

Upazila roundup

CHAPAI NAWABGANJ

One killed, 6 injured in road mishap

From Our Correspondent

Feb. 14: One person was killed and six others were seriously injured in a bus accident on the Rahanpur - Sapahar road near Modhatpur village of the district recently. It is learnt that the Rahanpur bound bus was coming from Sapahar suddenly fell into a ditch beside the road at Madhatpur village resulting the death of a mother having four child.

DINAJPUR

Farmer killed in pump accident

Feb. 14: A young farmer was killed Saturday in a power pump accident in Parbatipur Upazila of the district, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, Abdul Awal, son of Sanaulah of Haldibari village was checking his pump machine in a field with a scarf on his shoulders. Suddenly the scarf got wrapped with the machine causing serious head injury. He was rushed to the local hospital where the attending doctors declared him dead.

KUSHTIA

Reinstatement of teachers demanded

Feb. 14: Students of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and Chhatra Shibir, Islamic University units gheraoed the Vice-Chancellor's office Tuesday demanding reinstatement of the ousted teachers, reports UNB.

The student leaders submitted a memorandum to Vice-Chancellor, Dr Abdul Hamid who was holding the syndicate meeting at that time.

Both the groups brought out separate processions in the campus chanting slogans and held rallies in favour of their demand. Student leaders of the both units addressed the rallies.

MAJDEE COURT

Law, order situation improves

Feb. 14: Law and order situation in the district has considerably improved over the past few months, according to officials here, reports UNB.

A meeting held at the Deputy Commissioner's office reviewed the situation and expressed satisfaction at the declining rate of crime in the district.

Presided over by M. A. Kamal, Deputy Commissioner, the meeting instructed the officials to tackle the problem created by traffic jam at Choumahang through mobile courts. It also gave necessary instructions for development of the town and other areas including eviction of unauthorised road-side shops and houses.

AGRI-VARSITY

Orientation for students

Feb. 14: The university orientation for the students of Bangladesh Agriculture University (BAU) will be held at the Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin Auditorium on February 24, reports UNB.

Faculty orientation and hall orientation will also be held on the same day.

The classes of Honours course will commence on February 25, says a Press release.

KHULNA

One held with 3 pipe guns

Feb. 14: Police recovered three pipe guns and arrested a youth from a residence at 'Rupsha Shashanghat' in Khalispur area in the early hours Wednesday, reports UNB.

Khalispur police said Babul, 18, was arrested while preparing to commit a dacoity along with three other accomplices on the river Rupsha.

The three others, however, managed to flee away. A case has been filed in this connection.

RANGAMATI

Timbers worth Tk 2.50 lakh seized

Feb. 14: Forest officials have seized timbers worth about Taka 2.50 lakh on February 7 while being smuggled from the Kaptai Forest, reports UNB.

The officials captured the elephant "Badsha Bahadur" engaged in extracting the timbers and arrested its Mahout Imamuddin.

According to official sources, a patrol party led by Range Officer, Abdus Salam conducted the operation and recovered 500 cubic feet of teak and other valuable timbers while being extracted illegally from the Rampahar beat area of the government reserved forest.

On being produced before the Kaptai upazila courts, Imamuddin was released on bail.

Forest officials are spending a handsome amount of money daily to feed and look after the captured elephant.

MAULVIBAZAR

Tk 2.79 cr farm loan sanctioned

Feb. 14: A total of Taka 2.79 crore has been sanctioned for distribution as loan among the farmers of the district during the current financial year, reports UNB.

According to official sources, Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Rupali, Sonali, Janata and Agrani Bank will disburse the loans to help boost production.

The source also informed that the loans would be given for purchasing agricultural inputs and cultivation of paddy and other crops.

RAJBARI

Newsman stabbed

Feb. 14: The UNB correspondent of the district Ahsan Habib was assaulted and stabbed by some miscreants here on Wednesday, witnesses and family sources said, reports UNB.

