

District roundup

NETRAKONA

Poush mela, cultural week begins

Jan 18: A poush mela and cultural week began at the playground of Datta High School here on Friday, reports BSS.

State Minister for Establishment Nurul Huda inaugurated the mela and the cultural week, the Whip of the Treasury Bench in Jatiya Sangsad, Advocate MA Karim attended the inaugural function.

Presided over by Deputy Commissioner, Netrakona, Dewan Afaruddin the function was attended among others by Musarrat Hossain MP.

Speaking on the occasion the State Minister said the present government under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia was trying to bring an end to social unrest and resist the flow of foreign culture.

He urged the people to help the government for making development programmes a success.

The Whip MA Karim in his speech said Shaheed President Zia had taken different programmes to highlight the spirit of our traditional culture. Under the programme Shaheed Zia established a Garo tribal cultural academy at Birisri of Durgapur under Netrakona district, he added.

Artists of Birisri cultural academy presented a cultural show at the inaugural function.

BARISAL

Plan to construct 5 sluice gates taken up

From Staff Correspondent

Jan 18: Water Development Board (WDB) has undertaken a programme to construct five sluice gates with the financial assistance of Asian Development Bank (ADB) in Dashmina thana area of Patuakhali district during the current financial year.

These projects will be implemented with an expenditure of about 60 lakh taka and will be completed by June next — it is expected.

After the implementation of these projects, according to official sources, about eight thousand hectares of land will be provided irrigation facilities.

MADARIPUR

Drug addict youths on rise

From Our Correspondent

Jan 18: The number of drug-addict youths is growing alarmingly at Madaripur district town.

Rural youths have become addicted to different items of intoxication like foreign made wine, country made wine, opiums, sedative tablets, drug, miru sanjiban sira, and other type of liquid containing alcohol.

According to a non-official survey, Madaripur town and its suburbs have turned into open markets of drugs. All kinds of drugs and wine are available in some medicine shops.

The survey reveals that the numbers of addicted teenagers is only six per cent and it is increasing day by day. A well organised circle has been smuggling these items of intoxication from India and sell these in Madaripur.

SATKHIRA

Three dacoities committed

From Our Correspondent

Jan 18: Three dacoities were committed in different places of two thanas of the district recently.

It is reported that a gang of armed dacoits numbering 10 to 12 entered the house of one Laxmi Kant Ghosh of village Bhadra Khali under Kaligonj thana, by breaking open the door at dead of night and decamped with valuables of worth about Taka one lakh. A case has been filed with Kaligonj PS.

On the other hand, two dacoities were committed in two villages under Tala thana of the district. It is reported that dacoits looted valuables including cash worth Taka about fifty thousand from a house at village Dohar under Tala thana recently. Witnesses said, the armed dacoits entered the house of Dulal Chandra Das and decamped with the booty. The other dacoity committed at the house of Prafulla Kashari of village Tegharia of the same thana and decamped with the booty.

Two separate cases were lodged with Tala PS.

Two separate cases were lodged with Tala PS.

NETRAKONA

Annual police rally held

Jan 18: Annual police rally and athletic meet '93 were held at local police line maidan recently, reports BSS.

Additional Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Police, Dhaka Range Mudabbir Hossain Chowdhury inaugurated the rally and athletic meet, Police Super, Netrakona, Anwar Hossain Khan presided over the inaugural function.

District and Sessions Judge, Netrakona, Abdur Razzak and Deputy Commissioner Dewan Afaruddin, political leaders, local elite and government officials attended the function.

NOAKHALI

Food department fails to purchase paddy

Jan 18: Food Department here failed to purchase any rice or paddy during the current procurement drive due to specification problems, reports UNB.

According to official sources, paddy or rice was not found as per specification set by the Government. On the other hand, paddy is being sold at the rate of Taka 240 per maund in the open market when the rate for purchase has been fixed at only Taka 210 per maund.

