

Notes from Kushtia

KUSHITIA, Dec 26: Kaliganj police recovered a girl and arrested a woman trafficker on Saturday from Navaran village of Jessore district, reports UNB.

The girl was identified as Moslema Khatun, daughter of Janab Ali of Kakshali village in Kaliganj thana of he district. Police said the girl was rescued when she was lifting to India by the trafficker Rehana, daughter of Kawdar Ali Gazi.

The girl was abducted in the last week of last November. The trafficker was sent to jail jail.

30 water bodies to be developed

The Department of Fisheries has under taken a programme for developing 30 water bodies in five districts of the region to boost fish production, official sources said.

Financed by IFAD and DANIDA, the aim of the programme is to socio-economic development of the poor fishermen of the area and also to meet the growing demand of fish.

The water bodies, covering an area of 2160 hectares of land, will supply 2,000 metric tons of fish worth about Taka 6.50 crore annually. The earning would be distributed among the fishermen of the area.

12 shops gutted

Two shops were gutted in a devastating fire at Insufnagar bazar in Daulatpur thana of the district on Sunday evening. Property worth about Taka 1.5 lakh was destroyed in the fire, affected people said.

The shopowners said the fire originated from a nearby shop where petroleum is being sold without licence.

Chhatra Oikya wins college election

Chhatra Oikya won the Kushtia Government College Students' union election held on Wednesday securing all the 18 seats.

Their nearest rival was Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) panel.

Zahidur Rahman Zahid and Hasan Zaman Lalon were elected as Vice-President and General Secretary respectively.

The election was held peacefully.

Wife beaten to death just for dowry

NARAIL, Dec 26: A newly married bride was allegedly beaten to death by her husband for dowry at Dahor Chanchuri village in Kalia thana, police said recently, reports UNB.

According to family sources, Latifa Khatun (20) got married with Akkas Ali, son of Idris Ali of village Krishnapur two months back.

Soon after the marriage, the husband was pressing Latifa for more dowry. The victim's father had already paid Taka 9,000 as dowry but he demanded Taka 20,000.

On the fateful night on December 8, the husband started beating Latifa inside a locked room after a brawl over dowry and left the place leaving her unconscious.

Four die of food poisoning

SIRAJGANJ, Dec 26: Four people, including a couple, died and 20 others fell seriously sick allegedly due to food poisoning at village North Shyampur in Tarash thana recently, reports UNB.

Official sources said Dukkuni (75) and her 95-year-old husband Paroshullah, Mangol Chandra (22) and Shantabala, wife of Tulshi Mahat, fell critically sick after taking mutton 'biriani' at an urs.

All of them died following morning on way to Tarash thana health complex.

The rest of the sick villagers were admitted to the health complex.

78 schools, madrasahs to be developed

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Dec 26: A project has been taken up by the Facilities Department of Education Ministry to develop 39 high schools and 39 dhakil madrasahs in five districts of Rajshahi zone, reports UNB.

The districts are: Chapainawabganj, Rajshahi, Natore, Naogaon and Pabna.

According to official sources, an amount of Taka 6 crore has been allocated for implementation of the project.

Three classrooms will be constructed in each high school and dhakil madrasah at a cost of Taka 8 lakh, the sources added.

The project work is expected to be completed by June next year.

Two people died of kala-azar in the district during the last fortnight.

The dead were identified as Shaheen Akther (19) of Chohodditola village in Nawabganj pourashava and Godhor

45 pc children suffering from tuberculosis

MADARIPUR, Dec 26: The number of tuberculosis patients has increased in Shariatpur and Madaripur districts causing concern among the people, reports UNB.

According to medical sources, about 45 per cent children upto 14 years of age are suffering from this disease. About 20,000 adults have also been affected.

Local people said, tuberculosis patients are pouring into the Sadar Hospital and health complexes in increasing numbers but due to absence of proper medicare facilities the treatment is being hampered greatly.

Local leaders have urged the authorities to take immediate steps to combat the spread of the disease by providing necessary medicines and other appliances.

