

Upazila roundup

**KUSHTIA**  
Assistance to Islamic Varsity assured

Jan 18: A 4-member delegation of Islamic Development Bank (IDB) visited the Islamic University at Santidanga, Dulalpur, 16 miles away from here, on Wednesday, reports UNB.

Officials said the visit was aimed to explore the possibilities of the Bank's assistance for development of its infrastructure and other relevant field of activities.

IDB's Operation Director Hasan Jang led the delegation. Other members of the team were Anwar Khanani, Murat Yalcintas and NIK Jainal Abedin.

Engineering Advisor to LOEB of Bangladesh Government accompanied the team during the visit.

Team leader Hasan Jang expressed his satisfaction over the progress so far achieved in developing the university into a full-fledged modern university of this region and assured of the Bank's cooperation in fulfilling the task.

Vice Chancellor of the University Dr Abdul Hamid apprised the team of the financial difficulties that hindered the quick completion of the infrastructure.

Earlier on arrival, the Vice Chancellor and other university teachers accorded a warm reception to the team.

**RANGPUR**  
Work on deep tubewells nearing completion

Jan 18: Work on sinking of four deep tubewells at Rangpur Paurasava is nearing completion, reports UNB.

Official sources said government has sanctioned Taka 8 lakh to install the tubewells at Senpara, Karanpara, Gonespur and Noorpur of paurasava to ensure supply of pure water to the dwellers.

Besides, work on the new pipe line repair of two kilometre pipe line in the paurasava is also progressing satisfactorily.

An official of the Paurasava told UNB that the work is expected to be completed by the end of the current month.

**NETRAKONA**  
Hospitals unable to provide services

Jan 18: Shortage of medicine, medical apparatus, ambulance, x-ray machines and blood bank have rendered almost all the health complexes of the district unfit to provide service to the patients, reports UNB.

Shortage of doctors, inadequate number of beds, paucity of drinking water and unhygienic environment in the hospitals have aggravated the situation.

Due to shortage of medicines, patients, coming from far flung areas are not getting proper treatment and serious patients cannot be moved fast for want of ambulance.

A large number of patients go back from the Sadar hospital every day without treatment for lack of accommodation.

Local people urged the government to look into the problems of the Sadar hospital as well as the other health complexes in the district.

**KISHOREGANJ**  
Bar assoc executives

Jan 18: Election to the district BAR Association was held here on Wednesday, reports UNB.

Abdul Hamid MP was elected President and Bhupendra Bhowmik General Secretary of the association for next one year. Fazlur Rahman Khan and Mozammel Haq Khan Ratan have been elected Vice President jointly.

Other office bearers are: Assistant General Secretary Takeruddin Abed and Aminul Haque Chowdhury Ferdous, Cultural Secretary Md Abdus Salam, Auditor Partoosh Chandra Chakraborty, Librarian, Anwarul Hakim Khan.

The members are Jyotitlal Roy, Md Akram Hossain, Zeemin Ara Begum, Raham Ali and Misanur Rahman.

The annual general meeting of the association was also held on the same day.

**MAULVIBAZAR**  
Beggars causing concern to dwellers

Jan 18: Beggars are increasing in number in the upazila and district headquarters causing concern to the social leaders and citizens, reports UNB.

There has been a continuous influx of beggars, both male and female from the rural areas over the last few months.

Over 10,000 beggars have gathered at the urban centres within the last couple of years, a social worker estimated.

Acute food crisis and unemployment in the dry season have compelled the villagers to seek jobs in the urban areas and a majority of them resort to begging as jobs are very scarce.

Bus and railway stations, launch terminals, corridors of big buildings and offices are full of alms seekers. It is alleged.

Local people urged the authorities to take schemes to rehabilitate the floating people without further delay.

**GAZIPUR**  
Six re-excavation plans taken up

Jan 18: District Canal Digging Programme Committee has taken up six re-excavation projects in five upazilas of the district, reports UNB.

