

Upazila roundup

FARIDPUR

Indian clothes, medicines seized

Jan 14: Police recovered Indian clothes and medicines worth about Taka 2 lakh from a night coach at Rajbari crossing, four kilometres from here, on Dhaka-Khulna Highway Friday, reports UNB.

Acting on a secret information, a police party led by Officer-in-Charge of Kotwali thana stopped the coach of Soukhin Paribahan bound for Dhaka from Satkhira and recovered 223 sets salwar kamiz, 37 thans of printed clothes and 527 bottles of phensidyle syrup.

Police arrested Mahfuzul Alam, passenger of the bus and a resident of Crescent Road, Dhaka, in this connection.

SATKHIRA

Need for holding UP polls free, fair stressed

Jan 14: Chief Election Commissioner Justice Abdur Rouf stressed the need for holding the forthcoming union parishad elections free and fair, reports UNB.

"We should try best to retain our past reputation gained in the last parliamentary elections" he said addressing a meeting of high officials of the district on Saturday.

The meeting was organised by the district administration to discuss ways and means how to hold the elections peacefully with Deputy Commissioner Kabeer Rahman in the chair.

Joint Secretary Saidur Rahman and Deputy Secretary Yunus Hossain attended the meeting as special guests.

High officials of the district including UNOs, OCs and existing union parishad chairmen and members were present in the meeting.

NARSINGDI

Sewing training course concludes

Jan 14: A two and half months long sewing training course for women was completed in Raipura Upazila here recently, reports UNB.

Organised by Rural Economic Development Association, 20 women of the upazila took part in the course.

After completion of the course, 10 sewing machines were distributed among the trainees at a simple prize giving function at the office premises of the association at Hasnabad Bazar in the upazila.

Local MP Abdul Ali Mridha was present as chief guest on the occasion while Ismail Mridha presided over it.

SHARIATPUR

Plan to sell 4,37,900 kg of wheat seeds

SHARIATPUR, Jan 14: The Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation has taken up a scheme to sell 4,37,900 kilograms of wheat seeds among the farmers of Greater Faridpur District during the current rabi season, reports UNB.

Official sources said about 84,000 kgs of seeds will be distributed in Rajbari, 81,500 kgs in Madaripur, 61,000 kgs in Shariatpur, 63,100 kgs in Gopalganj and 1,48,300 kgs in Faridpur districts.

BADC has taken up another programme to sell 28,100 kgs of boro seeds among the farmers of the district.

According to official sources, 9,500 kgs will be sold in Madaripur, 6,050 kgs in Faridpur, 3,600 kgs in Gopalganj, 6,150 kgs in Shariatpur and 2,800 kgs in Rajbari districts.

BADC will also sell 3,000 kgs of maize seeds among the farmers of the district.

DAUKANDI

Canal digging for food autarky stressed

Jan 14: Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr. Khandakar Mosharraf Hossain called upon the people of all walks of life to participate spontaneously in the Canal Digging Programme to make it a success for attaining food autarky in the country, reports BSS.

He was inaugurating the Canal Digging Programme of Dauidkandi upazila by digging the Moutapi-Shivepur Titas Canal. Barrister Tofazzal Hossain and local leader K M Khalil also spoke on the occasion.

He said that late President Ziaur Rahman had initiated Canal Digging Programme to attain food-sufficiency and thereby improve the socio-economic condition of the commonman.

KUSHTIA

Condition of most schools deplorable

Jan 14: The condition of almost all the non-government primary and high schools in six upazilas of the district has turned deplorable by negligence of the authorities, local leaders alleged here, reports UNB.

Most of the educational institutions do not have adequate furniture, class rooms and educational appliances hindering proper education.

According to a report, about 90 per cent of these schools have no science building and educational equipment, no playground and no drinking water facilities.

The teachers of these schools and colleges have not been getting salary for long forcing them to take up other jobs for survival.

Fifty per cent of the schools are now having thatched rooms and thirty per cent are semi-pucca.

SIRAJGANJ

Student, woman picked up from hotel, held

Jan 14: A student allegedly seduced a married woman from Dhaka, and both were caught here Saturday and sent to jail on Sunday, reports UNB.

The Sadar Upazila Magistrate Court on Sunday refused bail to Abdul Latif and Fatema Begum (26).

Latif claimed himself as a college student of Dhaka and activist of a student organisation, while Fatema introduced herself as a worker of a garment factory in the capital, police said.

