

District roundup

NATORE

PBS earns Tk 26.9 lakh in 1992

Dec 1: Natore Polly Bidyut Samity (PBS)-2 earned Taka 26,90,551 in the last fiscal through electrification of at least 399 villages of six thanas of the district, reports UNB.

This was disclosed by the Deputy Commissioner Azir Uddin Ahmed at the 10th annual general meeting of Natore PBS-2 at its Bonpara office on November 25.

M Sadek, Deputy Director of Operation and Management of Rural Electrification Board and Rafiqul Islam, General Manager of PBS-2 among others were present at the meeting with Samity president Md Azmal Haq in the chair.

It was informed in the meeting that the system loss has come down to 16.40 per cent from 32 in last few years and the bill collection was highly satisfactory.

TANGAIL

BMA holds AGM

Dec 1: BMA Tangail branch held its annual general meeting on Friday at its premises, reports BSS.

Dr Abdul Bari, presided over the meeting that had elected an eighteen member executive committee for two years with Dr H R Khan as president, Dr Feroz Khan as secretary, Dr Rafiqul Islam as organising secretary and Dr Ibne Syeed as treasurer.

Dr Feroz Khan placed annual report of the association. The meeting discussed different issues mentioned in the report.

CHITTAGONG

One sentenced to 7 years RI

Dec 1: The Second Additional Session and Anti-Tribunal Judge Syed Enayet Ullah in a judgement Sunday sentenced one Mustafa Ahmad to seven years rigorous imprisonment and fined Taka one thousand, in default to suffer four months more RI on charge of snatching gold chain from a lady, reports BSS.

The prosecution story is that on August 5, 1993 the accused snatched away a gold chain from the neck of a lady in front of Biplonbhan (new market) in broad day light. While fleeing away accused Mustafa Ahmad was caught by police on duty.

A case was filed against the accused with Kotwali police who later submitted charge sheet against him.

The judge heard five witnesses in the case and found the accused guilty.

NETROKONA

Dacoits kill BADC store guard, loot valuables

Dec 1: A group of dacoits killed a night guard of the local BADC (Irrigation) store and left with irrigation machinery worth Taka 2,40,000 Sunday night, Kotwali police said Monday, reports BSS.

According to the police, the dacoits came on a truck late night and asked the victim, Bachchu Mia (35) to give them the key of the store. On refusal, they attacked him with lethal weapons, took the key from him and opened the door of the store for looting, they said.

Meanwhile, Bachchu Mia was rushed to the Mymensingh Medical College Hospital where attending doctors declared him dead, the police said.

A case has been filed with the Kotwali police station.

JAMALPUR

Press club convening committee formed

Dec 1: A special meeting of Jamalpur Press Club was held here with Deputy Commissioner Jalal Ahmed in the chair at his office on Nov 25, says UNB.

The meeting was addressed, among others by, Advocate Bakil Billah, Loviu Ansar, M A Jalil, Advocate Syed Abdus Sobhan, Utpal Kanti Dhor and Shahidullah.

After long discussions a six member convening committee was formed for amendment of the club constitution led by Utpal Dhor.

The other members of the committee are: Advocate Bakil Billah, Loviu Ansar, Muslemuddin and Shushanta Dev. The club had its earlier meeting in the 1963.

PATUAKHALI

Plenty of dried fish

Dec 1: The processing of sun dried fish has increased to a great extent in Kalapara thana in the current season, says UNB.

Local people said, the processing has increased due to abundant supply of both local and deep sea fish. In the absence of mechanised processing plant for drying up of fish, a good quantity of fish is being perished due to want of proper heat of the sun in the foggy weather.

Meanwhile, the foggy weather is persisting in the area for a quite a long time. As a result plenty of raw fish are being rotten.

Meanwhile, tourism industry at Kuakata in the thana is being threatened as bad odour emitting from the fish lying for the heat of the sun has been creating inconvenience to the tourists.

The Deputy Commissioner of the district asked the local people to process the fish about two kilometre off the sea-beach for the greater interest of the tourism industry as well as the tourists.

RAJSHAHI

RU incident probe body calls for witnesses

Dec 1: Persons who enlisted their name to give evidence physically to the enquiry commission formed to probe into the Rajshahi University incident on September 19, have been requested to appear before the commission for interview, says BSS.

The interview will be taken at Rajshahi circuit house from December 5 to 18 except December 10, 16 and 17, from 10 am to 1:30 pm.

Secretary of the enquiry commission and additional district magistrate of Rajshahi at a notification issued Saturday has requested Rajshahi University teachers, officers and employees to appear before the commission on December 5 and 6 while physicians, police and journalists on December 7, elites of Rajshahi city on December 8 and 9, political organisations on December 11 and 12, students organisations and students on December 13, 14 and 15 and others on December 18.

