Upazila roundup

BRAHMANBARIA

Facilities inadequate in hospitals

Jan 21: Most of the health complexes in the district are beset with manifold problems due to lack of medical apparatus, absence of ambulance, scarcity of drinking water and shortage of medical staff, reports UNB.

Hundreds of patients come te the health complex every day but go back disappointed for absence of proper medicare and treatment facilities.

Most of the complexes have no X-ray machine, blood bank. dental or ophthalmic treatment facilities.

Shortage of staff is another problem in the health complexes. Emergency patients can not be moved to other places due to lack of ambu-

Besides, paucity of drinking water lack of proper drainage system in the complexes are increasing the sufferings of the patients.

It is alleged that important medicines supplied by the government are being sold to the local pharmacies by some dishonest workers.

Local leaders have urged the authorities to remove the problems and enable the health complexes to function normally.

MAULVIBAZAR

Irregularities in govt girls high school

Jan 21: Misappropriation of funds, misuse of power and other corrupt practices are alleged to be rampant in Government Girls High School, having 700 students. reports UNB.

Ten posts of teachers have been lying vacant in the school for a long time hampering education badly. Absence of drinking water facilities, adequate furniture and educational appliances are also hindering smooth functioning of the school.

Students and guardians have urged the authorities to take steps to overcome the problems facing this important seat for women education.

Meanwhile, the Gojvug High School of Kulaura upazila of the district has been facing various problems including poor accommodation, teacher shortage, fund constraints and inadequate appliance.

Local people wanted the authorities to take immediate and effective measures to meet

CHAPAINAWABGANJ

Fish disease

Jan 21 : Fish disease has broken out in an epidemic from in Sadar, Shibganj, Machol, Bholarhat and Gomostapur upazilas of the district, reports UNB.

The disease known as ulcerative syndrome, appeared about a fortnight ago killing different species like puti bain, shoal, boal, gazar, taki magur and shing.

Pishermen said, the demand of fish had abruptly failen in local markets causing financial loss to them.

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 urged the au thorities to spray lime water in the affected waterbodies to combat the menace.

DHAMRAI

Mass literacy centres to be set up

Jan 21: Education Minister Jamiruddin Strear said here on Sunday that it would be detrimental to the nation if the teachers went on an indefinite strike, reports BSS.

The Minister was speaking at a meeting of guardians. teachers and students at Ataur Rahman Khan School and College premises.

Presided over by KM Shamsur Rahman Khan. President of the college governing body, the meeting was addressed by Ziaur Rahman Khan MP.

Outlining the programmes in the Education Sector, Mr Strear said the government would nationalise one college and one mohila college located at each of the district Headquaters in the first phase and one college at the thana level in the second phase. He further said mass literacy centres would be set up in each of the 68 thousand villages to rid the country of the curse of illiteracy by the turn of the century.

MAGURA

Sugarcane cultivation plan

Jan 21 : Faridpur Sugar Mills has taken up a programme to bring 1,325 acres of land under sugarcane cultivation in Magura district during the current season, reports

According to official sources, about 24,000 metric tons of sugarcane worth about Taka 1.38 crore will be produced in the district during the season.

For the successful implementation of the programme, the mill will disburse cash Taka 35 lakh, high quality seeds, fertilizers and pesticides among the growers.

BORGUNA

Child labourers on increase

Jan 21: Child hawkers and labourers are on the increase in the town areas of district with the influx of floating people, reports UNB.

According to a rough official estimate, about 2,000 children aging 5 to 12 have been engaged in manual jobs for eking out their livelihood.

Of the total, 1000 are hawkers and the remaining work on daily wage or work as the helping hands of masons. hotel, restaurants, bidi factories, motorgarages, bicycle repairing shops, welding workshops and brickfields.

Many others are also working as rickshawpullers and domestic servants.

These children have trekked to the town areas along with their families who were rendered shelterless cither by erosion or recurring flooding and other natural calamities and eventually were forced to abandon their respective village home in quest of work for bare survival.

It is gathered that these child hawkers and labourers work for more than 12 hours a day earning only Taka 15 to Taka 20. Most of them have to support their families.