Paddy production in the district is satisfactory but the farmers are facing difficulties with their produce as number of buyers in the market is quite insufficient.

In all 11 centres have been opened in the district to purchase 126 metric tons of paddy and 49 metric tons of rice.

CHITTAGONG

Sir Salimullah's death anniversary observed

Jan 18: Quaid-e-Azam Smriti Committee observed 78th death anniversary of Nawab Sir Salimullah through a discussion held at the Jamal Khan office here yesterday, a committee press release said yesterday, reports BSS.

Smriti committee Chairman SM Anisud-Daula presided over the discussion while Advocate Serajul Islam Chowdhury, Messrs Fazius Subhan Chowdhury, Mofizur Rahman, Muhammad Yakub, MA Jalil and Abul Abbas Kaderi, all committee members, participated in it.

The participants said that Nawab Sir Salimullah's contributions towards awakening Muslims and founding Muslim League in 1906 would be remembered for ages. It was Nawab Salimullah who had helped unite the Muslims to achieve their political rights in those days, they added.

CHUADANGA

Chhatra Oikyo sweeps Darsana College union polls

From Our Correspondent

Jan 18: Election of the students union of Darsana Government College was held peacefully recently.

Members of the Chhatra Oikyo panel formed by Chhatra League (M-I) and Chhatra League (B-K) won 18 posts out of total 19 posts including VP and GS. Jatoyabadi Chhatra Dal got no post in the election while Islami Chhatra Sibir got the only one post of Assistant Reading Room Secretary.

SM Zakaria Alam of Chhatra League (B-K) was elected Vice-President while Abu Sayed Mohammad Hasan of Chhatra League (M-I) was elected General Secretary of the students union.

COMILLA

Workshop on insemination held

Jan 18: A workshop on artificial insemination, sponsored by Artificial Insemination Centre, Comilla was held on Friday, reports UNB.

Livestock officers and workers from greater Comilla participated the day long workshop.

Presided over by Dr Badal Kanti Mitra, Deputy Director, Directorate of Fisheries and Livestock, the workshop was addressed, among others, by Mominul Huq Chowdhury and Shamarendra Kumer Sarker.

The speakers discussed problems of catering artificial insemination services in field level and suggested way and means to overcome those.



BOGRA: This road on which the two kids are standing has been constructed on the bed of the once mighty river Karotola. — Star photo by Samudra Haque

Siltation hampers irrigation to 15 lakh acres of land

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR Jan 18: At least 15 lakh acres of land in 16 districts of the northern region are almost out of irrigation facilities.

As a result of increased production of different crops worth Taka 500 crore annually.

With the siltation of the beds of at least 1000 canals, beels, haors and tributaries of different rivers, the irrigation facilities from these water sources have been stopped for long past causing a serious problem in providing usual irrigation to the standing crops during dry seasons.

Besides cultivation of crops, the siltation in these water bodies also causing serious setback in pisciculture. Several hundred fishermen have become jobless and acute crisis of fishes have been persisting in the areas.

In 1969, the Fishery Department undertook a gigantic master plan for re-excavation of these silted water bodies in a bid to revive their lives for boosting food production and pisciculture in the region. But the execution of the plan remained stopped for the Liberation War and still it is a plan.

In every year, the government is spending a huge quantity of wheat and rice for the execution of Food and Work Programmes which is inadequate to accelerate irrigation and pisciculture programme in the region.

During the last fiscal year, the union parishad chairmen and members approached to the higher authorities for the execution of the earlier plan to gear-up irrigation facilities in the region but no response has not yet been received.

A meeting of the Awami League was held at Neshbetgonj about three miles off the town, strongly demanded immediate construction of a memorial at the site of the mass slaughtering at Neshbetgonj as a mark of respect to the hundreds of shaheed who were slaughtered there by the occupation army of Rangpur Cantonment during Liberation War in 1971.

