

Upazila roundup

PABNA
Inter-dist drama competition

Feb 12 : Inter-district drama competition under the auspices of Pabna Banomali Institute get underway here on Thursday to continue through the end of this month, reports UNB.

Rajshahi Divisional Commissioner, M A Habibullah will inaugurate the competition as a chief guest.

The competition will have 14 drama clubs joining from different parts of the country. The clubs are Ganomancha Fulkuri Kishore Theatre, Treeraina Krira Sangha, Darpan Theatre, Kushtia Shilpakala Academy, Jhendah Bhorian Natto Gosti, Strajganj Anushilan, Ananya 79, Kushtia Arun Udal Natto Shikha Samity, Sangrami Natto Dal, Strajganj Nur Theatre, Kushtia Pragoti Theatre, Rajbari Chaderhat and Bhola and Rupoh Natto Goshti, Strajganj.

DINAJPUR
Firewood use in brickfields unabated

Feb 12 : Despite government ban, trees are being cut indiscriminately for use as firewood in 40 brickfields in the district, reports UNB.

It is alleged that everyday a huge quantity of timber is being carried to the brickfields by trucks in front of the law enforcing agencies.

Unscrupulous traders are carrying on this illegal trade causing depletion of forests.

According to environment experts such wanton destruction of trees if allowed to continue would upset the ecological balance.

Local people urged the authorities to arrange coal for brickfields at a reasonable price and save forests.

JAMALPUR
Bar assoc executives

Feb 12 : Advocate Nazrul Islam Dulu and Advocate Shaukat Ali have been elected President and Secretary of the District Advocates Bar Association in the election held here recently, reports UNB.

The other office bearers are : Azizur Rahman Talukdar and Jinnat Ali — Vice President, Baki Billah and Fazul Bari — Joint Secretaries, Altaf Hossain — Auditor.

The members are : Nihar Chandra Nandi, Mokbul Hossain Noni, Abul Kashem, Amanullah Akash, Golam Mostafa, Javed Ali, Rezaul Haq, Abdul Hye, M A Karim, Assadullah, Shafulah Khandakar and Prof Solaiman Haq.

MAULVIBAZAR
Welding factories create obstacles

Feb 12 : At least 50 unauthorised welding factories have been set up beside the roads creating obstacles and environmental pollution, reports UNB.

Physicians said that the town dwellers were suffering from various diseases including eye complications due to adverse effects of oxygen flames from the factories.

Local people have urged the authorities to take immediate action against the unauthorised welding factory owners.

PATUAKHALI
Trust faces management problem

Feb 12 : The Baiful Aman Trust of the town is currently faced with acute management problem and internal conflict, reports UNB.

According to report, the trust presently maintains a mosque, orphanage (Lillah-Boriding), Hafiza Madrasa and some socio-economic welfare activities in the locality.

It is alleged that due to internal conflict and management problem, the trust is now suffering a serious setback and losing the confidence and support of the local people.

The elite of the town urged upon all concerned to settle the management problems of the trust in the greater interest of the social welfare. It is reported.

It is gathered that the trust is also getting financial support for implementation of its projects from various organisations of USA and other foreign countries.

JAMALPUR
National Science Week held

Feb 12 : The 15th National Science and Technology Week was held with much enthusiasm at Ashok Mahmoed College premises recently, Mr Jalal Ahmed formally inaugurated science week.

Students of various schools and colleges put up science projects in the exhibition which were highly appreciated by the visitors.

Professor Md Ashrafuddin, Principal of the college distributed prizes among the students.

BARISAL
6,121 tons of wheat for 112 projects

Feb 12 : The government has sanctioned 6,121 metric tons of wheat for implementation of 112 projects in ten upazilas of Barisal district under Food for Work Programme in the current season, reports BSS.

According to relief and rehabilitation office sources, the projects are excavation and re-construction of 28 canals, re-construction of 80 roads and levelling of four playgrounds.

Work on these projects had already been started and is expected to be completed by the end of April, the source said.



CHANDPUR : A waz mahfil was held at Farajikandi Complex, Matlab recently where Syed Yusuf Syed Hashem Rafai, former Religious Minister, Kuwait was present as chief guest. — Star photo

Substandard medicines flood markets

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Feb 12 : Substandard medicine including the life saving drugs have flooded the markets all over the district.