He was admitted to Rajbari Sadar Hospital in a critical condition and was later shifted to Pangu Hospital in Dhaka.

Habib was attacked allegedly by about 20 youths belonging to the local unit of JSD near railway bridge here on Wednesday morning while he was going to Rajbari Government College Centre of Degree examinations on a professional assignment.

A case was filed with the local police but none was arrested.

JAMALPUR

Science fair ends

From Our Correspondent

Feb. 14: Three-day long science fair was held at Jamalpur Government Asak Mahmud College recently.

Jalal Ahmed, Deputy Commissioner of the district inaugurated the fair.

In this connection, a meeting was held at college premises with Asrafuddin in the chair.

The meeting was addressed among others by Rezaul Karim, Vice-Principal of Zaheda Shafr, Girls' College, Rokeya Begum, Headmistress of Singhani Girls' High School, Prof. Altah Hossain and Raquul Islam, VP of A. M. College Student Union.

At least 30 items were displayed and 20 institutions of the district participated in the fair.

CHANDPUR

Seminar on export promotion

Feb. 14: A seminar was held at Chandpur Purnabazar under the auspices of Export Promotion Bureau, Comilla in cooperation with Chandpur Chamber of Commerce and Industry on Monday, reports BBS.

The seminar was presided over by Md Jahangir Akhand Sellan, President of Chandpur Chamber of Commerce and Industry. It was addressed among others by Md. Shah Alam, Deputy Director, Export Promotion Bureau, Dhaka, Md Nuruzzaman, Research Officer, Md Yakub Ali, Deputy Commissioner, Chandpur and M. A. Mabud, S. P. Chandpur.

The seminar was attended by businessmen and cross-section of people.

The speakers urged the businessmen to increase export for the development of the country.



GOPALGANJ: A storm recently hit 8 villages of the sadar upazila. It damaged over 500 kancha houses and standing crops including IRRI-Boro paddy. —Star Photo.

Child, unregistered marriages on increase in Bogra

From Our Correspondent

BOGRA, Feb 14: The tendency of unregistered and child marriages has increased alarmingly in the Greater Bogra district.

As a result, the number of divorces has also increased for non-payment of dowry, polygamy and immoral activities.

More than 50,000 child marriages were solemnised during the last three years to the remote areas of Bogra and Joypurhat districts.

The victims are mostly poor. The poor parent can not maintain their divorced girls. Sometimes, the girl child are forced to indulge in immoral activities due to poverty and ignorance of the parent. The oppressed girl child do not get protection from the society.

One gets 10 yrs RI for killing brother

RANGPUR, Feb 10: Additional District and Sessions Judge Abdur Rahman Patwari convicted and sentenced a man to 10 years rigorous imprisonment in absentia for killing his younger brother recently reports UNB.

The court also fined the accused Taka 2500, in default, to suffer three months imprisonment more.

A case was filed and after investigation police submitted charge-sheet against the convict.

More than one lakh and 50 thousand marriages were solemnised during the last three years. Out of the total, only 20 per cent of the marriages were registered in the districts of Bogra and Joypurhat.

Poverty and ignorance of the guardians and bridegroom are also the reasons behind the unregistered marriages.

According to District Registration Office, There are only 38 recognised marriage registers in 11 upazilas of Bogra district and 5 upazilas of Joypurhat district.

It is gathered that as many as 150 offices for marriage registration were set up in different areas of the districts. The so called offices arrange volumes and documents from local market and carry on their business taking permission from the union parishad chairman. It is informed that such fake marriage registers extort excess rate from the guardians of bride or bridegrooms and do not deposit the same to the government account.

About 50,000 marriages are solemnised every year. Of them, only about 15,000 can be treated as valid. According to District Registration Office, 47,488 marriages have been registered during the last three years and 8,806 divorce cases have been recorded during the same period.

