

Upazila roundup

BHOLA

Tk 45 lakh for rehabilitation programme

Jan 29: The government has sanctioned Tk 45 lakh for the implementation of 12 projects in Bhola district under Post-cyclone Rehabilitation Programme in the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the projects include construction, reconstruction and repair of bridges, culverts and roads.

The Local Government Engineering Bureau (LGEB) has been implementing the projects, the source said.

SATKHIRA

Fish fry worth Tk one lakh poisoned to death

From Our Correspondent
Jan 29: Fish fry worth Taka one lakh was poisoned to death here by a group of miscreants recently.

It is gathered that a group of miscreants poured poison into a hatchery owned by one Wazed Ali of village Rasulpur under Satkhira pourashava at deadnight. As a result, fish fry worth Taka one lakh was completely lost.

A case was lodged with Satkhira PS in this connection.

PATUAKHALI

Club takes up plans to help women activities

Jan 29: Mothers Club, an integrated child health organisation has taken up various philanthropic programmes for implementation within the municipal area of the district, reports UNB.

Club sources said it will disburse small loans among the distressed women on easy terms to achieve self-reliance in maintaining their livelihood. Besides, it will arrange training for self-employment for the jobless and idle women under community development scheme.

Mothers Club has also taken up a plan to set up a model agriculture farm near the club premises to acquaint the poor women farmers with scientific methods of cultivation. The club has set up 128 branches in different areas of the district. Every branch has at least 15 members, 9 health workers and one MBBS female physician.

JESSORE

Training course on gymnastic inaugurated

Jan 29: A 10-day training course on gymnastic arranged by Jessore District Sports Association was formally inaugurated by Bhuiya Rofiquddin Ahmed, DC, Jessore at the local Gymnasium centre recently.

Deputy Commissioner, in his short address underscored the need for uniform development of physical, mental and cultural faculty of the boys and girls in their formative stage of life to become useful citizen of the country.

He called upon the participants to take the advantage and equip themselves for the future.

Addressed among others by Shafiquzzaman, General Secretary and Syed Ali Anwar, Secretary of the Gymnasium Parishad and a trainer.

AGRI-VARSITY

JCD bags all posts in college union polls

From BAU Correspondent
Jan 29: The election of the Munimnassa Govt Women College Students Union was peacefully held recently.

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) has bagged the all 14 posts of the polls. The elected persons are — VP- Sayeeda Fateema Akhter Koli, OS-Fahmida Begum Moni, AOS-Nursat Ara Nazlec, Sports Secy- Sayeeda Marjia Sultana Marjia, Literary and Cultural Secy- Sufia Khatun Mina, Social Welfare Secy- Mahmuda Khatun Liza, Common Room Secy- Nurun Nahar, Magazine Secy- Fatema Begum Parvez. Members — Sultana Yeasmin Luna, Mahbuba Parveen Lucky, Shahana Ferdousi Rana, Sultana Razia Begum Poli, Nurun Nahar Hasratara.

It is learnt, five panels including the Bangladesh Chhatra League (SA-A), BCL (N-S) and Samajtantrik Chhatra Front contested in the polls.

GAZIPUR

Executive body of BNP unit

From Our Correspondent

Jan 29: The conference of Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Dal, Gazipur Paura Unit was held at Chandana Cinema hall recently.

Mir Halimuzzaman Nani presided over the conference. Jute Minister ASM Hannan Shah and State Minister of Religious Affairs Prof M A Mannan attended the function as chief guest and special guest respectively.

The conference was inaugurated by Chowdhury Tanvir Ahmed Siddiqui, Vice-Chairman of BNP central committee.

Addressed among others by Sheikh Abul Hossain, Harun-Or-Rashid and Abu Taher. Later, a 51-member executive committee was formed with Mir Halimuzzaman Nani and Sirajuddin as President and General Secretary.

KURIGRAM

Winter sports held

From Our Correspondent

Jan 29: The winter school and madrasa sports of the district was held recently with much enthusiasm at the local stadium.

The competition was formally inaugurated by the Deputy Commissioner, Kurigram.

More than 200 competitors from Chilmari, Rajarhat, Bhurungamari, Kulbari, Nageswari and Kurigram Sadar upazilas participated in 30 events of the competition in four groups.

The competition was conducted by Shaubuddin, Gobinda, Dollar, Abdul Matin, Rabindra Nath Roy, Bhulu Roy and Prof Mostafa Khondoker.

After the competition, Shafiqul Islam, DC, Kurigram gave away prizes to the winners.