It is reported that fungus, flies etc are often found in many drug containers including the saline and important injections. The affect of these contaminated drugs endangering the lives of the patients.

Many drug companies are manufacturing the substandard medicine without requisite certificates from the concerned authorities and these drug companies are marketing their products through attractive publicity.

A section of physicians is also prescribing these substandard medicine. Patients complained that the agents and representatives of these drug companies entice the physicians in different ways to prescribe their products.

The quacks in the villages prescribe these medicine as these are available at a comparatively cheaper rate. The patients informed that they were not getting any positive result after using these substandard medicine. Most medicine shops in the rural and urban areas have no valid licences and they are selling such drugs in larger quantity.

Some chemists suggest that no medicine should be allowed to sell without proper test certificates from the concerned authorities.

The concerned authorities have been urged to take steps against these substandard medicine producers for the interest of the people.

The Public Health Engineering Department, Gaibandha has taken up a programme to instal 1,011 tubewells in seven upazilas of the district during the current year.

Of these, 187 tubewells will be sunk in Satkhira sadar, 146 in Kalaroa, 168 in Tala, 196 in Kaliganj, 160 in Assasuni, 72 in Shymnagar and 82 in Deb-

High price of bamboo hits cottage industries

GAIBANDHA, Feb 12 : Bamboo based cottage industry has been facing problems due to acute shortage of bamboo in the northern region, reports UNB.

A considerable number of craftsmen who depend on bamboo made articles like chatal or dharai, kula jhary, baskets and others for their livelihood have become unemployed due to price hike of bamboo.

Bamboo clusters in different areas of the region have considerably diminished and turned into cultivable land as no effective measures have been taken for plantation.

As a result scarcity of bamboo has become acute in the northern zone of the country including Gaibandha and its price has gone up abnormally.

The situation aggravated in the rural areas where more than 80 per cent people live in kutcha houses and can hardly afford to purchase bamboo at such exorbitant prices.

No attempt has been made to save the bamboo clusters from decay.

Academic atmosphere absent

Our Correspondent adds : Students of Bhagdariya Government Primary School under Sadullapur Upazila are not getting proper education for want of academic atmosphere.

The tin-shed roof of the school house was blown away by the last norwester. The school house is yet to be reconstructed. About 350 students are now attending their classes under the open sky.

Moreover, shortage of furniture, black board and other essential items is creating trouble to children. The local people urge the higher authorities concerned to mitigate the suffering of the students.

The authority of Kamarpara Parimadhab High School is realising excess fee for issuing testimonials to the SSC passed candidates.

The authority on the plea of school development fixed Taka 60 as testimonial fee. As a result, poor and fixed income group families cannot afford such undue fee and are being harassed by the authority.

One gets life-term, 2 to suffer 14-yr RI for dowry

COMILLA, Feb 12 : A man was sentenced to life-term and two others 14 years rigorous imprisonment with fine for inflicting physical injury on three girls for dowry, reports UNB.

According to the prosecution, accused Khokan Mia, Malek and Borhan threw acid on Raashida Begum and her two sisters who were asleep in their house on June 24, 1989.

Raashida daughter of Abdul Malek of village Sayed Khayerkandi in Daudkandi Upazila was married to Khokan who demanded Taka 30,000 from his mother-in-law for going to Middle East. When the parents refused to pay, Khokan sent his wife Raashida to her mother and continued pressing her for the money.

On the night June 24, 1989 the victims saw Khokan, his two accomplices Malek and Borhan outside the window, fleeing after throwing acid on them.

Chand Baru, mother of the victims, lodged ejarah with Daudkhandi Thana in this regard.

Twelve prosecution witnesses were examined in the case.

In the judgement delivered recently, Khokan was given life imprisonment with fine of Taka 2000 and Malek and Borhan 14 years RI each with fine of Taka 1000.

133 Degree examinees expelled in 2 dists

MYMENSINGH, Feb 12 : Degree Examination was held peacefully in all the nine centres of the district, reports BSS.

A total of 2934 candidates have been appearing in the examination this year from these centres. According to the district administration 121 candidates were expelled from these centres for adopting unfairmeans.

Another report from Barisal adds: Twelve Pass and Subsidiary examinees of the district were expelled on the first day of Degree examinations in Barisal on Monday for adopting unfairmeans.

