

District roundup

HABIGANJ

Mass literacy programme begins

Feb 16: Mass literacy programme organised by the Islamic Foundation began here from February 1, reports UNB.

Official sources said the foundation is conducting 12 literacy centres at Abdullahpur, Hafizpur, Mirjatala, Purba Demora, Bulkut, Chand Chari, Sarnowrekha and Joypur villages of Bahubal thana.

A total of 12 Imams who earlier took training from Islamic Foundation were appointed as teachers of the centres. Educational appliances had already been supplied from the foundation.

A total of 390 poor and destitute people from different age groups will get the educational facilities under the programme.

PEROJPUR

230 shallow tubewells to be installed

Feb 16: At least 230 shallow tubewells will be installed in the district to ensure supply of safe drinking water during the current financial year, reports UNB.

Public Health and Engineering Department will execute the project with the assistance of UNICEF.

According to official sources, 32 shallow tubewells will be installed each in Sadar and Nazirpur thanas, 74 in Nasarabad, 30 in Bhandaria, 25 in Kaulkhali and 30 in Madbaria thanas.

The project is expected to be completed by the end of June this year.

Besides, 7400 sets of sanitary latrines will be distributed in the district.

MADARIPUR

Arial Kha river reexcavation starts

Feb 16: The reexcavation work of Arial Kha river at a cost of Taka 27 crore has been started under National Dredging Project, reports UNB.

According to official sources, on the first phase 19 Km river of the confluence of Arial Kha are being reexcavated.

Sources said the work will be completed within 3 years time. About 2 lakh cubic metre mud will be dredged during current fiscal year. A total of 25 lakh cubic metre mud will be dredged under the project.

After completion of the work the navigability of the river will increase to a great extent.

KUSHITIA

Used band rolls of biri recovered

Feb 16: District CID police recovered huge number of used band rolls of biri, fake biri factory and necessary raw materials from a house at Chakarghua village in Kumarkhali thana on Thursday, reports UNB.

Acting on secret information, police raided the house of Omar Ali of the village and seized the said goods.

It is alleged that Omar Ali, who is absconding, has been cheating the people and the government for a long time.

JHENIDAH

Sramik unions' quarrel disrupt Jhenidah-Kushtia bus route

Feb 16: Buses remained off the road on Jhenidah-Kushtia route from last Friday following a quarrel between the leaders of two Motor Sramik unions, reports UNB.

Secretary of Jhenidah Motor Sramik unit Mozam and some other members of the unit were allegedly assaulted by the members of Kushtia unit at Kushtia following a quarrel on Housie gambling on Thursday night.

After the incident Jhenidah Motor Sramik union called bus strike from Friday for indefinite period demanding the trial of the attackers.

Hundreds of bus passengers are seen stranded at different points of the route due to abrupt strike call.

Mozam demanded of the authorities to probe into the matter and take necessary action against the persons responsible for the attack on them.

MYMENSINGH

Workshop on food for work programme held

Feb 16: A two-day workshop on 'food for work programme' was held under the joint sponsorship of district administration and CARE at the conference room of Zila Parishad recently, reports BSS.

Petter Nesbitt, CARE Administrator, Mymensingh inaugurated the workshop. Sirajuddin, district Relief and Rehabilitation Officer among others spoke on the inaugural session.

A total of 41 delegates including thana nirbahi officers, engineers, project implementation officers and technical persons from eight thanas of the district participated in the workshop.

The workshop reviewed various aspects of the food for work programme of different thanas of the district.

KISHOREGANJ

Dacoits loot valuables, set fire on houses

Feb 16: Valuables were looted and two dwelling houses were set ablaze in a daring dacoity at Bhattacharjee para in Sadar thana on Thursday evening, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, a gang of armed miscreants, numbering 25, entered the house of Kesab Bhattacharjee and looted the valuables. They also set two houses on fire in which a man was injured and a cow burnt alive.

A case has been filed and police visited the spot.

JAMALPUR

Transport owners assoc unit executives

Feb 16: A 21-member committee of Jamalpur Zilla Truck-Bus-Mini Bus and Tanklorry Owners Association was elected here recently, reports UNB.

The election was held at its annual conference presided over by Mirza Azam MP.

Mirza Azam MP and Akhtaruzzaman were elected President and Secretary of the new committee.

FARIDPUR

Course on vocal song, dance, musical instruments

Feb 16: A fortnight long training course on vocal song, dance and musical instruments for the trainers of Shilpakala Academy of greater Faridpur district is going on, reports UNB.

The inaugural training course, first of its kind, organised by the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, was presided over by Prof MA Samad on Feb 2. Deputy Commissioner K M Nurul Huda attended as chief guest.

The training course was addressed, among others, by Prof Sk Abdus Samad, Prof Alif Hossain and Director of Shilpakala Academy Begum Hamida Huj.