COMILLA

Govt urged to solve newsmen's housing problem

Jan 29: A general meeting of Comilla Journalists Housing Society (CJHS) was held here Thursday at the local Press Club, reports UNB.

The meeting was presided over by the President of Comilla Union of Journalists Principal Delwar Jahid and addressed, among others, by M O Mahfuz, Nazrul Islam Babul, Aziz Masud, Ali Akbar Masum, Md Shahidullah, Salahuddin Ahmed, S M Shamim Ahsan, Syed Nurur Rahman and Kazi Emdadul Haq.

The journalists urged the government to take effective steps to solve their housing problems. A nine-member committee was also formed for the year 1992-94 with Principal Delwar Jahid and Prof Abul Samad as Vice-President and General Secretary respectively.

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BOGRA

Tk 15 cr poure development plan underway

Jan 29: A Taka 15 crore programme is underway for the development and repair works of Bogra poure area under ADB's medium type town infrastructure development programme, reports UNB.

According to pourashava sources, a scheme of Taka 7 crore has already been taken for the said work during 1991-92 financial year.

The scheme includes construction of a market measuring 9 hundred metres, 2 kilometre road, 82 kilometre footpath and box culvert 3, pipe-culvert 7 and construction and reconstruction of 7.80 kilometre drain, 4 kilometres new drain and 259 latrines in poure area.

BARISAL

Boy burnt alive, goods worth Tk 15 lakh gutted

Jan 29: A boy was burnt alive and goods worth about Taka 15 lakh were gutted in a fire at Torkey Port area in Gouranadi upazila of the district Sunday. Fire Brigade sources said, reports UNB.

Jali (17), a worker of electronic goods shop owned by Khokan Molla, was roasted alive as the fire originated from an electric short circuit at a tailoring shop at about 2.25 am engulfed almost the entire shopping centre.



RIVER EROSION: It devours the lands and houses of the villagers and compel them to take shelter in embankments, railway and launch stations where they lead a subhuman life being unemployed. Star Photo

Abnormal fall in water level, ferry services threatened

PABNA Jan 29: Ferry services on Nagarbari-Aricha and Paksey-Bheramara routes are threatened as water level has been decreasing rapidly at the river Padma and Jamuna, reports UNB.

According to official sources, more than 2000 chars have already surfaced on both the rivers, where dredging work is being hampered by fund shortage.

The allocation of the BIWTA is only Taka 2 crore per year for dredging, but the amount is said to be too small to complete the work.

The present ferry services in both the rivers are running through one channel which is very narrow and risky. The chars also hamper the movement of ferries, cargoes, launches and other water transports.

According to ferry masters, the movement of the launches becomes difficult as water level is not up to the work. Six to eight feet water depth is essential for the movement of ferry. But in many places the flow on Padma and Jamuna is below this level. The ferry ghat

is required to be shifted to Ranghanathpur, three kilometers south of Nagarbari.

Due to destructive effects of Farakka Barrage, about 23 rivers in northern districts have been silted up causing overflow and floods in the rainy season.

Irrigation is being hampered due to fall in the ground water level and farmers have lost hope of this winter crops. About 35,000 fishermen have given up their vocation in the 16 northern districts.

It may be maintained here that the North Bengal Paksey paper Mill requires a huge quantity of water every day, which cannot be supplied due to abnormal fall in the water-level.

knowledgeable sources and experts apprehended that if water level continues to fall it might cause extensive desertification of the northern districts.

12 lakh suffering from goitre

About 12 lakh people have been suffering from goitre in

16 northern districts of the country.

The district are: Pabna, Sirajganj, Rajshahi, Natona, Nagoan, Chapainawabganj, Bogra, Joypurhat, Rangpur, Nilphamari, Kurigram, Gaibandha, Lalmonirhat, Panchagarh, Dinajpur and Thakurgaon.

A survey conducted jointly by the Nutrition Institute of Dhaka University and the World Food Organisation (WFO) reveals that about 12 lakh people have been attacked by goitre which mainly originated from malnutrition.

The number is gradually going up due to lack proper preventive measures.

The main cause of the disease is iodine deficiency which turned acute in the northern districts of the country during the past few years. Out of the total number attacked with goitre, about four lakh are children, sources said.

2 killed in road accidents

Two people including a school boy were killed in sepa-

rate road accidents her today, police and witnesses said.

The victims are Hamidul Islam (12), a student of class five of a local private school in Sujanagar upazila and Moslemuddin (45), son of Allaiddin Ali of village Atapara of Iswardi upazila of the district.

Hamidul Islam was run over by a speeding truck on his way to school near the Sujanagar bazar this morning.

Hamidul was rushed to a local health complex where he succumbed to injuries.