The child hawkers sell groundnut, pineapple, plum. banana, blackberry and other seasonal fruits, vegetable, biscuits, snacks, tea and even

KHULNA

Entrepreneurs urged to set up industries

Jan 21 : Minister for Industries Shamsul Islam Khar said here on Sunday that the present democratic government has introduced the liberal industrial policy to hasten massive industrialisation in the country, reports BSS.

He was addressing a meeting of BSCIC officials and cross section of people at BSCIC Industrial Estate of Shiromoni in Khulna

The meeting was ad dressed, among others, by SK Tayebur Rahman, Mayor, Khulna City Corporation, and Golam Sarwar, former President. Khulna Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The Minister said that the government had accorded facilities to the intending en trepreneurs to set up industries costing within Taka 30 crore without any approval of the government. He urged the entrepreneurs to avail themselves of these opportunities and establish industries.

Earlier, the Minister visited a number of industrial units in BSCIC estate and enquired about the facilities and functioning of these units.

Later, the Minister visited Khulna Newsprint Mills and Khulna Shipyard. He also visited Mongla Port Area to see the possibility for establishing Export Processing Zone (EPZ) in Mongla Port Area.

PABNA

Seven dacoities in five days

Jan 21 : Seven dacoities were committed in different places of the district during the last five days, reports UNB. According to police, the dacotts looted valuables worth about Taka 10 lakh including cash Taka 2 lakh from the

The owners of the houses are: Prof Kamruzaman and Khalilur Rahman of Dilalpur, Md Abu, owner of Modern Press of College Para. Abdus Samad of Ahmedpur village. Varigath Chandra Kundu and Gorehandra Ghosh of Sagarkandi village and Abu Taher of Badai Sinduri village in Sujanagar upazila of the dis-

Separate cases have been filed with the local police and none so far arrested in this connection.



PABNA: The members of Bangladesh Teachers Association Federation, local unit brought out a silent procession in - Star photo support of their 15-point demand recently.

500 acres under ganja farming in Dewanganj

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Jan 21: Ganja plantation in different villages of Dewangani Upazila has increased to a great extent for the last five years.

A reliable source said that about 500 acres of land are now under illegal ganja cultivation in 55 villages of Dungdhara, Hatibundah, Bahadurabad, Parrampur, Bagarchar and Char Amkhaya unions under Dewangaj upazila during the current year.

The source said that four kg of ganja is produced from a plant and per kg of ganja is selling at Taka 2.500 in the

Ganja is being transported to Dhaka, Mymensingh, Bogra, Dinajpur, Rangpur, Sirajganj, Pabna, Tangail. Rajshahi Khulna, Chittagong and other parts of the country. Women and unemployed youths are used as carrier of the ganja to different places.

The Naraotics and Liquor Department. Jamalpur, recently seized some ganja plants from Dewangant Upazila Local people alleged that the ganja cultivators have been paying money regularly to the staff of the Narcotics Department and are continuing the illegal cultivation in a large scale

Illegal sale of liquor is going on in different areas of the dis-

MAULVIBAZAR, Jan 21: The

waterfall at Madhabkunda in

our country has been kept iso

lated for a long. Madhabkunda

is noted for its scenic beauty.

It is situated at Pathoria Hills

within Baralekha upazila under

its scenic beauty attract a large

number of tourists and picnic

parties. Every year hundreds of

people come here to have a

The Hindu community re-

gards it as a sacred place and

takes bath here. A Hindu festi

val Baruni Snaan is also held

here in the Bengali month of

Chaitra every year and people

from far and near join the fes-

Madhabkunda is about seven

kilometers away from

Dakshinbhag Railway Station of

way Section and is closely

linked with some land routes.