Thirty-two trainers and artistes from Madaripur, Gopalganj, Faridpur and Rajbari district branches are taking part in the course.

CHAPAINAWABGANJ

Chhatra Dal sweeps college union polls

Feb 16: Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal bagged all the seats including VP and GS in the Rohanpur Ysuf Ali College Students Union election held on January 27, reports UNB.

Mofazzal Haque Kokil and Abu Motalib were elected VP and GS respectively.

Besides JCD, pro-Awami League Bangladesh Chhatra League and Islamic Chhatra Shibir participated in the election.

A scheme has been taken up to bring 400 hectares of land in six thanas of the district under sugarcane cultivation during this year.

According to Agricultural Extension Department, it is expected that at least 19,200 metric tons of sugarcane will be produced with the successful implementation of the scheme.

The department will set up six demonstration plots in different areas of the district to acquaint the farmers with the modern methods of cultivation.



Prime Minister Khaleda Zia presenting sword of honour to the best 'all round' cadet at the graduation ceremony of the Bangladesh Air Force Academy at Jersore recently. —PID photo

Thalassemia kills 18 children, attacks 500 more in Pabna

PABNA, Feb 16: Thalassemia a new deadly disease that broke out in the district claimed 18 children and affected over 500 others during the last few days, hospital sources said, reports UNB.

Some of the victims were identified as Krishna (2), Nisha (1), Juli (2), Abeda (3), Moslem (6), Nazer Ali (3) and Hasmat (5). The identity of the rest 11 children could not be known immediately.

'Thalassemia' is a hereditary disorder of the blood causing anemia, something fatal in children occurring in Mediterranean and in South East Asian countries. Anemia is caused due to lack of red blood corpuscles or of hemoglobin.

According to doctors there are two types of Thalassemia named major and minor Thalassemia. Mainly the children fall prey to the major one. Minor Thalassemia can be cured but the outcome of the treatment of major Thalas-

semia is unsatisfactory.

The outbreak of the disease has created panic among the parents of the affected children.

Police recovered huge phials of Phenidyl syrup and one fire arms in separate raids and arrested two alleged dacoits on Saturday.

Acting on secret information, police raided Rajshahi Paribahan-2 at Gachpara area and recovered 336 phials of phynidil syrup worth about Taka 30,000.

In another drive police arrested two dacoits and recovered one India made pipegun from Raghbarpur area of the district.

The two dacoits Mokhal (35) and Mohammad Ali (35) were arrested when they attempted to commit a dacoity in the area.

Two separate cases had been filed with the local police. Election of the Pabna

Irrigation and Rural Development Project Workers and Employees Union was held here peacefully on Friday.

Md Rezul Karim and Md Abdus Salam were elected President and Secretary of the union respectively.

The other office bearers of the union are: MA Awal Khandker and Sultan Ahmed — Joint Secretary, Md Golam Nabi, Md Nannu Miah and Mojibur Rahman — Treasurer, Omar Ali — Organising Secretary, Rawshan Ali — Office Secretary, Nazrul Islam — Social Welfare Secretary, Ismail Hossain — Cultural Secretary, Jagadish Chandra Saha — Sports Secretary, Ahmed Hashem, Azhar and Abdul Mannan — Labour Secretary and Rafiqul Islam — Publicity Secretary.

Six other members of the union are: Anisur Rahman Khandker, Golam Mustafa, Abul Hashem, Nurul Islam, Ahmed Ali and Shahidul Islam.

Notes from Kishoreganj

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Feb 16: A young businessman was killed and two other sustained injuries when they came under the attack of dacoits in the Khataria river under Mitamain thana of the district recently.

The dead was identified as Taher Miah (24) of village Abdullahpur in Austragram thana of the district.

According to report that a boat while carrying paddy and three businessmen on its way from Abdullahpur to Madan-ganj fell under the attack of armed dacoits. During the scuffle, Taher Miah was stabbed by the dacoity and died on the spot. Two other businessmen, named Kamal Miah and Khaleque Miah who sustained stab injuries were later admitted into Mitamain Hospital.

A case was registered with Mitamain police station in this connection. The body was sent to Kishoreganj Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

Tk 20,000 property gutted

Property worth about Taka 20,000 was gutted in a fire that broke out at village Charolokia in Kishoreganj Sadar thana at night recently.

The fire burnt one house along with all belongings to ashes. The Fire Brigade personnel on getting information, rushed to the spot and brought the fire under control. The cause of the fire could not be ascertained.

Another devastating fire broke out in Goudaria village under Khalajuri thana recently. The fire continued for about 3 hours and 45 houses of the village along with all belongings were burnt to ashes.

The villagers however managed to bring the fire under control after long fight.

The reason of the fire could not be known. The loss of the fire is estimated at about Taka 20 lakh.

