

Upazila roundup

RAJSHAHI

Minibus skids off road, 14 injured

From Our Correspondent
Feb 4: At least 14 persons were injured and four of them seriously in a road accident on Dhaka-Rajshahi highway near Rajshahi University main gate recently.
Eye witnesses said, the accident occurred when a Chapinabganj bound minibus skidded off the road.
The seriously injured persons are: Atinul Haque, Tufan Ali, Ayenuddin Mondel and Anu Misti. They were sent to the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.
It is learnt, the driver of the bus managed to escape. A case has been filed with kotwali thana in this connection.

MAGURA

Shifting of post-mortem house demanded

Feb 4: The people of this district town are facing serious health hazard being exposed to the continuous stink from the post mortem house situated in the densely populated area, reports UNB.
The post mortem house was set up at the present location long ago when it was almost lonely. It has turned into a densely populated zone now with town area growing ever since.
It is alleged that autopsy work is done almost uncared. Very often decomposed bodies remain scattered emitting bad odor polluting the environment.
Sometimes unclaimed corpse are thrown around the house from where stray dogs carry portion of the dead to nearby residential areas.
Although concerned authorities issued orders for shifting the house to some suitable place, it is not being complied with for unknown reasons.
People of the affected areas, however, continue drawing attention of concerned higher authorities for immediate shifting of the morgue.

GAIBANDHA

Thief held, TV set recovered

Jan 4: Sundarogj thana police have arrested a thief Aminuddin Alias Bhabat and recovered a stolen television from his possession, reports UNB.
Police said that Bhabat was leader of an inter-district gang of thieves and had been trying to arrest him since early last month.
The stolen TV set was recovered from another house on the basis of his confessional statement.

JHENIDAH

Teachers hold rally in support of demands

Jan 4: About one thousand teachers and employees of non-government schools and colleges of the district brought out a procession in the town on Monday in support of their 15-point demands, reports UNB.
The processionists later held a rally at local high school ground with Abu Bakkar, Headmaster of Shaikakupa Plot High School presiding and Abdul Mannan Rustom Ali and others addressing it.
They gave the Deputy Commissioner a copy of their 15-point demands.
Teachers of non-government College, Madrasa and Schools of Maulvibazar went on strike for an indefinite period at the call of Bangladesh Shikshak Federation in six upazilas of the district.

KHAGRACHARI

Digging of canal going on

Feb 4: Digging of Chota Khagrachari Canal is in full swing after being inaugurated recently by Major General Mahmudul Hasan, General Officer Commanding 24 Infantry Division of Chittagong, reports UNB.
In the inaugural ceremony, present among others, were Brigadier Sharif Aziz, Regional Commander Khagrachari Region, Mohammed Shamsul Karim, Deputy Commissioner of Khagrachari and Abdul Mannan Superintendent of Police.
Fifty per cent of total fund will be allocated from the relief and rehabilitation section of the Deputy Commissioner to implement the project under the National Canal Digging Programme.

DINAJPUR

Circuit House, maternity centre to be renovated

Feb 4: The Dinajpur Circuit House and Maternity Centre be renovated at a cost of Taka 51 lakh.
According to PWD office, Dinajpur Circuit House has become unfit for habitation. A sum of Taka 20 lakh has been sanctioned for its reconstructing and Taka 31 lakh have been sanctioned for Dinajpur Maternity Centre.
Tenders for the aforesaid works may be invited soon.
Another message adds: Dacoits took away valuables including cash Taka 9,000 and injured 3 people in a highway hold-up last week.
According to witnesses, the dacoits put barricades on the road to stop nine trucks with paddy on the Kanna bridge of Birganj Upazila and snatched away money and valuables at daggers point.
Azhar Ali, Jahedur Islam and Hashem Ali of village Monkira were injured in the attack.
The dacoits fled away when a BDR patrol party arrival at the spot.

JESSORE

Imam Parishad holds rally against housie

Feb 4: The District Imam Parishad brought out a procession Wednesday to protest holding of housie which they said was gambling, reports UNB.
They also held a meeting at the Eidgah Maidan and submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner urging him to ban housie in the district.
Another procession was brought out in the town on the same day demanding the release of Jilur Rahman Mintu, a member of pro-Awami League Chhatra League who was earlier arrested by the police.