The speakers of the meeting gave a strong warning to the administration to switch on construction of a memorial at the mass slaughtering field at Neshbetgonj by March 28, the day on which thousands of villagers from surrounding areas with lathis, axes, arrows and swords in hands gheraoed the Rangpur Cantonment.

In reply to this attack, the occupation army, well equipped with sophisticated weapons fired on the mob causing instantaneous death of hundreds of persons on the spot while several hundreds others were severely injured.

The meeting, in view to keep in memory the highest sacrifices of the innocent villagers of the locality, strongly demanded for the construction of a memorial there.

The meeting, in view to keep in memory the highest sacrifices of the innocent villagers of the locality, strongly demanded for the construction of a memorial there.

The meeting, in view to keep in memory the highest sacrifices of the innocent villagers of the locality, strongly demanded for the construction of a memorial there.

The meeting, in view to keep in memory the highest sacrifices of the innocent villagers of the locality, strongly demanded for the construction of a memorial there.

The meeting, in view to keep in memory the highest sacrifices of the innocent villagers of the locality, strongly demanded for the construction of a memorial there.

The meeting, in view to keep in memory the highest sacrifices of the innocent villagers of the locality, strongly demanded for the construction of a memorial there.

The meeting, in view to keep in memory the highest sacrifices of the innocent villagers of the locality, strongly demanded for the construction of a memorial there.

The meeting, in view to keep in memory the highest sacrifices of the innocent villagers of the locality, strongly demanded for the construction of a memorial there.

The meeting, in view to keep in memory the highest sacrifices of the innocent villagers of the locality, strongly demanded for the construction of a memorial there.

The meeting, in view to keep in memory the highest sacrifices of the innocent villagers of the locality, strongly demanded for the construction of a memorial there.

The meeting, in view to keep in memory the highest sacrifices of the innocent villagers of the locality, strongly demanded for the construction of a memorial there.

The meeting, in view to keep in memory the highest sacrifices of the innocent villagers of the locality, strongly demanded for the construction of a memorial there.

Notes from Satkhira

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Jan 18: Satkhira thana police recovered a body of a 15-year-old boy from canal of Nulkura under Sadar thana recently.

None identified the body and ascertained the cause of his murder, police sources said. The body was sent to the Satkhira morgue for autopsy. A case was lodged with Satkhira PS.

One succumbs to injury

One Dabrduddin (65) of village Noakati under Tala thana died at the hospital recently.

It is reported that Dabrduddin was seriously wounded when a group of men of the same village hit him with lethal weapons and later he was admitted to the hospital with serious head injuries.

Killing of guest birds unabated

Hunters arts killing hundreds of migratory birds everyday at different beels of the district violating government ban.

Witnesses said, with the advent of winter thousand of guest birds are flocking at the marshes and water bodies of beel Dakatia, Ellabchar beel, beel Binerpota and beel Norar Char. But a section of greedy hunters and catchers are engaged in the hunt of these innocent birds.

It has been alleged that some officials of the district and police administration are also engaged in this illegal hunting.

Grocer brutally killed

One grocer Ahmed Ali (55) of Kadamtala Bazar under Satkhira Sadar thana was brutally killed by a young miscreant recently.

It is reported that the killer Reja (20) son of Abul Khair of Thanaghata village under Satkhira Sadar thana came to Ahmed Ali's shop and wished to take shelter there. Ahmed Ali gave him shelter and while he was sleeping at dead of night killer Reja hit Ahmed Ali with sharp iron to his belly. He was taken to Satkhira hospital where he succumbed to his injury. Police arrested Reja and sent him to jail. A case was lodged with Satkhira PS in this regard.

Housewife commits suicide

One housewife committed suicide here by taking poison recently.

It is learnt that Nurunnahar (18) wife of Mousur Ali Gazi of village Paishkhil under Shyamnagar PS took poison and later died on the spot.

Family trouble is the cause of her suicide, it is learnt.

