

District roundup

PATUAQHALI

Seminar on prevention of diarrhoea

Dec 14: A seminar on the prevention of diarrhoeal diseases was held in Kalapara thana, reports UNB.

Civil Surgeon of the district AFM Samad-Ul-Haque attended the seminar as a chief guest while Health and Family Planning Officer of Kalapara thana Dr Matiar Rahman presided.

The seminar held on Dec 6 was participated by the local officials, UP Chairmen, Journalists and the local elite. Abdul Malek, Thana Statistical Officer conducted the seminar.

Earlier a grand procession was organised parading the main roads of the town. A documentary film show was also projected after the seminar.

Local sources said diarrhoea has alarmingly broken out in several unions of the thana recently and two people died in the last fortnight.

LALMONIRHAT

Construction work on health complex starts

Dec 14: The construction of 10-bed hospital complex of Dohogram-Angorpotha enclave has started under the supervision of Public Works Department, reports UNB.

The projects was taken at a cost of Taka 1.9 crore. Initially Taka 30 lakh has been provided to start the construction and the rest of the amount will be given in phases.

The work is expected to be completed in October, '94. With the construction of the hospital a long felt demand of the people will be met.

DINAJPUR

Indian goods worth Tk 51000 seized, one arrested

Dec 14: Bangladesh Rifles seized Indian goods worth over Taka 51,000 and arrested a man at Kuturgaon in Kotwali thana, reports UNB.

Acting on tip, BDR raided the spot and recovered 108 bottles of phenidyl syrup and 4470 pieces spares on Dec 4.

The goods were later deposited with the customs department.

Another report from Comilla adds: Seven smugglers were arrested and 164 pieces of Indian sares and other contrabands were seized by Bangladesh Rifles in the last week of the last month.

The arrested were handed over to the police and contrabands were handed over to the customs officials.

MYMENSINGH

Workshop on coordination

Dec 14: A day long co-ordination workshop of government and non-government organisations was held at the conference room of Zila Parishad under the auspices of Family Planning Association of Bangladesh (FPAB), Mymensingh branch recently, reports BSS.

Presided over by Professor Nurul Islam, President FPAB Mymensingh branch the inaugural session was attended by AFM Matiar Rahman, Deputy Commissioner as chief guest. Among others A T Ahmedul Haque Chowdhury, Police Super, Dr Mazharul Haque, Civil Surgeon, Mr Abul Hashem, Deputy Director, Family Planning and Professor Abul Quasem, Secretary FPAB, Mymensingh branch also spoke on the occasion.

It was attended by Thana Medical Officer, Thana Family Planning Assistants, Thana Family Welfare Officer and office bearers of FPAB, Mymensingh branch.

CHITTAGONG

One killed, 40 injured in road mishap

Dec 14: A girl was killed and 40 people were injured in a bus accident on Dhaka-Chittagong highway in front of SK Jute Mill in Sitakunda thana Sunday, reports UNB.

Police said the accident occurred when a Chittagong-bound bus collided head on with a Comilla-bound speeding truck at about 6.30 pm leaving Lipi (5) killed on the spot.

The injured were admitted to Sitakunda Health Complex and Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

Drivers and helpers of both vehicles fled scene. A case has been filed with Sitakunda thana.

FARIDPUR

Alleged currency note forgers arrested

Dec 14: Four alleged cheat and currency note forgers were arrested recently by CID police from a residential hotel of this town, reports BSS.

Acting on a secret information CID police raided the hotel and arrested four inter-district cheats were engaged in forging notes.

CID police recovered some materials used by this gang for forging notes.

MAGURA

One beaten to death

Dec 14: A middle aged man of Chabinagar village in Sherpur thana was beaten to death by his nephew on Saturday, reports UNB.

According to police, a quarrel ensued between the victim Babar Ali (45) and his nephew on family problem and at one stage the nephew attacked him with an iron rod injuring him grievously. Babar Ali succumbed on way to hospital.

After the incident the nephew went into hiding. The body was sent to morgue for autopsy.

A case has been registered with the police.

CHANDPUR

Bijoy Mela inaugurated

Dec 14: A 13-day long 'Muktijoddher Bijoy Mela '93' began at Hasan Ali Government High School premises in the town on December 8, says UNB.

About 50 stalls were set up in the mela, organised by Chandpur unit of Bangladesh Muktijoddha Sangsad and Muktijoddha Kalyan Trust.

A series of lectures were also organised at the mela to highlight the significance of the Victory Day on December 16.

A 231 member committee was formed with Advocate Zahurul Islam Chief Coordinator and BB Majumder as Member Secretary to make the mela successful.

Besides, 31-member Advisory Committee, including the Deputy Commissioner and the Police Super, was also constituted to supervise the fair.