MAULVIBAZAR

Nursing Training Centre in problems

Feb 4: The nursing training centre of the town here has been facing multifarious problems, reports UNB.
The centre has no building of its own and it is being housed in a rented building in a very unhygienic situation.
It is learnt that although a substantial amount of money is annually earmarked for the construction of the nursing training centre, no steps are taken to start the construction work at the site selected for the purpose.
The 75 feet long rented building, which is being used as class rooms, staff quarters, hostel and office room can not provide adequate space.
This building can accommodate only 22 students and every year over 100 students are refused admission.
There is only one bath room for the staff and students causing great difficulties.

PATUAKHALI

Work on 49 uplift plans in progress

Feb 4: Work on 49 development projects at a cost of Taka 54 lakh is progressing fast in different upazila of Patuakhali, reports BSS.
According to an official source, the projects included construction and reconstruction of roads and culverts. About 20 per cent work on these projects have been completed.
The communication network of the district will be improved to a greater extent on completion of these projects.

NETRAKONA

25 hurt in road mishap

Feb 4: At least 25 persons were injured some of them seriously in a road accident on Saturday at Rajarbar area, about one kilometre from here on Netrakona-Thakurakona Road, reports BSS.
Immediately after the incident a contingent of police rushed to the spot and retrieved the injured passengers trapped in the ill-fated vehicle.
The accident occurred when a passenger bus from Netrakona skidded off the road and fell into a roadside ditch. The driver of the bus fled from the scene immediately after the accident.
The injured persons were admitted to Netrakona sadar hospital for treatment.

Aricha-Daulatdia ferry service troublesome

From Our Correspondent

RAJBARI, Feb 4: The problems of the passengers on Aricha-Daulatdia Ferry route have not yet been solved though two more ferry boats were added with the existing number due to emergence of numerous charlands.
The usual speed of ferry boats has become very slow resulting in inordinate delay in crossing the rivers between Aricha and Daulatdia ghats. As a result, hundreds of trucks carrying goods everyday remain stranded hours to gather both at Aricha and Daulatdia ghats.
Due to emergence of charlands, the ferry ghats are frequently shifted to other points for which the authority have to



ARICHA GHAT: Hundreds of passengers are to walk a long distance to board the river transports here. — Star photo

5 killed, 25 hurt in mishaps

PABNA, Feb 4: Three people were killed and 25 injured when a bus crashed on a roadside shop on the Bogra-Nagarbari Highway near Bera Upazila on Monday, reports UNB.
Monser Ali (65) and another middle-aged man died on the spot and a minor boy, Liton (7) succumbed to his injuries on way to the sadar hospital.
Eight of the injured were rushed to the Sadar Hospital and 10 admitted to the Bera Health Complex.
The condition of Sabura Khatun (22), Manik (30), Shahjahan (28), Abu Hanif (30), Shahadat (33) and Hiran Sardar (40) was stated to be critical by the attending doctors at the Sadar Hospital.
Witnesses said the accident occurred as the driver lost control of the bus while trying to overtake a truck.
Bera police seized the bus, but the driver fled.
A report from Jessore says: A young rickshawpuller was run over by a speeding minibus in front of the Education Board Office here on Sunday.
According to witnesses the mishap took place while the victim Md Moshir (28), of Monirampur Upazila of the district was crossing the road.
A case has been lodged with police in this connection.
Another report from Narail adds: Miscreants brutally killed Shushanto Das (26) of Kulatala area of the pourashava here on Sunday.
According to police, a gang of eight assailants called Shushanto out while he was sleeping in his room. They axed him to death and fled.
On information, Shohrab Hossain ex-Chairman of Narail Pourashava and Sub-Inspector Waltuzaman, in-Charge of Narail Police Station visited the place of occurrence.
The cause of the murder could not be ascertained.

