

Upazila roundup

MAGURA

Gay girls moving freely at town

Jan 20: Gay girls are freely moving in the district town creating social problems, local people complained, reports UNB.

These gay girls mostly from poor families are engaged in immoral activities spreading venereal diseases among the youths of the town.

Some of them informed that in the absence of job opportunities they are forced to take this heinous occupation to maintain their livelihood.

The school and college going students and the youths are tempted by the ugly gestures of these girls at different places of the town. Some are also engaged in other anti-social activities after the sunset, it is alleged.

The gay girls are found roaming near cinema halls, clubs, roadides and offices in search of clients.

Local elite urged the authorities to take necessary measures to rehabilitate the perverted girls and save the youths and students from moral degradation.

GOPALGANJ

Dacoits swoop on bus passengers, decamp with booty

Jan 20: Armed dacoits swooped on a passenger bus and decamped with booty on Barisal-Faridpur Highway at Rithkholia in Morshedpur upazila recently, police said, reports UNB.

Witnessed said the dacoits halted the bus after sunset firing gunshots and looted cash money and valuables from the passengers.

A case was lodged with the local police.

FARIDPUR

Tk 59,000 contraband goods seized, 5 held

Jan 20: Police arrested 5 people and recovered contraband goods worth about Taka 59,000 from their possession at Madhukhali Rail Gate in the district recently, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip, Madhukhali Police raided a Jessore bound private car (No Dhaka Ga 67006) coming from Dhaka at the point and recovered Indian sarves, imitation ornaments and pesticides.

The arrested were Babu, Golam Mustafa, Kazi Aynul Haq, Chari Mia and Anwar Mollah.

Police also seized the car. A case has been filed in this connection.

GAZIPUR

12.426 tons of wheat for canal digging

Jan 20: A total of six projects has been undertaken under the canal digging programme in five upazilas of the district in the current dry season, reports UNB.

Under the programme a total of 1,974 Km canals will be dug and 12,426 metric tons of wheat has been sanctioned for implementation of these projects, official sources said here recently.

The canals to be re-excavated are Chitlaikhali in Gazipur of Sadar upazila, Labonda in Stripur, Turag in Kalkakot, Sheali in Kaliganj and Rayedbagherhat and Chak-kori Khal in Kaptai upazila.

Of the canals 987 will be dug in voluntary basis and 987 under the food for work programme.

COMILLA

Training course of NGO volunteers concludes

Jan 20: A two-day training course for the workers and volunteers of NGOs affiliated with the Uterian Service Committee of Canada in Bangladesh concluded here recently at BARD auditorium, reports UNB.

State Minister for Finance Majibur Rahman formally inaugurated the training course and prof Dr Nurul Islam presided over it.

Deputy Commissioner of the district Hedayatul Islam Chowdhury, Associate Prof of Dhaka University Dr Md Ibrahim and Research Associate of the Foundation for Education, Planning and Development Rasheda Chowdhury led the course.

FENI

Not a single kg of paddy procured

Jan 20: Paddy and rice procurement in five upazilas of the district is facing total failure, reports UNB.

Government had fixed the procurement target at 1000 tons but not a single kg of paddy or rice had been collected till today.

District Food Controller's Office said higher price of paddy and rice in the markets discouraged the farmers and rice-traders to sell to the government.

JAMALPUR

Teachers silent procession

Jan 20: Sadar upazila unit of Bangladesh Federation of Teachers' Association recently Brought out a silent procession in support of their 15 point demand, reports BSS.

Participated by teachers of 54 non-government colleges and schools the procession paraded streets of the town.

A rally was held at the end of the procession Professor Ruhul Amin, Convenor Upazila Sangram Committee, Principal Abdur Rashid, President and Ataur Rahman Secretary, Sadar Upazila Federation of Teachers' Association urged the authorities to fulfill their demands. They asked the teachers to intensify their struggle.

