

District roundup

BARGUNA

Bamna hospital beset with problems

Jan 11: The 31-bed Bamna hospital is beset with manifold problems for a long time affecting medicare facilities, reports UNB.

The hospital problems mainly include lack of required number of doctors and shortage of medicine, X-ray machine, blood bank and pathological facilities.

The two-storied hospital has accommodation for only 31 patients and other patients have to stay on the floor.

The out-door department has no waiting room for the patients where about 300 to 400 patients are coming for treatment every day from far flung areas of the district.

Lack of cardiologist, dentist, gynecologist and medical consultant in the hospital has also been causing suffering to the patients.

It is alleged that all patients irrespective of disease serious or simple are being treated with simple tablets. Not to speak of life saving drugs, even medicines for some common diseases like dysentery, indigestion, influenza etc are not available in the hospital.

PATUAKHALI

Library opens in cyclone centre

Jan 11: A library was inaugurated in the cyclone centre of Aliapur Hat in Sadar thana on Thursday, reports UNB.

The library named Aliapur Gana Unnayan Pathagar was inaugurated by Prof Hafez Matiuir Rahman, Abdul Latif Khan, President of Aliapur Palli Unnayan Green Club, Md Humayun Kabir spoke on the occasion.

The library, first of its kind in the rural area, has been set up to facilitate the local people to develop reading habit and gather knowledge on various matters.

The organisers also have urged the concerned authority to help generally to equip the library with upto date information.

RAJSHAHI

Construction work of 15 pry schools complete

Jan 11: Construction work on 15 government primary school buildings at a cost of Taka 1-65 crore has been completed, reports UNB.

Facilities Department of the Ministry of Education constructed the building which were handed over to the respective authorities.

Besides, work on the construction four storied Naogaon PFI building is expected to be completed by the current month at a cost of Taka 91 lakh.

RANGPUR

Tornado lashes villages: 20 hurt

Jan 11: At least 20 people were injured and 300 thatched houses damaged rendering 100 families homeless when a tornado lashed some village and poura areas of the district on Friday morning, reports UNB.

The worst affected villages are Honumantola, Jumnapara, Salbon, Kalamatchan and station area of the pourashava.

The tornado accompanied by thundershower also uprooted hundreds of trees in the affected areas.

The affected people have urged the government to provide them with relief materials and grants to help them rehabilitate their homesteads.

SYLHET

Dacoits loot valuables

From Our Correspondent Jan 11: Valuables worth over Taka Two lakh were looted from a house of village Malkandi under Saidergaon union of Chhatak thana under Sunamganj district recently.

According to the reports, a gang of dacoits armed with deadly weapons attacked the house of one Nurul Islam and entered into it by breaking open the doors forcibly. They tied up the inmates of the house including the women and beat them mercilessly.

The dacoits took away Taka seventy thousand in cash, gold ornaments, clothes and other valuables worth about a total of Taka two lakh from the house.

A case in this connection had already been lodged with the police station, but no arrest had yet been reported.

BARISAL

Silver-jubilee celebration begins

Jan 11: Kheyali Group Theater began a month-long silver-jubilee celebration from Jan 7 in the Aswini Kumar town hall premises, reports BSS.

The programme includes discussions, dance-dramas, songs, drama, folk-songs, etc.

Besides the Kheyali group theatre, Barisal natak, Loka natya dal (Dhaka), Shabdabali group theatre, Jatric (Comilla), Naitya kendra (Dhaka) and Natya chakra (Dhaka) will stage different dramas during the period.

NETRAKONA

House rent on increase

From Our Correspondent

Jan 11: The house rent at the district town including 6 thanas has increased abnormally.

It is learnt that due to abnormal rise in the prices of construction materials, the land owners were reluctant to construct new houses. On the otherhand, population boom has further aggravated the situation.

As a result, the low paid employees of government autonomous bodies, private organisations and low paid income groups have been suffering for the acute housing problems.

At present, a kutchha house is being rented at Taka 400 to Taka 600 and a building house at Taka 1500 to Taka 2000 instead of Taka 400 to Taka 500 and Taka 900 to Taka 1600.

It is learnt that the same problem has been prevailing in Sadar, Atpara, Mohengonj, Purbadhala, Madan, Kendua thanas.

KUSHIA

Hats, bazars in deplorable condition

From Our Correspondent

Jan 11: Hats and bazars in 6 thanas of the district are in a deplorable state causing much inconveniences to both the buyers and sellers.

Shortage of space, lack of proper maintenance of the markets and stagnant, filthy water are the main problems.

Sufferers complained that these markets have no proper drainage system. As a result, in the rainy season the situation turns worse when all the markets go under knee-deep water.

Acute scarcity of drinking water has been prevailing in those markets. Besides, absence of urinal and toilet is posing threat to the public health.

