**PATUAKHALI**  
Training course on rural uplift

Jan 12: BRDB's Training Resource Team (TRT), under Rural Development Project conducted extensive training courses in 28 upazilas of greater Barisal district, reports UNB.

While talking to UNB, Syed Mushfiqur Rahman, a member of the TRT, Barisal Zone, said that the purpose of the training was to make the rural poor self-reliant in earning their bread.

At least 1,500 people both male and female were trained by TRT last year, he added.

The training courses were conducted for the landless and the rural poor. The main areas of the training were livestock raising, beef fattening, kitchen gardening, fish culture and poultry birds rearing.

TRT will help the Charbaria villagers in Sadar upazila in developing pisciculture, Rahman informed.

According to him, two derelict ponds in Charbaria village will be re-excavated under Food for Works Programme in the current season, where fish culture will be undertaken to attract the people of the localities.

**NOWABGONJ**  
Govt pledge bound to ensure peace

Jan 12: State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan said, the democratic government of Begum Khaleda Zia was pledged bound to ensure law and order in the country, reports BSS.

He was addressing the officials and elites of the Nowabgonj here.

Mr Mannan called upon the officials to maintain congenial atmosphere in covering the Union Parishad elections to make it free, fair and neutral. He said it would be easier to hold the elections smoothly and peacefully if every one was serious in discharging duties during the polls.

**SHARIATPUR**  
255 demonstration plots taken up

Jan 12: Agriculture Extension Department (AED) has undertaken a scheme to set up 255 demonstration plots in six upazilas of the district to acquaint the farmers with modern methods of cultivation, reports UNB.

Under the scheme, boro paddy, mustard, wheat, maize, vetch, lentil will be cultivated in the plots in Sadar, Narra, Bhergonj, Damudya, Zantra and Goshairhat upazilas.

According to official sources, 24 plots have been set up for boro paddy, 6 for mustard, 4 for wheat, 66 for vetch, 149 for lentil and 7 for other varieties of crops.

Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (IADC) and AED have jointly undertaken a programme to distribute seeds, fertilizers and other inputs among farmers to boost production in the district.

**NAOGAON**  
BCL wins in college union election

Jan 12: Chhatra League (A-A) swept the student union election Naogaon Government Degree College recently bagging all but one seat, reports UNB.

Vipash Kumar Gopal and Khoda Newaz Titash of BCL were elected VP and GS respectively.

Only a girl from the Jaitiyabadi Chhatra Dal could return as a member from among the rest seven panels which contested the BCL panel.

College sources said about 91 per cent of the total 931 voters were cast.

**RANGPUR**  
Railway zone earns Tk 11.54cr in five months

Jan 12: Bangladesh Railway Lalmonirhat Zone earned over Taka 11.54 crore during the last five months of the current fiscal, official sources said, reports UNB.

They earned a total of Taka 11 crore, 54 lakh and 79 thousand, Bangladesh Railway sources said.

They earned Taka one crore 31 lakh and 22 thousand more than that of last year during the same period.

During the period they earned Taka 3 crore, 7 lakh and 83 thousand, from passengers, Taka 39 lakh 23 thousand from goods, Taka 7 crore, 98 lakh and 89 for carrying goods and 8 lakh 84 thousand from other sources.



AGRI-VARSITY: Prof. Dr. Asadur Rahman, VC, BAU speaking as chief guest at the installation ceremony of BAU Officers Parisad held recently at the University Club

Note books on open sale

RAJSHAHI, Jan 12: The sale of note books is going on unabated Rajshahi district headquarters and its adjoining areas.

Note books are being sold in most of the bookshops at Rajshahi and different upazila markets despite government ban.

It may be mentioned here that government had imposed ban on publishing and selling note books upto class eight in order to discourage the dependence of the students on prepared answers.

It is learnt that some unscrupulous traders are publishing sub-standard note books with fake name and address. These note books are full of errors distortion of facts.