They were picked up from a local guest house where they were registered as husband and wife.

BRAHMANBARIA

Call to take part in canal digging

Jan 14: The State Minister in charge of Ministry of Shipping, Mr Harun-Al-Rashid on Sunday appealed to all concerned to actively participate in the canal digging activities taken by the present government to put the country on a strong viable economic footing, reports BSS.

The State Minister was inaugurating the Durgam Canal digging at Sultanpur Union under Brahmanbaria district.

Local MP Mia Abdullah Wazed was present on the occasion.

JESSORE

7 underground group members surrender

Jan 14: Seven members of an underground group surrendered with two country made guns to the law enforcing agencies here on Sunday tonight in presence of Social Welfare and Women Affairs Minister Tariqul Islam, reports UNB.

BDR Wing Commander of Jessore, Deputy Commissioner and SP of Jessore, and SP Jhenidah were present during the surrender at the Circuit House, official sources said.

The surrendered members of the outlawed group, known as ML Bahini led by M Harez, are: 1. Md Afsaruddin, s/o Ajhar Ali, 2. M Hafizur Rahman, s/o Ajhar Ali, 3. M Mostafa, s/o late Ali Box Mollah, 4. M Azhar Ali, s/o Mujahar Mollah, 5. M Shaheedul Islam, s/o Uzir Mollah, 6. M Jala, s/o Mokajel Biswas, and 7. M Kashem Ali, s/o late Mollah.

TANGAIL

Students asked to devote to studies

Jan 14: Education Minister Zamiruddin Sarkar asked the students to devote themselves to studies to shoulder the future leadership of the country, reports BSS.

"You have a duty to shoulder the responsibilities of the country as future leader" the Education Minister told a delegation of students from Kumudini Govt Girls' College at the Circuit House here on Saturday.

State Minister for Relief Mr Lutfar Rahman Khan and Mr Abdus Salam Pintu MP and local BNP leaders were present on the occasion.

The Minister assured the students that the problems of the college would be solved in phases. He said the government of Begum Khaleda Zia had given adequate attention to Education Sector in this connection he referred to introduction of universal primary education.



DAGONBHUIYAN (FENI): A Turkish military team headed by General Ibrahim Turkgeneci is being received by the students of Kamal Atatürk High School here. Mr. Habibullah, Chairman of the school managing committee and others were also present on the occasion. -Star photo

Faridpur, Rajbari rly routes Bogies, facilities inadequate

From Our Correspondent

RAJBARI, Jan 14: The railway passengers of Rajbari and Faridpur have been suffering much due to inadequate number of compartments and irregular services.

The number of compartments for the passengers travelling on different routes from Rajbari, Vatiapara, Pukuria and Poradah Junction is quite insufficient to cope with the onrush of passenger. As a result, the passengers are bound to travel on roofs, footboards and engine rooms.

Besides, the trains often run two to three hours late causing inconveniences to the travelling passengers. Even the inter-city trains can hardly maintain the time-table.

The express trains often run without first and second class compartments for which the higher class passengers are compelled to board the overloaded third class compartments. The old, female and child passengers have to face much difficulties to board the largely loaded third class compartments.

The toilets of running trains are regularly found dirty and this unhygienic condition of the toilets vitiates the atmosphere of the trains.

Some compartments sent for repair to Syedpur Railway Workshop are kept stranded

For want of technical staff and necessary fund, it is informed.

Waiting rooms at most of the important stations are unhealthy. The latrines at the stations are quite unfit for use. The scarcity of pure drinking water at stations has aggravated the situation. Some of the stations on the Vatiapara route have no sheds on the platform. As a result, the passengers are compelled to wait under the open sky. The passengers are to suffer much during the rainy season. Moreover, there is no sitting arrangement for the third class passengers in most of the stations.

When contacted, railway sources informed that shortage of slippers, partly damaged bridges and culverts, single line, inadequate stones beside the lines, were the main causes of delay of the services.

The travelling passengers on these routes urged the concerned authorities to take necessary steps to ensure timely journey with improved facilities.

A total of 15,350 hectares of land has been brought under sugarcane cultivation outside the sugar mill areas of eleven southern districts of Faridpur Agriculture Zone this year.

The districts are Rajbari, Faridpur, Barisal, Jhalokati,

BDR men seize sugar, throw into pond

SHATKHIRA, Jan 14: BDR personnel threw about 50 maunds of smuggled sugar into a pond here Monday, reports UNB.

