

District roundup

MADARIPUR

Fire station at thana level demanded

Dec 14: More than 50 fire incidents took place in the rural areas of the district this year causing a loss of over Taka 2.50 lakh, reports UNB.

Local people said besides huge property, human lives are also lost every year due to absence of fire stations in the thana headquarters.

Kalkini, Shibchar and Rajor thanas of the district have no fire station.

The existing Madaripur fire station cannot provide services to the distant and inaccessible thanas.

The price of sugar has suddenly shot up in the markets here adversely affecting the consumers.

According to sources, sugar is being sold at Tk 35 per kg as against Taka 30 a few days back.

Consumers complained that some dishonest businessmen were responsible for the artificial scarcity of sugar.

SATKHIRA

Youngman stabbed to death

Dec 14: A youngman was stabbed to death by some miscreants in Keragachi of Kalaroa thana of the district on Friday, reports UNB.

Witnesses said that some unknown assailants stabbed the victim Mizanur Rahman (25) while he was on way home after shopping at a nearby market. He died on the spot.

The body was sent to local hospital for autopsy. The reason behind the brutal murder could not be known. But the villagers suspected that Mizan was murdered due to previous enmity.

A case was filed with Kalaroa police but none was arrested in this connection.

NAOGAON

JCD wins in college union election

Dec 14: Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) won all the seats in Naogaon Government Womens College students' union election, reports UNB.

Habiba Khatun and Lutfan Begum Rakhi elected Vice President and General Secretary respectively in the election held on Wednesday last.

Meanwhile, Awami League backed Chhatra League bagged all the seats in the Naogaon Government College students' union election held peacefully on Thursday.

Rustam Ali and Tawhidul Islam Jewel elected Vice President and General Secretary respectively.

HABIGANJ

One crushed under wheels of truck

Dec 14: A youngman was crushed under the wheels of a speeding truck on Habiganj-Shaistaganj Road Friday afternoon, reports UNB.

Witnesses said, Taimul Haque of village Saclpur of Nabiganj thana, died on the spot when a Shaistaganj bound truck from Habiganj hit him while he was coming to Habiganj along with four passengers in a baby taxi.

The passengers, however, escaped unhurt.

The body was sent to Habiganj hospital for post mortem and a case was filed with Sadar police.

KISHOREGANJ

Anti-terrorism Ordinance criticised

From Our Correspondent KISHOREGANJ, Dec 14: A public meeting organised by Karimganj thana unit of Jatiya Party was held at the local pilot girls high school ground recently.

Presided over by Abdus Sattar, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Mujibur Haque Chhunu, ex-Deputy Minister for Land, Advocate Tarekuddin Ahmed Abad, Mujibur Rahman Belal, Ismail Hossain Babul and Sadiqur Rahman Sadeq.

Speakers strongly criticised the introduction of Anti-terrorism Ordinance and called upon all to build a united movement against the Ordinance. Speakers also reiterated the demand for immediate release of former President from jail. The meeting was followed by a big procession.

BRAHMANBARIA

Police arrest 4 gay girls from hotel

Dec 14: Brahmanbaria police have arrested four gay girls from a hotel on charge of engaging in anti-social activities, reports UNB.

Police source said a contingent of police led by town Inspector Udayan Barua raided the hotel and rounded Champa (17), Lipi (20), Kalpana (18) and Shanta (20) along with four clients Paritos Debnath, Aziz, Shaifque and Babul Deb.

Police also rounded up four wanted criminals from different parts of the Sadar thana.

CHAPAINAWABGANJ

Unauthorised use of power

Dec 14: Unauthorised electricity consumption by a section of the people here has become a matter of serious concern to the law-abiding citizens and PDB officials, according to informed sources, reports UNB.

According to an unofficial report, at least a thousand unauthorised electric connections exist in the Chapainawabganj district.

Wide scale pilferage of electricity has also contributed to the increased system loss which rose as high as 40 per cent under some grids, it is learnt.

A section of PDB men help the unscrupulous consumers some of whom said that they had been paying a fixed amount to the agents of PDB men.

PIROJPUR

6,37,000 books for primary students

Dec 14: A total of 6,37,000 books will be distributed in the district under universal primary education scheme in January next, reports UNB.

The books will be distributed free of cost among the primary students of 606 schools of the district.

It is reported that about 1,35,000 primary students would be benefited with the distribution of the books.