Some guardians alleged that these books are being sold at an exorbitant price in different markets of the district. It is further informed that most of the owners of the book-stalls do not sell text books without notes.

Local students and guardians have urged the concerned authorities to take stringent action against these illegal sale of note books.

The number of child marriages has been increasing in the district.

The cases of divorces are also increasing due to early and illegal marriages.

According to reliable sources, about 300 divorce cases were filed during the last four years in eight upazilas of the district.

The underaged housewives

From Our Correspondent

are the worst victims as their husbands divorce them for non-payment of dowry, it is learnt.

It is alleged that there are some so called marriage registers who have got no licences are doing such unlawful deeds at a payment of more money.

Despite government restriction on marriage below the age of eighteen years, the illegal marriages of the girls are being solemnised by a vested group of people in collaboration with the non-registered persons.

The selling of adulterated edible oil is rampant in rural areas of the district which is posing a serious threat to the health of consumers.

It is informed that some dishonest traders mixing bad quality oil with the mustard oil and are selling those in open markets at a comparatively cheaper rate.

Consumption of these oils causes various stomach ailments like dysentery and gastro-intestinal diseases in rural areas, doctors said.

Local people called up on the concerned authorities for proper checking of foodstuffs in the markets.

Strike observed

UNB reports say: Strike was observed peacefully in all the educational institutions including Rajshahi University here Saturday.

The strike was called by Bangladesh Chhatra League (A-A) protesting the Thursday's killing of Muniruzzaman Badal.

From Our Correspondent

a leader of the organisation.

The BCL activists brought out a procession on Rajshahi University campus and demanded immediate arrest and exemplary punishment of the assailants.

Another message adds: Rajshahi University Teachers' Association (RUTA) brought out a silent procession here Saturday protesting the removal of Vice-Chancellor of Chittagong University Prof Alamgir Md Strajuddin violating the 1973 University Act.

Cultural contest

A five-day-long inter college cultural competition began here Saturday.

The inaugural session was presided over by Prof Azhar Uddin while Prof Amanullah Ahmed, Vice-Chancellor of Rajshahi University was present as chief guest.

Besides, Nazim Mahmud, Director of the TSC of the University also spoke on the occasion.

BSS adds: A seminar on 'Social welfare-principle and planning' in the context of Bangladesh was held on Thursday at Rajshahi University. Jointly organised by Bangladesh Social Work Teachers Association and Social Work Department of Rajshahi University, the seminar was presided over by Vice-Chancellor Prof Amanullah Ahmed.

Prof. Md Ali Akbar, Md Abu Bakar Siddiky and Dr Prafullah Chandra Sarkar presented papers in the seminar.

Notes from Kishoreganj

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Jan 12: The Jamaat-e-Islami has been condemned by Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad of the district union for electing Golam Azam as their Amir.

Addressing a Press conference at Kishoreganj Press Club auditorium, Bidyut Prasad Roy, Kishoreganj Sadar Upazila Command strongly condemned Jamaat-e-Islami for electing anti-liberation and Pakistani national Golam Azam their Amcer.

The Muktiyoddha Sangsad leaders in the conference here demanded expulsion of Golam Azam from Bangladesh and legal action against Jamaat-e-Islami for electing Golam Azam as their leader violating constitution and further demanded banning of Jamaat-e-Islami.

Other leaders of Muktiyoddha Sangsad were present during the press conference.

Stomach ailment, skin diseases

Stomach ailments and skin diseases have been spreading alarmingly in all the 13 upazila of the district causing concern among the people.

Doctors said, a large number of patients are pouring into the Upazila Health Complex and Sadar Hospital 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 food-stuffs including in open markets, consumers complained.

Local people urged the government to take measures against the sale of adulterated foodstuff.

Fish disease

UNB reports say: Fish disease has broken out in almost all the 13 upazilas of the district in an epidemic form, fishery officials and local people said.