Acting on secret information, the BDR men stopped a mini bus carrying 16 bags of smuggled sugar at Kumira Bus Stand and recovered the bags from its rooftop.

The BDR men then threw the bags into a roadside pond without showing any reason.

Witnesses wondered why no one was arrested in this connection and why such a large quantity of smuggled sugar was destroyed instead of depositing it with the customs authorities.

Under the Customs regulations all smuggled goods seized by the law enforcing agencies have to be deposited with the customs authorities and can be destroyed on the order of the government.

Knowledgeable sources said the incident deserved an investigation by the higher authorities.

Production target of sugarcane has been fixed at 7.77.100 metric tons this year in these districts.

Agriculture Extension Department has selected 148 demonstration plots in 65 upazilas to teach the farmers about the modern scientific method of sugarcane cultivation.

Of the total 850 hectares have been brought under sugarcane cultivation in Barisal, 800 hectares in Pirojpur, 200 hectares in Jhalokati, 500 hectares in Patuakhali, 250 hectares in Borguna, 4,800 hectares in Faridpur, 4,000 hectares in Rajbari, 900 hectares in Gopalganj, 1,950 hectares in Madaripur and 700 hectares in Shariatpur district.

New UP in Banaripara UZ

BARISAL, Jan 14: The government has established a new Union Parishad comprising eight villages under Banaripara upazila of Barisal district recently, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the newly constituted Union Parishad has been named as 'Meserpur Union Parishad' after the name of a renowned person of the area late Md Meser Uddin Majhi. The Union Parishad comprises of the villages of Razzakpur, Alta, Machhargh, Gava, Narerkathi, Brahmankathi, Kazla, and Jambadwip.

The total voters of this union parishad is 6,715, the source said. Meanwhile, Banaripara has been declared as Pourashava by the government.

More departmental offices in CHT

RANGAMATI, Jan 14: Government has set up two more departmental offices to the Chittagong Hill Tracts Local Government Parishad, reports UNB.

The departments are Social Service (Samaj Seba) and Public Health Engineering. With these two, the total number of departments stood at 10.

Rehabilitation of homeless children demanded

NARAYANGANJ, Jan 14: A meeting of the homeless children was held Monday at Bangladesh Tire Factory premises in Fatullah Area in Sadar upazila here, reports UNB.

More than 100 homeless children aged between 8 and 12 years from different parts of the district attended the meeting which was organised by Chhinnamul Bastabayan Parishad.

The meeting presided over by local labour leader Babul Miah was addressed, among others, by Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) leader Mohiuddin Ahmed and President of the Chhinnamul Bastabayan Parishad Astzul Islam Swapan.

The speakers said the number of homeless children is increasing day by day and they are the most exploited class in the society. In most of the cases, the child labourers do not get their wages. Sometimes, they are severely beaten and tortured by their masters and employers.

The speakers also urged the government to take proper steps for rehabilitation of the homeless children immediately.

After the meeting, 100 pieces of warm clothes were distributed among the destitute children.

Over 500 murdered last year

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Jan 14: Over 500 persons were murdered on various grounds during last year in the districts under Khulna Division.

The killing figure proves that two persons were killed every day on an average.

Land disputes, enmity, business and social friction, political clashes, blackmarketing, love affairs and unhappy conjugal life are said to have been the main reasons behind the killings.

A source informed that at least 528 persons were also killed during the year of 1991 of which one third is female.

According to the same source, at least 101 persons were killed in land disputes, 71 in love affairs, 35 in unhappy conjugal life, 150 in social frictions, 75 in political

clashes, 50 in business jealousy and 46 in clash over black-marketing.

It is learnt that 16 persons were killed in Satkhira, 23 in Khulna, 51 in Bagerhat, 71 in Jessore, 52 in Barisal, 45 in Jhenidah, 25 in Magura, 23 in Narail, 49 in Kushtia, 26 in Chaudanga, 22 in Meherpur, 33 in Pirojpur, 16 in Jhalokathi, 22 in Bhola and 23 in Borguna districts.

The above figures show that the death toll from social frictions outnumber others with 150 in the last year. This social frictions generally originated from personal quarrel over trifling matters and leadership.

Besides this, many murders are suppressed or not recorded due to lack of evidences.

