

District roundup

BARISAL

Diarrhoea situation unchanged

Feb 2: Diarrhoea situation in Patuakhali and Barguna has remained almost static while in Jhalakathi and Pirojpur improved to some extent, reports UNB.

Official sources said, diarrhoea has claimed 61 lives and attacked 1672 on Friday and Saturday in three districts of Barguna, Patuakhali and Pirojpur.

Oral saline packets are being distributed among them affected people.

According to doctors, shortage of drinking water in southern districts and increase of salinity in the coastal areas were the reasons behind the outbreak of the disease every year.

Of the total 25,500 tube-wells in four districts of Patuakhali, Barguna, Pirojpur and Jhalakathi, about 1400 went out of order.

Meanwhile, Minister for Health and Family Planning Kamal Ibne Yusuf visited Pirojpur and some other diarrhoea affected areas. Director General of Health Department Dr Kazi Mashtur Rahman visited Barguna recently.

A number of medical teams have been working in the affected areas round the clock to combat the spread of the disease.

JHENIDAH

Non-govt high school teachers' confce held

Feb 2: The triennial conference of the district unit of non-government high school teachers' association was held at Wazir Ali High School ground on Monday, reports UNB.

Md Nazrul Islam, General Secretary of the central committee of the association attended the conference as chief guest. Biswas Abdur Rahim presided over the conference.

Speakers demanded nationalisation of education of the private secondary schools without further delay.

Among others MA Qayim Khan and Afzal Hossain spoke on the occasion.

MA Qayim Khan and Md Gulzar Hossain were elected as President and Secretary of the committee.

PATUAKHALI

Five dacoits nabbed

Feb 2: Police arrested five dacoits while they were committing dacoity in a passenger launch on Wednesday, reports UNB.

Police said about 15 dacoits, in the guise of passengers, attacked the passenger and the driver with deadly weapons when the launch M L Shithil of Patuakhali-Taltali route reached near Lakata ghat.

Sub-inspector of Taltali police station Monoranjan and one police constable, who were on board as passengers in the launch challenged the dacoits with the help of other passengers of the launch.

The dacoits then opened fire and attacked the passengers in which 12 passengers including a policeman were injured seriously.

On hearing the gun fire, police of the Taltali thana chased the dacoits boarding in another launch and arrested five dacoits while others jumped into the river and managed to escape.

The arrested dacoits were identified as Kaka of Boalgai of Patuakhali, Salam of Kutuba of Borhanuddin thana, Khalid and Faruq of Kalikapur of Patuakhali Sadar and Kutub of Gournadi thana.

The dacoits were members of the interdistrict gang, police said. The injured were admitted to Taltali hospital for treatment.

A case has been filed with the police.

SIRAJGANJ

Qaumi Mojdur Union executives

Feb 2: The biennial Qaumi Mojdur Union election was held on Monday in the Qaumi auditorium peacefully, reports UNB.

According to Election Commission press release, Abul Hossain Pachu of BNP Scramkhal was elected president and Sujabot Ali of JSD (Ina) general secretary.

Vice Presidents — Mofizuddin (BNP), Korban Ali (Ind) and Shah Jamal and Assistant Secretaries — Abdus Samad (Ind) and Shahidul Islam (CPB).

Abdul Khaleque and Anwar Hossain of Workers Party were elected as organising secretary and cashier respectively.

MADARIPUR

Property worth Tk one lakh gutted

Feb 2: Four people were injured and property worth about Taka one lakh was gutted in two separate fire incidents in Sadar thana of the district and Kotlipara thana of Gopalganj, reports UNB.

In one incident fire gutted the house of Wajidullah of village East Hosnabad in Sadar thana and destroyed valuables worth about Taka 50,000. Two people received burnt injuries while extinguishing the fire.

In another incident, the house of Vagrat Chandraharal of village Naricalbari in Kotlipara thana of Gopalganj district was caught fire. Property worth about Taka 50,000 was charred and two people received burn injuries.

