

Upazila roundup

MAGURA

Cultural function

Feb 9: A cultural function was held at Magura Textile Mills premises under the auspices of Magura Textile Mills Samik Karmochari Union, reports UNB.

Nirmal Chandra Sarkar, Deputy Commissioner of the district attended the function as chief guest while Police Super, Abdur Rahim Khan attended as special guest.

The function was also addressed by Faruqul Islam, President of the Union.

A good number of local artistes took part in the function.

PATUAKHALI

1,84,000 tons of sweet potato to be produced

Feb 9: Bangladesh Agriculture Extension Department (BAED) has taken-up a programme to cultivate sweet potato in eleven southern districts in the current season, reports UNB.

Official sources said, about 8600 hectares of land have been brought under the programme.

Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) has supplied High Yielding Variety (HYV) of seeds, fertilizers and other necessary inputs for the successful implementation of the programme.

It is estimated that about 1.84,000 metric tons of sweet potato will be produced in the districts during season under the scheme.

COMILLA

One gets 5-yr RI for smuggling

Feb 9: A man was sentenced to five years rigorous imprisonment on charge of smuggling, court sources said here on Saturday, reports UNB.

Mohammad Nurul Wadud, Additional Sessions Judge, Second Court and Anti-Smuggling Tribunal No 5 also fined him Taka 2000, in default, to suffer one year more.

The case, in brief, was that one Rafiqul Islam was arrested by the BDR on August 20, 1990 while he along with his accomplice was smuggling Indian sarees into the country.

Acting on secret information, BDR men ambushed in bordering village Pachora and found them coming from Indian side with two bundles of sarees on their head. When challenged they tried to flee away leaving the bundles behind and BDR managed to arrest Rafiqul Islam.

A case was filed and police after investigation submitted charge sheet against him.

JAMALPUR

3 held, arms recovered

Feb 9: Police arrested three people and recovered one pipe-gun, one toy pistol and some explosives from their possession, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip, police nabbed the miscreants on January 28 while they were preparing for dacoity at midnight.

The arrested are Masum (18), Munir (20) and Alamgir (19).

A case has been lodged with the police in this connection.

CHANDPUR

Renovation work of post office complete

Feb 9: Renovation and repair work of Chandpur Head Post Office building has been completed at a cost of Taka 64,982, said an official source, reports UNB.

Besides, water supply and sanitation system in the same building has also been renovated at a cost of over Taka 52,000, the sources added.

With the completion of the work the long felt demand of the local people has been materialised.

RANGAMATI

Science fair

Feb 9: A science fair was held at the Rangamati Government College premises on the occasion of the 15th National Science and Technology Week, reports UNB.

Chairman of Rangamati Local Government Council, Goutam Dewan inaugurated the fair while Principal of the College, Mattur Rahman chaired the opening function.

Fifty five projects are on display at the fair which is being participated by eight science clubs, including the Science Seeker's Club of Rangamati.

RANGPUR

54 rehabilitation plans under implementation

Feb 9: The district administration is implementing 54 post-monsoon rehabilitation projects with an allocation of 373,496 metric tons of wheat during the current fiscal year in 7 upazilas, reports UNB.

Official sources said the government has sanctioned wheat to execute these schemes under Food for Works Programme.

Of the total projects, 9 are being implemented in sadar upazila, 8 in Mithapukur, 11 in Pirganj, 11 in Pirgancha, 6 in Kaunia, 8 in Gangachara and rest 9 in Badarganj upazilas of the district.

The projects include construction and reconstruction of roads damaged by last devastating floods.

Besides, 3713,587 metric tons of wheat are being distributed at Pirganj and Pirgancha upazilas of the district during this fiscal year under FWD to execute three water development projects.

JHENIDAH

Tk 31.11 lakh smuggling goods seized

Feb 9: Bangladesh Rifles seized contraband goods worth about Taka 31.11 from bordering districts of Chuadanga, Meherpur, Jhenidah and Magura during anti-smuggling drive in January last, reports UNB.

BDR sources said a total of 37 smugglers were arrested and 68 cases filed during the period. Seized goods include cattlehead, salt, sugar, bicycle, saree, cloth and other materials.

Replying to queries, Colonel Mustafa Anwar, Commanding Officer of Chuadanga said variation of price level between India and Bangladesh, on the one hand, and unemployment and poverty of the bordering people, on the other, were the main causes of smuggling.