The development of place ap-

pears to be less costly and it

can be made a tourist spot of

It was suggested by many

quarters in the past to make

the country.

the Kulaura-Shahbazpur Rail

glimpse and for picnic pur-

poses taking much troubles

Madhabkunda waterfall and

Maulvibazar district

trict town and other places of their possession.

the upazilas of the district. A number of stationery and grocery shops in the town and different market areas of the district are selling ganja and liquor illegally, it is alleged

Some consumers alleged that the sellers of ganja and liquor are charging exorbitant prices. A good number of gentlemen customers are found waiting in corners to procure the same and there are so-called waiters to supply the goods.

The number of such unauthorised wine and ganja shops is increasing in the town areas giving rise to anti-social activi-

Recently a powerful task force headed by Mr Jalal Ahmed. Deputy Commissioner was formed to control and eliminate ganja plantation in the district. The elite of the district

have urged the concerned higher authorities to enforce the anti-drug law to halt the consumption of ganja and liquor without any delay.

rested three alleged inter-district dacoits in Fulbaria area under Jamalpur town recently. The police also recovered

one pipe gun, one toy pistol

and some ammunition from

From Our Correspondent

Madhbkunda a reserve area

and turn it into a tourist spot.

But nothing has so far been

done to improve the condition

of the area. It can be made an

attractive tourist spot which

can also earn a handsome

amount every from the visitors.

here for picnic purposes by

the then upazila authority of

Barolekha but no care is being

taken to maintain it. The place

has already been covered by

jungles and there is no sitting

arrangement for the people

joining areas are not easily ac

reach here with much hard

ships through the tea gardens

human life every year. This

happens due to bad condition

of approach road which is very

peak of the hill to see the ort

gin of the waterfall. Accidents

occur here frequently and the

time of taking bath in waterfall

have been urged to take steps

to make it a tourist spot which

can attract hundreds to visi-

The concerned authorities

stiff. The people climb the

cessible by road and one can

Madhabkunda takes a toll of

Madhabkunda and its ad

coming over here.

A tin shed was constructed

3 dacoits held Jamalpur town police ar-

Advocate Abdul Khaleque presided over the meeting and Saidur Rahman Khoka submitted the annual report at the meeting.

here recently.

A seven-member executive committee was formed with Advocate Abdul Khaleque and Saidur Rahman as its president and secretary.

According to reports, a po-

lice patrol party led by Anwar

Hossain, TSI, Jamalpur town

thana gheraoed the dacoits

while they were taking prepa-

ration to commit dacoity in the

Masum of South Goran, Dhaka,

Monir, East Goran, Dhaka and

Alamgir, Khilgaon, Dhaka. The

arrested dacoits are the stu-

dents of a high school and they

are said to be the candidates of

A case has been resistered

with the Jamalpur sadar police

Red Crescent body

and election of the Jamalpur

District Unit of Bangladesh

Red Crescent Society was held

The annual general meeting

ensuing SSC examination.

station in this connection.

The arrested dacoits are:

The other executive committee members are: Mahbubul Alam, Ashraf Ahmed, Golam Mustafa, Abdul Hai and Abdur

Waterfall at Madhabkunda needs proper care

UNB adds : Mushroom

growth of unlicensed jewellery

shops and illegal money-len-

ders in the district town have

been causing the government

of huge amount of revenue loss.

are engaged in illegal "hundi"

business and transferring huge

amount everyday across the

500 jewellery shops in the dis-

trict and of them about 100

are in Maulvibazar town. Most

of these jewellery shops have

been avoiding payment of li-

cence fee of Taka 500 per an-

num, it has been further al

According to a reliable

source, most of the shops are

engaged in mortgage business.

collecting 15-20 per cent

compound interest on mort-

gage of ornaments. In most

cases, the depositors fail to

take back their ornaments be-

ing unable to pay the accoumu-

A customs official said that

most of the jewellery shops

evaded excise duty and could

not be brought to book as they

were not registered with the

lated sum of interest.

authorities.

At present, there are about

border, it is alleged.

Most of the jewellery shops

officials said According to the General

> lakh metric tons of sugarcane will be purchased in 17 centres in Magura, Faridpur, Rajbari and Gopalgonj districts. The source also said 15,000

acres of land have been brought under sugarcane cultivation during the current season in these districts. Faridpur Sugar Mills author-

ities will disburse Taka 3 crore as loan among farmers of these districts to help them grow sugarcanes.