LALMONIRHAT

Students to get 1,13,000 books free of cost

Jan 20: The government will distribute 1,13,000 sets of text-books free of cost among the students of the district under the Universal Education Programme this year, reports UNB.

Books will be distributed among 401 government and non-government schools of Sadar, Aditmary, Kaliganj, Halibandha and Patgram upazilas. 42,500 sets will be distributed among the students of class one, 25,100 sets for the students of class two, 18,400 sets for class three, 15,500 sets for class four and 11,500 for class five.

BORGUNA

House rent abnormal

Jan 20: House rent in the district headquarters has increased abnormally in the recent years due to shortage of residential accommodation, reports UNB.

With the increase of population, demand for residential houses has gone up sharply causing the hike in rent badly affecting the low middle income group people.

Government officials of the town is facing housing problems in the absence of government staff quarters. They cannot cope with the increasing house rent with their limited income.

Moreover, other private officials are suffering badly as no initiative has been taken to construct private buildings in the town to solve the acute housing problem.

Local elite have urged the government and private organisations to take up schemes to construct residential estates to ease the housing problem in the town.

RANGPUR

Week-long Poush Mela

Jan 20: A week-long Poush Mela began at the local stadium in the town recently, reports UNB.

Deputy Commissioner Azmal Chowdhury formally inaugurated the mela, Chairman of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) Dr Ashraf Siddiqui and Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) Chairman Moniruzzaman Chowdhury attended the occasion as special guests.

A total 200 stalls have been installed in the mela and their various products are drawing attention of a large number of crowd.

The Public Health Engineering Department has started installation of 1,755 hand driven tubewells in five districts of the Greater Rangpur Zone.

Of them, 700 tube wells have already been installed while the rest 1055 tube wells are being fielded and expected to be completed by February, 1992.

Re-striking of 2280 tubewells is also going on in full swing in the greater Rangpur Zone under the supervision of



LOWHAJANG (Munshiganj): A UP election procession at Gaodia union under Lowhajang Upazila where people from different age group have joined.

Cooperation for free, fair polls sought

UP polls campaign in peak

From Our Correspondent

The campaign for the UP election all over the country is in peak as the polls is scheduled to begin on January 22.

According to reports, the arrangements for holding the polls have been completed in the meantime. The concerned administrations have also taken measures to hold the election free, fair and peaceful.

The Chief Election Commissioner Justice Abdur Rouf recently visited several districts to instruct the concerned officials and mobilise the support for smooth holding of elections. He also met the people from all walks of life and sought cooperation from them to hold election peacefully.

Meanwhile, reports on killing and clashes over polls have been published in the national dailies for which the peaceful citizens of the country are almost disappointed about the expected peaceful election.

The participation of political parties has made the ensuing polls more competitive and attractive. The government assurance of peaceful election has encouraged a good number candidates to contest it.

Some candidates informed that this year's election is quite different from the previous years. Our workers and supporters are working round the clock to win in the contest, they informed.

4.12 lakh voters to cast votes in Rajbari

Our Rajbari correspondent says: The Union Parishad election will be held in 40 unions out of 42 unions of Rajbari District. The election of the rest two unions will not be held owing to the non-expire of their tenure, election office sources say.

The sources also said, the election of the 40 unions of the district will begin from January 22 and it will continue up to February 5.

It is learnt, a total of 159 candidates is contesting in 40 unions for the posts of Chairman and 110 candidates are contesting for the posts of Member.

According to Local Election Commission, 4,12,194 voters will exercise their franchise in the forthcoming UP election of the district.

UP polls in Lowhajang

Our Munshiganj correspondent reports: The Union Parishad election campaign of Lowhajang Upazila under Munshiganj district is gaining momentum.

The UP election will be held in 12 unions of the upazila. The election of these upazilas will be held on January 22, according to election offices.

It is learnt, a total of 33 candidates is contesting for

the post of Chairman in 12 unions.