FENI

Garments worth Tk 9 lakh recovered

Dec 14: Police recovered some robbed garment cloths valued at Taka nine lakh from the foot of Chandranath Hill in Sitakunda thana of Chittagong district on December 8, says UNB.

On a secret information, Feni police with the help of Sitakunda police rushed to the spot and seized the cloths.

A gang of dacoits numbering four at a gun point halted a truck near the Feni by-pass road and snatched away the truck loaded with cloths on December 6.

Another report from Comilla adds: Bangladesh Rifles patrol party following a tip-off seized Indian smuggled goods worth about Taka 2.82 lakh from behind a house at Sunjanagar in Comilla town on Dec 1.

The goods seized included 751 pieces of Indian steel bowls, 1363 pieces of steel glasses, 47 phials of phenidyl syrup, 74 phials of cucarpin oil and 576 packets of 'shindoor' were handed over to the local customs officials.

COMILLA

Bus hits rickshaw, one killed

Dec 14: A man was killed and two others were injured seriously in a road mishap on December 7 at Astagram on Dhaka-Chittagong trunk road, reports UNB.

According to the witnesses, Senajul Haq Patwary (45), a social worker, was killed on the spot when a rickshaw carrying him was hit by a Dhaka bound passenger bus.

The rickshawpuller, Abdul Gafur (40) and another passenger Abdus Salam (35) were admitted to the Chawddagram Hospital.

Another report from Lalmonirhat adds: A day labourer Zahir Ali was killed in another road mishap at Chintpara on Lalmonirhat-Rangpur highway on December 9.

Witnesses said while Zahir was returning home a truck loaded with goods hit him from behind killing him on the spot and the truck driver managed to escape.

A case has been registered with the Sadar police.



RAJSHAHI: A meritorious student is receiving prize from Prof M Anisur Rahman, VC of RU. The ladies club of the varsity accorded a reception to the brilliant students recently.

— Star photo

Cotton output may fall this year

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, Dec 14: About 1400 hectares of land have been brought under cotton cultivation in the district.

The Cotton Development Board (CDB) fixed the cultivation target at 1700 hectares during the current season.

It is apprehended that the cotton production target fixed at 3600 bales may not be achieved this year as the cultivation target has not also been achieved.

The CDB reportedly is trying their best to achieve the production target.

The board and different banks will give Taka six lakh loan among 800 cotton farmers, official sources said.

The board has also supplied 27,000 kg seeds among the farmers through Natore sadar, Ahmedpur, Rajapurhat, Daryanipur, Malanchi, Bagatipura and Jaintipur centres.

The board has made arrangement for training to about 4,000 farmers about cotton farming.

Winter cultivation programme

Another report says: Agriculture Extension Department, Natore has taken up an elaborate programme to bring about one lakh hectares of land under winter crop farming in the district during the current season.

Of the total, about 55000 hectares of land have been brought under boro paddy cultivation, about 16500 hectares of land under wheat cultivation, about 10,500 hectares of land under mustard cultivation, 1,650 hectares of land under potato farming about 612 hectares of land under ground nut and sugarcane cultivation, 16,200 hectares of land have

been brought under different kinds of pulse cultivation in Natore. About 12000 metric tons of pulse may be produced, it is expected.

The AED, Natore will set up 186 demonstration plots of different winter crops of the total plots 50 for boro paddy, 33 for wheat, 50 for potato, 33 for musters and 20 plots for sugarcane.

The AED will also supply seeds, insecticides and other necessary agri-inputs to farmers to boost the production.

Fodder scarcity

Another report adds: Acute shortage of fodder has been prevailing in three thanas of the district.

The thanas are: Baraigram, Girudaspur and Natore sadar thanas.

Cultivators in these areas

Facilities inadequate at rly station

MAULVIBAZAR, Dec 14: Kulara Railway Junction is facing manifold problems causing a lot of sufferings to the passengers for a long time, reports UNB.

The platform area of the station is not adequately covered with overhead sheds to protect the waiting passengers from the scorching heat of sun and rain water.

Besides, the only waiting room is quite unfit for use as it remains dirty while accommodation for male and female passengers is also acute.

The atmosphere of the station is polluted due to bad odour emitting from the toilet.

The rush of hawkers on the platform causes much annoyance to the passengers. It is hardly possible for the passengers to move easily on the platform, especially when the trains arrive in the station.

No postal division in Barguna district

From A Correspondent

BARGUNA, Dec 14: There is no postal division in Barguna district. It is put under two separate postal divisions, namely, Patuakhali and Barisal Postal divisions since British rule. As a result, the inhabitants of Barguna district are deprived of efficient postal services.

The attention of the postal authority had been drawn several times but to no avail. The Barguna Head Post Office with its small number of staff has been functioning as a second graded post office and it cannot serve the purpose of growing population of Barguna although, it acts as class one post office.