Plan to construct 3 bridges

A scheme has been undertaken to construct three bridges in Sadar upazila at a cost of Taka 54,85,574 in the current fiscal year

According to Water Development Board, Taka 20,29 lakh has been sanctioned for construction a bridge on Haorkhali Canal, Taka 20,23 lakh for a bridge on Alomkhalt Canal and the rest Taka 14.32 lakh for a bridge on Narankhali Canal

will start from February next and is expected to be com pleted by June.

the scheme, road communication in the district will be improved to a great extent.

District Education Office has distributed a total of 1.01.100 sets of text books free of cost among primary school students in four upazilas of district during this month.

The students of 267 government primary schools and 94 registered non-government

Of the total books, 33,100 sets were distributed for students of class one, 21,600 sets for class two, 18,600 sets for class three, 15,200 sets for class four and rest 12,600 sets for class five students.

Aman paddy procurement drive

Target will not be achieved

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, Jan 21: The aman paddy procurement target will not be achieved in Rangpur district during the current season, concerned officials apprehended.

Procurement of 30,000 metric tons of aman rice has been fixed as target in the district. But at middle of November last, 22,000 metric tons or aman paddy and 110 metric tons of rice have been procured.

The procured foodgrains in term of rice stands at around 15,000 metric tons which is 50% of the target fixed for the current season.

There are 15 purchasing centres and 95 rice mills in the district to procure aman rice and paddy. Due to price hike in the markets, the farmers and the traders have almost stopped supply of aman paddy and rice to these cen-

tres and as a result, the target of aman procurement seemed

to have been failed this year in the district. Mithapukur thana police have recovered a large quantity

of lethal weapons from the Chhatra Shibir office recently. The police also later on arrested 12 Shibir workers in this connection. The recovered weapons included - one Chinese axe, two swords, two tron rods and over 50 bamboo

According to the police, Shibir workers were creating disturbances and locked in clashes with the rival student organisations for some time

The total number of primary schools in the district is 914. Of them, 702 are government primary schools while the rest 212 are nongovernment.

Shoals in rivers hamper navigation

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Jan 21: Navigation is coming to a dead halt due to massive siltation in the rivers Mahananda, Pagla, Padma and Punarvaba for a long time, reports UNB.

With the onset of winter. water level of the rivers continued to fall abnormally causing emergence of innumerable shoals which remained under water during the monsoon. At present, the rivers have gone dry at many points in the dis-No cargo vessel except light

country boats can ply in these rivers. As such, transshipment of merchandise to different trading centres from rural areas has almost come to a halt.

Reliable sources said that local traders could hardly depend on road communication network for the transshipment as it had not yet linked more than 50 per cent of the rural

Rampant use of trees as fuel in the brickfields throughout Chapainawabganj and Rajshahi districts is causing deforestation and ecological imbalance.

Brickfields are reportedly not getting over 20 per cent of the total requirement of coal. At least 2,000 tons of coal are required for 200 brickfields in these districts. As such, brick manufacturers are compelled

to use trees in burning bricks. A section of firewood traders are allegedly felling trees in different forests and orchards defying government girl.

ban and selling it to the owners of the brickfields. Forest Department remained unconcerned so far.

Meanwhile, adverse effects of deforestation have already started surfacing with ground water level falling considerably About 500 tube-wells have al ready gone out of order either completely or partially.

A total of 4,87,500 sets of text books has been distributed free of cost among the students of 370 government and 136 non-government primary schools in five upazilas of the district According to official

sources, 1,75,950 sets have

been distributed in Nawabgani, 1,76,800 sets in Shibgani 64.950 sets in Gomostapur 38,850 sets in Nachole and 31,350 sets in Bholahat upazilas for the academic year of

The books have been distributed under Universal Education Primary Programme.

Girl kidnapped

TANGAIL, Jan 21: Rita, a SSC examinee was allegedly kidnapped by miscreants on Sunday from Akurtakur Para of Tangail town, reports BSS.