NARSINGDI

BADC store keeper chargesheeted

Dec 1: A store keeper of Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC) was chargesheeted for stealing some equipment, official sources said, reports UNB.

According to the District Anti Corruption Bureau, Harun-ur-Rahid, store keeper of the Ratpur branch of BADC, had stolen some instrument worth about Taka two crore from the BADC godown and sold them to "black market".

Earlier, an inspection team of the Bureau visited local markets, found the person guilty and filed a case with Ratpura thana on September 30.

SIRAJGANJ

4 killed in diarrhoeal disease

Dec 1: Diarrhoea claimed at least four lives and attacked 460 people in Ullapara thana of the district during 24 hours ending at 6 pm Saturday.

With this, the diarrhoeal death toll in Sirajganj district rose to 58 in last 26 days when 9,617 people were attacked by the disease.

Unofficial death toll, however, rose to 71 while the number of people attacked by diarrhoea were 11,117.

Civil Surgeon Dr Mattur Rahman told UNB that the spread of the disease has been contained by 127 medical teams working round the clock. Besides, 28 mobile medical centres were working in the worst affected areas to combat the disease.

MYMENSINGH

Tributes paid to Firoz, Jahangir

Dec 1: The third death anniversary of Shaheed Firoz and Jahangir was observed here on Sunday with due respect, says UNB.

The district units of Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (BSD), Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD), Jatiyatabadi Samajik Sangakriti Sangathan (JASAS) and Chitra Union held separate discussions and *midat mahfil* on the occasion.



Prof RI Chowdhury VC of CU speaking as chief guest at the freshers reception accorded to the HSC students of Chittagong University College recently. — CU photo

Diarrhoea claims 50 lives in Chandpur areas

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, Dec 1: Diarrhoea has claimed 50 lives and attacked 5000 more during the last one month in different areas of the district.

The badly affected thanas are: Chandpur, Faridganj, Madlab and Haimchar.

About 56 medical teams are scheduled to be engaged in different thanas of the district to combat the disease.

The situation aggravated for want of adequate preventive measures and inadequate supply of medicine.

Everyday, a large number of patients are coming in ICDDR/B hospital at Matlab and in other health complexes. The villagers of the affected areas inform that due to the negligence of health workers, the disease is spreading fast. The health workers are

hardly found in the affected areas.

Acute scarcity of pure drinking water, deficiency of balanced diet are the main causes of the outbreak of the disease.

Another report says: Seven primary schools in seven thanas of the district have been brought under the Food for Education Programme.

As a result, about 15,000 poor students and their families will be benefitted by the programme.

Md Golam Kibria, DC Chandpur organised the programme in the district.

MA, Matin MP inaugurated the Food for Education Programme at Hatila Union and Suchipara union under Hajiganj

and Shahrasti thana respectively.

Mezba Uddin Khan MP inaugurated the programme at Kachua union under Kachua thana.

The DC inaugurated the programme at Ulgidurgapur union under Haimchar thana.

Alam Khan MP inaugurated the programme at Bisnapur union of sadar thana.

Zahirul Haque inaugurated the programme at Balithuba union at Faridganj thana. Md Nurul Huda MP inaugurated the programme at Farajikandi union under Matlab thana.

Large number of students are being attracted by the programme and students are seeking admission in the primary schools.

Notes from Khulna

KHULNA, Dec 1: A teenage girl died by falling from the roof of a house at Barada Datta lane in the town last week, police sources said, says UNB.

The victim was identified as Tara (16), student of a local college, fell from the roof of a three-storied building at mid night.

The reason of her death could not be known immediately, police said.

A case was filed with the sadar thana.

Police also recovered an unidentified dead body from a char of the river Vadra near Dumuria high school last Friday.

One killed in road mishap

Another report adds: A middle aged man was killed in a road accident here at Kopilburi in Paikghacha thana on November 19.

Nilkamal (40) was hit by a Paikghacha bound speedy bus from behind while he was riding a motor-bike and died on the spot, police said.

Police seized the bus along with its driver.

A case was filed with the local police.

Tk 20,000 hijacked

A group of miscreants hijacked cash Taka 20,000 from a man at gun point at Sibbari bus stand last week.

The miscreants pointed gun at Nur Ali while he was waiting for a Sathkhira bound bus at Sibbari stand early hours on November 21 and asked him to hand over the money.

Another report adds: Police arrested Sohag (18), a hijacker, from Nirala katcha bazar area in the town on Friday.

Sohag was wanted in number of cases, including hijacking and toll collection for a long time, police said.