A prominent former UP Chairman Anwar Sinha (70) is contesting with one young Abdul Awal Munshi (32) at Kalma union.

It is gathered, a UP Chairman candidate, Abdul Latif has declared to spend about Taka one crore for election purpose. This declaration has drawn the attention of voters. His election symbol is 'deer'. It can be mentioned here that he is using a live 'deer' in his election procession.

Need for peaceful holding of polls stressed

UNB from Shariatpur says: Chief Election Commissioner Justice Abdur Rouf stressed the need for holding the forthcoming Union Parishad election in a free and fair atmosphere.

Addressing a meeting of the high officials here Saturday he said, "We should try our best to retain our past reputation gained in the last Parliamentary Election."

The meeting was organised by the district administration to discuss ways and means for holding the election peacefully. It was presided over by Deputy Commissioner Zillur Rashid Chowdhury.

UNOs, OCs and existing Union Parishad chairmen and members were also present in the meeting.

Musclemen threaten voters in Kishoreganj

UNB reports say: A group of hoodlums is allegedly threatening the people of Egarosindur Union in Pakundia Upazila with dire consequences if they do not vote for certain candidates in the ensuing elections.

Election to the Egarosindur Union Parishad is scheduled for January 25.

The musclemen are reportedly asking the voters to vote for their candidates or refrain from voting. Anyone violating the "orders" will not be allowed to return alive, they complained.

The hirelings are said to be pitted by an influential quarter which also unleashed violence during the last UP polls.

Local people have requested law enforcing agencies to take adequate measures against the musclemen.

375 contest for posts of chairman in Rangpur

BSS report says: Election-eering is going on in full swing, all over Rangpur district.

Elections in eighty unions out of eighty-three will be held from January 22 to February 5. Elections in the remaining three unions will be held later on.

Three hundred seventy five

chairman candidates including one female, and two thousand six hundred and eighty-nine member candidates including forty-seven females are in the race in the polls.

Number of contestants more in Netrakona

Electioneering campaign in all the 10 upazilas of the district is gaining momentum as the date for Union Parishad polls is approaching nearer.

District administration sources said arrangements are underway to ensure free, fair and peaceful elections beginning on January 22.

Candidates are holding meetings with their supporters, relatives and campaigners and moving door to door to win voters. Their supporters are working round the clock to come closer to voters at hotels, tea stalls and restaurants.

Besides festoon, posters and symbols are being displayed to draw the attention of the voters.

The number of contestants for the posts of chairman and member is larger than the previous year.

3 women candidates in Lalmonirhat

Campaign for the Union Parishad elections is gradually gaining momentum all over the district.

Candidates, workers, supporters and relatives of the candidates are also moving door to door and arranging public meetings deep inside the village to mobilise the voters.

According to Election Office sources, a total of 149 candidates are contesting in 39 unions of 5 upazilas for chairmanship and 1169 candidates are also on the run for chairmanship.

Election will not be held in 3 unions. Tushbandar, Borokhata and Kuslibari of Kaliganj, Halibandha and Patgram Upazila respectively.

199 chairman candidates in Feni district

The campaign is gaining momentum in the far-flung areas of the district for the Union Parishad elections scheduled from January 22 to February 6.

Meanwhile, villages have taken a festive look with festoons, wall paintings and colourful banners everywhere including nooks and corners. Local hats and bazars have turned into the main campaign centres with the tea-shoppers making brisk business.

According to the District Election Office, polls will be held in 38 out of 46 Union Parishads.

Notes from Pabna

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Jan 20: A colourful reception programme to the fresh student of Intermediate and Degree-level was accorded at Pabna Government Mahila College recently.

The programme was presided over by Prof A R Shamsul Islam, Principal of the College.

Addressed among others by Prof Khondaker Khali-quzzaman, Prof Md Asraful Islam and Sultana Razia, a student of the college.

A cultural programme styled as "Ogo Nabin Aso Aso" was staged and many local artists attended in this programme.