A total of 12,426 metric tons of wheat has been allocated to implement the project.

The decision came at a meeting Wednesday in the DC's conference room with State Minister Prof MA Mannan in the chair.

The canals to be re-excavated are 2.50 km Chelid Khal, 3.05 km Lobonakhal Khal, 2.26 km Lure Khal and 5.54 km long Shilaha Khal, 2.94 km Rayed Khal and 2.25 kilometre long Gokul Khal.

Of the total 1974 km re-excavation, 987 km will be done by voluntary participation of the local people.

Presiding over the meeting, the State Minister called for mass participation in the Canal Digging Programme to boost the country's economy.

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**GAIBANDHA**  
Problems hamper education in govt college

Jan 18: Gaibandha Girls' College is beset with multifarious problems, including shortage of teachers and poor accommodation, reports UNB.

The only girls' college of the district established at the heart of the town in 1969 was nationalised in 1984. But amenities and requisite number of teachers are yet to be provided to run the college smoothly.

The college has only 18 teachers for about 1,000 students. Two posts of teachers remain vacant for a long time.

There is no reading room and no reference books in the library, no common room and no canteen.

There has also been allegations of corruption, misappropriation of fund and misuse of power by the college administration.

Students of the college have urged the government to take steps to overcome the problems for greater interest of women education.

**NARAIL**  
Brickfield owners using firewood despite govt ban

Jan 18: Trees are being cut indiscriminately in the district for use as firewood by the brickfields violating the government ban, reports UNB.

There are about 100 brickfields in three upazilas of the district. On an average, 40,000 maunds of firewood are needed daily in these brickfields to manufacture bricks.

Local traders are engaged in supplying woods to the brickfields without considering any future impact on the ecology of the district. On the other hand, it is alleged that no proportionate plantation programme has been undertaken by the administration.

According to informed sources, 9 per cent of land of the district were covered by forest during the seventies but after that it came down to 3 per cent only.

A recent survey shows that many houses in the villages of the district have no trees at all. Finding no other alternative, the poor farmers sold trees of their homesteads to maintain their livelihood.

Experts opined, if the trend of indiscriminate cutting of trees is allowed to continue, decertification will grip the district in near future.

The local leaders urged the authorities to take necessary steps to stop use of firewood in brickfields and start large scale afforestation programme in the district without further delay.



JESSORE: People from all walks of life took part at the 7-hour token fasting programme called by the local Unnayan Parishad in support of their 8-point demand for development held here recently at the Duranto Square. — Star photo

**Dhaka-Northern districts train journey hazardous**

**From Our Correspondent**

JAMALPUR, Jan 18: Thousands of train passengers travelling from northern districts to Dhaka on different routes have been facing untold sufferings due to irregular ferry services at Teestamukhat-Bahadurabadghat and Strajonghat-Jagannathonghat in Jamalpur District.

Innumerable chargs have emerged in the rivers at the points of ferry ghats. As a result, ferry boats delay inordinately in crossing the rivers keeping hundreds of passengers waiting for hours together.

No inter-city trains can maintain time-schedule in the said routes because of the disruption in ferry services, it is learnt.

The situation has aggravated further with the beginning of the current winter season as the ferry boats can hardly ply smoothly due to chilly and foggy weather.

It may be mentioned here that a large number of chargs emerge every year in the rivers at the points of ferry ghats. Following the abnormal fall in water level during lean season, the ferry services are disrupted every year and the ferry ghats are to be shifted to convenient places to keep the services functioning.

It is widely felt that dredging in the only arrangement for regular services and can help improve the situation.

The 44-kilometre Jamalpur-Madarganj Road via Melandah constructed during British regime is now in a pitiable condition.

Innumerable potholes and ditches have been developed on the road for which the movement of transport has become impossible. At least 25 buses and trucks play on this road every day.