Mia Mohammad Shahid. Officer-Incharge of Tangail Thana said that three persons were arrested in this connection. Vigorous police investigation in going on to recover the

Farmers in Sunamganj to get Tk 6.20cr loan

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Jan. 21: A total of Taka 6 crore 20 lakh and 32 thousand has been sanctioned for distribution as loans among the farmers of different upazilas of Sunamganj district during the current financial year.

According to an official source, of the total amount, Bangladesh Krishi Bank will disburse Taka. 5077 and Rupali Bank will disburse Taka 18 lakh 60,000. The rest amount will be disbursed by Sonali Bank, Janata Bank and Agrant Bank.

The source also informed that the loans would be given for purchasing bullock for tilling lands, establishing poultry firms, purchasing agricultural inputs and cultivation of different crops including paddy and

Electric cables worth Tk 50,000 recovered

Electric cables worth about Taka. 50,000 were recovered from village Mandolibhog under Chhatak Upazila of Sunamganj district recently. According to the report, on

A case in this connection had been registered with th police station. Dacoits loot valuables

getting secret information, a

police party from the Chhatak

PS went to the village and re-

covered the stolen electric ca-

bles from the village.

worth Tk 70,000

A dacotty was committed in a house at Barasala area of the suburb of Sylhet town recently.

According to report, a gang of dacoits armed with deadly weapons attacked the house of one Mr. Nastruddin Ahmed at midnight. They entered into the house by breaking open the collapsible gate of it. They took away valuables, gold ornament and a pistol worth about Taka. 70,000 from the

On getting information, a police party reached the spot and after sometime, they caught 2 dacoits from a nearby

A case in this connection had been registered with the

Bidis being sold without bandrolls

BORGUNA, Jan 21 : Bidis are being sold here without bandrolls to evade duty causing great revenue loss to the government, reports UNB.

It is alleged that many bidi factories in 11 upazilas of Borguna and Patuakhali districts are involved in this mal practice in connivance with local customs and excise department officials.

Local people alleged that bidis are being sold without bandrolls or in certain cases used bandrolls collected from the retailers are reused.

revenue income from bidi manufacturers. Traffic jam has become a

common phenomena in the

A huge number of rickshaws now occupy Borguna roads.

JAMALPUR: The sadar than a police arrested three inter-district dacoits from Fulbaria area of the town recently. The police also recovered one pipe gun and ammunition from their Star photo possession.

Librarian - Achinta Nanda. Auditor - Moshiur Rahman. Sweet potato farming

Notes from

Magura

MAGURA, Jan 21: The

election of Magura Gover-

nment HSS College students

union will be held on February

13. Principal of the college

announced recently, reports

nomination papers will be an-

.It is expected that BNP

backed Jativatabadi Chhatra

Dal (JCD), Awami League

backed Chhatra League, Sha-

ngrami Chhatra Samaj and

Chhatra Moitree will contest

Bar executives

Advocates' Bar Association was

bearers are: President — Abul

Khaer, Vice-President - Beren

Sikder, General Secretary -

Fogurul Islam Faruque,

Treasurer - Sortful Islam.

held at its office recently.

Election to the district

The newly elected office

nounced soon.

the election.

The last date for filing of

Sweet potato cultivation has been geared up in 16 districts of Khulna Division with 11,911 hectares of land brought under a crash programme during the current rabi season.

The production target of sweet potato has been fixed at 1.52,841 metric tons, officials

Agriculture Department supplied essential inputs viz seeds, fertilizers, pesticides etc to the farmers for the suc-

cess of the programme. 14,7060 tons of sugar

At least 14,7060 metric tons of sugar will be produced by Faridpur Sugar Mills during the current crushing season,

Manager of the mills, 1,30

The work on the bridges

With the implementation of

1,01,100 sets of books distributed

primary schools were given the books under the Universal Primary Education Progra-

Besides, the actual produc-

Local leader and elite have urged the authorities to check duty evasion which is depriving the government of huge

tion of the factories is not

shown in the paper submitted

to the excise officials.

daily life of the town dwellers catising them immense suffering for a long time.