DINAJPUR

Private tutor gets 5 yrs RI for seducing minor girl

Feb 2: A private tutor has been awarded five years rigorous imprisonment for seducing a minor girl, court sources said here on January 26, reports UNB.

According to the prosecution story, a minor girl Farhana of the satellite town area was seduced by the tutor Mattur Rahman of the same area when the girl reached his residence to take her usual lessons in the evening of August 17, 1991.

After the incident her father lodged a case and police after investigation submitted chargesheet against Mattur.

The District and Sessions Judge Mohammad Ali after examining the records and witnesses delivered the judgement on Wednesday.

Another message adds: The Additional Sessions Judge in a judgement on Wednesday awarded life imprisonment to one Serajuddin with a fine of Taka 3000 or in default to suffer another one year RI for killing his wife.

The case, in brief, was that Serajuddin son of Ahmed Ali of village Amra in Phulbari thana beat his wife Salema Bibi mercilessly and subsequently strangled her to death on April 11, 1990.

BRAHMANBARIA

Smuggled Indian goods seized

Feb 2: Bangladesh Rifles and Customs officials in a joint raid seized smuggled Indian goods worth about Taka 7 lakh from Dharabanga village in Nabiganj on Monday, reports UNB.

Acting on secret information, the joint team raided the area and recovered 522 pieces of Indian saris, 223 blouse pieces, 50 wine bottles, 280 pounds of thread, 240 kg DDT powder and 173 metres of cushion cover.

All the goods were deposited with the Akhaura customs office. A departmental case has been lodged.

MAGURA

10 people receives burn injuries

Feb 2: At least 10 people received burn injuries and 30 houses were gutted leaving 10 families homeless in a devastating fire at Ibrahimpur village in Sallakupa thana Wednesday, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the fire originating from the kitchen of Abdur Rahim Mollah soon engulfed the adjacent areas. At least 45 cows were roasted alive and 10 people received burn injuries. Property worth several lakh taka was charred in the incident.

Local fire brigade personnel rushed to the spot and with the help of the local people brought the fire under control.

The homeless families urged the authorities to provide them with relief and grants on humanitarian ground.

Another report adds: A two-day long workshop on seed storage and maintenance was held here Wednesday under the auspices of district Agricultural Extension Office, reports UNB.

Abdul Hossain Molla, Deputy Director of the district Agriculture Office inaugurated the workshop.

A total of 30 seed dealers, block supervisors and ideal farmers of the district attended the workshop.



Information Minister Nazmul Huda speaking at a public meeting held at Meherpur Public Library ground on January 27. —PID photo

Problems hamper education in college, schools

MEHERPUR, Feb 2: The Amla Government College in, Mirpur thana with 1500 students is plagued with multifarious problems, reports UNB.

Shortage of teachers, inadequate library facilities and acute accommodation problems are hampering education of the students.

Many posts of teachers are lying vacant for a long time. In the absence of boy's common-room the students are facing problems. The number of books in the library is insufficient to fulfil the requirements of the students.

There is no daily newspapers either for students or for the teachers.

In the absence of government residential accommodation the principal and teachers of the college have been facing much inconveniences.

A report from Borguna says: Almost all the high schools in the district are facing multifarious problems hampering education adversely.

There are 75 high schools in five thanas of the district of them only two in two thanas are run by the government.

Almost all the non-government schools are facing various problems including accommodation crisis, scarcity of furniture, dilapidated condition of school buildings, paucity of drinking water, educational appliances and shortage of fund.

Most of these schools established under local initiative have not received government recognition despite fulfilment

of requisite requirements. Many such schools running without government financial help are facing closure.

Many school houses damaged by cyclones and other natural calamities remained unrepaired much to the inconvenience of students who are compelled to attend their classes under the sky.

Most of these schools are facing problems due to scarcity of pure water. As a result, the students are to take impure water from nearby ponds and canals.