The disease locally known as 'Ulcerative Syndrome' has affected different varieties of fish like shole, laki, puti, boal gozar, magur, shing and kol.

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

Nutrition experts feared that low income group of people, who mostly live on fish, are likely to suffer from protein deficiency following the outbreak of the disease.

Local people have urged the authorities to spray lime water immediately to combat the menace.

2 notorious criminals arrested

Police arrested two alleged notorious criminals from village Sherpur for their involvement in a number of dacoities and murders recently.

Acting on a secret information, police raided a house of the village and arrested Haju and Ajmuddin with the help of the villagers. They were sent to jail here.

Both of them remained absconding for a long time.

Jail worden's sit-in

The district jail wardens kept the office of Jail Superintendent under lock and key for two hours to press home their 5-point demands recently.

They staged two-hour sit in as per the call of their central organisation Bangladesh Kararakkhi Parishad in realisation of the demand including pay hike.

They locked the Superintendent's office for two hours. A total of 50 guards of Kishoreganj District Jail refused to draw salary for the month of December.

One stabbed to death, cash looted

Dacoits stabbed to death a man and decamped with cash and valuables worth about Taka 45,000 from two houses of the village Shoirashi in Kulliarchar upazila recently.

According to the police, a gang of dacoits numbering about 15 attacked the houses of Moniruddin (45), and his brother-in-law Golap Miah, at the early hours.

Hason folk festival Evaluation of Hason works stressed

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Jan 12: A three-day-long 'Hason Folk Festival' arranged in connection with the observance of 163rd birth anniversary of the late mystic poet Hason Raja was held at Sunamganj Government Pilot High School recently amidst much enthusiasm.

Thousands of people from all walks of life attended the functions which include, discussion meeting, cultural function, competitions of folk songs and prize distribution.

Dr. Ashraf Siddiqui, Chairman, Bangladesh Sangbad Sangatha (BSS) was present as chief guest at the inaugural function. Mr Mushtaque Uddin Ahmed, Deputy Commissioner, Sunamganj presided over the functions while it was addressed among others by Dr. Momen Chowdhury and poet Saber Chowdhury. Mr. Mominul Moudjin delivered the address of welcome.

The speakers urged upon the government to take measures for extensive research on the works of the late mystic poet Hason Raja.

The inaugural function ended with a cultural function in which folk songs were rendered by a number of local artists. A session of Baul songs was also held in which renowned Baul singers presented songs.

On the second day, a discussion meeting was arranged in which poet Shamsur Rahman was present as chief guest. Prof. Rafiqul Islam of Dhaka University presided over it. Mr. Mridul Chakravarty, a renowned researcher on Hason Raja, and Mr. Mush-

taque Uddin Ahmed, Deputy Commissioner spoke on the occasion. Miss. Sylvia Arpa Chowdhury read out a paper written by Mr. Ahmed Hossain Babul.

The Deputy Commissioner in his speech informed that Hason Raja Academy would be set up at Sunamganj. He sought cooperation of all concerned in this regard.

A poetry reading session was also held on the day. The days programme concluded with a cultural function.

On the third and concluding day of the festival, a discussion meeting was held with Mr. Shamsuzzaman Khan, Director, Folklore Division of Bangla Academy in the chair. Mr. Hasanul Haque Inu, Secretary General of JSD and Mr. Main Uddin Khan Badal, Convener-in-Charge of BSD also spoke as guest speaker.

It was also addressed among others by Dr. Momen Chowdhury and Mrs. Montaj Begum. The speakers urged upon the government to open a new Department on 'Folklore' in the Shahjalal University of Science and Technology in Sylhet.

After the discussion meeting, prizes were distributed among the winners of the competition on Hason Raja, Radharomon, Arkum Shah, Durbin Shah, Din Bhabananda and other songs. Veteran politician Mr. Prasun Kanti Roy gave away the prizes.

A cultural function was also arranged on the day which was participated by a good of artists.