Another report adds: At least 50 fire incidents occurred in the district and property worth about Taka 3 crore was gutted during the current year.

Local people said, every year valuables worth crores of taka are being destroyed in the fire incidents due to absence of modern equipment at the fire station.

According to fire brigade sources, most of the equipment have also been rendered inoperative for a long time.

Our Correspondent reports: The health complexes in Madaripur and Shariatpur districts are beset with manifold problems for a long time.

According to informed sources, paucity of drinking water, lack of proper drainage system in the premises of hospitals absence of ambulances, blood banks, have aggravated the situation.

Most of the health complexes do not have X-ray machine causing much inconvenience to the patients.

Hundreds of patients, who come to different health complexes everyday from remote areas go back disappointed due to absence of proper treatment facilities.

It is learnt that due to shortage of ambulance, the emergency patients cannot be sifted to the hospitals in the district headquarters, for necessary treatment.

The price of onion has registered a sharp rise in different markets of the district during the last three weeks.

According to informed sources, short supply in the market was the reason behind the rise in onion price.

Onion is now being sold at Taka 38 per kg as against Taka 24 only a few days back.



NATORE: Fishermen are preserving fish fries at Bisha point of Haltee Beel under 3rd Fisheries Project in the district. — Star photo

Crop insurance demanded

From A Correspondent

BARGUNA, Dec 26: Introduction of crop insurance in the agriculture sector has been demanded by the local farmers for development in agriculture in the area.

Natural calamities like, drought, flood, norwester and cyclone are frequent in the district. The farmers of the district face hardship following the massive damages of their crops. According to the agriculture experts, every year over about 40 per cent crops are damaged by the natural calamities in the district.

Keeping the destruction side on mind introduction of crop insurance is imperative to save the farmers of the district, according to the experts.

It has been observed that following the massive damages done to the crops by natural calamities, poor farmers rush for loans to Bangladesh Krishi Bank and other commercial banks.

The farmers will be in a position to receive compensation once they can ensure their crops soon after sowing of seeds. It has also been observed that crop insurance system has proved its worth in many countries in the world.

Illegal electric connections
Illegal use of electricity by a section of electricity consumers has become rampant throughout the district.

According to unofficial reports, at least one thousand unauthorised electric connections exist in the district allegedly consuming as much quantity of power as desired. Besides, some electricity consumers do not have metre reading machine or have inoperative metre box and on this plea they

pay the last amount of electricity bill, much lower than the actual consumption rate. Wide scale pilferage of electricity has also contributed to the increased PDB system loss which rose as high as 40 per cent as some electric supply centres, it is learnt.

A section of PDB men help the this group of consumers for the pilferage of electricity, it is alleged.

Some electricity consumers in the town area disclosed on condition of anonymity that they have to pay a fix amount of money to some PDB live men, including metre readers.

A good number of electricity consumers complained that they were not getting their monthly bills on time. Meter readers often prepare false bills showing consumption unit either lower or higher than the actual consumption rate.

Absence of civic amenities
The inhabitants of Patarghata pourashava have been

Taka 4 crore plan to construct cyclone shelters
MAJDEECOURT (Noakhali), Dec 26: The German Red Cross Society will construct ten cyclone shelters in four coastal thanas of greater Noakhali by July next year, official sources here said, reports UNB.

The cyclone shelters will be constructed in the following thanas: sadar (Noakhali) — 3, Kampaniganj (Noakhali) — 3, Kamanti (Laxmipur) — 2 and Sonagazi (Feni) — 2.

There is no recreational facilities for children or for the elderly people of Patarghata town except one cinema hall. There is no toilet or urinal in the town area people respond to the nature's call beside roads and office buildings, thus polluting the environment.

Local people said roadsides shopkeepers are keeping their goods on the footpaths, narrowing the space of the road. About 50 per cent of a Godagar and Daucpur road are occupied by these shopkeepers.

The condition aggravates during the rainy season when water remains stagnant on the roads due to absence of proper drainage system.

Local people have urged the authorities concerned immediately to take steps for improving the traffic system.