The driver alongwith the truck, however, managed to escape the scene.

In another incident, Moslemuddin (45), was killed by a speeding passenger-bus on the Pabna-Sujanagar road near Andrew Pharmaceutical Company at around 1 pm today.

He died on the spot, when the bus hit him from behind while he was crossing the road.

Police seized the bus (Pabna Ba 460) but the driver managed to flee. The body was sent to the Sadar hospital for autopsy.

Compulsory Primary Education Plan in jeopardy

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, Jan 29: The Compulsory Primary Education Programme (CPEP) launched by the government from January first of the current year did not mark any progress as yet, instead it seemed kept confined in papers and wide publicity through mass media and other means.

In the first phase, Sadar upazila has been taken under the programme. In this connection, a survey has already been completed, in which about 58 thousand boys and girls between six years to 10 years age group have been enrolled. Of them, about 40 thousands are not going to schools while the rest 18 thousands have been identified as school going.

The total number of primary schools in the Sadar upazila is 153, of them, 123

are government and the 30 others are non-government.

With a view to make the Compulsory Primary Education Programme a success, double shirt in all the primary schools is needed to be introduced. But although a month elapsed, no initiative has so far been taken up in this respect and thus the much publicised Compulsory Primary Education Programme is now uncertain.

According to informants, most of the primary schools both government and non-government are in bad shape following lacking of required benches, chairs, black boards, and other necessities and shortage of teaching staffs.

Besides these, the school houses are mostly in dilapidated conditions and during rainy season, it becomes impossible to run the school

defying gusty wind and rain waters which pass inside it through broken roofs and fences.

The experienced circle believes that the government initiative to drag huge non-school going children to the schools under Compulsory Primary Education Programme will go unheeded, unless the on-going bottlenecks of the primary educational institutions are removed by this time.

Compulsory Primary Education programme was formally inaugurated here at Daryapur High School premises under sadar upazila recently.

Abul Bahser Ahmed Chowdhury, Deputy Commissioner, Gaibandha inaugurated the programme enrolling the name of children.

UP poll candidate killed, supporter injured

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Jan 29: A Union Parishad member candidate, Yeasin Biswas Latu (32) was killed and another injured by some unknown miscreants recently at Kungshi of the sadar thana.

According to the injured person, the victim Latu of village Madhupur alongwith his supporter Abdullah was attacked by unknown miscreants while they were coming to their residence after election campaign from neighbouring village.

A case was filed with the Jhenidah thana and investigation is going on in this regard.

Another reported adds: Some explosives were hurled in the procession of UP Chairman candidate, Mahmud Ahmed, by some unknown miscreants.

French envoy meets VC of RU

RAJSHAHI, Jan 29: French Ambassador to Bangladesh Serge Degallax met with Vice-Chancellor of Rajshahi University Prof Amanullah Ahmed at his office on Tuesday, reports UNB.

Officials said they discussed various issues related to the University's academic activities.

The French Ambassador also spoke at a seminar on Bangladesh-France relations organised by Institute of Bangladesh Studies (IBS) at its auditorium on the University campus.

Earlier, Serge Degallax visited the Barendra Research Museum and praised it for good collections.

Dr Saifuddin Ahmed Chowdhury, Acting Director of the museum and Prof Mahmud Shah Qureshi, a faculty member of the University, showed him various sections of the museum.

Widespread erosion causing unemployment

MAULVIBAZAR, Jan 29: Widespread erosion of rivers and natural calamities are causing landlessness and large scale unemployment in the district, reports UNB.

Rajnagar, Kulaura, Kamalganj and Sadar upazilas have been badly affected by erosion of rivers Monu and Dholal which have already rendered many families homeless.

Landlessness has forced many farmers to switch over to other profession mainly day labourer or rickshawpuller. Others are taking to streets begging for mere survival.

On many occasions, farmers were compelled to sell their property due to hardship caused by price spiral and burden of outstanding agri-loan.

Crime in the area are on the rise due to massive unemployment among the youths.

A report from Borguna says: Landless and jobless people are increasing day by day in the district headquarters following widespread erosion of rivers and natural calamities.

The worst affected upazilas are: Amtoli, Barna, Betagi and Patharghata where erosion of river Patra and Bishkhali continue round the year leaving many homeless and destitute.

Leaving all their belongings many of them have changed their vocation into day wage earners or rickshawpullers.

Many destitutes simply turned into beggars for sheer livelihood pushing the number of beggars to increase alarmingly in the district.

Borguna, a food producing district where per head cultivable land is so small that it cannot serve any agro-economic purpose.