Local leaders and guardians have urged the government to take immediate steps to remove the problems of these schools to ensure better education.

Another report from

One held with smuggled goods in Satkhira

SATKHIRA, Feb 2: BDR personnel arrested one person and recovered smuggled goods worth over Taka one lakh from Bayra Bazar in Kaliganj last week, reports UNB.

They picked up Jitendra from a local colony and seized the smuggled goods from the market. The seized items included cosmetics and Indian saris.

A case was lodged with the local police in this connection and Jitendra was sent to the jail hajat.

Huda criticises opposition parties

JHENIDAH, Feb 2: Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda today criticised the leader of the Opposition in parliament Sheikh Hasina saying that she had resorted to the politics of terrorism, hartal and violence to disrupt the hard-earned parliamentary democracy, development, peace and communal harmony, reports ISS.

The minister said the people had identified Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat as the condemned political parties.

He was addressing a big public meeting at Munshi Super Market here, organised by the district BNP in support of Jhenidah Pourashava Chairman candidate Anisur Rahman Khoka, District BNP President Mashtur Rahman MP, Shahiduzzaman MP, Abdul Gani MP and Khan Asaduzzaman also spoke in the meeting. Advocate Abdul Majid presided.

Barrister Huda said the leader of the Opposition was not in the field during the movement. He said she had participated in the 1986 election along with the autocratic regime of Ershad and the condemned forces of Jamaat of 1971. On the other hand, Begum Khaleka Zia had fought

and carried forward the movement against the autocracy for nine years.

The Information Minister also attended a reception hosted in his honour by Jhenidah Press Club.

Diploma medical assoc AGM

TANGAIL, Feb 2: Annual general meeting of Bangladesh Diploma Medical Association, Tangail branch was held on Friday at Medical Assistant Training School auditorium here, reports BSS.

Dr Md Shahidur Rahman Babu, President and Dr Abdul Kader, Secretary General, central committee of the association attended the function as chief guest and special guest respectively.

Dr Abdullah Al Farid, presided over the meeting.

Among others Dr Sahrf Ahmed, Organising Secretary of central committee, Dr Mahfuzur Rahman, Dr Uttam Kumar Saha spoke of the occasion. The speakers said that eight Medical Assistant Training Schools were established in the country during the regime of President Ziaur Rahman.

the minister said the present democratic government had ensured freedom of the press in the country. He said there were now 150 dailies and 1,300 weeklies in the country.

He called upon the journalists to publish objective reports and not spread rumours. He urged them to see that the democratic process was not hampered due to rumours.

The minister was critical of some newspapers which had published motivated reports about the Awami League public meeting at Laidighi Maidan in Chittagong. "You can always criticise the government if it commits mistake, but please do not spread rumours," he added.

UNB adds: Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda laid the foundation stone of Jhenidah TV Relay Station at Gopinathpur in the town Wednesday.

This will be the 8th TV relay station in the country. Other relay stations are at Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi, Mymensingh, Rangpur, Natore and Satkhira.

Besides, two booster stations at Cox's Bazar and Rangamati are operated automatically from the Chittagong relay station.



MOULVIBAZAR: Prof Karunamoy, one of three educationists who were accorded reception speaking on the occasion held recently. It was organised by local Gunjiban Sambahdhan Parishad. The other two educationists, Syed Shamsul Islam and Abdul Wahab Chowdhury and Ebadur Rahman Choudhury MP, and Azizur Rahman MP are also seen in the picture. —Star photo

Homeless people demand right to franchise

SATKHIRA, Feb 2: Homeless people of the district pourashava brought out a big procession Saturday demanding their right to franchise for the coming poura election, reports UNB.

Mentionable that a large number of homeless people of the pourashava were not enlisted as voters. They were rendered homeless on account of river erosion and other natural calamities.

The processionist paraded the main thoroughfares of the town and chanted slogans in favour of their demand.

Later, a rally was held in front of the Deputy Commissioner's Collectorate building which was addressed by Syed Saifulal Laskar and others.

