

Upazila roundup

CHAPAINAWBANJ

Health complexes face problems

From Our Correspondent
Jan 28: All the health complexes of five upazilas and health centres in different unions of the district have been facing multifarious problems.

The normal activities of the health complexes are greatly hampered due to the paucity of drinking water, absence of ambulance, blood bank, dental and eye specialists, scarcity of medicine and shortage of staff and surgical equipments.

Everyday thousands of patients come to the health complexes. But they become disappointed for want of proper treatment. It is gathered that the inadequate number of doctors and nurses cannot cope with the demand of patients. The supply of medicines especially the life saving drugs is not sufficient. The people of the district have urged the concerned authorities to take steps to mitigate the sufferings of local patients.

SHARIATPUR

24,300 hectares of land under boro cultivation

From Our Correspondent
Jan 28: The Agriculture Extension Department has taken up a scheme to bring 24,300 hectares of land under boro cultivation in six upazilas of the district during the current season.

According to official sources, 20,300 hectares will be brought under High Yielding Variety and 4000 hectares under local variety.

Bangladesh Krishi Bank will provide credit facilities to farmers to boost production. BADC will also supply seeds and fertilizers.

The sources added that a total of 17,000 hectares of land have been brought under aman cultivation in six upazilas of the district during the current season.

CHUADANGA

18 schemes on road development

From Our Correspondent
Jan 18: Works on 18 schemes under Food for Works Programme are going on in full swing in three upazilas of the district.

It is learnt, a total of 111 metric tons of wheat is used for this purpose.

Of the total schemes, 3 schemes are being implemented in Chuadanga sadar upazila at a cost of 24 metric tons of wheat, 6 schemes are being implemented in Alamdanga Upazila at a cost of 33 metric tons of wheat and 9 schemes are being implemented in Damurhuda Upazila at a cost of 54 metric tons of wheat.

All the schemes include construction and reconstruction of kutcha roads.

GAIBANDHA

Week-long eye camp concludes

From Our Correspondent
Jan 28: A week-long eye camp under the joint sponsorship of WIP Malnutrition Programme and Karim Hath concluded here at Ahameduddin Shah Sishu Niketan recently.

The programme was formally inaugurated by Shajada Anwarul Kadir, President, Chamber of Commerce, Gaibandha. Abul Basher Ahmed Chowdhury, Deputy Commissioner, Gaibandha was present as chief guest on the occasion.

About 500 patients with various eye complaints were treated and 50 others were operated upon. The operations were conducted by Dr AGM Golzar Rahman, Chief Consultant of Gaibandha Hospital.

COMILLA

Rally protests assault on newsman

From Our Correspondent
Jan 28: The journalists of Comilla brought out a procession protesting the assault on newsman Ziauddin Mahmud Mitu by Islami Chhatra Shibir activists in Comilla recently.

The journalists paraded the main roads of the town and handed over a memorandum to the Additional District Magistrate and SP of Comilla demanding immediate arrest of the miscreants for exemplary punishment.

SATKHIRA

One seriously injured by tiger attack

From Our Correspondent
Jan 28: One Meraj Ali (26) of village Kashmiri under Shyamnagar Upazila was seriously injured by a tiger near at Pora Katla Canal of the Sundarbans recently.

It is learnt, a tiger attacked Meraj while he was cutting the leaves of 'Gol'.

The co-workers of the victim rescued him from the clutches of the Royal Bengal Tiger in a serious condition and immediately sent him to the Shyamnagar Upazila Health Complex.

PABNA

Three persons wounded in UP election clash

From Our Correspondent
Jan 28: Three persons were injured including one woman in UP election clash between two rival groups at Chatakbarat under Santhia Upazila of the district recently.

Among the injured persons, Fatema Khatoun (25) was admitted at Santhia Upazila Hospital and her condition was stated to be critical.

MADARIPUR

Anniversary of Zia's birth observed

From Our Correspondent
Jan 28: The 56th birth anniversary of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman was observed by Bangladesh Gobeshona Kendra at its office recently.