Another report from Patuakhali adds: Roads and Highways Department has sanctioned Tk 50 lakh for the development of Gopalganj-Tungipara road.

Department sources said, the work is expected to be completed by June next.

MAGURA

Plan to disburse Tk 9.50 cr agri loan

Dec 14: Bangladesh Krishi Bank will disburse a total of Taka 9.50 crore among the farmers for purchasing bullocks in the 10 districts of Khulna division during this fiscal year.

Of the total amount, Taka 1 crore will be disbursed in Magura, Taka 1.11 crore in Jessore, Taka 1.26 crore in Narail, Taka 1.26 crore in Khulna districts, according to Bank sources.

The source also said, Taka 1.17 crore will be disbursed in Satkhira, Taka 1.27 crore in Bagerhat, Taka 1.10 crore in Kushtia, Taka 47.50 lakh in Chudanga and Taka 50 lakh in Meherpur districts.

GAIBANDHA

Victory Day programme

Dec 14: Gaibandha Press Club at a meeting Friday chalked out an elaborate programme to observe the Victory Day in a befitting manner, reports UNB.

Presided over by Dipak Kumar Paul, the meeting also condemned the demolition of Babri mosque in Ayodhya, India and urged the people to maintain traditional communal harmony.

Ghatak Dalai Nirmul Committee, Gaibandha also has taken up an elaborate programme to observe the day. A bijoy mela has also been arranged by the committee at the Paura park from Saturday.

Sammilito Sanskritik Jote also arranged a three-day photography competition at Public Library hall room from last Saturday.

Meanwhile, an all-party peace rally was held at the Public Library premises Saturday to strengthen communal harmony. Abu Taleb of Awami League, Abdur Razzak Sonal of BNP and Wazir Rahman of CPB addressed the rally.



NATORE: A patient is being carried to hospital by a rickshaw van in the absence of ambulance at the local hospital.

Want of seeds, fund hampers cotton cultivation

RANGAMATI, Dec 14: Cotton cultivation in Chittagong Hill districts has been severely hindered due to lack of planning, high yielding seeds and bank loan, reports UNB.

At least 18,770 acres of land in Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bandarban districts had been brought under cotton cultivation and the production was 18,77,000 kilograms in the year 1991-92.

The target for cotton cultivation for the current fiscal year has been set at 24,621 acres.

Cotton growers complained that they took loan at a very high interest rate from local 'mahajans' (money lenders) to replenish capital and high breed cotton seeds.

But they had to sell their production to the middlemen at low prices and had been left with no fund for the next season.

The government could earn

crores of taka every year as revenue from the hill districts if the growers were provided bank loans, sources said.

Rangamati and Bandarban Cotton Board officials told UNB that the ginning complexes set up for quality seed production could not be made fully operational due to delay in receiving fund allocation from the higher authorities.

At present, growers produce cotton worth about Taka one crore every year purely on private initiative.

More than 100 officers and staff are going to lose their jobs on completion of eleven multi-purpose projects in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

A total of 178 people are employed in the income-generation projects of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board, financed jointly by the Asian Development Bank and the Bangladesh Government.

These projects would be completed by June next year

and the services of over a hundred employees would have to be dispensed with after 10 to 12 years of purely temporary work. A few personnel would be required for operation and maintenance but they would be recruited according to the rules.

Informed sources said newly started rubber processing plants would require 70 to 75 officers and staff who may be taken from the surplus project employees in June.

The new projects are a rubber project on an area of 8,000 acres and a horticulture plantation on 4,000 acres in the northern valley of the Hill Tracts.

A Development Board source suggested that the surplus employees might also be reemployed in the second phase of the development project which was under consideration of the government and the ADB.

Notes from Jamalpur

From Our Correspondent JAMALPUR, Dec 14: Police arrested two miscreants and recovered one country made pipe gun and four bullets from his possession recently.

Acting on a tip, police raided the house of Abdul Jalil at village Sharifpur in Sadar thana and arrested two persons with the arms.

A police contingent headed by a sub-inspector raided a culvert and recovered a country made pipe gun from village Chakdah.

A case has been filed but none was arrested in this connection.

Ganja plants seized

The law enforcing agency personnel seized five-maund ganja plants from Priyerpur area on Friday last.

One person has been arrested in this connection. The seized ganja was deposited with the Narcotics Department.