Resource rich Sundarbans

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Feb 4: The Sundarbans with its vast forest resources lying on the southern part of the country and acting as one of the potential sources of our national economy.
The mangrove Sundarbans of Khulna region, the forests of Chittagong and Chittagong Hill Tracts cover the major forest areas of Bangladesh. Of them, the Sundarbans occupies the first and foremost position.
Geo-physical existence of the forest queen Sundarbans its river net-work, qualities of trees, huge fish deposits, chital deer and Royal Bengal Tiger in deep forest have enriched the forest with natural gifts.
The greater Khulna, Patuakhali, Barisal, Jessore and Faridpur districts are being influenced directly or indirectly by the Sundarbans. Besides, this forest acts as a guiding force in the economy of Khulna, Bagerhat, Satkhira, Barisal, and Patuakhali. Numbers of people of these areas are earning their livelihood through collecting firewood, goal leaves, honey and wax from the Sundarbans.
People who work at the risk of life in the Sundarbans are known as Bawali. During fish catching season a large number of fishermen come to fish in the Sundarbans shore. Various local methods including jhakinet, diaranet and kakranet are used in catching fish. Fishes are available at the Sundarbans sea-shore through out the year.
Compared to other forests, the Sundarbans are much more productive. People called Mowals are engaged in collecting honey and wax. Mowals activities are seasonal. It starts from April and continue upto the end of June. Dozens of Mowals are killed every year by the tigers of the Sundarbans, yet they enter into the deep forest taking the

highest risk of life to collect honey and wax because these are much profitable.
People who earn livelihood by collecting jhinuk or shell are known as Jangrokhuta. Jhinuk is available both in forest and sea-shore. Jangrokhutas sell their collection in the market. Lime is produced by burning the jhinuks.
Goal leaf plays an important role in the building of houses in the rural areas. Hundreds of people are engaged in collecting goal leaves from there and the houses build of goal leaves



are more durable than those of grasses.
Some trees of the forest are used as pillars for huts and machas. Bola, a variety of trees is a popular firewood among the poor people because its price is reasonable. Goran, a better quality of tree which is mainly used as fuel can also be used as fences. The amur wood is widely used in the making of handicrafts. Singra, Jhana and Kirpa are also used as fuel and as well as pillars.
Extraction of nalgola, pal-patala, chhan, heligras and utigras is a profitable work. Sundar trees are produced in 70 per cent of the total forest. It is used in building bridges, culverts, furniture, launches, buses, trucks, boats, electric poles and factories. A major portion of firewood demand is met by this kind of trees. It is also used as raw material for manufacturing the hardboard.
Gewa trees comprise 16 per cent of the total forest of the Sundarban. The major portion of the production are used as the raw material of the Khulna News Print Mills. Besides, the match factories of the country use this tree as raw material. Kakra, keora and bain are also available in this forest by which furniture, agricultural equipment, toys are made. These are also used as firewood.
The forest is located by the side of the sea and during day time this area remain inundated by the tidal saline waters.

Notes from Tangail

TANGAIL, Feb 4: Fish disease has broken out through out the district recently, Reports BSS.

Dead fishes in enormous number are surfacing and rotting in ditches, ponds, rivers and other water bodies and spreading stench and polluting the environment.
Fish suffers bad sores and other symptoms of ailment. Although the disease has been continuing since 1988 none could yet have said how long a fish suffers the disease before it dies.

Maulana Mohammad Iman Ali, Superintendent of Madhupur Syed Ahmadiyatimkhana said that the orphanage suffered a loss of at least Taka four lakh in the last four years due to fish disease in their farm.
Fishes like puti, sholi, gazar, katla, magur, rui, margil, baim, kot and sing are main victims of the disease.

According to BIWTC source, everyday 45 launches, two ro ferries, 3 big ferries, 5 small ferries and many cargoes ply between Aricha and Daulatdia ghats.
According to Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) source, everyday two dredgers have been working since July last and in the meantime a total of Taka 20 crore has been spent. The dredging failed to maintain usual flow of the ferries. Two ferries can not pass side by side on the route. The launches also cannot move freely on the route.

Dacoities have been rampant on the route, Aricha and Daulatdia. The authorities have not yet deployed police forces to maintain the law and order situation of the area.
A master of a ferry boat told this correspondent that most of the marking lights on the channel have either been stolen away or become out of order. As a result, the ferry boats and launches at night time are to move very cautiously and it makes the vehicles more slow.

With the new two, the number of total ferry boats stands at eight which also can not maintain the time and usual services.

One dacoit held
One person, stated to be a member of inter-district gang of dacoits was arrested by police from village Kendua under Tangail Thana recently.
Tangail police has given the name of the person as Abdus Sattar (25) and said that he was wanted in connection with several dacoity cases.