SUNAMGANJ

Week-long eye camp held

Feb 9: A week-long eye camp was held at the local auditorium of Deraul Upazila of the district recently, reports UNB.

It was organised by Gramin Jonakalyan Sangsad in cooperation with the Rotary Club of Sylhet and OSB branch.

About 116 cataract patients were operated upon successfully while 1200 eye patients were given primary treatment.

Prof Mizanur Rahman, Head of the Department of the Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College conducted the operations.

TANGAIL

Workshop on epidemiology

Feb 9: A week-long workshop on epidemiology sponsored by World Health Organisation (WHO) was held at Tangail Medical Assistant Training Centre recently, reports BSS.

Thirty six persons including twelve doctors, six health inspectors, six sanitary inspectors, six statisticians and six relevant health officers attended the workshop. Specialised resource persons conducted the workshop.

DINAJPUR

Number of drug addicts on increase

Feb 9: The number of drug addicts among the youths including students is increasing alarmingly throughout the district causing grave concern for the guardians, reports UNB.

According to a survey, most of the drug addicts are young and only six to seven per cent of them are teenagers.

These youngsters are addicted to intoxicants and drugs like liquor, opium, morphine, tablets, Mrita Sanjibani Sura and other types of liquids containing alcohol, the sources said.

It is learnt that most of the addicts visit pharmacies and medicine shops after the sunset to buy these intoxicants.

Local people alleged Dinajpur town and adjoining areas have turned into open markets, for drugs mostly smuggled from India and Burma by an well organised gang.

Some dishonest traders taking advantage of this buying spree among the youth are doing a brisk business by selling drugs even without asking for a prescription which is strictly required under law.



PABNA: The present condition of the mighty Padma at Hardinge Bridge point.

— Star photo

Irregularities in Railway Western Zone

From Our Correspondent

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Feb 9: Hundreds of passengers have been suffering much and the government is deprived of huge amount of loss due to the gross irregularities in Western Zone of the Bangladesh Railway.

Additional Chief Commercial Manager, Western Zone visited different sections of the zone in last October and found some gross irregularities.

During his visit, the Executive of the railway found that 120 bags of onion weighing 3,300 kgs were booked from Khulna to Rajshahi instead of 6,000 kg. This type of irregularities were also found in Jessore Station also.

A large number of passengers travel from Bogra to Syed Ahmed College, Bonarpara and Sonatala station but tickets are not available at these stations. It was informed to the higher authorities concerned but no measure has yet been taken.

The parcels booked from other stations are released at Bogra Station without any weighing.

Three assistants are needed for the parcel office at the station but at present there are six assistant. A large quantity of fertilizers are booked for Bogra

but these are not released on time. The hotline telephone of the station has been lying out of order for a long time but no step has yet been taken to repair it.

The attendance register at Darsona Station is not maintained properly. An employee of SM Grade has been paid his salary though he is absent for four months.

A ticket collector, a tally clerk and a sweeper are absent for few years but their names are still in the attendance register at Dinajpur Station.

Pirganj and Shripganj stations need more wagon to carry jute to different stations but the requisite number of wagons were not supplied for the reasons not known. So, the government is being deprived of a huge revenue.

The Station Master of Shympur Station has been kept under suspension for a long time on charge of misappropriation of money but the case is still hanging. A temporary transferred employee at Badarganj Station was directed to return back Parbatipur Station but this directive of the higher authority is not being carried out.

Six booking clerks have been working at

Chapainawabganj Station though there are only three posts of clerk at this station. It is informed that these people arrange posting here through illegal means.

The telephone bill of Chapainawabganj Station during the first seven months of 1991 stood at Taka 78,000 which is 18 times more than the previous year. The higher authority ordered to withdraw the NWD facility but the order has not yet been carried out.

The booking clerks released 10 bags Postadana in the name of rebooking it at the Bogra Station.

A retired employee, Itmadulla has been working at Chapainawabganj Station like a regular employee for a long period.

In 1989, Bright and Company booked 19 wagons of cement from Daulatpur to Chapainawabganj. Taking personal benefit, the then Station Master took Taka 21,000 less against the actual rate. The Audit Department asked him to pay the amount but that amount is still not paid. The Divisional authority informed that they were going to take action against the Station Master.