Another report says: Melandah thana police recovered five ganja plants from a house of Awami Juba League leader Bishu Miah of village Gaghpara recently.

71 uplift schemes

implemented

A total of development projects were implemented in the district during the current fiscal year.

Local Government Engineering Bureau implemented these projects at an expenditure of Taka 4 crore 51 lakh.

The projects include construction at road, culvert, bridges in the district.

Railway station

earns Tk 54 crore

Tarakandi Railway Station earned Taka 8.4 crore by carrying fertilizers from Jamuna Fertilizer Factory during the last 10 months.

Fertilizer is being carried by Bangladesh Railway from Jamuna Fertilizer Factory at Tarakandi of Sarishabari thana to Chittagong Port.

The railway sources said shortage at railway wagons hampered the transportation at fertilizers.

Commits suicide

One unmarried young girl committed suicide by taking poison under Dewanganj thana of the district recently. The victim, Ambia Khatun (16) committed suicide over family feud.

Dacoity committed

Daring dacoity was committed at the house of Ruman Ali at village Shahjapur in the district.

The dacoits looted gold, ornaments, money in cash and others valuables worth about Taka 53,000 from the house.

According to reports, a gang of dacoits attacked the house at about 2am in the night. They entered into the house by breaking open the door and asked the inmates at arms point to hand over the keys of the steel almirah.

Coordination

committee met

A meeting of the District Development Coordination Committee was held here last Thursday with Deputy Commissioner Jalal Ahmed in the chair.

All district level officers and thana nirbahi officers attended the meeting.

The meeting reviewed progress of development activities in different sectors including health, agriculture, family planning, education, rural water, supply and sanitation.

The foundation stone of Sarishabari Paurashava was laid by LGRD and Cooperative Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukdar here on December 9.

In this connection he was addressing a public gathering on the same venue.

Two killed in road accidents

GAIBANDHA, Dec 14: Two persons were killed and three others injured in two separate road accidents on Dhaka-Rangpur Highway at Gobindaganj on Saturday, reports BSS.

Constable Kobad Ali (32) of Gobindaganj who was on duty on the spot was allegedly killed in one of these accidents that took place within a span of twelve hours.

Four trucks loaded with building materials were involved in these accidents one at Jumaarghata and the other at Gobindaganj.

The other fatal case Shahjalal (10) was killed at Gobindaganj Chourmaha. The injured persons were treated at the Gobindaganj hospital. Police seized all the trucks.

FP campaign gaining popularity

From Our Correspondent

DINAJPUR, Dec 14: Family Planning campaign has become popular and people are now adopting birth control devices.

Some 1,37,372 persons have been sterilized till September 1992 in three northern districts of Panchagarh, Thakurgaon and Dinajpur, it is learnt.

According to the directive of the Deputy Commissioner, Family Planning Coordination Committee were formed at Union level. The Union Parishads are also taking keen interest to popularise the birth control devices.

Some 1,37,372 persons have been sterilised in these districts till September 30, 1992. Of them 73,559 persons are male and 63,813 persons female.

In the year 1991-92, some 4945 male and 1,315 fe-

male, in 1985 some 2,087 male and 2,200 female, in 1986 some 5,335 female and 1,018 male and in the year 1988 some 3,896 female and 801 male were sterilised.

In Thakurgaon district, 7,064 persons were sterilised from July to September 1992. The month-wise break-up is as follows: April 924, May 549, June 1,245, July 1,720, August 1,400 and September 1,226.

Thana-wise break-up of sterilisation is as follows: Thakurgaon 3,417, Pirganj 1,975, Ranisankail 814, Balladangi 692 and Haripur 167. It is learnt that from March to November 1992, some 14,862 persons were sterilised in 13 thanas of Dinajpur district. Of them 10,899 persons are male and 3,874 persons are female.

Winter crop farming plan on 3,26,288 hectares

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Dec 14: Bangladesh Agriculture Extension Department (AED), Barisal Zone has taken up a comprehensive plan to cultivate winter crops on 3,26,288 hectares of land in eleven southern districts this year.

The districts included in this programme are: Barisal, Jhalakathi, Bhola, Pirojpur, Patuakhali, Borguna, Faridpur, Madaripur, Rajbari, Gopalganj and Saripatur.

Of the total, 2,26,425 hectares of land are being brought under the boro cultivation, 58,560 hectares under wheat cultivation, 6,005 hectares under potato cultivation and 35,298 hectares of land under mustard cultivation.