School boy drowned
Mithun, an eight-year-old student of class two of Pakhsai Primary School drowned in a ditch at village Charan under Kalihati upazila recently.
He went to visit his grand parents during the winter vacation but as ill luck would have it met the tragic death. Mithun was the only son of an engineer.

Islamic confce concludes
A three-day long annual Islamic Conference of Khilgati Yatimkhana concluded at its camp, recently.
Maolana Muhammad Ibrahim Siddiqui Alqarisi Pirshahid of Furfura Sharif India attended the function. Maolana Mohammad Abdus Salam Raji presided over the function.

Steps for congenial atmosphere stressed
Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin Sirar said the present democratic government will favour spread and development of higher education through introduction of honours and post-graduate courses in some government colleges.
All steps are being taken to bring about qualitative change in the system of higher education, he added.

He was addressing as chief guest at the installation ceremony of students union and opening ceremony of masters degree at Ghatil Brahman Shason Gano College at Ghatil of the district.
Presided over by Deputy Commissioner of Tangail Khan Shahabuddin. The function was addressed by State Minister for Relief Lufar Rahman Khan, Mrs Anwara Habib MP, President of Tangail District BNP Hamidul Haq Mohan and Vice-President of college union Monzur Kader Bakul.

One poisoned to death by wife
DINAJPUR, Feb 4: Zaheda Khatun (26), allegedly poisoned her husband to death at Khanshame upazila here at the instigation of her paramour, reports UNB.
It was alleged that Zaheda Khatun of village Chhatiangarh of the upazila had illicit connection with her cousin for a long time. She is said to have mixed poison with food on January 27, which Md Dabruddin (35), took and died in one hour time.

Bar assoc executives
MYMENSINGH, Feb 4: Bar Association elected Advocate Md Zohirul Haque and Advocate Kabiruddin Bhuiyan as President and Secretary respectively Monday, reports UNB.
Association sources said other elected office-bearers were: Vice-Presidents - Md Nurul Islam and Md Shamsul Haque, Assistant Secretaries - Sree Amolch Chandra Dey, Iqbal Ahmed Khan and Md Rezaul Karim Khan (Dulail), Auditor - Md Nurul Islam (Tara) and Members - Emdadul Haque Millat, Ashok Kumar Ghosh, Nurul Islam, Monir Hossain Khan Azad, Md Abul Kashem, Md Solimullah (Salam) and Mir Emran Ali Pavel.

1610 power pumps to be distributed
Barisal, Feb 4: Agriculture Development Corporation has undertaken a programme to distribute 1610 power pumps and 209 tubewells among the farmers of the eight southern districts during the current rabi season, reports UNB.
The districts are: Barisal, Patuakhali, Bhola, Bogura, Pirojpur, Jhalakathi, Madaripur and Shariatpur.
According to official source, 375 power pumps will be distributed in Barisal, 146 in Jhalakathi, 274 in Pirojpur, 220 in Bhola, 250 in Patuakhali, 205 in Bogura and 80 in Madaripur.

Farm loan distribution Procession against irregularities

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Feb 4: More than 500 farmers of Dharampasha Upazila of Sunamganj District brought out a procession at the upazila headquarters recently in protest against the largescale irregularities and corruption of the Manager and employees of the Sonali Bank branch here in disbursing the agricultural loans among the farmers.
The processionists went to the office of Upazila Nirbahi Officer and urged the authority to take necessary steps against the said bank officials on the said charges. They later on gheraoed the bank and chanted different slogans.
It may be mentioned here that there are allegations against the Manager and employees of the Sonali Bank branch at Dharampasha for a long in the distribution of special agricultural loans among the poor and marginal farmers. They are deprived of the loans though there is sufficient fund from the authorities. Some local touts and influential people have been dominating the loan distribution programme.
The UNO informed the processionist that, the matter would be taken to the notice of the high officials of the bank for necessary actions.

Dacoity in 8 shops
Daring dacoities were committed in eight shops of Mokambazar, Bhadeswar Union of Golapganj Upazila on the night following Monday last.
According to the reports, on the midnight of incident, a gang of dacoits armed with deadly weapons attacked the shops and looted eight shops by one.

They took away money in the shops. The dacoits managed to escape after committing the dacoity safely, it is informed.
A case in this connection had already been registered with the Golapganj police station by the bazar committee. But no action has yet been reported against the miscreants, it is alleged.