Govt money misappropriation

A case was filed by the district Anti-corruption Bureau against four persons including the ex-Rural Development Officer (RDO) of Nikli thana of the district now posted at Mymensingh as senior Assistant Director of BRDB on charge of misappropriation of government money.

According to the Kishoreganj district Anti-corruption Bureau office, during the financial year 1984-85 Taka 15,000 was sanctioned for distribution among the members of Dampara Goalhati Mohila Bittahen Samabay Samity as loans for paddy currying.

Meherunnesa, President and Hosne Ara Mukta, Manager of the samity withdrew the money from the Sonali Bank, Nikli branch on 4-6-1985 and later misappropriated the whole money in collusion with Abdul Mazid Talukder, Rural Development Officer Nikli and Abdul Ahad inspector of BRDB.

On receiving complaints, Md Fazlur Rahman, Assistant Inspector, district Anti-corruption Bureau investigated into the matter and filed a case against them with Nikli police station.

Drama staged

A Bengali drama 'EK Mutho Anna Chaf' written by Ranjan Debnath was staged in the Barabari Government Primary School in Katiadi thana of the district recently.

Sponsored by Shapla Juba Sangha, Noushad, Bulbul, Kanan, Amru, Shahin Jhuton, Kamrul, Faruq, Emad, Duldul, Saiful, Jahangir, Selim, Osman, Ilias, Alam, Jolly, Alo and Nazman styled different roles of the drama.

Re-excavation of 12 canals nearing completion

MYMENSINGH, Feb 16: Re-excavation of 12 canals measuring 38,346 metres in nine thanas of Mymensingh district will be completed during the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

An official source said fifty per cent of the re-excavation work will be done under food-for-work programme while the rest by voluntary service. 368 metric tons of wheat have been sanctioned under food-for-work programme for the implementation of the scheme.

The names of the canals are: Borphul Khal of Sadar thana, Kushmail Kamarbil of Fulbaria thana, Shila Khal of Gafargaoan thana, Dobabhanga Khal of Trishal thana, Baguri Khal and Maga Khal of the Iswarganj thana, Kakchar Khal of Nandial thana, Kobala Khal of Gouripur thana, Biswajuri Khal of Halaughat thana, Zarul Khal and Zihuri Khal of Phulpur thana.

A total of 11,120 hectares of land will get irrigation facilities after the re-excavation of the canals, the source said. UNB report adds: Vice

Chancellor of Bangladesh Agricultural University Prof M Ashraf Ali Khan underscored the need for strengthening national research systems for agricultural development.

The VC was speaking as chief guest at a seminar on 'National Research Systems for Agricultural Development in Bangladesh' under the auspices of Bangladesh Association for the Advancement of Science (BAAS) at Zainul Abedin auditorium on Thursday.

He said the country's land and water endowments could be turned into wealth through extensive research in agriculture.

Prof Ashraf Ali observed that there was no alternative to extensive use of science and technology for agricultural development and urged the concerned research institutes to infuse their will and energy for attaining this goal.

The seminar, presided over by Prof S A Haque, was addressed, among others, by president of BAAS Prof Aminul Islam and M Ashrafuddin.

Four Sarbahara Party men rounded up with arms

MAGURA, Feb 16: Four alleged members of the outlawed Sarbahara Party were caught red handed with arms and ammunition at Chandardanga in Sadar thana on Monday (February 8), reports 13.

The arrested are identified as Naeb Ali (30) and Jewel (32) of Pukuria in Salikha thana, Rajab Ali (20) of Chandpur and Milon (22) of Dhalohara in Sadar thana.

A pipe gun and three rounds of ammunition were also recovered from their possession.

Police said a group of miscreants numbering 10 to 12 raided the village and identified themselves as members of the Sarbahara Party and demanded tolls from the villagers.

The villagers refused to pay and at one stage of altercation they with the help of VDP personnel, attacked the miscre-

ants and caught four of them with their weapons.

They were later handed over to the local police. A case was filed in this connection.

Another reports adds: Armed dacoits in disguise of passengers, swooped on a night coach near Arpara on the Magura-Jessore road and looted cash, goods and belongings worth Taka 1.6 lakh on February 4.

The robbers suddenly halted the Jessore-bound coach of Duranta Paribahan, at gun point and robbed off the passengers cash Taka 96 thousand and belongings worth about 50,000 witnesses and passengers said.

At least 10 passengers were knifed down they resisted the dacoits.

The injured were admitted to Magura and Jessore Sadar hospitals. None has been arrested yet.

Pabna Mental Hospital in crisis

BOGRA, Feb 16: Mental diseases patients are not getting proper treatment in Pabna Mental Hospital, the only government mental hospital for want of requisite facilities.

It can be mentioned here that the number of mental disease patients are on increase for various social and economic causes.