Notes from Satkhira

SATKHIRA, Feb 12 : The officers and employees of all the nationalised banks including Janata Bank observed a token mass hunger strike at their respective bank premises to press home their 5-point demands recently.

It is gathered that the transaction of these banks hampered due to the strike.

Earlier the officers and employees of these banks brought out a procession which paraded the main streets of the town.

After the procession, a rally was held at the local Sonali Bank premises.

Ayub Ali of Janata Bank, Lutfur Rahman of Sonali Bank, Nibash Chandra of Agrani Bank and Kachi of Krishi Bank spoke on the occasion.

Annual sports held

The annual sports competition of Satkhira Government College was held at the college ground recently.

Dr Golam Rahman, Vice-Chancellor of Khulna University inaugurated the competition as chief-guest while Amin Khan, ex-Vice-Principal of Satkhira Government College was present as special guest.

In the competition, Ahsanuddin and Anju Ghosh became champions between the boys and girls groups respectively.

After the competition, Dr Golam Rahman gave away the prizes among the winners while Principal Nurul Alam presided over the prize giving ceremony.

9-kg tumour removed

A nine-kg tumour was removed from the belly of Mrs Anowara Karim (36) wife of Dr Enayet Karim, Assistant Civil Surgeon of the district recently.

Mrs Anowara Karim was operated upon at Satkhira Sadar Hospital. Dr Israil Biswas conducted the operation. He was assisted by Dr Habibur Rahman and others.

The patient following her operation has been feeling well.

Stamps on sale at higher prices

Non-judicial stamps are selling at higher prices in the district recently.

It is alleged that some dishonest persons are selling these stamps at higher prices more than the fixed price by the government.

Shortage of non-judicial stamps was also reported from Shymnagar, Kaliganj, Debhata, Tala, Assasuni and Kalaroa upazilas of the district.

Local people urged the authorities to take immediate remedial measures to mitigate the sufferings of the people.

Two thefts committed

Two daring thefts were committed at two separate places of the district recently.

It is reported that a gang of thief entered into the mosque of Ramchandrapur village under Sadar upazila by breaking open the door. They took away a microphone set of the mosque worth Taka ten thousand at dead of night.

In the other incident, a group of thief entered into the watch shop, A M Watch Co at Mainroad of the district town by breaking open the door at dead of night and managed to escape with watches worth Taka 30 thousand.

Two separate cases were lodged with Satkhira PS in these connection.

39 projects under implementation

BARISAL, Feb 12 : Thirty-nine projects are being implemented in eight upazilas of the district under post-monsoon relief schemes in the current season, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the government sanctioned 240 metric tons of wheat for implementation of the schemes.

Heroin addiction leaves 40 dead

PABNA, Feb 12 : About 40 people died last year of heroin addiction which have affected 30,000 families in the district, according to a well informed source here, reports UNB.

People mostly young rickshawpullers, day labourers, bus-drivers and businessmen are the main addicts. In order to manage money for purchasing heroin and other such drugs, they sell their households, lands, even their children and wives.

Heroin is being openly sold in the town area including Library Bazar, Krisnapur, Shalghoria, Singa, Radhangar, Hospital Road, Bani Cinema Road and Taraldar Bakery Road under the very nose of police, the source alleged.

A heroin seller told UNB that they sell heroin in close contact with some dishonest Narcotice Department employees and police.

He said that heroin is reportedly being smuggled into the town from Chapalnawabganj by bus and train and an organised gang is allegedly involved in this illegal trade.

Thousands of fishermen have been compelled to give-up their ancestral vocation due to fund constraints and abnormal price hike of fishing materials.

A fishing boat along with a net is being sold at about Taka 2 lakh which is far beyond the purchasing capacity of the fishermen.

About 45,000 fishermen in the district earn their livelihood from fishing in the rivers, beels, canals and ponds.

Prices of essentials record sharp rise

MAULVIBAZAR, Feb 12 : The prices of some essential commodities have recorded a sharp rise causing hardship to the common people, reports UNB.

The prices of the different varieties of rice have risen by Taka one to 1.50 per kg the price of a kg of rice now varies from Taka 12 to Taka 14.50, according to quality. One kg of ata is now being sold at Taka 9.75.

Soyabin oil, coconut oil, jira, masur dal are selling at Taka 40, 95, 150 and 40 per kg respectively while these items were being sold at Taka 35, 80, 130 and 35 a fortnight back.