The speakers said that the homeless people have been

deprived of their birth-right adding no one has any right to take away the fundamental voting rights of the people on the plea that they were the victims of natural calamities.

They called upon the government to enlist their names in the voters list without further delay.

A report from Jhenidah says: A protest meeting was held here on Monday at Agrani Bank square under the auspices of the local unit of Awami League to protest the attempt on the life of Sheikh Hasina in Chittagong.

The meeting presided over by Advocate Ayub Hossain was addressed by local Awami League leaders Matiar Rahman, Advocate Amjad Hossain and Advocate Azizur Rahman.

Pry students get 1.15 lakh sets of books in Homna

COMILLA, Feb 2: About 1.15 lakh sets of primary school books have so far been distributed among the students of class one to five in 11 unions of Homna thana, reports UNB.

Official sources said the books have been distributed to 51 government and 11 registered primary schools of the thana.

Another report adds: The new executive committee of Comilla Club was unanimously elected in its annual meeting held on January 22.

The meeting was presided over by Katebur Rahman, Deputy Commissioner, Comilla, who is also the ex-officio president of the club.

Advocate Abdul Aziz Khan, Advocate Sultan Ahmad and Advocate Kiron Datta were elected vice presidents while Dr Shahidullah was elected general secretary.

A report from Rangpur says: District Education Department has undertaken a programme to distribute nearly three lakh sets of primary text books free of cost during the current academic session.

Officials said a total of 2.92 lakh sets of books will be distributed among students of 786 primary schools of the district during the session.

A total of 92 thousand sets of books will be distributed for class one, 65 thousand for class two, 54 thousand for class three, 45 thousand for class four and 36 thousand for class five.

Another report adds: CARE has taken up six development projects by utilising 291 metric tons of wheat in five unions in Badarganj thana of the district.

The projects include reconstruction of five roads and re-excavation of a canal.



NETRAKONA: A pond filled with waterhyacinth has become an ideal place for mosquito breeding. —Star photo

Village quacks on rise in Barguna

BARGUNA, Feb 2: The number of village quacks has been increasing in five thanas of the district due to absence of proper medicare facilities, reports UNB.

It is alleged that many educated youngmen disappointed by prolonged unemployment have taken quackery as profession and a few of them have basic training on health care.

Poor patients, mostly landless and day labourers who can hardly afford to get themselves treated at the hospitals, go to these quacks as they charge nominal fees.

The people suffering from various diseases including diarrhoea are compelled to go to the quacks for necessary treatment.

A large number of graduates as well as HSC and SSC passed young boys are increasingly engaging themselves in quackery without basic training.

A section of doctors and other staff of the hospitals allegedly realise gratification from the poor patients for providing them prescription and treatment. Being harassed by them, the poor patients are compelled to go to the quacks instead of health complexes.

People are reluctant to go to the qualified doctors at the thana headquarters and district town due to lack of good communication.

Another report adds: No scheme has yet been taken to develop Kakechira market of Patharghata thana though the government earns a revenue of over Taka three lakh every year from the market.

The Kakechira market, one of the most important busy markets of the thana, is beset with various problems which include deplorable condition of roads, lack of drinking water, sanitation and mosquito menace.

Most of the roads in the market are narrow and uneven. Cracks and potholes have developed at many points hindering the movement of vehicles as well as pedestrians.

Even after a slight rainfall, these roads become muddy and slippery. Rain water remains stagnant on the roads causing suffering to the pedestrians and movement of vehicles.

There is no drainage system in the market and as a result waters remain stagnant on the roads for days together in the rainy season.

People are reluctant to go to the qualified doctors at the thana headquarters and district town due to lack of good communication.

Another report adds: A day long training course on "technique of growing potato seed, farmers problem and its solution at field level" was held at the auditorium of BADC cold storage, Domarkandi on Wednesday.

Md Shahidullah, Deputy Director, seed distribution, chaired the inaugural function while K M Nurul Huda, Deputy Commissioner attended as chief guest.