Consecutive floods, drought and high price of agri-inputs decreased crop yield worsening the condition of the farmers.

Low price of jute and other cash crop were also adversely affecting economy of the marginal farmers. They were compelled to sell their last property due to acute hardship and for the payment of their outstanding credit.

Dacoity at day time, boat passengers looted

SIRAJGANJ, Jan 29: Dacoits attacked a mechanised boat in river Jamuna on Tuesday morning and looted its passengers' belongings worth about Taka 45 thousand, reports UNB.

Police said, a gang of robbers swooped on the Chouhali bound boat and beat up the passengers before looting them.

Cabbage farmers to earn Tk 50 crore

From Our Correspondent

DINAJPUR, JAN 29: Cabbage, a winter vegetable largely grown in three northern districts of Panchagarh, Thakurgaon and Dinajpur is expected to fetch Taka fifty crore for the peasants of these districts during the current season.

It is estimated that some 10,000 acres of land have been brought under cabbage cultivation in these three northern district during the current season.

Of the total land, some 6,000 acres of land are in 13 upazilas of Dinajpur District, 3,200 acres in 5 upazilas of Thakurgaon and 1,800 acres in 5 upazilas of Panchagarh District.

More than 20 lakh metric tons of vegetable is expected to be grown in the district at the rate of 200 metric tons to 215 metric tons per acre.

The district-wise breakup of the expected cabbage production is: Dinajpur-12 lakh metric tons, Thakurgaon-5 lakh metric tons and Panchagarh-3 lakh metric tons.

At present, the market

price of cabbage is Taka 350 per metric ton and 20 lakh metric tons of cabbage is expected to fetch Taka 50 crore for the peasants of the districts.

One ideal farmer, Mr. Majiruddin Shah (62), a member of Agricultural Cooperative Society and Contact Grower of Uttar Debipur under Sadar upazila expects to earn Taka three lakh from his cabbage crops on five acres of land this season.

Majiruddin told this correspondent that according to his estimate his cabbage crops on five acres of land would come to 1,400 metric tons per acre. This will fetch Taka 3 lakh at the current market price.

According to a spokesman of the District Extension Office, 240 metric tons per acre is a record in cabbage production in the district.

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.

Cow, fodder scarcity affects milk output

From Our Correspondent

KUSHIA, Jan 29: Milk production is decreasing in the district day by day due to scarcity of milch cows and fodder.

According to reports, the number of milch cows have rapidly decreased for huge slaughtering of cows for consumption as flesh in the absence of requisite fish supply which is considered as the main food item for the Bengali people.

Fresh grass is needed for milch cows is not easily available in the towns including the villages now-a-days. At present grass is not grown as before because of the change of pattern of crops with the mechanised system of cultivation. A major portion of grass land has been brought under IRR-boro cultivation. Keshari, mashaoli and orhar were abundantly cultivated in the land which were used as fodder in a huge

quantity.

Cattle disease has become a regular feature in the district. During the past decade thousands of milch cows were killed and attacked by the fatal diseases. Farmers alleged that the staff of the Livestock department practically took no step to save the valuable cows from the attack of the diseases. Thus a great number of cows were killed by the disease which broke out as epidemic.

Due to the scarcity of milk, the prices of the milk products have also risen. The gosh community is about to give up their profession for the scarcity and high price of milk. The availability of pun milk is also hard as water is mixed with the milk to increase the quantity.

The scarcity of milk has compelled the milk consumers to use powder milk.

Teachers rally in support of demands

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Jan 29: Teachers of all non-government educational institutions held a huge rally Monday at the Nawabganj High School here with Principal Nizamuddin in the chair to press home their 15-point demand, reports UNB.

The rally was addressed, among others, by Saidur Rahman, Headmaster of Hamidullah High School, Safiqur Rahman, Prof Zatul Hossain and Golam Mostafa.

After the rally, members of Federation of Bangladesh Teachers Association (FBTA) brought out a procession in the town which paraded the main roads of the town.

It may be recalled that private school teachers all over the country launched a phase-wise movement for realisation

of their demand since November 3 last.

Their demands include removal of anomalies between government and non-government pay scales affecting due promotion immediately and withdrawal of suspension orders to a large number of teachers.

In Rangpur: About 1,000 non-government teachers on Monday brought out a procession to press home their demands.

The processionists paraded the main thoroughfares of the town demanding resignation of the Education Minister for not resolving their demands.

They later staged demonstration in front of the DC of office in support of their demand.



KURIGRAM: A meeting of the teachers of the local government college held here recently at the chamber of the Principal where they discussed the academic atmosphere of the college. Star Photo