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Dwellers said many roads of the town including Godagari

Coordinated efforts for successful implementation of FP programme needed

BARISAL, Dec 26: Deputy Leader of Parliament Prof A Q M Badruddoza Choudhury Monday stressed the need for coordinated efforts for successful implementation of the family planning programme undertaken by the government, reports BSS.

The deputy leader was addressing as the chief guest at an inaugural session of a workshop titled, "concerted efforts for quality of care" organised by Family Planning Directorate marking the family planning fortnight '93 at Technical Training Centre (TTC) here.

Presided over by Additional Secretary, Health and Family Welfare Ministry M Fazlur Rahman, the function was addressed, among others, by State Minister for Education Principal Md Eunus Khan, Deputy Minis-

ter for Health and Family Welfare Md Sirajul Haque, Red Crescent Society Chairman Sayed Shahidul Haque Jamal, MP, Md Mojibur Rahman Sarwar MP, Begum Selima Rahman, MP, Divisional Commissioner M A Rashid, Director General of Family Planning Department A K M Rafiquzzaman, Barisal Pourashabha Administrator Md Ahsan Habib Kamal, Barisal District BNP President Abdur Rashid Khan, Barisal Press Club President S M Iqbal.

Prof Choudhury said, the BNP government has political commitment to solve the population problem and so the government had taken up many programmes. He asked the NGOs and other private sector organisations to come forward for making this programme a success.

Acute scarcity of pure drinking water

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, Dec 26: Acute scarcity of pure drinking water has been causing immense sufferings to the city residents and rural people of the district.

The number of tubewells maintained by the Public Health Engineering Department is quite inadequate to meet the need of the rural people.

About 25,000 tubewells have so far been sunk in the district during the last few years. Of the total tubewells, about 3,000 tubewells are out of order.

Many tubewells are lying out of order as some parts of the tubewells were stolen away. Some tubewells cannot be operated due to lack of spare parts.

No effective measures have been taken to repair the tubewells.

As a result, rural people are to take impure water from ponds, canals and rivers. So, people are attacked by water born diseases. At the town,

there are some tubewells which are working properly.

Some taps beside the roads pouring water continuously as some parts are stolen away.

The whole municipal area could not be brought under water supply due to some problems. As a result, a large number of people in the municipality are suffering due to lack of water supply.

UNB adds: A boy was killed in a bus mishap at Sholaghar on Chandpur-Comilla Road on Sunday morning.

According to witnesses, the bus coming to Chandpur from Comilla run over Hanif Mollah (10) while he was crossing the road.

Police later seized the bus but the driver managed to escape. A case has been filed.

Another message from Kushtia adds: A young man was run over by a minibus near Rahini Village on Pantl Road Friday.

"Economy on the right track"

NARAYANGANJ, Dec 26: Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman said here recently that the pragmatic economic policy of the present government had been able to salvage the economy from the state of bankruptcy created by the past autocratic regime, reports BSS.

He said that Bangladesh Bank reserve had increased many fold, export earnings had gone up by 14 per cent per year and the volume of trade and investment had registered increase during the last two and a half years.

He was speaking as the chief guest at a public reception accorded to him by Narayanganj city unit of BNP on his becoming the Chairman of the Board of Governors of IMF and World Bank at BB Road here recently.

Presided over by Advocate Abdul Kalam, MP, the reception was also addressed by Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Prof. Rezaul Karim, MP, Shamsunnahar Khwaja Ahsanullah MP, Ataur Rahman, MP, Ajzal Hossen, President of Narayanganj Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Al Haj Abdur Rashed, President, Bangladesh Hosiery Association and Halim Azad, President of Narayanganj Press Club.

The finance minister said the government had approved 984 new investment schemes with an investment target of Taka 1750 crore during the last two and a half years.

He said, out of 984 industrial units, 400 had already started production.

He said, 800 new garment factories had been set up and 700 sick industrial units out of the 1500 had been rehabilitated.

He also said that more than

6,000 new small and cottage industries had also been set up during the period.