Blood donation programme

A blood donation programme and a seminar were arranged by Pabna Pioneer Lions Club and Pabna Lioness Club recently on the occasion of 75th anniversary of Lions Club International.

The programme was presided over by Dr Mosharraf Hossain, President, Pabna Pioneer Lions Club. Baby Islam, Zone-Chairman of Lions Club addressed it as chief guest.

About 20 bags of blood was collected by Sandhani Donor Club of the district in this connection.

Marriage deeds

UNB reports say: Non-registration of marriage deeds was stated to be the main hindrance in the movement for the rights of women.

A random survey conducted recently in some rural areas of the district revealed that most of the marriages in poor families break up for dowry or other reasons and no legal action can be initiated because the marriages are not registered.

Despite restrictions, many people take more than one wife without taking permission from the first wife.

Young housewife burnt alive

A fire lit by a young housewife to save herself from biting cold burnt her alive.

Nasima Khatun (18), wife of Omar Ali, a labourer of Alhaj Cotton Mill, was fatally burnt when the fire first caught her saree then engulfed her. When she was taken to Ishardi Upazila Health Complex she was already a dead person.

Quadruplet born

A mother of four children gave birth to a quadruplet at Singha village in Sadar upazila of the district recently.

The quadruplet born to Joynab Khatun (25), wife of Abdur Rashid, however, did not survive. Among the babies two were still born and the others died shortly afterwards.

All four were baby girls.

Child labourers rising

About 18,000 child labourers under 12 are at present engaged in different jobs in the district to help their destitute families, official sources estimated.

They mainly work in hotels, restaurants, bidi factories, motor garages, workshops, as rickshawpullers, vendors, hawkers of newspapers, as well as domestic servants.

Expressing concern over the increasing number of child labourers, district officials said, flash floods, cyclones, drought and other natural calamities have been making marginal and landless farmers destitute.

Poor parents, who cannot make their both ends meet, have to send their children to work just for survival.

These children stay at railway stations and abandoned places after their day's work for over 12 hours for negligible wages.

Some of them are engaged in unlawful activities by unscrupulous businessmen and

Water supply at Kushtia inadequate

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Jan 20: The inhabitants of the local municipality have been suffering much due non-supply of requisite water, accommodation problem, mosquito menace and unhealthy situation prevailing at the town.

According to reliable source, there are over one and half lakh people in the town. Before liberation, the population of the town was only 32,00. But no development activities have been done in proportion with the increase of the population.

The residents of the town have been facing acute shortage of water as the seven deep tubewell pumps are not working properly. Out of seven, two tubewell pumps remain out of order for maximum time causing inadequate supply of water.

According to an estimate, a total of 25,000 gallons of water is needed daily for the consumption of the population of the town. But the present quantity of water supply is quite inadequate for the consumers of 2,000 connections.

There are 350 hand tubewells in the town. But most of the tubewells are not working properly for the abnormal fall in ground water level in the area. Repeated appeals from the tax payers to solve the water problems gave no positive result, it is informed.

Among other problems, mosquito menace has caused an alarming situation. The municipal authority is yet to take any effective measure to eradicate mosquito menace. The irregularity in spraying mosquito oil has resulted in unabated breeding of mosquitoes in the town.

Silted drains and stagnant waters in scattered pools of the town are the fertile breeding centres of the mosquitoes.

With the increase of population, the accommodation problem has become acute and as a result the poor and middle class people are the worst hit.

Besides, the roads are in very bad shape. The condition of kutchha drains and dustbins, is so very dirty.

Plan to alleviate poverty underscored

COMILLA, Jan 20: An international seminar held here recently underscored the need for a perspective rural development plan with effective provisions for sustained socio-economic uplift and poverty alleviation, reports UNB.

The seminar on "Rural Development in Bangladesh: Strategies and Experiences" was inaugurated by LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdus Salam Talukder at the Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD).