Forged notes seized

Police arrested a man recovered 58 different forged banknotes from his possession at Kumira Bazar of Tala thana in Sathkhira district last week.

The forged notes include, 47 notes of Taka 500 and 11 notes of Taka 100, police said.

Acting on tip, police raided the Kumira bazar, arrested Baem Ali and seized counterfeit notes of total Taka 24,000 from his possession.

JP-BNP activists clash, shots fired

Jatiya Party activists and the supporters of ruling BNP clashed near Picture Palace cinema hall in the town Sunday.

Witnesses said the clash between the two rival groups erupted as their processions confronted at the area at 5.30 pm.

During the hour-long fight Jatiya Party activists badly damaged a microbus near the hall. At least 15 hand bombs were blasted and three shots fired during the melee.

JICA team visits BAU

Dec 1: A 12 member Japanese delegation led by Monobu Horie of Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) visited Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) on Thursday, reports UNB.

Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Shah Mohammad Farouk welcomed the delegation at his office and discussed various matters relating to higher agricultural education, research, training and extension programmes of BAU, said a university press release.

All Deans of the Faculties, Directors, Coordinators and high officials of the university were present during the meeting.

Later, the delegate went round all the faculties of BAU, Graduate Training Institute, Agriculture Extension Centre and exchange views of mutual interest with the deans and head of the departments.

The Japanese team also visited Fisheries Research Institute and held discussion with its Director Dr M A Majid.

Industryless BSCIC estate

NATORE, Dec 1: Not a single industry has been set up in BSCIC industrial area of Natore even after 13 years of the approval of the project, according to a UNB report.

Government had acquired 15.18 acres of land in Datta Para areas in the outskirts of the district town for setting up of the proposed BSCIC industrial area in 1980. It also had sanctioned Taka 1.48 crore for the project.

An official said, of the total amount Taka 69.24 lakh have already been spent for the acquisition of land, earth filling, construction of administrative building, water tank construction and electrification upto 1989.

Construction of roads, sinking of deep tubewells and installations of pipe line will be completed during the current year at a cost of Taka 24.85 lakh.

There are 94 plots in the industrial area in which some 60 small and large scale industries can be set up in the area.

The BSCIC has taken initiatives and wanted application for sanctioning of the plot in the area five years back but there was a little response from the entrepreneurs. Only three applications were filed during the period.

Of them, one for setting up of engineering workshop, one for cosmetics and another for medicine production. But they could not yet establish their industries due to want of fund.

General Manager of the Natore BSCIC said, the entrepreneurs did not come forward for setting up of industrial units due to complexity in getting loans, want of marketing facilities and influx of smuggled goods in the local markets.

One succumbs to his injuries

A poor share-cropper succumbed to his injury at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital

(RMCH) on Wednesday last, hospital sources said. The victim, identified as Kalu Mia of Khujipara village under Gurudaspur thana of Natore district, was admitted to RMCH on November 10. Kalu received serious injury allegedly by Abdul Matin, son of Fazal Sardar of the same village.

According to the villagers, Kalu Mia came under attack when he went to fix the boundary of a disputed land which was claimed by both Kalu and Matin.

Canal digging scheme completed

JESSORE, Dec 1: Thirteen canals were re-excavated in Jessore district during the national wide canal digging programme, reports BSS.

Fifty per cent work of these schemes were done on self-help basis while the others were completed under Food for Works Programme. (FWP).

Three hundred and seventy two metric tons of wheat worth about Taka 24 lakh were utilised in these schemes. A total of 23 kms of canal were re-excavated under the programme with the completion of these schemes an area of 20,000 hector of land in eight thanas of the district would be free from water logging and 4,500 hectors of land would get irrigation facilities.

These canals would be re-excavated under the programme during 1993-94 fiscal year. A total of 4000 meter would be re-excavated. These canals are, Haibhanga Beel of Deara to River Bhairab in sadar Bakchar Beel to river Bhadra in Keshabpur and Chakorer Beel to Kapotakkho river in Chouan-gacha thana.

Besides, Water Development Board has also undertaken a programme for re-excavation



MYMENSINGH: Japanese expert Minobu Horie and his team members of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) are seen with the VC, Prof Dr. Shah Mohammad Farouk during their visit to the Bangladesh Agricultural University on November 22. — Star photo

Plan to construct 500 cyclone shelters

Work on 102 completed, 45 nearing completion

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Dec 1: The construction work of 102 cyclone shelters have been completed while, works on 45 other cyclone shelters are nearing completion, sources said.

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BRCS) took up a programme to construct 500 cyclone shelters in the tornado hit areas along the vast coastal belt of the country with the financial assistance of different foreign countries.