Referring to the problems of Narayanganj he said, the telecommunication system of the town would be integrated with Dhaka telephone network to ease the problems of subscribers.

Rahman dismissed the allegation of the opposition political parties that the government had not achieved anything in the economic sector and said such baseless allegation of the opposition would bring no good to the people.

The home minister in his speech said the finance minister election as the World Bank and IMF chairman as a recognition of the people oriented policies and economic measures undertaken by the present government.

He said, late president Ziaur Rahman restored multiparty democracy while the past Awami-Baksalite government had introduced one-party system through a constitutional amendment.

College student killed by assailants

COMILLA, Dec 26: A student of Nangalkote College was allegedly killed by unknown assailants at Siziara bazar under Nangalkote thana on Saturday night, reports UNB.

Victim was identified as Shahidul Alam (22) of Dhahua village under the thana of the district.

Shahidul's elder brother, Humayan later registered a G D in Nangalkote thana.

Speaker urges newsmen to report more constructively

KIULNA, Dec 26: Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Shaikh Razaque Ali Sunday called upon the journalists to report more constructively with a view to extending cooperation to efforts to consolidate the hard-earned democracy and fulfil the hopes and aspirations of the common masses, reports BSS.

He said, the quality of journalism, particularly the investigative reporting, had improved considerably due to the present democratic atmosphere and the existing press freedom in the country.

He was addressing as chief guest at the Annual General Meeting of Khulna Press Club at its newly constructed auditorium here.

Presided over by President of Khulna Press Club Shahabuddin Ahmed, the meeting was also addressed by divisional

commissioner Abdul Muktar Choudhury as special guest.

Referring to the advertisement policy of the present government the speaker assured that any indiscriminate distribution of advertisement could be solved through discussion both, inside and outside the Sangsad as the present government was accountable to all concerned.

The Speaker criticised the vested quarters who were out to use democracy for their own interest and urged the journalists to help resist this situation through their profession.

Speaking about the development, problems and prospects of Khulna speaker assured that the government was fully aware of the justified demands of Khulna which would be fulfilled in phases.

District roundup

COMILLA

One arrested with Phensidyl syrup

Dec 26: Bangladesh Rifles of Comilla seized Indian Phensidyl syrup and arrested one person from a bus in the district, reports UNB.

The arrested person was identified as Abdul Razaque (22) who was later handed over to the police.

Acting on a tip BDR special squad searched the bus on Comilla by-pass and recovered the item. Seized goods, worth Taka 1,000 were deposited to the local custom's godown.

M'BAZAR

Poor shape of market

Dec 26: Hats and bazars in six thanas of the district are in a deplorable condition causing much inconveniences to both the buyers and sellers, says UNB.

Shortage of space, lack of proper maintenance of the markets and stagnant, filthy water are the main problems in these markets.

Sufferers complained that these markets have no proper drainage system. As a result, during rainy seasons the situation turns worse when all the markets go under knee-deep water.

Acute scarcity of drinking water has been prevailing in those markets. Besides, absence of urinal toilets is posing threat to the public health.

Shortage of sheds is another problem causing lot of suffering to the traders. Besides, garbage is dumped in market places causing health hazards in the absence of dustbins.

Most of the roads in the markets are kutchha and become muddy and slippery during the rainy season.

SHERPUR

Massive scheme to cultivate rabi crop

Dec 26: A massive scheme has been undertaken for rabi crop cultivation in five thanas of the district during the current season, reports UNB.

According to Agriculture Extension Department, at least 92,975 hectares of land have been brought under the scheme.

Of them, boro paddy will be cultivated on about 52,800 hectares of land, wheat on 11,000 hectares, potato on 21,300 hectares, vegetables on 3,200 hectares, mustard on 3,470 hectares and pulses on 1,205 hectares.

Several demonstration plots have been set up on different parts of the district of acquaint the farmers with the modern methods of cultivation.

For the successful implementation of the scheme, Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation will supply necessary seeds and fertilizers at fair prices while Bangladesh Krishi Bank and other commercial banks will disburse agri-loans.