For the first time, during President Ziaur Rahman's regime, the road was brought under renovation and extension plan with a view to extending road communication with Bogura and accordingly Taka 40 crore was sanctioned for the purpose.

It can be mentioned here that President Ziaur Rahman personally visited the road and directed the concerned authorities to start the work without further delay. The World Bank also agreed to give another Taka 40 crore for the project. But following the death of President Zia the project became uncertain.

The devastating flood of 1988 brought havoc to the road. Taka 1.5 crore was also allocated for the construction of a bridge on the road near at Hazbari Bazar.

The present democratic government has been urged to take immediate steps to repair and re-construct the road for smooth vehicular traffic and better trade and commerce.

**Gun battle with insurgents, Indian rupee, documents seized**

RANGMATI, Jan 18: Security forces recovered Indian rupees 5000, Bangladeshi Taka 23,000 and valuable documents related to insurgency in a surprise raid at Gobachari of Baghachari Upazila Thursday while the tribal terrorists were extorting tolls from the villagers, reports UNB.

The victim was identified as Riploh Chakma (25) of Pabalkhal village in Dighinala Upazila in Rangamati District. The injured are Turunnabi Chakma, Gigan Chakma and Dron Chakma.

Security forces held an injured insurgent after the armed encounter at about 10 am. Official sources said, Tarit Chakma received bullet wound in the encounter and was arrested along with a G-3 rifle, two grenades and some ammunition.

A tribal woodcutter informed the security forces about the presence of shantibahini members at pabalkhal village reportedly preparing for an attack on the villages.

The tribal insurgents opened fire after being surrounded by the security forces. The 30-minute encounter forced the Shantibahini men to retreat.

Meanwhile, 21 armed members of Shantibahini surrendered to the security forces in Rangamati and Barkal Zone in last two days responding to the general amnesty announced by the government, the sources added.

A burglary was committed here in broad day light in the house of a local journalist at Kallindipur Area of the town Friday.

A gang of burglars entered the house of Harun-Al-Rashid, local correspondent of the daily Millat, at about 10 am by cutting fence to the house while he was out of the house.

Ten burglars decamped with valuables and cash. A case has been filed with the local police.

**New UP polls schedule for Faridpur**

FARIDPUR, Jan 18: District Election Commission office has rescheduled the forthcoming Union Parishad elections of the district, reports UNB.

According to the new schedule, the election will be held in 78 unions out of total 79 in the district from January 22 to February 6.

Election in Bana Union in Alfadanga Upazila will not be held due to a court restriction.

The upazila-wise polls schedule are as follows: 17 unions of Nagarkanda Upazila on January 22, 12 unions of Bhanga on January 25, 9 unions of Sadarpur Upazila on January 27, 4 unions of Charbhadrashan on January 29, 11 unions of Boalmari on February 1, 5 unions of Alfadanga excluding Bana on February 2, 9 unions of Madhukhal on February 4 and 11 unions of Sadar Upazila on February 6.

**Molasses from juice of maize plants**

**From Our Correspondent**

RAJBARI, Jan 18: Molasses can be prepared from the juice of maize (Bhutta). Mr Mahbubur Rahman Siddiqi, Assistant Director, Local Agriculture Extension Department first initiated the process.

Mr Siddiqi saw from his office room that some street boys are chewing the maize plants and this created a curiosity in his mind. He then sent some maize plants to a nearby sugarcane crushing machine to extract juice from those. He took the juice to his house and boiled it in the oven and some molasses was prepared.

Later, he sent some maize plants of Faridpur Sugar Mills to produce sugar from the extracted juice of the maize plants. From there he got no positive result. He continued his efforts and accordingly sent some sample of molasses to the Chemical Section of BADC and Bangladesh Science Laboratory in Dhaka.

It is found from the experiment that 6 to 8 metric tons of maize plants can be produced in an acre of land and two metric tons of molasses can be produced from the same. This experiment has created curiosity among the local farmers for cutting maize plants on large-scale.