Govt urged to fulfill demands

MAJDEE COURT, Jan 18: Noakhali Unnayan Bastabayan Parishad expressed deep concern at the silence of the government over their 10-point demand on the over all developments of the district, reports UNB.

A memorandum demanding establishment of a medical college, a cadet college, an agriculture college, a university, a division comprising the districts of greater Noakhali, digital telephone system, proper drainage facilities and expanded electrification network was submitted to the government a month back.

In a recent meeting the parishad urged the government to fulfill their demand without further delay.

Cottage industries face setback in Chuadanga

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, Jan 18: Due to high prices of raw materials, want of fund and patronisation the cottage industries in Chuadanga district have been facing setback for a long time.

A good number of people of Chuadanga district possess the skills of making different articles with bamboo, cane, jute and other raw materials. Women are not too lagging behind. Their excellent tapestry and embroidery works deserve appreciation.

Many of them have taken it as their profession and try to earn their livelihood.

But the prices of raw materials for the industry have now increased much and for want of fund they cannot work in full capacity.

Consequently, 80 per cent of the total people of this profession can not afford to purchase raw materials at an exorbitant price. They always borrow money from the affluent people at a high rate of interest.

In the face of such problems, many of them are being forced to give up their traditional profession and the village-oriented cottage industry faces closure. By this time, many of them have become unemployed and are now passing their days in utter misery.

It is opined that the Bangladesh Cottage Industry Corporation (BSCIC) can help these people by providing loans at an easy term with a view to saving the age-old rural industry of Chuadanga district from extinction.

One hundred and fifty four schemes were implemented under Test Relief Programme in four thanas of the district recently.

A total of 261 metric tons of rice was utilised for the purpose.

Of the total, schemes, 42 schemes were implemented in Chuadanga Sadar thana, 47 schemes in Alamdanga thana, 45 schemes in Damurhuda thana and 20 schemes in Jibannagar thana.

of current nets and indiscriminate catching of fish fry by the dishonest fishermen.

Unauthorised power consumption throughout the district is going on mounting system loss and irregular electricity supply, some local elite complained.

Sources said at least 500 unauthorised electric connections could be detected in the town and other areas if proper enquiry is made by the concerned authorities.

A section of PDB men were involved in underhand deals with the unscrupulous consumers for regular pay-offs, they alleged.

On the other hand, a number of electricity consumers complained that they were not getting their electricity bills in time for payment without surcharge.

Local leaders urged the authorities to take action against the dishonest consumers and officials to stop this malpractice.

Local leaders urged the authorities to take action against the dishonest consumers and officials to stop this malpractice.

Local leaders urged the authorities to take action against the dishonest consumers and officials to stop this malpractice.

Local leaders urged the authorities to take action against the dishonest consumers and officials to stop this malpractice.

Local leaders urged the authorities to take action against the dishonest consumers and officials to stop this malpractice.

Local leaders urged the authorities to take action against the dishonest consumers and officials to stop this malpractice.

Local leaders urged the authorities to take action against the dishonest consumers and officials to stop this malpractice.

Local leaders urged the authorities to take action against the dishonest consumers and officials to stop this malpractice.

Local leaders urged the authorities to take action against the dishonest consumers and officials to stop this malpractice.

Local leaders urged the authorities to take action against the dishonest consumers and officials to stop this malpractice.

Local leaders urged the authorities to take action against the dishonest consumers and officials to stop this malpractice.

Local leaders urged the authorities to take action against the dishonest consumers and officials to stop this malpractice.

Local leaders urged the authorities to take action against the dishonest consumers and officials to stop this malpractice.

Local leaders urged the authorities to take action against the dishonest consumers and officials to stop this malpractice.

Local leaders urged the authorities to take action against the dishonest consumers and officials to stop this malpractice.

RAJSHAHI: Professor Francois de Labriolle, President, National Institute of Oriental Languages (INALCO) presenting a commemorative medal to Professor MS Qureshi of IBS, Rajshahi University. — Star photo