It is learnt that after the completion of the construction work of these projects more 225 shelters will be constructed.

Meanwhile Bangladesh Red

Crescent Society has introduced a financial 'Grameen Bank like' programme for the people of coastal areas including another 'Coastal Rehabilitation Programme' with the financial assistance of the Swedish Red Cross.

Twenty metric tons of kataribhog rice worth about five lakh taka was exported to Saudi Arabia by a public enterprise of Barisal through Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) during the current financial year.

Meantime, Japan, Malaysia, and Sri Lanka responded to the proposals, the sources said.

Sweeper gets life-term for holding forged currency notes

COMILLA, Dec 1: A man was sentenced to life-term imprisonment for possessing forged currency notes, court sources said here on Tuesday, reports UNB.

According to the prosecution story, the convicted sweeper Ranjoo was caught red-handed by a contingent of CID personnel while he was trying to encash a forged note of five hundred Taka denomination. He was later handed over to Kotwali police.

The Additional Sessions Judge of Comilla AKM Istiaque Hossain after examining the witnesses and records awarded the punishment on November 16.

Meanwhile, one Billal Hossain alias Billal was awarded 17 years rigorous imprisonment for possessing illegal arms.

Nangalkote thana police recently arrested Billal and recovered a pipe-gun, a dagger and iron rod from his possession.

Assistant Sessions Judge of Comilla Ali Mansoor after examining the records and witnesses delivered the judgement recently.

Another report says: Bangladesh Rifles seized smuggled goods worth over Taka 67.32 lakh from different border areas of the district and nabbed 22 alleged smugglers in the month of last October.

According to BDR sources, goods worth over Taka 66.75 lakh were seized while being smuggled into the country and contraband goods worth Taka 56,810 were recovered while being smuggled out to India.



NATORE: Some of the pye-dogs killed during killing drive at the town recently. — Star photo

Govt incur Tk 1 cr loss Only 10 pc owners have drug licences

PABNA, Dec 1: Government is being deprived of revenue about Taka one crore every year from a huge number of unlicensed medicine shops in the district, reports UNB.

District Drug Superintendent said, there are about 6,000 medicine stores in 18 thanas of the greater Pabna district. Of them, only 687 stores have drug licence. He alleged that due to the non-cooperation of the law enforcing agency no action could be taken against those shop owners.

However, Police administration in Pabna said the Drug Administration did not want any help during the last two years for taking legal action against the unlicensed medicines shop owners.

It is alleged that a section of employees of the drug administration have underhand dealings with the unlicensed shop owners and they allegedly collect about Taka 20 lakh every year from these shops as bribe. The sources said, a monthly toll of Taka 200 to 400 is being collected from these shops to run

the business undisturbed. President of the local medicine traders association MA Kafi Sarker called upon the concerned authorities to stop the illegal business of these medicine shops immediately.

Some medicine shop owners complained that they were being harassed and extra money are being claimed by the concerned officials while going to get their licences.

Meanwhile, it is learnt that a section of medicine shop owners are selling date-expired medicines to the patients. A good number of people including the children have been attacked by different diseases due to intake of such low-standard medicines.

The drug control committee in the district allegedly is not functioning properly for a long time, as a result the products of the local company are coming to the markets without proper quality checking.

Local leaders demanded enquiry into the allegations for ensuring the public health of the people of the district.

Major problems hamper edn in ideal school

BARGUNA, Dec 1: Bash-bunia High School of the district has been plagued with manifold problems due to shortage of teachers, classrooms, ill equipped laboratory for a long time, reports UNB.

School sources said, despite these limitations the school has earned a unique distinction and at least ten students get first division in the SSC examinations of Jessore Board every year.

Sources said, only 15 teachers are unable to cope with a large number of students while some posts of assistant teachers are lying vacant for a long time.

Besides, the classrooms are congested due to increasing number of students, as over 70 students are accommodated in a room which is hardly sufficient for 40 students.

There is no library room in the school. Although some books are there but due to lack of space the students cannot

use the library. Due to shortage of laboratory facilities students of the school also suffering a lot during their practical classes.

Cracks have developed in the rooftops and walls of the school. Even in rainy season water leaks through these cracks. The dilapidated school building may be collapsed at any time.

Cattle and dogs move freely in the classrooms due to shortage of doors and windows. Moreover, absence of sanitary latrines in the school are causing troubles for the students.

The guardians have urged the concerned authorities to take necessary steps in this regard to ensure better education facilities for the students.

Taka 19 lakh has been allocated for construction of each FWC. Each centre will have multi-storied building on 47 decimal of land with office and clinic in the ground floor and residential facilities in the first floor.