Shortage of sheds in another serious problem. Most of the hats and bazars sit under open sky.

CHUADANGA

Seven-day long eye camp concludes

From Our Correspondent

Jan 11: A seven-day long free of cost eye camp was held at Ashmankhali High School under Alamdanga thana of the district recently.

In all 42 cataract eye patients were operated up on in the eye camp of which 12 were female and 30 were male.

Besides over 1100 eye patients were given out door treatment in the eye camp. Dr Mohammad Abdul Quddus Butyan, Civil Surgeon of Chuadanga formally opened the eye camp in presence of a huge gathering.

The eye camp was jointly organised by WAVE and BDF in cooperation with the local people.

The operated eye patients were given spectacles free of cost.

PIROJPUR

Property worth Tk 6 lakh gutted

Jan 11: Property worth Taka six lakh was gutted in a devastating fire that broke out at Shchhangal bazar in Swarukati thana on Sunday, police sources said, reports UNB.

About 10 shops, one light post and some electric cables were totally damaged in the fire. The reason behind the origin of the fire could not be ascertained.

Mentionable that property worth over Taka 50 lakh was gutted in the last one year in different parts of the district.

There is no fire brigade office in the six thanas except one in Sadar thana.



MADARIPUR: Despite government ban, the owners of brickfields here use firewood in burning bricks instead of coal. —Star photo

Proper identification of flood related plans needed

MYMENSINGH, Jan 11: Speakers including the members of Parliament at a seminar here on the "flood action plan" stressed the need for proper identification of flood-related projects taking into consideration all relevant aspects for optimum benefits, reports BSS.

Held under the auspices of the "Flood Plan Coordination Organisation" (FPCO) of the Ministry of Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control, the seminar yesterday on "flood action plan-3" involving the north-central region of the country touched upon on such issues like the social acceptability of the flood control projects in addition to technical and financial viability of the projects.

Members of Parliament Promode Namkin, Mosharrif Hossain, Begum Matia Chowdhury, Abdul Kalam Azad, Altaf Hossain Golandaz, Amir Hossain Hira and Rahmat Ali took part in the general discussions.

M H Siddiqui, Chief Engineer of the FPCO, gave a resume of the "flood action plan-3" while D A Brown, team leader of the "FAPCO-3" study group, Abdus Salam, Chief Engineer, Central Zone, and experts, Dr A L Sarkar and Saleh Ahmed, spoke on different aspects of flood control projects including the environmental sides.

Siddiqui in his presentation said eliminating the floods is not the objective of the flood

action plan since Bangladesh needed floods upto certain degrees. The country needed water for agriculture and as such controlling floods is the aim of the projects, he said.

The Members of Parliament in their general discussions mentioned the specific problems in their respective localities and stressed that pragmatic planning on priority basis would help prevent destruction of valuable crops and agricultural lands by floods and boost agricultural production.

New born baby stolen from MMCH

MYMENSINGH, Jan 11: A new born male baby was stolen from the Mymensingh Medical College Hospital on Saturday, reports UNB.

Hospital sources said an unknown woman in the guise of "Aya" entered the Gynecological ward at 4 pm on the day and took away the baby from the mother saying that she was taking it to the doctor. She never returned.

The progenitress was identified as Shahanara Begum (32), wife of Abdul Malek of Syedpur village in Muktagacha thana.

A three-member committee was formed with Dr Astya Khatun, Dr Nazrul Islam and the Nurse Superintendent Homaira Khatun to investigate the abduction.

They broadly expressed the opinion that the identification of the projects and their proper implementation were important so that people's aspirations about the Water Development Board did not turn out to be a misnomer.

They pointed out different loopholes of various schemes for their correct appraisal and added that involvement of people's representatives in drawing and execution of the projects was a commendable step. They suggested different schemes.

The flood action plan provides eleven guiding principles that include protection of urban, rural, commercial, industrial, public utility centres and communications networks.

Effective land and water management of both protected and unprotected areas, strengthening and equipping the disaster management machinery, improvement of the flood protection system, establishment of a reliable and comprehensive flood warning system and effective river training works for protection of embankments etc constitute as important features of the guidelines.

The opinion of the Members of Parliament in the discussions about the projects provides a unique opportunity for the experts and planners to take into account the social and local aspects involved in the projects in the broader technical and financial aspects.

Notes from Kurigram

From Our Correspondent

KURIGRAM, Jan 11: A total of four candidates has filed their nomination papers for the post of Kurigram pourashava chairman while 42 candidates have filed their nomination papers for the post of 9 commissioners of the pourashava.

The following persons have filed their nomination papers for the post of chairman. Rukunoddola Mondol (Jatiya Party), Abdus Salam (BNP) Abdul Jallil (Awami League) and Kazul Islam (Independently).