Pabna Mental Hospital which is the first of its kind in the country was established in 1957 at Hemayetpur, 7 kilometre off Pabna town. A plan was also taken up at that time to set up a mental research centre which is yet to be implemented.

Doctors of the hospital informed that they can not find out the reason of being mentally sick for want of modern equipment in the hospital. They however said that unemployment, social and economic

From Samudra Haque

problems, failure in love are the main problems behind the disease.

There are now 10 doctors, 70 nurses and 125 ward boys in the hospital. The ratio of doctors and patients is 1:40.

There is no pathology department in the hospital. One past of Radiologist have been lying vacant for couple of years. The X-ray machines are out of order for many years.

The mental patients of the hospital are deprived of treatment of other diseases in the absence of doctors. The existing psychiatrists use to treat the patients which is not appropriate.

There are 400 beds in 12 male six women wards which is quite inadequate with the increasing member of patients.

Out of the total, 20 beds have been fixed for drug addicted people who are not

given proper treatment.

It is informed that the patients do not get requisite medicine from the hospital. They are to buy medicine from outside at an exorbitant price. The poor patients are the worst victims.

It is learnt that sometimes mental patients are found missing from the hospital for the negligence of the authority. Announcements of missing patients have become a common feature.

There are 86 small and big buildings in the hospital.

Hospital sources informed that in an average 100 patients come to the hospital everyday.

The source further informed that plans for development of the hospital were sent to the concerned ministry but no response has yet been received by the hospital authority.

Firewood use in brickfields on

SIRAJGANJ, Feb 16: Despite government ban, firewood is being used as fuel in different brickfields of the district.

It is gathered that about 40 brickfields have been set up in different parts mainly by the side of highways of Sirajganj district. Firewood and bamboo roots are widely used in the brickfields as fuel. Baby trees even are cut rampantly. Due to

From Our Correspondent

massive use of bamboo roots in the brickfields the existence of bamboo clusters are threatened. Piles of firewood and bamboo roots are found in every brickfield awaiting burning.

Following massive felling of trees, the Government in posed ban on using firewood in the brickfields and supply of coal was made easy. But the brickfield owners are interested to use firewood and

bamboo roots in the ovens of the brickfields. Due to such tendency, massive cutting of trees is observed in the rural areas.

While contacted, some brickfield owners told this correspondent that coal is sold totally on cash payment but firewood is supplied on credit. Moreover, cost of production reduces if firewood is used as fuel.



BOGRA: Rootless children are taking rest on a roadside at the town. —Star photo



RANGPUR: Lioness Laila Matin, Lioness District President of the District-315 addressing the regional conference at the local tourist motel recently. —Star photo

Problems grip Narail sub-jail

NARAIL, Feb 16: The century-old Narail sub-jail constructed in the early part of British regime is beset with multifarious problems, reports UNB.

The small sub-jail cannot accommodate increasing number of convicted and under trial prisoners. The inmates are passing their days in great distress.

According to official sources, the sub-jail has an accommodation capacity of 32 male and two female prisoners but with the increase of crime, the number of prisoners has increased manifold.

It is learnt that 250 prison-

ers of different courts of the district are accommodated in the sub-jail daily. The inmates cannot sleep at night for want of space and pass on standing and sitting in distress amid the sultry water and mosquito bite.

The inmates are also suffering from various diseases. The uncleaned and dilapidated latrine is emitting bad odour regularly causing serious health hazards.

When contacted Deputy Commissioner of the district said efforts are on to construct a new district jail at a selected site on the outskirts of the town.

Manpower agent cheats Tk 10 lakh

SIRAJGANJ, Feb 16: An amount of Taka 10 lakh from 25 farmers of village Hatemhasil in Raiganj thana of the district has been cheated by a so called manpower agent of the same village, reports UNB.

According to the local people, Rafiqur Rahman, the so called agent, allured the innocent farmers of good jobs in Kuwait and collected the money. But since then he went into hiding.

Meanwhile, the farmers caught Rafiqur red handed after a month and in village arbitration he has been asked to refund the money immediately. After that Rafiqur attacked some of the farmers who demanded money back and went into hiding for the second time.

A case has been lodged against him with the local police.

Another report adds: At least 10 people were injured, four seriously, in a post election clash between supporters of rival groups at Duttabari area of the town Thursday.

Witnesses said the clash erupted when supporters of defeated Chairman candidate in the pourashava election and former VP of the district unit Jatiya Party, Manjur Hassan Khushi attacked newly elected poura chairman and local BNP leader Noor-e-Alam Helal.

At least four houses were ransacked and valuables including sewing machines were looted during the clash.

Seriously injured Saiful (28), Jamal (25), Happy (20) and Parvez were admitted to Sirajganj General Hospital.

A case was filed with the local police. None has been arrested so far in this connection.