Corruption charge against MP

From Our correspondent

SYLHET, Jan 14: The Department of Anti-Corruption has started a case against Mr. Abdul Mukit Khan MP on charge of misuse of power and corruption.

Mr Khan was elected MP in February '91 last as Jatiya Party candidate and later was made the Chairman, Zila Parishad. He was also elected MP in the year 1988.

According to an official source, in the year 1989-90, 42 firms were selected from Sylhet district for appointment of importer of old garments. As per the government decision, a district-level committee was due to appoint these importers.

According to the reports, at about 3 am on the night of incident, the fire reportedly originated from the cloth store of one Dulal Miah soon spread to the adjacent shops. Clothes and other valuables worth Taka 50 lakh were gutted in the fire.

The cause of the incident could not yet been ascertained. However, no casualty was reported.

One killed, 7 hurt in road accident

MAULVIBAZAR, Jan 14: A woman was killed and seven others were injured in a bus mishap at Satchori hilly area on Dhaka-Sylhet Highway, police said today, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, the mishap took place last week when a Madhapur bound bus (Khulna BA-435) collided head on with another bus (Metro BA-1368) coming from the opposite direction.

The victim identified as Sofia Khatun (26), died on the spot. Her body was sent to sadar hospital for autopsy.

The injured passengers were admitted to Chunarughat Hospital.

Truck loaded with baby food hijacked

Feni Jan 14: A gang of miscreants hijacked a truck loaded with baby food and soyabain oil worth about Taka five lakh from Mohipal area in the town, reports UNB.

According to police, the miscreants armed with lethal weapons halted the truck when it reached Mohipal on January 7 and took away the truck forcibly driving themselves after assaulting the driver and helper.

A case has been lodged with the police in this connection.

Tk 85 lakh Agri loan outstanding with societies

MAULVIBAZAR, Jan 14: A total of Taka 84,97,356 including interest has been lying outstanding with 368 agriculture cooperative societies of the district since last 30 years, reports UNB.

Of the total cases, 17 societies owing Taka 1,08,160 could not be traced although cases have been instituted against them.

Besides, certificate cases have been instituted against 50 others involving Taka 60,000.

Chairman of the Cooperative Bank at Maulvibazar said that the Bank had distributed Taka 1,94,50,375 as agricultural loan among the societies, of which Taka 1,68,20,828 including interest have been recovered.

The Chairman told UNB that over Taka 3 lakh had been sanctioned in 1975 to complete the building of the Cooperative Bank at Court Road but after spending Taka 1,50,000 the unspent amount had been allegedly misappropriated.

Construction of the two-storied building has not yet been completed, he added.

Wild elephants creating panicky situation

SHERPUR, Jan 14: Wild elephants are stated to have been creating panicky situations in different villages under Nalitabari Upazila, reports BSS.

A number of elephants come out from the hilly forest occasionally to villages of Rangtia and Qazmi and damage standing crops. The elephants recently damaged the security post of Rangtia forest Nursery.

414 deep tubewells to be installed

PATUAKHALI, Jan 14: Public Health Engineering Department (PHE) has taken up a programme to sink 414 deep tubewells (DTWs) in the district in the current fiscal year, reports UNB.

Official sources said, the DTWs will be installed jointly by the UNICEF and the PHE Department.

The installation of the tubewells is expected to be completed by June next.

About 15,000 people of the district will get benefit with the successful implementation of the scheme.

According to another message, Water Development Board (WDB) is implementing ten projects in Sadar upazila of the district at a cost of Taka 2.10 crore.

The projects include construction of embankment, sluice gates and excavation of

canals.

On completion of the projects, about one lakh acres of land will be saved from flash flood, it is learnt.

The zones are Barisal, Khulna, Dhaka, Mymensingh, Comilla, Chittagong and Sylhet.

Of the total amount, Taka 6,00 lakh will be disbursed in Dhaka zone, Taka 14,00 lakh in Mymensingh zone, Taka 10,00 lakh in Comilla Zone, Taka 6,50 lakh in Chittagong Zone, Taka 9,50 lakh in Sylhet Zone, Taka 80,00 lakh in Barisal Zone and Taka 90,00 lakh in Khulna Zone.

Local Government Engineering Bureau (LGEB), has implemented the project recently under post-flood rehabilitation programme taken up by the government with the financial assistance of World Bank.



RANGPUR: The Australian scout, guides and rover team members who worked at Azizullah Child Health Project here are seen in the picture during their departure recently. -Star photo