Science, technology week inaugurates

The 16th national science and technology week was formally inaugurated by Shaful Islam, DC Kurigram, as chief guest at Kurigram govt college premises in presence of a large gathering on January 4.

Presided over by Principal Shyama Proshad Ray, the inaugural ceremony was addressed, among others, by Abdul Hakim Khan, SP Kurigram, Prof Mostafa Khandoker, Shaful Islam, DC and Shyama Proshad Roy.

A total of 25 educational institutions and science clubs have been participating in the science week.

JP founding anniversary observed

The seventh founding anniversary of Jatiya Party was observed at Kurigram with much enthusiasm recently.

On this occasion milad mahfil, discussion meeting and cultural function was arranged at the local Jatiya Party office premises.

Presided over by Badiul Alam, local JP leader, the meeting was addressed, among others, by ex-Zila Parishad Chairman Rukunoddola Mondol, local Juba Sanghati leader Shaful Islam Ruku, Abdur Hosain, Abdus Satter Munshi and Badiul Alam.

Call to check erosion of moral values

The speakers in a seminar called upon the conscious people of the country to launch a movement to check erosion of moral values in the society.

The seminar was held at the local police line maidan recently under the presidency of Abdul Hakim Khan, SP Kurigram.

Shaful Islam, DC, Kurigram and Pran Ballan Kuranjai were present as chief guest and special guest respectively. Among others, Tofail Hosain, Enamul Haque, Sayed Monsar Ali, Karam Ali, Advocate AZM Asad, Prof Hares Haldar, Rehana Khanam participated in the discussion.

The speakers stressed the need for social awareness among the people of the society to check moral erosion.

Fish disease breaks out in Madaripur

MADARIPUR, Jan 11: Fish disease has broken out in four thanas of Madaripur district, official sources said, reports UNB.

The disease known as Ulcerative Syndrome, has affected different varieties of fish and demand for fish decreased abnormally, local fishermen said.

The owners of ponds, beels and haors have urged the concerned authorities to take necessary steps to check the spread of the disease.

Involvement of youth community in social activities stressed

LUXMIPUR, Jan 11: Seventh founding anniversary of "Provat Juba Sangha", a socio-cultural organisation of Poddarhat village of the district headquarters was observed in a befitting manner on Thursday, reports UNB.

A discussion meeting was held to mark the day which was addressed by renowned litterateur Ahmed Safa, Master Ruhul Amin, President of Noakhali unit Ghatok Dalai Nirmul Committee, Rafiqul Haider Chowdhury and local Awami League leader and freedom fighter Kalam Chowdhury.

Workers' Party unit meet held

MAGURA, Jan 11: A meeting of the district unit of Bangladesh Workers Party was held here Monday, reports UNB.

Tarapada Biswas presided over the meeting while it was addressed, among others, by Prof Qazi Feroj, Bimol Biswas and Mosharrif Hossain.

The meeting discussed the present political situation of the country. They expressed grave concern over the deteriorating situation in the district.

40000 acres of land under Irri-boro farming

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, Jan 11: About 40 thousand acres of land have been brought under Irri-boro cultivation in "Matlab Meghna-Dhanagoda Irrigation Project" during the current season.

According to project office sources, about 12 lakh maund of additional crops are expected to be produced within the command area of the project.

Matlab Meghna-Dhanagoda Irrigation Project is one of the biggest irrigation project at Matlab thana under Chandpur district. The project is sponsored by the Bangladesh Water Development Board at a cost of Taka 130 crore.

The project was started in 1967. The main purpose of the project is to cultivate high

yielding varieties of crops by irrigation. The project aims at to control flood protection, fish cultivation with in an area of 50 thousand acres of land.

The project areas covers 14 unions of Matlab thana under Chandpur district. About 4 lakh people of the thana will directly be benefitted by the project.

Another report adds: Meanwhile, the girl students in the district town have been undergoing a lot of inconveniences due to lack of school transport.

The students and guardians have urged the authorities to take steps in this regard as early as possible.

Nature gives many gifts to Bangladeshis

NETRAKONA, Jan 11: Bangladesh is a land of bounty and nature gives many gifts to the people of the country especially in the winter season, reports UNB.

Date tree is one of the natural gifts and its juice is extracted from the tree during the winter season. The juice is delicious and it is mainly used as the raw material for producing "gur" (molasses).

The trees produce juice only in the winter season. But scientists could not give answer to the question that why date trees give juice only in this season. The behaviour of date trees has a definite cultural affinity with the life of the people in Bangladesh.

During late autumn and the beginning of winter, farmers have their new harvest. As soon as the harvesting is over they celebrate the traditional "Nabbanno festival" with various kinds of foods based on the season's gifts.

In the winter season, various kinds of "pithas" or cakes are made. The delicacy of pithas need sweets either to be used in preparation of the pitha or to eat with pitha.

