

District roundup

PIROJPUR

Sheikh Mujib's home-coming day observed

Jan 13 : Home-coming day of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was observed here Sunday with the due solemnity by the district unit of Awami League and other socio-cultural organisations, reports UNB.

Bangabandhu returned to Dhaka on January 10 in 1972 after nine months of captivity in Pakistan during the War of Liberation.

To observe the day, the district Awami League held a discussion meeting in its office with Dr Khitish Chandra Mondol in the chair.

Speakers at the meeting paid rich tribute to the departed soul and discussed his achievement in the struggle for independence of the country.

The meeting was also addressed by Local Awami League leaders Sayed Shah Alam, Shahajahan Khan Talukder, Motiur Rahman, Advocate SM Rezaul Karim and student leader Ziaul Ahsan Gazi and Rezaul Karim Sikder Montu.

MADARIPUR

Pistol, pipegun recovered

From Our Correspondent
Jan 13 : Police recovered one pistol, one pipegun and four rounds of cartridges from Bajitpur union under Rajior thana of the district recently.

Acting on a tip, police recovered these abandoned arms and ammunition from Kichm-otoli village.

A case has been filed with the police in this regard. None has so far been arrested.

BRAHMANBARIA

TNO, Magistrate visit Press Club

From Our Correspondent
Jan 13 : Akhaura Thana Nirbahi Officer Anwarul Karim and Magistrate Abdul Wadud of the district paid a courtesy visit to the Akhaura Press Club recently.

On this occasion, a discussion meeting was held at press club. Akhaura Press Club President Babu K Ranjan Gose presided over the meeting. It was addressed among others by former President Akhaura Press Club Prof Zainal Abedin, General Secretary Yousuf Sarwar, members of Advisory Council of the press club Nayab Ali Bhuiya, AM Isaque Bir Pratik and Abdul Khaliq.

Later the function was followed by a cultural function.

BARISAL

Tk 5.67 lakh distributed among poor men

Jan 13 : Social Welfare Department has distributed a sum of Taka 5.67 lakh among the members of 522 poor families in 12 villages of 6 unions under Gournadi thana of Barisal district for making them self-reliance, reports ISS.

The loan was given for purchasing oxen, constructing or reconstructing dwelling houses and business purposes.

Meanwhile, Taka 3.56 lakh was also realised from the loanees of the areas.

Another report adds: Four car-phones will be set up in Barisal divisional headquarter by the Bangladesh Telephone Shilpa Sangstha (BTSS) within a month, an official source said.

The car-phone will be put up at the Pourashava Bhaban, Sonali Bank, Sher-e-Bangla Medical College and its hospital, the source added.

Meanwhile, Telephone Shilpa Sangstha has sent the necessary equip for the installation of these car-phones here.

SATKHIRA

Repair works of 76 pry schools to start soon

Jan 13 : Repair works of 76 primary schools in six thanas of the district damaged due to various natural calamities will start soon, reports UNB.

According to official sources, 17 schools in Satkhira, 10 in Debhata, nine in Tala, 14 each in Kaliganj and Shyamnagar and 12 in Kalaroa thanas were taken for repair under the project.

About 20,000 students will be benefited after the completion of the works, the work is expected to be completed by June this year.

RANGPUR

Unidentified body recovered

Jan 13 : Police recovered an unidentified body of a middle aged man from Rangpur-Bogra road side pond adjacent to Shotbari sugarcane purchasing centre, two kilometres off Mithapukur thana on Thursday, reports UNB.

The body bore several marks of stab injuries and was found floating in the pond.

Police sent the body to the hospital morgue for autopsy. A case was registered with Mithapukur police.

KHULNA

BNS Bishkhali provides medicare facilities

Jan 13 : BNS Bishkhali, a ship of the Bangladesh Navy, during her routine anti-smuggling, anti-piracy and fishery protection patrol at the coastal islands near the Sundarbans provided medical assistance to the local people suffering from different ailments, says a ISPR press release.

The BN medical team kept eight serious patients on board the ship for further treatment.

SIRAJGANJ

Property worth Tk two lakh gutted

From Our Correspondent

Jan 13 : Property worth about Taka two lakh were gutted in village Kandapara under Belkuchi thana recently.

It is alleged that following previous enmity, a semi-pucca building full of 135 maunds of jute of Mantaz Ali Akanda of village Kandapara was set ablaze and burnt into ashes.

A case has been lodged with Belkuchi police in this connection. None however was arrested till filing this report.