JHENIDAH

3 receive bullet injuries

Dec 26: Three people received bullet wounds when some armed miscreants opened fire on them at Pabhati village in the outskirts of the district town Tuesday, says UNB.

Villagers said, the armed group suddenly appeared at the place and opened fire on contractor Asraf and his two associates Sahrab and Selim. They were supervising the construction work of a road there.

Seriously injured Asraf and Sahrab were admitted to sadar Hospital.

SHARIATPUR

8000 hectares of land brought under rabi cultivation

Dec 26: The Agriculture Extension Department has undertaken a programme to bring 8,000 hectares of land of six thanas of the district under wheat cultivation during the current rabi season, official sources here said, reports UNB.

Thana-wise breakup of the programme: 150 hectares in sadar 800 hectares in Naria, 3,500 hectares in Zanjira, 1,350 hectares in Bhedarganj, 500 hectares in Damudya and 500 hectares in Goshairhat.

The Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC) has been providing improved seeds, fertilizer and other inputs to the farmers.

After implementation of the programme, about 15,200 metric tons of wheat would be produced, officials of the department said.

CHUADJANGA

Tk 12 lakh Indian goods seized

Dec 26: Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) personnel arrested three persons along with contraband goods worth about Taka 12 lakh in a raid from a truck at Baranduali checkpoint in Magura on Tuesday, reports UNB.

A party of the Chuadanga 13 rifles battalion raided a cotton-loaded truck at Baranduali and seized Indian-made science equipment concealed in the cotton.

The BDR party arrested truck driver Alauddin, helper Babul and Hossain in this connection.

NOAKHALI

Week-long eye camp

Dec 26: A local social-welfare organisation, Jonaki Club organised a week-long eye-camp at Majdeecourt Zila School ground, says UNB.

At least 110 cataract patients were operated upon and about 1200 patients with eye complications were treated in the camp. People with various eye diseases from far flung areas took the opportunity to be treated in the camp.

Dr Shamayal Shaha, Dr Shah Alam and Dr Mastura conducted the operation and treatment with help of local elite that concluded recently.

It may be mentioned that the camp was sponsored jointly by the Jonaki Club and Jatiya Andha Kalyan Samity, Chittagong unit.

SIRAJGANJ

Valuables worth Tk 3 lakh gutted

Dec 26: Valuables worth about Taka three lakh including five tin-shed houses were burnt to ashes when a devastating fire broke out at Japra village in Raiganj thana early Saturday, reports UNB.

The fire originated from the cow-shed of Delwar Hossain, when his wife was trying to light a jute stick from a lamp, villagers said.

Later, the fire engulfed the adjacent area and gutted five tin-shed houses.

One hearing the hue and cry, the villagers rushed to the spot but could not bring the fire under control.

Meanwhile, villagers caught red handed a retired BDR personnel and recovered a country-made gun and ammunition from his possession when he tried to shoot one of his co-villagers at Char Tengrai village in Kamarkhand thana on Friday.

Abdul Mannan (45), the retired BDR man, picked up a quarrel with Tajuddin (42), a wood trader, when he turned down Mannan's proposal to pay the tolls. At one stage of the brawl, Mannan tried to shoot Tajuddin with his country-made gun, police said.

JAMALPUR

22 schools to be developed

Dec 26: Madarganj thana parishad has undertaken twenty two projects at a cost of Taka 54.24 lakh under general education and registered primary school development programmes in the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

Official sources said that ten primary schools will be reconstructed at a cost of Taka 40.80 lakh under registered school development programme and twelve schools would be repaired and supplied with furniture under the general education schemes.

Sources said that work on the projects is going on smoothly and will be completed before June under the supervision of the Local Government Engineering Department.

C'NAWABGANJ

Press club set up

Dec 26: A new press club was formed at Shibganj thana last week at a meeting of local reporters of different dailies, reports UNB.

The meeting elected Md Khadamul Islam (Dainik Mellat) and Md Mominul Islam (Dainik Dinkal and Banglabazar) as President and Vice President respectively of the club.