The juice of date tree provides a tasteful sweet through condensing the juice. Date juice, which is locally known as "Ros", which was cooked for a long time and solidified to make gur or molasses, a delicious type of sugar.

The man who trim the date trees to extract juice are

known as "gachchis". The gachchis climb on the trees and take out a portion of the bark on the top of the trunk. They use a sharp dao or a special knife.

The gachchis who are also artisans do their duties in a superb manner. They are familiar in rural Bangladesh with their sharp knife and a pitcher hanging from their waist belt.

When the trees start oozing out juice, the gachchis fit a bamboo at the bottom of the processed zone so that the juice could find an easy route to flow in stream.

Then they hang a pitcher at the end of that bamboo in the evening. The date trees ooze out the juice throughout the night which is stored in that pitcher.

A tree gives two to 20 seers of juice in every night, depending on its quality and location.

A large number of people engaged themselves with the collection of date tree juice in the district.

Informed sources said, molasses may be exported if the government provide financial assistance and modern technology in this sector.

Date trees beside different roads and railway tracks throughout the country should be nursed as these trees not only maintain the tradition but also provide employment to a good number of people in our country.

Lathials loot aman paddy on 200 acres

PATUAKHALI, Jan 11: Lathials, the hired musclemen, looted aman paddy on over 200 acres of disputed land in Charganga and Charhalim of Galachipa thana in the district, some farmers said today, reports UNB.

Farmers cultivated aman crop on 3000 acres of land in two chars in the current year. The recent swoop on their crops and houses by the lathials has made them almost destitute.

It is gathered that two different groups have been claiming the ownership of the charland for a long time. The "jotdars" are reportedly instigating both the parties for their own interest.

Tension prevailed in the char areas. Didar Colony landless farmers cooperative society has filed a case in this connection.

Another report adds that dispute relating to the ownership of "Char Samiruddin" alias "Char Barai" in Bauphal thana of the district could not be settled till now.

The char is known as Char Samiruddin to the people of

Borhanuddin thana of Bhola district and "Char Barai" to the people of Bauphal thana of Patuakhali district. Farmers of the both districts are claiming the char as their land for quite a long time.

Before the creation of Patuakhali district, the then Deputy Commissioner of Bakerganj distributed the land of the char among the farmers and included it under Char Barhanuddin thana in 1969.

After creation of Patuakhali district the said char was claimed by the Patuakhali district administration in 1968 and said it was the part and parcel of Bauphal thana of the district.

In 1976 during the 'diara' settlement, the people of Bauphal thana was able to get their names included in major cases and the revenue department of Bauphal started to give lease of that charland among the farmers, sources said.

In 1988 a demarcation line was identified at the ADC (rev) level of the two districts but it could not be effective due to various reasons. As a result, the dispute over the char is still unsettled.

Every year dispute arises during the harvesting season of aman paddy and the lathials became active to loot the paddy of the charland.

This year, three persons died at the gunfire of the police and one person died at the hand of the lathials during the clash in the char. One rifle of the police on duty was also looted and six lathials were arrested.

While raking to UNB the affected people demanded early solution of the disputed charland.

Nomination papers for poura polls

Another report says: Three nomination papers were submitted for the post of chairman and 37 for nine posts of ward commissioners in district pourashava election.

The candidates for the post of chairman are: Abdul Haq Sultan Ahmed Mirzha and Gazi Habibur Rahman.

Abdul Haq originally was a NAP worker. During Ershad regime he joined Jatiya Party and became chairman of the Patuakhali pourashava.



RANGAMATI: Forest officials are looking at the newly raised plantation of teak trees in Karnafuli Range of the Chittagong hill district. —Star photo



CHANDPUR: Wastage of pure drinking water in municipality area is a common scene. —Star photo

Water supply irregular

BARGUNA, Jan 11: Water supply in the district is irregular for a long time due to alleged carelessness of the concerned authority, reports UNB.

According to informed sources, due to lack of maintenance, 5,000 gallons of water is being misused out of the total supply 5 lakh gallons.

Water supply plant set up at Barguna pourashabha at a cost of over five crore. The plant included two overhead tanks, deep tubewells, water purifying equipment and laying of pipe lines.

The plant is now supplying about five lakh gallons of water in the poura areas daily but out of total 10,000 families only 1100 families can avail water supply facility. The rest dwellers could not be brought under water supply system as yet due to lack of initiative of the concerned authority.

According to a report, about 10 per cent of the total water supply is being misused in

various ways. There are 15 public taps at different locations of the poura area which remain open all the time in absence of stoppers.

It is alleged that water remains stagnant at different points through the linkage in pipelines which need repair and as a result water gets contaminated mixing with dirty water.

Hospital beset with problems

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