MOULVIBAZAR

National science, technology week observed

From Our Correspondent

Jan 13 : The 16th national science and technology week observed here recently at Moulvibazar Government College.

Prof Samshul Huda, Principal, Moulvibazar Government College and president of science and technology week observance committee inaugurated the three-day long programme.

The programme of the week included exhibition of science and technology projects and speech competition on matters relating to science and technology.

A total of ten institutions and organisations including colleges, schools and science clubs were participated in the programme and a total of 190 science and technology projects were exhibited in the exhibition.

A concluding and prize distribution ceremony was held on the concluding day at Moulvibazar Government College auditorium with Principal Samshul Huda in the chair. In was addressed by Vice-Principal Mahbubur Rahman, Prof Md Firoj, Prof Noni Gopal Das and member secretary of the observance committee Prof Motiur Rahman.

Prizes were distributed among 71 projects for best performance. The concluding ceremony was followed by a cultural function.

LALMONIRHAT

BDR men seize Tk 54 lakh goods last yr

Jan 13 : Bangladesh Rifles and members of the task force recovered smuggled goods worth over Taka 54 lakh and arrested 28 people in the district in the last year, reports UNB.

The goods including saree, lungi, sugar, spices, vegetables, spare parts, cosmetics, salt, cow, buffalo, chilly, cycle were handed over to the Customs authorities and sent the arrested persons to the jail hayat. At least 503 cases were lodged with the police.

The district task force raided Patgram, Hatibanda, Kaliganj, Aditmari and Sadar thanas during November and December of the previous year.

They also recovered Bangladesh polyester, paddy, second hand clothes, video cassette recorder, camera film, calculator, watches and hilaha fish while being smuggled out to India.



SYLHET: A cyclone that swept over the district on Friday last damaged the house. Many other kancha houses were also damaged by it. —Star photo

Diarrhoea kills 63 in three districts during one week

KHULNA, Jan 13: Diarrhoea that broke out in an alarming proportion claimed 24 lives at the char areas of the Sundarbans in the district during the last one week, reports UNB.

According to the fishermen society chairman Major (Rtd) Ziauddin, at least 5,000 people were attacked by the disease in Dublarchar, Kochikhali, Ambaria and Narkelbaria areas.

Sources said about 200 fishermen and woodcutters were sent to district and thana hospitals for treatment.

The affected people have urged the authorities to despatch medical teams in the affected areas on emergency basis to combat the disease.

A report from Pirojpur says: Diarrhoea claimed 14 lives and attacked 250 others in different parts of the district during the last five days, official sources said.

But unofficial sources claimed that at least 22 people

died of and 300 others were attacked by the disease.

Mathabria is the worst affected thana.

No medical team has yet been sent to the affected areas to combat the disease. Meanwhile, Eskander Foundation, a non-government social welfare organisation, is working with its doctors and medicines in the affected areas to check the spread of the disease.

Lack of drinking water and taking of adulterated food are attributed to the main causes of the outbreak of the disease.

The affected people urged the concerned authorities to send special medical team to the affected areas and open special medical camp in those areas on emergency basis.

Another report from Borguna adds: Diarrhoea that broke out in an epidemic form has claimed 25 lives and over 1000 people were attacked by the disease in five thanas of the district.

Officials sources, however, confirmed 12 deaths owing to what they termed intestinal disorder and 100 others were attacked.

Local people said the deadly disease is engulfing new areas every day creating panic among the people. The worst affected thanas are Patarghata, Taltali, Amtali and Sadar.

Thana Health Complex sources said hundreds of diarrhoea patients are pouring in daily for treatment of diarrhoeal diseases.

People of the affected areas demanded immediate measures to bring the situation under control.

According to health officials acute scarcity of drinking water and consumption of adulterated foodstuff were the main reasons behind the outbreak of the disease.

It may be mentioned here that more than 500 tubewells went out of order in the five thanas of the district.

Highest priority to education

SIDDHIRGONJ, Jan 13: Information Minister Nazmul Huda on Sunday said that the present democratically elected government of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia had attached the highest priority to education and would provide all-out support to spread the light of education, reports BSS.

He was addressing as chief guest the concluding ceremony of the ten-day education fair held in front of Siddhirgonj Pilot High School. Local Member of Parliament M Sirajul Islam, Bangla Academy Director General Professor M Harunur Rashid and eminent journalist Gias Kamal Chowdhury stressed the need for consolidation of democracy and self-reliant efforts to help build a prosperous Bangladesh.