On the otherhand, about 50,000 divorce cases of unregistered marriages were also

observed during the last three years in the Greater Bogra District for non-payment of dowry, polygamy and immoral activities. In most cases, women of the poor class became the victims. Due to non-registration of marriages the divorced women did not get the legal protection.

In rural areas, most of the bridegrooms prefer non-registered marriages to avoid any kind of trouble.

Besides, defying the government restriction, many people marry more than once in far-flung areas without the written permission of the first wife. Marriages in the rural areas often fail to ensure the right of a wife due to absence of deeds which provides the legal protection.

Tk one lakh house buldg grant

KUSHTIA, Feb 10: The government has sanctioned Taka one lakh as house building grant for the victims of hailstorm that lashed the district recently, reports UNB.

District administration distributed 23 tons of rice, 700 pieces of lungis, 100 pieces of garments, 130 pieces of blankets, 468 pieces of dhotis, 427 pieces of bed sheets and 592 pieces of baby dress.

Officials said, the administration earlier distributed 27 tons of rice and cash Taka 25 thousand as relief among the victims.

Naksi Kantha now rare

From Our Correspondent

KURIGRAM, Feb 14: Naksi Kantha, the ornamental embroidery work by the country's rural women folk which once enchanted the foreigners and even the poets, is virtually withering.

Celebrated poet Jasimuddin being overwhelmed by the exquisite beauty of the age old Naksi Kantha (quilt) composed his famous 'Naksi Kanthar Math'.

The handmade kantha, delicate needlework which portrayed the cultural heritage of the country, are now faced

for mere survival. There were hundreds of artisans in rural areas of our country to stitch kantha full of colourful embroidery. The high making cost, price-hike of coloured yarn, thread, needle and clothes and above all the shortage of time are creating hindrances to the production of the Naksi Kantha.

Naksi Kantha of Greater Faridpur, Madaripur, Shariatpur, Rajbari, Gopalganj and Jessore was particularly famous for its colourful art work. Besides, Naksi Kantha of Bogra, Kushtia, Khulna,

(quilts) use to fetch additional income for the rural women to support their family.

The declining indigenous tapestry culture has already squeezed the income opportunities of thousands of rural women.

The usual trend of design and art work could also be developed through proper guidance to match the changing taste of the people.

In order to revive the age old culture of the country and to create employment to the poor, artisan-based small cottage industry may be set up in



with stiff competition from the machine-made woolen and synthetic products.

Due to the expansion of family size, the women artisans remain busy with their domestic work and can not afford time to stitch kantha. With the increase of cost of living, the poor women who used to sell their labour in stitching kanthas are compelled to charge higher rate

Rangpur, Pabna, Rajshahi, Kurigram, Gaibandha and Rangpur was also of high standard in size and quality.

A handicraft worker said, rural women of Mymensingh and Chapatnawabganj used to knit the kantha horizontally engraving designs of flowers, birds and trees depicting cultural heritage with the thread of various colour.

The multi-coloured kanthas

the villages under the patronage of the local rich people and union parishads.

The colourful kanthas may also draw the attention of buyers both from home and abroad.

Government plan and assistance to revive rural economy by setting up Kantha-based small cottage industry is keenly felt by the people of the country.

Notes from Rangpur

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, Feb. 14: The institutional training to the women under Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) programme is going in the district.

At least 12 such training centres have been running in the district. Of them, 8 in sadar upazila, 2 in Kaunia and 1 in Pirgacha and Taragonj upazilas each.

As many as 2350 distressed women are being imparted with the income generating training in these centres.

The trainings include — poultry and dairy farming, agriculture, small scale business and cottage industries.

Electricity bill problem

The electricity consumers in the town areas have been facing inconveniences and financial hardships due to non getting of electric bills regularly from the Power Development Board.

According to the allegations, the PDB officials have been giving them electric bills of long 4 and 5 months at a time which causing a great hardships to them in paying the bills duly. As a result, the arrears electric bills have been swelling and lying with the consumers unpaid.