A discussion meeting was held on the occasion with Forkan Ahmed, Chairman of the organisation in the chair.

The meeting was addressed among others by Salim Farazi, Belal Khan, Bornamus Sultan, Shahbuddin Mia, Babul Ahmed and M Ibrahim.

RANGPUR

One succumbs to injury

Jan 28: Mozahar (65), injured seriously in police firing in Borobil polling centre succumbed at Rangpur Medical College Hospital Thursday, reports UNB.

According to informed sources, three people were injured when police opened fire to disperse the mob during Wednesday's union parishad election at the polling centre in Gangachara upazila.

The injured were admitted to Rangpur Medical College Hospital. The condition of two others was stated to be critical, hospital source said.

Election results of eight out of nine unions were held up as violence erupted in 18 polling centres of the upazila.

CHANDPUR

Shishu pathagar

Jan 28: A public library for the children 'Shuryamukhi Shishu Pathagar' established by Shuryamukhi Kanch-Kancher Meja was inaugurated at Matlab upazila Headquarters recently, reports BSS.

Upazila Nirbahi Officer Mr Nurul Alam inaugurated the library. Mr Salamattullah, Principal, Matlab Degree College presided over the function.

The library will have books and magazines for the children.

GAZIPUR

IDB team visits ICTVTR

Jan 28: A four-member delegation of Islamic Development Bank mission led by Mr Hassan Jeng of Gambia visited Islamic Centre for Technical and Vocational Training and Research (ICTVTR) at Board Bazar here on Sunday, reports BSS.

Prof Dr AM Patwari, the Director General of the centre along with senior teachers, and officers received the delegates. The delegates were apprised of the objectives and activities of the centre.

The Director General also apprised them of the progress so far made. The delegates were shown various physical facilities developed to impart education and training of international standard to the students from the member states of the OIC.

The leader of the delegation assured that IDB will extend all possible assistance to the centre to enable it to function as a centre of excellence for the benefit of the Muslim ummah.



GAZIPUR: Prof Abdul Matin Patwari, Director General ICTVTR handing over a cheque on behalf of Islamic Bank, Joydevpur Branch to Maulana ASM Nazibullah, Secretary, Islamic Trust, Gazipur for organising an eye camp here. — Star photo

Gramin Bank in management

Tk 5 crore crop loss in five southern dists

PATUAKHALI, Jan 28: The Agriculture Rehabilitation Programme in southern region taken up in 1989 for attaining food autarky is presently suffering setback, reports UNB.

Informed sources said, Gramin Bank had taken over the programme for implementation initially in 5 districts of the southern region.

The districts are: Patuakhali, Barisal, Borguna, Jhalakathi and Gopalganj. But allegations say it has failed to generate interest among the farmers due to inefficiency of the personnel linked with the implementation of the programme.

As a result, there had been crop loss to the tune of Taka 5.00 crore since the inception of the programme. The Gramin Bank officials posted at the field levels were mostly responsible.

According to an informed source, about one thousand model farming plots were set up for exhibition with an allocation of Taka 2.23 crore.

Besides, a revolving fund of Taka 3.00 lakh from ADB grant was also created for education and training, display and exhibition tours and visits, field work, farmers' rally and procurement and distribution of

agricultural implements and logistics to make the programme a success.

According to a report, under the programme, at least 380 IRRI-boro schemes were taken up for execution in 1990-91. To this effect huge amount of money were also spent for procurement of power pumps, tractors, power tillers, HYV seeds, fertilizers and insecticides.

But due to the inefficient project management, all planning and efforts proved ineffective causing frustration among the farmers.

Local people alleged, delayed implementation of the IRRI-boro scheme is the prime cause of its failure. Besides, seeds supplied by BADC to the growers did not give desired yield. Natural calamities also hindered the programme.

It is further alleged that handling of the whole matter has created huge crop loss worth about Taka 3.00 crore in 1990-91.