M Sirajul Islam pointed out that Narayanganj had now become a violence-free district and the successful holding of the education fair here at

education, modernisation and progress commenced.

Professor Harunur Rashid said Bangladesh would again be the development centre of Asia as it had been in the golden past.

Tracing the glorious history of the country, he said that Dhaka had a history of more than 1500 years compared with only 300 years of Calcutta. Gias Kamal Chowdhury stressed the need for consolidation of democracy and self-reliant efforts to help build a prosperous Bangladesh.

The Information Minister donated Taka ten thousand from his personal fund to the newly created education foundation by the people of the locality.

Siddhirgonj proved that the area was now miles ahead on the path of education.

Freedom fighter and chief organiser of the fair Giasuddin Ahmed said that this fair was against anarchy and terrorism and for spreading the light of education.

He said the present democratically elected government of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia had attached the highest priority to the education sector.

Child labourers increasing alarmingly in Barguna

BARGUNA, Jan 13: The number of child labourers in the district are increasing alarmingly, reports UNB.

According to unofficial sources, about 50,000 child labourers below twelve years of age are engaged in different odd jobs for earning their livelihood in five thanas of the district.

The continuous devastating floods, droughts, hailstorm, cyclones and other natural calamities have made the marginal and landless cultivators destitute during the last few years.

The poor parents in general and the guardians of orphans in particular are compelled to send their wards for earning bread instead of providing them with primary education. They are also deprived of free primary education.

Most of the poor parents suffering from various diseases

due to lack of food, cannot work and as a result their children are compelled to work for earning bread.

The child labourers engaged in odd jobs, have to work in hotels, restaurant, tea stalls, garage, welding workshop and as domestic servants. Some of the children are found playing rickshaws, working as hawkers, selling cigarette and even begging door to door finding no other work.

Many child labourers have to stay at bus stands, launch ghats and other abandoned places in the night as they do not have any place to live in.

They are also attacked by various infectious diseases and they become weak for want of nutritious food.

Besides, the child labourers have to work for more than 12 hours a day at a minimum salary.



BOGRA: A woman is separating paddy from useless things with the help of air. Her two little daughters helping the mother. —Star photo

Across the country

The tiger-widows of the Sundarbans

by Abu Ahmed

SATKHIRA, Jan 13: Man-eater tigers have ruined their families. These families, without anyone in charge, are now floating like a straw.

They have no houses to live in. No land do they possess. They beg from door to door with their children in tow. They get no work. They are the 'tiger widows'.

Several hundreds of such 'tiger widow' families are passing their days in extreme hardship on the rim of the Sundarbans. Once their 'Bawal' husbands would either cut wood in the forest or catch fish in the rivers and canals. But the man-eaters brought doom to these families.

Jasimon Bibi of village south Biratxumi under Atulia Union Parishad of Shyamnagar thana is one of the tiger widows. Her husband Moyen Uddin Mollah (45) was a wood cutter Bawali.

Two years back Moyen Uddin with his companions went to cut wood at North Talpatti of the Sundarbans. All on a sudden a Royal Bengal Tiger pounced on him, snatched him away into the jungle fastness and was killed, mauled and eaten up. His companions, including Nazir Mollah, could not rescue him.

Jasimon has three sons and one daughter. Her eldest son Anisur Rahman (10) has a big tumour in his throat. So he

can do nothing to help his mother. For keeping alive Jasimon had to sell two bighas of land at a throw-away price. Now she lives in one of her neighbours' verandah. Her father is a poor man. So he can not help her either. Jasimon some how managed to have some wheat from the union parishad through VGD card.



SATKHIRA: Jamila Khatun, wife of late Mahammad Ali are now begging to maintain her family. —Star photo

But now it has also been suspended.

Jamila Khatun comes from the same locality. Her husband Mahammad Ali went to cut wood in the Sundarbans two years back and did not return. A man-eater suddenly fell on Mahammad Ali while he with

his companions were cutting wood keeping their boat in the Kalagachhi canal of the jungle. The tiger carried Mahammad Ali away and his deadbody could not be found.

Jamila has four sons and one daughter. She possesses no land. She lives on her neighbour's land. She also received some wheat from union parishad through VGD card. Now the card has become invalid. Her poor father's family cannot help her at all.

Many families like Jasimon's and Jamila's live beside the Sundarbans. They are floating all over the villages like Munshigonj, Harinagar, Bhetkhali, Pratap Nagar, Baniatola, Noabeki, KoiKhali, Burigoalini, Gabura, Dattinakhali, Ishwaripur, Banshipur etc.