The district falls within the first category in respect of earning of foreign currency because thousands of people living abroad make regular remittances and purchase savings certificates worth crores of taka. Besides, thousands of letters are being despatched from here.

The shortage of staff in the post office has been hampering the day to day normal work. But nothing has been done to ameliorate the suffering of people and to improve the postal services here.

The people of the district demanded opening of another sub-post office and creation of a separate postal division for Barguna.

The condition of the branch post-offices in Barguna district are also deplorable. There are 70 branch post offices in the district located in the rural areas most of which are accommodated in the rented houses. The postal authorities did never bother about the accommodation problem of these branches although, valuable papers and records are preserved there.

Many branch post offices are accommodated inside kutchha houses and many of them are in dilapidated condition due to maintenance.

The post master of the branch offices draw a consolidated amount of Taka 325 to 400 each per month. They hardly get any leave. Postman of a branch post office (who is called extra department delivery assistant) and a runner (called extra department mail carrier) get Taka 310 and Taka 275 per month respectively. The association of extra department staff to the postal department demanded a pay-scale for them. But nothing has been done as yet.

CPEP facing set back

From Our Correspondent

MOULVIBAZAR, Dec 14: The Compulsory Primary Education Programme (CPEP) in the district has been facing setback for want of teachers, dilapidated condition of school buildings, acute scarcity of furniture.

According to official source, there are 693 government primary schools, 110 registered non-government primary schools and 95 unregistered primary schools in the six thanas of the Moulvibazar district.

The total number of students is 1,78,640 and another 44,547 children remain out of education facilities.

The source informed that 171 posts of primary teachers had been lying vacant for a long time. It includes 28 posts of headmaster and the rest 143 of assistant teacher.

A large number of school buildings which were damaged by the devastating floods, cyclonic storms over last few years have not yet been repaired. There is no plan to reconstruct the schools at an early date, said a source. A very

few of the schools have been chosen for reconstruction.

Shortage of teachers and accommodation have further aggravated the situation. It is found that classes are being taken under open sky. During the rainy seasons the sufferings of the children go to extreme.

In the rural areas, most of the schools have no pure drinking water and latrine facilities.

It is reported that more than 50 per cent of the schools in six thanas of the district have been facing difficulties to accommodate the rising number of students, most of which are in dilapidated condition. Shortage of furniture has made the situation even worse.

It is informed that teachers, in many cases do not attend schools and some attend for only few hours. Most of the teachers manage the classes by the senior good students.

The guardians have urged the concerned authorities to take necessary steps to mitigate the sufferings and make the Compulsory Primary Education Programme a success.

Over 1 lakh pry students under Food-for-Education Programme

BARISAL, Dec 14: A total of 1,01,560 primary students of 482 government and non-government primary schools in Barisal division has been brought under 'Food-for-Education' Programme (FEP), during the current academic session, reports BSS.

According to an official source, a total of 39,901 families has been benefited by this programme.

A family with one student has been getting 15 kilograms of wheat while a family with two or more students 30 kilograms of wheat, the source added.

Another report says: A meeting was held here recently to draw up programme for the Victory Day.

Mamta Uddin, Deputy Commissioner, Barisal presided over the meeting.

The programme for the day includes hosting of National Flag at all private and public buildings, girls guide, boy scouts PT fenchy, foot-ball match etc.

Improved diets will be served to the inmates of hospital, orphanages, and jails.

Besides, a discussion will be held at the Aswini Kumar Town Hall on the significance of the day.

The government and private buildings will be illuminated at night.

Meanwhile, a total of 17,743 boys and girls from Barisal division will appear at the primary scholarship examination to be held on December 19 and 20.

The districts under the division are: Barisal, Jhalakati, Bhola, Pirojpur, Patuakhali and Barguna. According to an official source, these students will

sit for 187 talent pool and 724 general scholarship examinations allotted for these districts this year.

Of the total, 3,349 boys and 2,126 girls will sit for 52 talent pool and 192 general scholarship examination in Barisal district.

1,798 boys and 881 girls for 28 talent pool and 134 general scholarships in Bhola district, 878 boys and 619 girls for 19 talent pool and 66 general scholarships in Jhalakati district, 1,730 boys and 1,334 girls for 32 talent pool and 108 general scholarships in Pirojpur district, 2,025 boys and 1,215 girls for 34 talent pool and 136 general scholarships in Patuakhali district and 1,049 boys and 739 girls for 22 talent pool and 88 general scholarships in Barguna district.

Shortage of pure drinking water

BARGUNA, Dec 14: Shortage of pure water was the main reason for alarming spread of diarrhoea in the southern region of the country, health experts here said, reports UNB.

According to Public Health Engineering Department, about 44 lakh people of Barguna, Patuakhali, Jhalakathi and Pirojpur districts have been facing scarcity of drinking water for long due to lack of adequate number of tubewells.