MADARIPUR: A scene of the drama 'Ferari Nissan' staged recently by Udichi, Madaripur. Zila Sangsad. — Star photos

**Notes from Magura**

MAGURA, Jan 18: Agriculture and Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Minister M. Majid-ul-Haque has called upon the farmers to apply available modern technology in cultivation to help attain food autarky at the earliest, reports BSS.

He also called for bringing more lands under irrigation network to ensure production of three crops a year with maximum yield which would help achieve the desired target.

The Agriculture Minister made the call while inaugurating a Training Course arranged to impart the owners and managers of deep and, shallow tube-wells and power pumps and the local peasants about the use of new techniques of cultivation at Magura recently.

**Taka 6.46 lakh for school construction**

UNB reports say: Facilities Department under the Ministry of Education has sanctioned Taka 6,45,72,000 for construction of educational institutions in Khulna Division during the current fiscal year.

Official sources said, under the Annual Development Programme, 48 educational institutions will be constructed in six districts.

According to an Executive Engineer of Jessore Zone of Facilities Department, Taka 1,02,50,000 has been sanctioned for construction of 9 institutions in Magura, Taka 34,50,000 for 3 institutions in Narail, Taka 1,78,00,000 for 12 institutions in Jhenidah, Taka 1,49,50,000 for 13 institutions in Jessore, Taka 51 lakh for one institution in Khulna and Taka 51,04,000 for one institution in Chuadanga districts.

**Extension of prisoners barrack**

Government has sanctioned over Taka 11.12 lakh for completion of extension work of Mohammdpur Upazila prisoners barrack during the current fiscal year under Annual Development Plan.

According to official sources, the construction work will start from February and is expected to be completed by June this year.

After completion of the work, accommodation facilities of prisoners will be improved to a great extent.

**Training course on modern cultivation**

A day-long training course on use of irrigation machines, modern methods for crop cultivation, pest control and preventive steps against misuse of irrigation pumps held at Sreepur Upazila recently.

Organised by the District Agriculture Extension Department, its Deputy Director Abul Hossain Mollah formally inaugurated the training course.

A total of 200 owners of irrigation machines and managers of irrigation projects from different unions of the upazila attended the course.

**16 hats, bazars in bad condition**

At least 16 hats and bazars in Mohammdpur Upazila of the district are in bad conditions causing inconvenience to the buyers and sellers.

Lack of proper maintenance, inadequate space, bad drainage system, paucity of pure water, erection of unplanned sheds have impeded the normal functioning of hats and bazars.

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**Tk 5.14 cr smuggled goods seized**

**From Our Correspondent**

SATKHIRA, Jan 18: The BDR personnel seized smuggled goods worth Taka 5.14 crore from different border areas of the district during the last year.

According to local BDR sources, smuggled goods worth Taka 1.54 crore were seized while being smuggled out of the country and contraband goods worth Taka 3.60 crore were seized while being smuggled into the country.

So far, 1275 cases were registered with the police against 923 alleged smugglers in these connections.

The goods which were being smuggled into the country include sugar, salt, cows, clothes, cosmetics, toys, sarees, blouse pieces, imitation ornaments, blade, electric goods, bicycle, onion, chillies, hide and skins, motor parts, glass, pesticides wine and drugs.

The seized goods which were smuggled out of the country include gold, silver, copper, bronze kasha, spare-parts of watch, polyester, old clothes, bearings, VCP, VCR, tetracycline powder and soaps.

The BDR sources informed that young unemployed people and destitute women were mostly used in smuggling.

BSS adds: A 10-day-long book fair and photo exhibition organised by Muktaadhara, a leading publishing house, to mark its 20th founding anniversary began from January 10 at Shaheed Abdur Razzak Park here.

The programme has been dedicated to the memory of the noted litterateur Mohammad Wazed Ali.

The programmes include discussions on various subjects of national interest, debate, painting competition, extempore speech, staging of plays, recitation of poems and musical soiree.