Notes from Sylhet

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Feb 9: A daring theft was committed at a shop of Ajmiriganj upazila headquarters of the district recently.

It is reported that at the midnight of the incident, a gang of thieves entered into the shop of one Nitai Roy by breaking open the locks. They took away gold ornaments worth about Taka 1.50 lakh and Taka 25,000 in cash from the iron safe of the shop.

A case in this connection had already been registered with the police.

Cow lifter killed

An alleged cow-lifter was killed in grappling with the houseowner at village Nayakhail under Jaintapur upazila recently.

According to the reports, at about 9 PM on the night of incident, a gang of miscreants entered into the cowshed of the house by breaking open the locks. Being aware of it, the houseowner tried to resist them and then ensued grappling resulted the death of a thief on the spot. The other members of the gang, however managed to escape.

Police recovered the body and sent it to the Sylhet MAG Osmany Medical College Hospital for post-mortem.

Two bodies recovered

Police recovered two bodies from the river Kushiara at Lama Meherpur area of the district recently.

It is gathered that, Jamshed Ali (50) and Aziruddin (30) of village Chandarpur were missing since the armed clash took place at Sunampur village under Golapganj upazila.

The bodies were sent to the Sylhet MAG Osmany Medical College Hospital for post-mortem.

Police had arrested two persons in this connection, it is learnt.

Goods worth over Tk 1.50 lakh seized

Smuggling goods worth about Taka one lakh 70 thousand and 900 were seized by the police of Gowainghat PS recently.

On getting secret information a police party from the thana seized 55 bags of Indian sugar near village Lengura. They also arrested three persons.

A case in this connection had already been started with the police.

Four killed over land dispute

Four persons were killed at village Fatehpur under Golapganj upazila of the district recently.

It is reported that a clash took place between two rival groups over a previous land dispute. Following this clash, four killed and at least 30 others were injured.

Police arrested five persons in this regard. The arrested persons are Panki Miah, Rashid Ali, Torab Ali, Suruk Miah and Umar Ali.

Postal staff steal stamps

MAJLIDICOURT (Noakhali), Feb 9: Some dishonest employees of Chaumuhant Sub-Post Office are stealing stamps fixed on the envelope posted to the hundreds of relatives living abroad, reports UNB.

It was alleged that each letter bearing such stamps costs upto Taka 25. These racketeers after taking away the stamps threw away the letters to the waste paper basket which never reach their addressee.

It is also reported that the racketeers working in the Postal Department are involved in such malpractices earning huge money by selling these stamps to other parties afterwards.

Local people urged the authorities to take punitive measures against corrupt employees of the Postal Department after proper enquiry.

Fuel scarcity hits irrigation

From Our Correspondent

BOGRA, Feb 9: The pump machines under operation for irrigation to the IRRI fields in different upazilas of the district have been facing closure due to acute scarcity of fuel.

It is learnt that the local branch of Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC) has failed to supply fuel to the owners of the shallow tubewells and co-operative krishi managers regularly.

When contacted, one low-lift pump scheme manager of Sonatala area told that they were purchasing the diesel and mobil at exorbitant prices due to irregular supply of it.

When asked about the cause of non-availability of fuel here, the local BADC office informed that actually there was no scarcity but they could not

manage the same to supply from district town to the remotest areas for bad communication.

Floating people

Influx of floating people in the district town is increasing alarmingly and have been polluting the atmosphere for the last few months.

Official sources said that of the total 27 lakh population two lakh are floating people. These people rush towards the town in search of food and job.

Facing the severe food crisis, many people come to the town with the hope of getting job but they fail to manage it and as a result most of them including their children resort to begging and sometimes they commit anti-social activities.

Jute smuggling along Satkhira border

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Feb 9: The border markets of India are now flooded with good quality of Bangladeshi jute. The growers of jute of the country did not get fair price this year.

The smugglers availed the opportunity and smuggled out jute to earn more profit with surplus benefit of higher valuation of Indian Rupee.

On the otherhand, the border markets of Satkhira are flooded with Indian diesel and kerosine as these items have more demand in the country.

Despite drives by the task force, the smuggling of various items are going on, it is informed.

The owners of vehicles, deep tubewells, shallow tubewells of the border areas of the district have been using smuggled Indian diesel as it is available at cheaper prices while patrol and it by-products like diesel, kerosine of the country are sold here at an exorbitant prices.