As per programme, it is reported that 121 IRRI-boro schemes were taken up by the Gramin Bank on three-party crop sharing basis in the last season of the schemes — 50 were implemented in Patuakhali district, 40 in

Borguna, 13 in Gopalganj, 12 in Barisal and 6 in Jhalakathi districts.

About 4189 acres of land in those schemes were brought under cultivation of HYV paddy, specially BR-3 and BR-14.

But allegations said due to adulterated seeds from BADC, production per acre was far below the optimum level. Farmers informed that per acre yield was 12 to 15 mound only against the target of 50 mounds. The programme suffered a net loss of crop production to the tune of Taka 2.00 crore during the last season.

It is gathered that the Deputy Commissioner concerned in a report last year pointed out that inefficient management, corruption, wastage and other related factors were responsible for this.

According to a local source preferring anonymity, lack of coordination, supervision coupled with carelessness and mismanagement in the field level, indifferent attitude of BADC people, absence of proper guidance and counselling to the farmers contributed to the failure of the Southern Region Agriculture Rehabilitation Programme.

Notes from Maulvibazar

From Our Correspondent
MAULVIBAZAR, Jan 28: One Abdul Goni (26) of village Keola under Rajnagar Police Station was allegedly killed by his neighbour at his village recently.

It is reported that at the time of incident the victim and one of his brother Abdul Karim (32) were working in their paddy field. They were cutting a ridge at another plot of land for arrangement of irrigation. At that time, the owner of the plot reached the spot with some of his associates and hit Abdul Goni and his brother Abdul Karim by spade. As a result the two brother sustained grievous injuries. They were admitted to Maulvibazar Sadar hospital. But the next day younger brother Abdul Goni succumbed to his injuries.

In this connection a murder case was registered with Rajnagar police.

Superintendent of Police from Maulvibazar and Assistant-superintendent of Police from Kulara circle visited the spot. No person was arrested so far.

Three killed in road mishap

Three people including a minor boy were killed in separate road accidents in the district recently.

According to Police, Liton (12) of village Baurbhag of Sadar upazila was crushed to death under the wheels of a speeding bus (No-Chatta Metro Ja-929) at Baurbhag on Sylhet-Dhaka Highway.

One Jakir Hussain (25), a labour was hit by a Sylhet bound coach (No-Dhaka Ja-4483) and was injured seriously. He died on the way to hospital.

The incident took place while the victim was working at a bridge near Laskarpur on Sylhet-Dhaka Highway.

Another report says: Abdul Matin (25) of village Joypur under Bahubal upazila was crushed to death under wheels of a speeding truck (No Chatta Ja-3216) near Mirpur Bridge on Sylhet-Dhaka Highway. The driver along with his vehicles managed to escape.

Separate cases have been registered with the police in these connections.

Small, marginal farmers becoming landless

Small and marginal farmers in the district are rapidly turning landless due to poverty and other problems. Disbursement of bank loans has not been able to check their rising number.

These landless farmers are crowding into district town in search of food and employment. Having failed to get any job, most of them including women and children are resorting to begging.

It is alleged that the members of local union parishes, urban elite and the middlemen beneficiaries are taking bank loans earmarked for the farmers.

Local people urged the authorities to take necessary steps to arrest the situation.

Students for transport facilities

Students of All Amjad Government Girls High School and Hafiza Khatun Girls High School have demanded of the authorities to provide them with transport facilities.

They said journey to and from the schools through the narrow and congested roads had become hazardous particularly for those coming from flung areas everyday.

The students suffer much during their examination when rickshaws pullers demand exorbitant fares.

Traffic rules

Ignoring traffic rules is now the rule in Maulvibazar town, creating great problems to the passers-by and for vehicular traffic.

Parking of trucks, buses and rickshaws here and there on the main roads of the town blocked the roads creating traffic jam.

Clash over football match, 10 injured

COMILLA, Jan 28: Ten people were injured in a clash over a football match at Matara Village in Sadar upazila of the district on January 23, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, the final match of the tournament was being held between Zia Smriti Sangad and Noogram boys' Club. At one stage of the game a player of Noogram Boys' Club committed foul and the agitated viewers entered the field and started a skirmish injuries ten, one of them seriously.