The worst sufferers are, Munshipara, Mistripara, Kamarpara, Adarshapara, Ashratpur and its adjoining areas.

2.45 lakh sets of books for pry students

About 2,44,600 sets of books are being distributed among the primary students at free of cost in the district during the current academic year.

There are total 914 primary schools in the district, of them 702 are government and the rest 212 are non-government.

At least 2,45,000 primary students of these schools will be benefitted with the free distribution of books.

Drinking water supply plan

The Public Health Engineering Department has been executing a programme for supply of pure drinking water to the rural masses in greater Rangpur Zone during the current fiscal year.

Under the programme, 1755 new tubewells are being installed while about 2300 choked up tubewells are to be refiled.

The PHE department is further continuing selling of sanitary latrine sets at cheap rate to the rural areas of the zone. About 1285 such latrine sets will be sold in the rural areas under the programme.

Relief for people

The Relief and Rehabilitation department has allocated 430 cartons of edible oil and 61 cartons baby food for the distressed people of the district. The distribution work has been started and likely to be completed shortly.

Lawyer dead

Ataur Rahman, a noted lawyer of Rangpur bar died at Dhaka Diabetic Hospital recently. He was 55.

He was suffering from diabetic disease for some time past. His body was taken to Rangpur and his Namaj-e-Zanaja held at local Guptapara Jame Mosque which was participated by the judges and members of the district bar besides large number of elites and host of relatives.

He left behind wife and two sons and a host of friends and relatives to mourn. He was buried at Noorpur graveyard.

Diarrhoea claims 6, attacks 200

PABNA, Feb 14: Diarrhoea claim six lives including two babies and attacked 200 others in two upazilas of the district during the last few day, reports UNB.

According to official sources the deceased were Hema (5), daughter of Halim Sarker of Kalabagan, Jaygun Bibi (55), Hemayetpur, Nasir (8), son of Faruque Hossain of Sanikdir and Mazeda (22), wife of Shajahan Ali of village Singa in Sadar upazila, Lutfar (40), of Kalia village and Ali Kashem (55), of Sonahara village in Faridpur upazila.

Scarcity of drinking water and consumption of adulterated food were attributed to the outbreak of the disease.

The much endowed fame of the local pottery industry is fading away fast due to price hike of clay, dyes and other

necessary inputs. Most of the once famous potters of Pabna Sadar, Santhia, Bera, Sujanager, Chatmohar, Vangoura, Faridpur, Ishurdi and Atharia upazilas have been forced to give up their ancestral profession, local people said.

The extensive use of aluminium utensils has aggravated the situation. As the local buyers prefer to use aluminium products the price of earthen wares have come down much in the markets.

Moreover, shortage of capital has compounded their problems which led to exploitation of the poor potters by the money lenders.

The potters community urged the authorities for soft-term loan and marketing facilities of their products to enable them continue their age old occupation.

Tk 2.26 lakh Indian goods seized

BARAHMANBARIA, Feb 14: Bangladesh Rifles seized smuggled goods worth Taka 1.36 in two separate raids in the district, reports UNB.

BDR personnel recovered 508 pieces of Indian sarees and over 100 packs of phenesydol from Akhaura and its adjoining areas recently.

In another raid conducted on Dhaka bound Surma Mail train they seized Indian sugar worth Taka 30,000.

A case was lodged with Akhaura thana but none was arrested yet.

The goods were handed over to the local customs.

A report from Comilla says: Police seized Indian goods worth about Taka 40,000 from wholesale shops at Chawk Bazar and arrested three peo-

ple in this connection. The goods seized included 379 kg sugar, 298 kg of tumeric, 140kg of pulses, 116 phenesydol syrup and 20 bottles of other medicines.

Another report from Feni adds: Bangladesh Rifles and customs have seized smuggled Indian goods worth about Taka 50,000 from a house at village Bora of Porshuram upazila.