**DC gheraoed for road improvement**

SYLHET, Jan 18: Thousands of people gheraoed the Deputy Commissioner Wednesday demanding urgent steps to improve the vital Tillagar-Kanlaghat Road to ease the sufferings of the people of the district, reports UNB.

The people strongly demanded that the road popularly known as Burhanuddin Road should be made improve within one month and handed over a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner in this connection.

Earlier a rally was held in front of DC's office. It was addressed, among others, by Saleh Ahmed, Hajee Abdul Aziz, Mamunur Rashid and Enamul Haque Munna.

It may be mentioned that earth filling work of bridges and culverts on this route has been completed in the year 1984-85.

Later some development works have been done by Road and Highways Department.

**Four beaten to death for dowry**

**From Our Correspondent**

MADARIPUR, Jan 17: Abandoned and divorced women are increasing in the town which adversely affecting the socio-economic condition of the society.

According to a survey, these women belonging to very poor families were either abandoned or divorced for dowry and non-fulfilment of other financial commitments.

The survey revealed that due to the rise of divorce, these women are compelled to take up jobs as day-labourers and house maids only to survive.

Besides, many young girls of hte poverty — stricken families have resorted to prostitution to provide economic help to their family members.

Elites of the town have urged the concerned authorities to take necessary steps.

**JAMALPUR**

A housewife, Ferdous Begum (20) was beaten to death by her husband for dowry in Jamalpur recently.

It is reported, the victim was married to Wasmuddin of village Ranagassa Filipara under sadar upazila of the district two years back.

The accused husband was constantly pressuring for dowry from her poor father. But her poor father failed to fulfil the demand of dowry.

On the day of occurrence, Ferdousi was mercilessly beaten by her husband and she was wounded seriously.

Her body was sent to the Jamalpur General Hospital for autopsy.

A case has been lodged with Jamalpur police in this connection. It is learnt that the accused husband is still absconding.

**GOPALGANJ**

UNB reports say: A housewife was beaten to death for dowry recently at karpura village in sadar upazila, police and family sources said.

Chekhela Khatun, married to Rasul shekh four years ago, was mercilessly beaten up by the husband as her father was unable to give the dowry. She succumbed to injury.

A case was registered with the local police.

**PABNA**

Another report from Pabna said Sonawan Khatun (22), daughter of late Abdul Jabbar of barapukuria village in Chatmahar Upazila met the tragic end of her life in a similar incident.

Police said she was beaten to death by her husband for dowry on Wednesday.

Sonawan was married to Abdul Pramanik, son of Hazi Tarekuddin of village Hindial in the same upazila, last December.

On the fateful night, Pramanik asked her to get Taka 25,000 from her parents as dowry. But Sonawan refused and fell pray to his merciless beating. She died on the way to hospital.

A case was filed with Chatmahar police.

**FENI**

A young house wife was allegedly beaten to death by her husband for dowry money in village Hishapur of Daganbuiyan upazila Friday.

According to police, the victim Shuli Rani Roy (20), married 3 years back with Liton Chandra Roy was being tortured for non-payment of dowry money promised by her poor father.

On the fateful night, the cruel husband became furious when Shuli, having a one year old child, expressed inability to bring the money from her poor father and started beating her mercilessly causing her instantaneous death.

A U/D case has been filed with the local police.

**BKB disburses Tk 16.8 cr loan**

**From Our Correspondent**

BARISAL, Jan 18: Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) has distributed Taka 16.08 crore as agriculture loan out of the total allocation of Taka 53.91 crore through its 200 branches in 11 southern districts during the current financial year.

Districts included in this programme are: Barisal, Patuakhali, Bhola, Jhalakthi, Bogura, Pirojpur, Faridpur, Madaripur, Sarisapur, Gopalganj and Rajbari.

The loan, meanwhile disbursed is not at all satisfactory due to different reasons including lack of endeavour of the concerned authority of the bank.