Fish has become rare and expensive. The price of 20 medium size koi fish ranges between Taka 80 and 100.

Four medium size magur are now available at Taka 60 to 70 against the previous price of Taka 30 to 40.

Mutton and beef are now sold at Taka 100 and 80 per kg while the prices were Taka 80 and 50 per kg a month back. The price of poultry birds has also recorded a sharp rise. The price of medium size poultry bird weighing about 500 gram ranges between Taka 40 and 50.

Upward trend of vegetables prices has also been marked at the district market. A medium size cabbage now sells at Taka 10 while a cauliflower at Taka 8, a kg of corolla at Taka 30 while potato at Taka 9 per kg and papaty at Taka 6.

Besides, a medium size red pumpkin sells at Taka 15. The price hike of vegetables has been attributed to rain and bad weather.

Birds are being sold here without bandrols to evade duty causing revenue loss to the government.

It is alleged that bidi factories in 6 upazilas of the district are involved in this malpractice in connivance with local customs and excise employees.

Local people alleged that bidis are being sold without bandrols or used bandrols collected from the retailers.

Besides, the actual production of the factories is not shown in the paper submitted to the excise officials.

Drinking water scarcity

From Our Correspondent

BOGRA, Feb 12 : Acute scarcity of pure drinking water has posed a serious problem to the people in the rural areas of the Greater Bogra region.

According to reports, the existing number of tubewells in 16 upazilas of the region is quite inadequate to meet the growing demand.

It is learnt from official sources that at present there are 36 lakh people in the Greater Bogra district. Of the total 29,731 tubewells, 2,334 are lying out of order. One thousand eight hundred and fortyeight tubewells are out of order in 11 upazilas of Bogra district and 486 in 5 upazilas of Jaypurhat district.

The tubewells have been remaining out of order for more than four years. No effective measure has been taken so far either to replace or resink them. It is informed.

According to official sources, the disorder tubewells would be made operative when nation wide resinking programme will be taken up by the government. Official sources also said, due to water level fall — the tubewells would be replaced by Tara pump but this programme yet to be implemented.

It may be mentioned here that at present there are 3,016 Tara pump which are running in 11 upazilas of Bogra district and 1,041 in 5 upazilas of Jaypurhat district.

Problems in hospital hamper treatment

From Our Correspondent

RAJBARI, Feb 12 : The 50-bed local sadar hospital has been facing multifarious problems including inadequate water supply for the last one year.

It is reported that Taka four lakh is needed to repair the out of order tubewell and three months time will be required to complete the work.

There is no boundary wall of the hospital. As a result, cattle, goats and other animals enter into the premises of the hospital. This no doubt create problems for both the patients and staff of the hospital.

It is reported that the dacoits looted the belongings of a doctor at gun-point last year and another dacoity attempt at the house of Resident Surgeon was foiled.

The X-ray machine of the hospital has been stopped for want of X-ray films. Major operations are not done here in the absence of facility for anesthesia.

There is no ambulance in the hospital for a long time. The serious patients are shifted to Faridpur, Dhaka and other places by tempo, truck and other means. This causes much sufferings both to the patients and the attendants.

The Norwegian Red Cross Society used to maintain the hospital as a local health centre till 1980. Later on they handed it over to the Bangladesh government in 1981. The hospital was a upazila health complex till February 1983. It was made a 50-bed hospital with the upgradation of Rajbari as a district in 1984.

But still the hospital is not equipped with requisite medical equipment and facilities. As a result, the patients come here from the remote corner of the villages return back without proper treatment.

The concerned authorities have been urged to look into the matter and take steps to extend medicare facilities to hundreds of patients of the district.

Special train

A UNB reports adds: Bangladesh and Indian railway authorities have jointly arranged as in previous years a special train to carry about 1300 devotees from Bangladesh to Medinipur in West Bengal to attend the annual Urs of Hazrat Shah Mursheed Al Quadery Al Hossaini Al Bagdadi (RA).

The train having 15 coaches will leave Rajbari on February 15, at 10 pm and return on February 19 after the Urs.

Informed sources said, this special train has been running since 1912.



MYMENSINGH : A training course on photography organised by Alokchitra Shilpi Sangsad was inaugurated recently by the Azhar Ali Talukder, ADC (Rev) — Star photo