According to official sources, 8,26,476 metric tons of boro paddy, 1,17,120 metric tons of wheat, 60,050 met-

ric tons of mustard are expected to be produced in these districts under Barisal Agriculture Zone.

More than ten crore taka is still lying outstanding as agri loan with 30 out of 36 branches of Sonali Bank during last 14 years in Barisal region.

It is learnt that the programme of disbursing agricultural loan was started in 1977. Sonali Bank in Barisal region disbursed Taka 32 crore 30 lakh 90 thousand through its 30 branches.

Out of the total loan, Taka 7 crore 50 lakh have been exempted as interest.

Taka 10 crore 26 lakh is still lying outstanding in this region.

To realise the outstanding loan, bank authority has lodged certificate cases against 323 defaulters.



RANGPUR: The Agriculture Extension Department officials are visiting a 'kaun' field at Mithapukur. They are examining to use it as substitute for rice.

Sale of contraband goods surpasses past record

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Dec 14: The sale of contraband goods is on increase in Kishoreganj markets.

The contraband goods are: Indian sarees, spices, sugar, jira, pulse, cutpieces crackers, cosmetics and these goods are being sold in the market without any restriction (Indian sarees are entering the commercial Centre from the bordering areas by an organised gang of smugglers).

Apart from this, a large number of women of different areas engaged in flying business are collecting Indian sarees from the bordering areas of Brahmanbaria and Comilla districts for supplying them to

different places including rural markets.

The women smugglers move from Kishoreganj to Bhairab, Brahmanbaria, Akhaura and Comilla by train for collecting Indian sarees and other items. Smuggling of Indian sarees and crackers has surpassed the previous records.

A section of smugglers backed by a powerful circle was involved in smuggling. A big margin of profit attracts them to smuggling.

Beside, a section of smuggler was smuggling medicines from India. The production of which is banned in Bangladesh.

Eve teasers active at Satkhira town

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Dec 14: The eve-teasers have become active at Satkhira town creating panic and anxiety among the school and college going girls and guardians.

It is informed that these eve-teasers remain standing beside the road at school hours and disturb the girl students by passing nasty remarks.

At present, Puratan Satkhira Road, Sangita Cinema Hall Road, Main Road, Sultanpur Road have become permanent shelters of eve-teasers.

As a result, it has become impossible for the girl students to pass through the roads.

The guardian complained that they have brought the matter several times to the knowledge of local administra-

tion but nothing has been done in this connection.

On the otherhand, the guardians are unable to protest against these eve-teasers and mastans as they threaten their wards in various ways.

Local guardians urged the higher authority to take proper action against them immediately to ensure security of the girl students.

The people of Satkhira district town have been facing much inconveniences due to frequent power failure for the last few weeks.

Almost every night and day electric supply is disrupted plunging the entire town into complete darkness causing great loss to the business men and difficulties to the members of public.

Town protection scheme taken up

FARIDPUR, Dec 14: A town protection scheme has been taken up by Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) at an estimated cost of Taka 1.76 crore to save Faridpur town and its adjoining areas from the erosion of river Kumar, reports BSS.

According to a source of BWDB, Faridpur Division 2600 feet protection piling would be constructed along the affected river bank, which is a tributary of the river Padma.

Of the total work, 400 feet would be constructed along Ambikapur cremation site, 400 feet near Ansaruddin High

School to protect Abikapur Railway Bridge, 1200 feet near new Alimuzzaman Bridge, 100 feet near Ram Mandir and 500 feet near Shariatullah market.

Measures have been taken to protect several important establishments and market from the erosion of the river, the source said.

The Executive Engineer of BWDB, Faridpur Division told BSS that the nature of the protection work would be heavier so that it would last long.

Work on the scheme would start soon and expected to be completed by next March, he said the proper implementa-

tion of the scheme would remove the threat of erosion of this area, the source said.

Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB), Faridpur region disbursed loans worth Taka 2.64 crore through 22 branches in the current fiscal year.

According to an official source, the recovery figure of the BKB during the period is also satisfactory. It has recovered a loan of Taka 2.99 crore from the loanees. Both the disbursement and recovery positions of loan of this region are much better than the previous year.



GOPALGANJ: B I Siddiqi, Deputy Inspector General of Police distributing prizes among the winners of the annual police meet held here recently.