Hospital faces problems

Patients deprived of proper treatment

CHANDPUR, Jan 12: Chandpur Sadar Hospital, the largest in the district, has been beset with numerous problems including inadequate staff, lack of equipment, medicine and accommodation for a long time causing immense suffering to the patients, reports UNB.

The two-storied hospital building has become absolutely dilapidated and unfit for health service.

The hospital has an accommodation for 50 patients and a good number of patients are to stay on the floor.

When contacted RMO, Dr. Obaidul Kabir, told UNB that the hospital building needed to be renovated as numerous cracks have developed at different places resulting in the leakage of rain water during the rainy days.

The hospital had only one ambulance, which has been lying out of order for the last five months.

There are no ENT specialist, cardiologist and medicine consultant. As a result, people who are suffering from these diseases are not getting proper treatment for a long time.

Local people alleged that, serious patients, who are admitted to or operated upon at this hospital, have to purchase all sorts of medicines from the market.

The RMO said that the annual allocation of medicines for this hospital is too meagre to cope with the ever increasing number of patients.

Lack of blood bank has aggravated the sufferings of the patients. Sometimes, the relatives of the serious patients have to run from pillar to post for a bag of blood, it is learnt.

The water, which is sup-

plied to the hospital, contains heavy iron, which damages valuable machines of 'Dental Department' of the hospital, it is alleged.

Doctors are interested in their private practice than rendering service to the poor patients, who every day come here from far off places, local people alleged.

Local elite and affected people urged the authorities to take necessary and effective steps immediately regarding the hospital's problems and remove the sufferings of the people.

Women college

Chandpur Government Women College is beset with manifold problems including poor accommodation, shortage of teachers and funds.

Established in 1964 as the women's college in the town, it has no enough space to accommodate the students of the town and the adjoining areas. Shortage of class rooms, absence of reading rooms, lack of scientific apparatus, inadequate furniture like bench, chair, tables, almirahs are the main problems.

The books in the library of the college is not adequate to meet the requirement of the students.

The college is running with acute shortage of funds. Inadequate number of teachers is hampering the academic activities of the college.

The guardians urged the government to introduce BCom and BSc classes and arrange accommodation for classes, necessary books for library and fill up the vacant posts of teachers and to provide college with adequate financial help.

Tk 38 lakh smuggled goods seized, 12 held

COMILLA, Jan 12: Bangladesh Rifles of 29 battalion arrested 12 alleged smugglers and seized a huge quantity of smuggled goods worth Taka 37,83,057 in December last, reports UNB.

Contraband goods including Indian sarees, clothes, medicines, rickshaw and cycle parts, onion, cosmetics, spices, utensils and sugar worth Taka 37,76,141 were seized while being smuggled into the country and goods including old garments, power milk, fish and dry fish worth Taka 6,916 were seized while being smuggled out of the country.

A total of 140 cases were lodged with different police stations.

Meanwhile, police in two separate raids on December 24 recovered a huge quantity of Indian sarees and Chinese locks worth about Taka 55,000 and arrested one alleged smuggler.

In one raid police recover

Indian sarees and Chinese locks worth Taka 50,000 from two night coaches on Comilla by pass road.

None was arrested in this connection.

In another raid Indian sarees worth about Taka 5,000 were recovered by Kotwali police from a house at Chawkbazar in the town and arrested one man in this connection.

**Bus services inaugurated**

Bus and coaster services between Laksam and Nangalokote upazilas were formally inaugurated here at a simple ceremony.

Dr A K M Kamruzzaman MP, formally inaugurated the services, recently which was presided over by former UP Chairman Al-haj Hasan Ahmed and addressed, among others, by Nurullah Majumder and Sadeq Hossain Bhuiyan.

With the installation of the services, a long-felt demand of the local people has been materialised.



CHANDPUR: A man is donating blood during a camp organised by the local Rotary Club recently