2500-line phone exchange soon
RAJSHAHI, Feb 4: A new telephone exchange of 2500 lines will be set up soon in the district to meet increasing demands, official sources said, reports UNB.
About 45 thousand applications have been submitted for new telephone connections in 16 districts of Rajshahi division during the last five years, sources said.
The existing exchanges were aimed to accommodate 19,844 telephone connections but only 16,483 connections have been established till now.
Sources said that government could earn about Taka 2.5 crore revenue, about Taka 24.4 crore call-charge and about Taka 4.6 crore line-rent from the rest 3,361 connections if they were established.
T & T Board had been deprived of about Taka 40 crore revenue income for non-giving connections in time during last 10 years in the northern districts.
Sources informed that the regional offices of T & T Board at Rajshahi, Pabna, Bogra, Dinajpur and Rangpur had no authority to grant or reject applications for connections.

Urs mubarak
BSS adds: A two-day urs mubarak ended here on Saturday the mazar of Hazrat Shah Mukhdum (R) through offering prayer.
The main programmes of the urs mubarak included recitation from the Holy Quran, jikir, discussion meeting and mlad mahfil.
The discussion meeting was addressed, among others, by Mayor of Rajshahi City Corporation, Mizanur Rahman Minu and Vice-Chancellor of Rajshahi University Prof Amanullah Ahmed.
Highlighting the life of Hazrat Shah Mukhdum (R), the speakers urged all to follow the ideals of the great man for the wellbeing of humanity.
City Mayor, Mizanur Rahman Minu presented a new glaf to the mazar of Hazrat Shah Mukhdum (R). A large number of followers from different places attended the urs.

Work on 300-km roads in progress

MYMENSINGH, Feb 4: Reconstruction of nearly 300-kilometre roads of Greater Mymensingh is going on in full swing, reports UNB.
The estimated cost of the project is nearly Taka 222 crore with foreign exchange component of Taka 183 crore jointly financed by Asian Development Bank and Bangladesh Government.
Reconstruction project taken up by the Roads and Highways Department in 1989-90 is expected to be completed by 1993. With the completion of the project far flung areas of the districts of Jamalpur, Sherpur, Netrakona and Kishoreganj and the district headquarters of Sherpur and Netrakona shall be connected with national highway net-work.
The project areas includes Mymensingh-Phulbaria, Mymensingh-Phulbari-Haluaghat, Mymensingh-Netrakona-Thakurakona, Tangail-Madhupur, Kapattia-Bashail, Porabari-Gopalpur, Jamalpur-Sherpur-Jhulgaon, Jhenagati-Jhulgaon.

With the project completed, there will be a great qualitative change in the communication system of Greater Mymensingh area having far reaching socio-economic impact over the whole region.
BSS adds: State Minister for Social Welfare and Women's Affairs, Mrs Sarwar Rahman has called upon the women to be organised for greater interest of the nation under the banner of Jatyatabadi Mohila Dal.
She was addressing a women's rally as the chief guest under the auspices of Mymensingh Town Union of Bangladesh Jatyatabadi Mohila Dal at Mymensingh Town Hall maldan on Friday.
The State Minister said, overall development efforts would not be made successful unless women folk was involved in the mainstream of national development process.

One anti-corruption case in a year!

PABNA, Feb 4: Anti-corruption Department here filed only one case last year while recording 244 complaints during the period, reports UNB.
According to official sources, of the total complaints, 20 were found groundless and 144 not within the jurisdiction of anti-corruption and the rest 100 inquired by the officials.
The only case filed involves two accused namely Almahmud Sarker of Bera upazila and a close associate of former State Minister for Relief Major (Retd) Monzur Kader for misappropriation of wheat worth about Taka 131,600 of PWP project.
Enquiry against the accused was alleged to have been delayed by some dishonest officials.
The Livestock Department failed to take up vaccination programme due to scarcity of necessary vaccines this year.

According to informed sources, at least 850 cattle have perished since the outbreak of the diseases a few months back.
The worst affected upazilas are: Pabna Sadar, Vafgura, Faridpur, Chatohar, Alghoria, Ishwardi, Bera, Sujannagar and Sarthia.
The diseases known as 'Khura' and 'Galafala' make the cattle unable to walk and eat.