247 surrender with 104 guns in 2 dists

From Our Correspondent
JHENIDAH, Jan 28: In all 139 armed activists of different underground political parties surrendered within the period of general amnesty expired on January 25 and laid down 63 arms and 247 bullets in five upazilas of the district, police said.

Of the total activists, 58 in Sadar, 30 in Kotchandpur, 28 in Kaliganj, 13 in Harinakundu and 10 in Shailakupa thana.

Of them, 67 of Sharbahara Party (Qamrul), 48 Biplobi Communist Party (Hug), 17 JSD Ganabahini, six Purbabangla Communist Party and one Rabi Group (ML).

The surrendered activists laid down 36 pipeguns, 11 shutterguns, 10 deshgun, deshi pile, cut rifle and one mortar and 157 rifle bullets, 49 gun bullets, 40 SLR bullets and one mortar shell.

Arms recovery position in Jhenidah is the highest, police said.

BSS from Barisal adds: A total of 108 members of the so-called Sharbahara Party has surrendered to the police between January 1 and 25 in Barisal district in response to the general amnesty declared by the government.

Kancha latrines pollute city atmosphere

From Our Correspondent
RAJSHAHI, Jan 28: The kancha latrines which are in use in large scale in this city pose serious health hazard to the residents.

The house owners in the densely populated areas of the city in most cases have constructed kancha latrines beside their dwelling houses creating problems to the maintenance of health and sanitation system in the city.

Besides, there are innumerable kancha latrines by the sides of the public thoroughfares in different areas of the city and that make problems to the pedestrians.

These open latrines by the sides of the roads create obnoxious situation especially during the rainy season polluting the atmosphere of the surrounding areas.

It is learnt that Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) took up a plan to distribute low-cost sanitary latrines to the city dwellers few years back. But the plans yet to be fully implemented due to lack of proper initiatives, it is informed.

According to sources, out of the 11,000 kancha latrines, 5000 were turned into sanitary latrines by the initiative of the corporation.

City dwellers have urged the RCC authorities to take immediate steps to remove the kancha latrines as soon as possible to ensure primary health care and sanitation facilities for the residents of the city.

The RU inter-college cultural competition was concluded here recently.

Vice Chancellor of RU, Prof Amanullah Ahmed formally inaugurated the week-long competition at Kazi Nazrul Islam auditorium.

At least 700 students from 21 colleges and 12 residential halls under the university took part in different items of the competition. The items include Tagore Songs, Nazrul Geeti, folksongs, instrumental music, acting, debate and recitation from the poem in Bengali and English.

1200 power lines disconnected

KUSHTIA, Jan 28: At least 1,200 power lines in Kushtia Town and its adjoining areas were disconnected by the Power Development Board for non-payment of Tariff during the month of December, reports BSS.

An official source said the board realised an arrear of Taka 70 lakh during the month Taka 29 lakh were collected during the month of November.

The source said vigorous drive had been given to reduce system loss and realise outstanding dues.

Situation tense in CHT Kidnapped men still under captivity

RANGAMATI, Jan 28: A tense situation is prevailing in the hill tracts region as the kidnapped drivers and the forest officer remain in captivity of the tribal terrorists for more than two weeks, reports UNB.

The tribal terrorists had taken hostage two drivers from Manikchari-Mohalchari Road after putting barricade on January 9 and kidnapped a forest officer on the next day.

The drivers stopped movement of vehicles on four routes from Rangamati for six days in protest. Road communication resumed on the assurance by the civil and military administration that the kidnapped persons would be recovered in four days.

But the whereabouts of the hostages remain unknown more than a week after the time limit expired.

Agitation and anxiety of the local people have been intensifying and tension mounting as rumours spread that the miscreants demanded a huge amount as ransom which could not be paid by the authorities.

Different organisations including those of the forest employees regional and national have condemned the action and atrocities committed by the tribal terrorists.