Official sources said there are 28,000 tubewells, including 12,527 deep tubewells in these four districts, while there are no shallow tubewells in Barguna and Patuakhali districts.

Moreover, about 1430 tubewells remained inoperative in these districts of Barisal Division. Of the disordered tubewells, 974 were shallow and 468 deep tubewells in Pirojpur district alone, the source added.

Health Department said there is one deep tubewell for 300 people

Help ensure dead-stop of smuggling

SATKHIRA, Dec 14: Food Minister Mir Shawkat Ali on Sunday called for combating smuggling in order to ensure unhindered economic growth of the country, reports BSS.

He made this call while addressing a huge public meeting arranged by Satkhira Anti-smuggling Committee at a local Shaheed Abdur Razaque Park.

Presided over by Begum Farida Rahman, MP the meeting was addressed, among others, by Jatiya Sangsad Whip Advocate Abdul Karim, Dhaka City BNP President Mesbahuddin Sabu and Organising Secretary Ehsadul Haque Setu.

Pointing out the adverse impacts of smuggling on national economy and on country's industrial sector the Food Minister called for ensuring dead-stop of smuggling across the border. He said that the present democratic government was firmly resolved to strengthen

anti-smuggling activities to completely wipe out smuggling from the country.

Shawkat called for creating social awareness against smuggling and terrorism which were eating away the vitals of our economy and disturbing peace in our social order.

He advised the conscious section of the society, particularly in the border areas, to motivate unscrupulous people engaged in unsocial activities to be involved in the poverty alleviation programmes undertaken by the government throughout the country.

Later, from the meeting venue a huge anti-smuggling procession led by Food Minister Mir Shawkat Ali, Whip Advocate Abdul Karim and Begum Farida Rahman MP was brought out which paraded the main thoroughfares chanting different slogans against smuggling and shunning use of foreign goods.

Just for dowry

SATKHIRA, Dec 14: A newly wed housewife fell victim to her husband's lust for dowry at village Chandipur in Debhata thana of the district Friday night, reports UNB.

Police said Hafiza Khaton (20), who got married only three months back to Jiad Ali, was killed amidst exchanges of hot words with her husband over dowry.

The infuriated husband allegedly stabbed his bride several times, leaving her dead on the spot.

The body was sent to sadar hospital for autopsy. A case has been filed with Debhata thana.

Clash over leaders portraits at Savar

SAVAR, Dec 14: Savar Degree College Students Union office was ransacked yesterday following a conflict over hanging and pulling down the portrait of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the newly elected VP and GS, who belong to the Chhatra League, hung the portrait of their leader in the union office.

Afterwards, supporters of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal brought down and tore the picture.

Later, on hearing the news, a group of Chhatra Leaguers ransacked the union office room and also tore the portrait of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

BCL bagged 4 seats, including VP and GS, while JCD won the remaining 13 seats of the college union in the election held recently.

The college authorities locked the union office.



HABIGANJ: M N Bokth, Police Super, Habiganj distributing clothes among the distressed people. The police men donated money to purchase the clothes.

— Star photo

Diarrhoea alarming in Naogaon areas

NAOGAON, Dec 14: Diarrhoea has broken out in an alarming proportion in the district causing panic among the people, reports UNB.

According to official sources, at least 200 people were affected in two thanas of the district in the last week.

The worst affected villages are: Kabulpur, Bakapur and Masidpur villages in Manda thana and Mithapur village in Badalgachi thana.

According to doctors, consumption of adulterated foodstuffs and taking of impure water were the main reasons behind the outbreak of the disease.

Another report adds: Electricity supply was restored in Naogaon district town at 7 pm on December 10 after 67 hours of disruption.

But the unscheduled stoppage caused loss of huge amount of money due to stoppage of production in mills and factories.

Several light posts and electric wires were also stolen by the miscreants at Adamdighi on Naogaon-Bogra Road during the period of power stoppage, local people said.

Santahar Poura Krira Sangstha clinched the title of Santahar Poura Gold Cup Tournament 1993 defeating Jessore Rainbow Club by 2-0 goals in the final match at pouura stadium on Friday.

Bayejid and Bishwajit scored the goals in favour of the winners.

State Minister for Planning Moin Khan, attended as chief guest and distributed the trophy.

A large number of sports fans alongwith some MPs and government officials witnessed the final match.

Coaster with wheat capsizes

CHITTAGONG, Dec 14: A wheat laden coaster capsized in the Karnafuli river near Bandar thana here early today after colliding with another coaster. Police said MV Queen carrying 7,853 bags of wheat was proceeding towards the Chittagong port when it collided head-on with MV Carrier, also loaded with wheat, reports UNB.

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SYLHET: AFM Kamal, Chairman, Sylhet Pourashava speaking as chief guest at a discussion meeting arranged on the occasion of international day for the disabled.

— Star photo