The petroleum Corporation authority is very much worried over such alarming situation of the marketing of petroleum goods.

When contacted, the fuel dealers and agents of the different petroleum products of different companies like Padma, Jamuna, and Meghna told this

correspondent that the consumers prefer Indian diesel and kerosine as these are available in the local markets at a lower price.

Acute scarcity of pure drinking water has posed a serious problem to the people in the rural areas of the district.

According to reports, the existing number of tubewells is quite inadequate to meet the need of the growing demand.

It is learnt from the official source that there were 18 lakh pieces in the district and 13,085 tubewells. Of which, 1576 are lying out of order.

Out of the disorder tubewells, 215 are in Satkhira sadar, 209 in Tala, 196 in Shymnagar, and 96 in Debhata upazilas of the district. The tubewells have remained out of order for three years. No effective steps has yet been taken to re-sink or replace the old ones.

A mysterious disease that broke out in Kaliganj upazila of the district claimed three lives last week, reports UNB.

The victims were identified as: Ruizan (40), wife of Upen and Zamilia Khatun (50), wife of Faraket of village Ganapati and Abdul Jabbar (60), of Basantapur village of the upazila.

Tribal insurgents leave huge arms

RANGAMATI, Feb 9: Security forces in Rangamati, Khagrachari and Bandarban hill districts captured a huge quantity of arms and ammunition through encounters with tribal terrorists during the last three years ending January this year, reports UNB.

Zonal military officials said, the captured arms, ammunition and accessories were made in China, India, the United Kingdom and Czechoslovakia.

The recovered arms and ammunition are: SMG- 40, SMC - 155, mortar - 10, short gun - 465, rifles - 396, grenade - 284, mine - 2, revolver and pistol - 58, rocket lancer - one, small gun - 211, country made improvised gun - 289, wireless set - 2, explosives - 265 pounds and ammunition - 2.97 lakh.

Moreover, a sizeable quantity of arms and ammunition have also been deposited by the tribal terrorists who gave themselves up to the security forces and the local administration.

Some arms and ammunition were also recovered by peace-loving villagers both tribal and non-tribal from extortionists who would come to collect money at gun point, the sources added.

Another report from Khagrachari adds: Security

forces recovered the body of a tribal terrorist and some arms and ammunition after an encounter with the insurgents at Puzgoan in Panchari Upazila of the district Thursday.

According to official sources, security forces also recovered one sub-machine gun, 19 rounds of ammunition, one magazine and few documents related to insurgency.

Local tribals identified the body as Niru Chakma, the sources added.

Pregnant housewife beaten to death

PABNA, Feb 9: A pregnant housewife of village Kasim Malanchi of Sujanagar Upazila was allegedly beaten to death by her husband for non-payment of dowry money, police said, reports UNB.

According to family sources, Abdul Wahab Mollah was torturing his wife Rubiya Khatun, daughter of Md Fazur Rahman for dowry since their marriage.

When Rubiya refused to bring the dowry money from her poor father on January 30, Wahab got furious and started beating her mercilessly. She died on the spot.

The body was sent to morgue for autopsy. A case has been filed with Sujanagar Police.

4 held with huge forged seals, stamps

TANGAIL, Feb 9: Tangail police arrested four persons and recovered huge forged stamps, documents and deeds in connection with a forgery case on Friday, reports BSS.

Tarapada Sikdar, Sub-Inspector of Police, Tangail thana led the operation to catch Mohammad Ali, Sukur Mohammad, Moked Ali, and Moynal Haq from Betka Beltabari and Kaptipur villages under Sadar upazila.

Police said during the operation they recovered 110 seals of different courts, sub-registrars offices, many old deeds, forged documents, stamps of British and Pakistani period

along with chemicals, pen, ink and other materials.

The sources said that the forgers would use the old written stamps to make forged documents of land property.

A S M Salahuddin Khan, Assistant Sessions Judge, Second Court, Tangail, recently convicted Mir Zahurul Islam Badsha and sentenced him to undergo rigorous imprisonment for five years and a fine of Taka one thousand.

In default to pay the fine, he will have to suffer another term of three months rigorous imprisonment, the judgement said.



CHANDPUR: Dr Mobarak Ali Akhand, Director, National Science Museum visiting different stalls at science fair held at Chandpur Govt College recently. — Star photo