The department of forest keeps record of those Bawalis who go to the Sundarbans with legal pass and are then taken away by man-eaters. But they are not given any help by the government. As for those who enter the jungle without any pass and are then snatched away by the man-eaters, the forest department doesn't put their names on record let alone giving them any help. People believe that the department should help rehabilitate these families through training them in cottage industry, giving them cash help or awarding khas land.



SATKHIRA: Jasimon Bibi, wife of Moyenuddin Mollah of Atulia under Shyamnagar thana leading a miserable life with her children. Her husband was killed by tiger. —Star photo

Notes from Sirajganj

From Our Correspondent
SIRAJGANJ, Jan 11: - Chhatra Dal (JCD) swept in all the 18 seats of Sirajganj Islamia Government College students union polls held here peacefully.

Anwar Hossain Pappu was elected the Vice-President and Aminul Islam was elected the General Secretary in the polls. A total of three students organization contested in the polls.

Post office without postman

Following withdrawal of the only postman of Senbhagabari post office in Belkuchi thana, distribution of postal materials including letters, parcels and money orders are being delayed causing problems for the people of adjacent ten villages. The postman was withdrawn by an order of the Deputy Post Master General (DPMG), Pabna.

Local people have urged upon the authority to appoint a postman immediately to solve the problems of the locality.

Sugar mills to be set up

A sugar mill is being set up at Sirajganj. Following the long termed demand, the decision is taken by the government, district administration, sources informed.

Meanwhile processing for setting up a sugar mill is going on officially. The site of the proposed mills is not yet selected. A source said that the project may be set up anywhere in Raiganj thana or at Chougacha village in Sadar thana area.

Badminton contest held

Hiscock badminton competition was held recently in Sirajganj under the auspices of Renaissance Club. Sixteen teams from Sirajganj district participated in the week-long competition. On the concluding day, Ekok Sangha won the championship trophy beating Nayagram team by 15-6 and 15-8 points.

Cold wave kills 8 in two districts

MANIKGANJ, Jan 13: Chilly cold wave lashing the country claimed three more lives in the district raising the death toll to six during the last fortnight, reports UNB.

Pair Ali (8), son of Abu Syed Miah of Kutrali Khal and Mohon Uddin (20) of Bacamara in Daulatpur thana and Aziz (3) of Ramkrisnopur in Hari-rampur were the victims of the cold wave.

Meanwhile, heavy fog covered the sky of the district during the last few days resulting in poor visibility and hindrance to the movement of vehicular traffic. The ferry communication between Aricha-Daulatdia and Aricha-Nagarbari is being disrupted from 2 am to 8 am every day due to heavy fog in the rivers Padma and Jamuna, BIWTC official said.

The normal life in the district has been paralysed due to dense fog for the last few days. The day labourers are the worst sufferers.

Another report from Sirajganj adds: Severe cold wave claimed 5 lives in last three days in the district, official sources said.

Of them, two each died in Sadar and Rayganj and one in Kazipur.

A total of 82 people died in cold wave in last 25 days in northern districts. The victims are mostly poor and floating people who cannot afford to buy warm clothes.

Local leaders have urged the authorities to distribute warm clothes among the poor and floating people of the district.

Boiler blast, mishaps leave four dead

BOGRA, Jan 13: Two persons were killed and 4 others seriously injured in a boiler accident Monday evening at village Shabgram near Bogra town, reports UNB.

The boiler of the North Bengal Silicate Factory burst suddenly when it was functioning.

Two labourers Montu (24) and Enamul Haque (17) were killed on the spot and 4 including the owner of the factory Dr Momtaj injured seriously.

A case has been filed with the police.

Another report from B'Baria says: A teenager boy was killed and two others sustained serious injuries when a bus turned turtle at Sonarampur village in Ashugonj thana on Brahmanbaria-Dhaka highway Monday. The accident occurred

when the driver of the bus (No Chittagong: JA-936) lost control over the steering. Zahidul Islam (18) died on the spot while Matin (30) and Shahidullah (40) were admitted to Sadar hospital in a critical condition.

However, the driver managed to escape. A case has been filed with the police.

Another report from Sirajganj says: An old man was killed in a bus accident near Subernapara in Sirajganj-Enayetpur goad on Sunday evening.

The victim Totamiah (55) met the accident while was crossing the road. He was rushed to the Sirajganj General Hospital where the doctors declared him dead.

He managed to escape with the vehicle. A case has been filed with the police.