The three-day seminar is being jointly organised by the Rural Development and Cooperatives Division and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Rural Development Secretary Hasnat Abdul Hye and BARD Director General KM Tipu Sultan also addressed the inaugural session. The seminar is being participated by 60 representatives from 40 national and international organisations.

In his inaugural address, the LORD Minister said present government strategy was to share the experiences of the nations of this region in addressing the development and poverty alleviation priorities of the rural people.

He said the government strongly feels that rural development and socio-economic uplift could not be sustained without effective participation of people at the grassroot level.

The government of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is

committed to ensure "dalbhat" for the masses, the Minister said adding that pragmatic programmes are being pursued to reach that goal within the shortest possible time.

Citing examples of the Vietnamese success in augmenting food production, he said Bangladesh had the potential of attaining self-sufficiency in food provided appropriate policy guidelines were evolved and truly pursued.

Tk 7 lakh Indian sugar seized

BDR patrol party recovered a huge quantity of Indian sugar worth about Taka 7 lakh from a BRTC truck (No Chittagong Na: 2061) at Nayabazar on Dhaka-Chittagong Trunk Road Thursday.

Police seized the truck but the driver and helper managed to escape.

Later the truck and seized goods were handed over to the district Customs officials.

Police recovered a huge quantity of Indian yarn, cycle and rickshaw parts worth about Taka 2.75 lakh from an engine boat from the river Buri in Nabnagar.

Acting on a tip, a police contingent recently raided the boat near village Kanikanta and recovered the contraband goods.

Police seized the boat but none was arrested in this connection. A case has been lodged with the local police.

One awarded life-term, 3 get 7yrs RI for murder

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Jan 20: One person was sentenced to suffer life-term and three others were awarded seven years rigorous imprisonment and find Taka 5,000 each on charge of murdering one Abu Bakker.

The accused persons are Tofazzal Hossain, Asgar Ali, Abdus Satter and the wife of victim Rajeka Begum. Eight other accused in this connection were acquitted of the charge of murder.

Additional Sessions Judge, Gaibandha, Mr MA Shahidur Rahman delivered the judgement recently.

The prosecution story was that on May 25, 1990 the vic-

tim Abu Bakker of village Tajpur under Sadullapur upazila went to his father-in-law's house from where he was disappeared and the next day his body was recovered from the nearby jute field. A case was filed with the concerned Thana.

On trial learned judge found the accused persons guilty of murder and awarded the aforesaid punishment.

The case was conducted by Public Prosecutor Mr Rahmatullah Azad and Advocate Taleb Ali and Abdur Rahman Dakuia appeared in favour of accused.

Public lands under private possession Govt deprived of revenue

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Jan 20

The government is being deprived of huge amount of revenue every year as a vast tract of land of the Roads and Highways Department have been occupied by some people of the locality in collaboration with the employees of the department.

A large number of sheds, semi pucca and in some cases pucca houses have been constructed beside the roads and highways in the district during the last few years without the requisite permission from the concerned department.

Even big buildings have been constructed in the town by section of businessmen on the land of the authority which are hindering the usual traffic movements.

On the otherhand, parts of roads in the hart of the town are being used illegally by the bus, truck and vehicle owners

which also causing obstacles to the traffic movements.

Agricultural lands and ponds of the department are being occupied by the public without any valid document from the authorities.

Meanwhile, a plan was taken to evict the unauthorised occupants of the Roads and Highways Department lands in the district but the decision is yet to be implemented for unknown reasons.

The occupants of the lands told this correspondent that they are paying the officials of the department but they do not issue any receipt.

The government has reintroduced the canal digging programme to produce more food, expand communication facilities, create employment opportunity and ensure overall development of the country.

The meeting discussed the proposed canal digging pro-



AGRI-VARSITY: Twin sisters, Trisha and Trina are presenting dance at the 'Teachers Evening-91' arranged by the BAU Teachers Association at their club held recently.