An informed source said the tribal terrorists have killed 24, injured 10 and kidnapped 5 people in the last one month.

The biennial council meeting of the Awami League district unit will be held on February 10 at local municipal auditorium with Pulin Dey in the chair.

Begum Sazeda Chowdhury MP, Secretary General of the party will be present at the meeting as chief guest.

Party leaders include, Ataur Rahman Khan Katsa, Akhtaruzzaman Chowdhury MP, Sultanul Kabir Chowdhury MP, Mustaque Ahmed Chowdhury MP, Ishaque Miah MP and Mustafizur Rahman MP will attend the council meeting, says a Press release.

Bangladesh Rifles seized Indian smuggled goods worth about Taka 12 lakh from a truck in the town Friday and arrested two people in this connection, reports UNB.

Acting on secret information, BDR jawans rushed to the Trunk Road area and seized the truck. But the driver managed to escape.

The contraband goods include spices, sugar, pulses, onion, cosmetics, spare parts and utensils.

Terminal at Chandpur bus stand needed

From Our Correspondent
CHANDPUR, Jan 28: The bus passengers on Chandpur-Comilla, Chandpur-Dhaka, Chandpur-Chittagong, Chandpur-Brahmanbaria and Chandpur-Feni have been facing much inconveniences due to absence of a terminal at the local bus stand.

Thousands of bus passengers suffer for want of a suitable terminal where both male and female passengers can wait and take rest. The female passengers are found standing on the road or nearby open places for a long time to avail buses on different routes.

The sufferings of the passengers increase mainly in the rainy season. The passengers are to wait for the buses and as a result they have no other alternative but to stand during rain time. The children are the worst hit.

toilets facilities causes serious problems particularly to the women and children. Absence of any drainage system, water remain stagnant in and around the bus stand. There is also no facility of supplying pure drinking water.

There is no systematic arrangement for parking of the vehicles at the bus stand. Hundreds of vehicles are parked here and there.

The bus stand needs immediate development with a view to extend better facilities to the passengers and safe parking of the huge number of vehicles.

The passengers suffer much for the over loading in the buses particularly in the local buses. The tendency of the local and express buses to overtake each other causing accidents.

Departmental tussle hits re-excavation plan

GAIBANDHA, Jan 28: Re-excavation of river Akhira, flowing through Palashbari upazila under Teesta Drainage Project could not be implemented following contradictory notion of two local water development authorities.

The plan was approved by the higher authority of Water Development Board and it being implemented by Rangpur Teesta Project. In which a total of 81-kilometre river bed was scheduled to be re-excavated for irrigation purposes from Dalia Barrage.

Last year, about 15-kilometre river bed was re-excavated spending 1,200 metric tons of wheat. This year, the authority further allotted 2,200 metric tons of wheat for re-excavation of the remaining portion under second phase. But for some unknown reason the higher authority stopped the implementation of project work.

According to a reliable source, the Akhira River portion was taken under the jurisdiction of Gaibandha district. The authority of Gaibandha Water Development Division field a motivated report for construction of an embankment along the river

concluded here recently.

A colourful rally comprised with artists and drama lovers was held which paraded the main roads of the town.

A discussion meeting and a drama 'Naishaw Bhoj' written by Monoj Bosh was held at local club. Those who took part in different characters were Alamgir Kabir Badal, Rashidunnabi Pitu, Liton, Riton, Musa, Mainul, Obaidur, Rinku, Shagor and Ruma Shaha.

The drama was directed by Rahat Kabir Palash.

Fish cultivation plan

A largescale fish cultivation programme has been undertaken by the Fishery Department in 16 northern districts during the current fiscal year.

Under this programme, the department will release 20 crore fish fry in 16 districts during the season. Out of that 15 crore fish fry will be released in open water, three crore fish fry allotted for different fish producing farms and remaining two crore will be distributed among the fish cultivators.



JAMALPUR: Local Kabita Parishad organised a poetry reading competition held at Singhaji High School premises recently. — Star photo