Acting on secret information on February 4, BDR and customs men rushed to the house and seized the contraband goods including spices, pulses, onion and sugar.

None was arrested in this connection.

The goods were later handed over to local customs authorities and a case was lodged with sadar thana.

10,000 children in jobs to earn bread

From Our Correspondent

DINAJPUR, Feb 14: The number of child labourers is increasing in the district day by day.

With the influx of floating people in urban areas, some people take the advantage and engage the minor boys in different fields of activities. Minor children are compelled to take up these job to earn their livelihood.

The tender agar boys and girls are engaged mostly as helpers in the construction work, hostels, restaurants, factories, motor garages, bakeries, bicycle repairing shops, welding workshop and as domestic servants.

According to International Labour Law, children below the age of 15 years are not allowed to take up hard work. In the district, children who are engaged in such activities are hardly 12 years old.

In a recent survey, it has been found that these children are compelled to take up hard work because of their poverty.

About 10,000 child labourers are working in this district to earn their livelihood. Most of them have no shelter to live in after the day's hard work. They spend the night at bus stations or in the verandah of other houses.

Of the injured, the condition of Rajab Prang and one of his niece is stated to be critical who are now under treatment at the Bera Upazila Health Complex.

A case has been registered with the Bera Upazila Court in this connection.

4 injured in post-polls attack

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Feb. 14: Four persons were injured, two of them seriously by an attack of about 30 people equipped with deadly weapons like kala, dao, sarki and hockey sticks recently at village Stimula of Jatsakhini Union Parishad under Bera Upazila.

According to reports, one Moksed Ali Prang along with his brothers, and sons and other 20 to 25 accomplices attacked the house of Osman Prang of the same village at 10 am on February 4 as he did not cast vote in favour of Moksed Ali's candidate.

The attackers include Moksed Ali's two brothers, Akkas and Afzal, his sons, Forhad, Forman and his nephew Siddiq and Ranju.

It is informed that Osman Prang was not present during the attack and the attackers beat the inmates of the house, Rajab Prang, his wife Ghari Begum and the two daughters of Osman.

Of the injured, the condition of Rajab Prang and one of his niece is stated to be critical who are now under treatment at the Bera Upazila Health Complex.

A case has been registered with the Bera Upazila Court in this connection.

Construction of 5 roads on Works on 657 test relief projects end

MAGURA, Feb 14: Work has been completed on 640 projects in four upazilas of the district under Test Relief Programme, reports UNB.

A total of 1010 metric tons of wheat had been utilised for the implementation of the projects under the programme.

According to an official source, 233 projects have been completed in Sadar upazila costing 329 metric tons of wheat, 25 projects in Municipal area costing 44 metric tons, 106 projects in Salikha costing 164 metric tons, 126 projects in Sreepur costing 227 metric tons and rest 147 projects in Mohammadpur upazila costing 246 metric tons.

Besides, earth work of 17 kutchha roads in three upazilas have been completed with a total cost of 113 metric tons of wheat.

Of the total projects, 8 have been completed in Mohammadpur, 5 in Salikha and 4 in Sreepur upazilas under the post monsoon rehabilitation programme.

The Work is going on in full

swing to complete in the current fiscal year the construction of five roads in the district under the annual development programme.

The roads are to be ready by May next when road communication of the district would greatly improve, officials said.

43.5 km canals to be excavated

Another report from Majdee Court adds: A total of 43.5 km of canals will be excavated in 6 thanas of the district with 400 metric tons of wheat under national Canal Digging Programme this season.

According to official sources, Taka 4.26 lakh will be spent for purchasing basket and spade and Taka 26.50 lakh will be spent for construction of culvert in Sadar upazila.

According to official sources, 100 metric tons of wheat were allocated for re-excavation of 10.70 km Sullakia-Vatrick canal. Taka 72,088 for purchase of basket and spade, Taka 20 lakh for construction of culvert in Sadar upazila.