It was also addressed by AFM Monjur Alam, Deputy Director, seed processing and Pijush Kanti Banik, Deputy Director, potato seed.

At least 100 potato seed contract growers of Faridpur and Rajbari districts took part in the training course.

Notes from Kurigram

From Our Correspondent

KURIGRAM, Feb 2: The BDR personnel of 30 Rifles Battalion of Kurigram recovered a huge quantity of smuggled goods including Indian cows, saris, salt, sugar, bicycle/spares, stationery, medicines, crockeries, imitations, etc., and Bangladeshi-polyester cloths, VCP/s, old cloths etc., worth about Taka 40,97,002/= from different border areas during the last one year beginning from January 1 to December 31.

The BDR men also arrested 29 persons in connections with this during the period.

Smuggled goods worth about Taka 37,92,846/= were recovered while being brought from India to Bangladesh and goods worth about Taka 3,04,156/= were recovered while being transported from Bangladesh to India, it is gathered.

Science, technology week observed

The sixteenth national science and technology week was concluded at Kurigram Government College premises with much enthusiasm recently.

On the concluding day, a prize-giving ceremony was arranged which was chaired by Principal Shyama Prasad Roy, Shaful Islam, DC Kurigram was present as chief guest and gave away prizes to the winners of science project showing, extempore speech and selected speech on science topic. Abdul Hakim Khan, SP Kurigram was present as the special guest in the function.

The prize-giving ceremony was addressed, among others, by Professor Mostafa Khondoker, Member-Secretary, of the science week Ujjapon Committee-93, Advocate Shamsuddin, the chief guest, the special guest and the president of the prize-giving ceremony.

It may be mentioned here that, a total of 25 science club and educational institutions took part in the week with their science-projects, in two groups.

Freshers' reception

The freshers of Kurigram Government Women's College accorded a hearty reception by the students of the college in a befitting manner.

In this connection, a discussion meeting was held at the college campus under the presidency of Principal Towfiq Begum, Shaful Islam, Deputy Commissioner, Kurigram was present as chief guest.

Among others, Abdul Matin, Abdul Majid Mondol, Kasturi Parveen, Rowshan Jahan, Bilkis Begum, Zannatul Ferdous, and VP of Students Sangad Reshma Sultana participated in the discussion.

The reception meeting was rounded off with an attractive cultural function which was participated, among others, by Rowan Afroz Sumi, Shamsunahar, Rowshan Jahan, Fahmida, Reeta, Sabita Barman, Lata, Shilpee, Latru, Zelly, Mahbuba Shabnam and Shikha.

Annual sports concludes

The district level school and Madrasa Kriya Protijogita-93 was held recently at the local stadium maiden with much enthusiasm.

It was formally inaugurated by Shaful Islam, Deputy Commissioner, Kurigram in presence of a large gathering.

About 250 participants from nine thanas of Kurigram district participated in 39 events of the Kriya Protijogita.

The Kriya Protijogita was jointly conducted by Gobinda Banarjee, Abdul Matin, Biswanath Rudra, Abdul Karim Raju, and Utpal Kanti Roy.

After the competitions, Shaful Islam, Deputy Commissioner, Kurigram, gave away prizes and certificates to the successful competitors as the chief guest. The certificate giving ceremony was addressed among others, by Khairul Alam, ADC Kurigram and Abdul Mannan, district Education Officer, Kurigram.

Apex club executives at B'Baria

BRAHMANBARIA, Feb 2: Advocate Shaful Islam and Mohammad Arju, Correspondent of Daily Ittefaq were elected president and general secretary of Brahmanbaria Apex Club, reports ISS.

Advocate Syed Mohammad Angur conducted the election held yesterday (Tuesday).

Other office bearers of the club, are: Syed Mohammed Angur, Senior Vice-President, Mohammad Mojibur Rahman Vice-President and Mohaidul Islam Tarek, Treasurer.