

Tiger beaten to death

TANGAIL, Jan 5: A tiger was beaten to death by the people of village Bamanhatta under Bhuapur thana on Friday, says BSS.

The tiger was seen in a bamboo cluster by a man who had entered it to cut bamboo.

Eight villagers were earlier injured by the tiger when they were trying to catch it. The angry tiger however came under control while one Shawkat Ali hit it with a spear. People beat the tiger to death.

Another report says: An-taranga Sahitya Parishad, an organisation of the litterateurs, held an assembly of poets at the Bhasani Hall here recently. Akhtar Hanif, president of the organisation, presided over the function.

Poets recited their own poems. Prizes were distributed among the winners.

The programme was rounded off with a musical soiree.



MYMENSINGH: Naibuddin Ahmed, an internationally reputed photographer and a social worker speaking at a function arranged by the local press club on the occasion of Victory Day: A F M Matiar Rahman, DC and Advocate Anisur Rahman are also seen. — Star photo

Wheat farming may suffer for want of seeds

JAMALPUR, Jan 5: The target of wheat cultivation in seven thanas of the district may not be achieved, during the current season for want of seeds.

According to reliable sources, Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC) preserved seeds in its godowns to supply among the growers in all the seven thanas of the district.

About 40,000 acres of land have been brought under cultivation during the current year.

The thanas are: Sarishabari, Madariganj, Melandah, Aslam-pur, Dewanganj, Bakshiganj and sadar.

The change in distribution system of seeds by the BADC this year has deepened the supply crisis.

It is learnt that seeds are being sold to approved dealers at wholesale rates by the BADC from the godowns. The dealers

From Our Correspondent

are selling the seeds to the growers at higher rates. It is reported.

It is alleged that genuine growers are not getting the seeds from the BADC godowns. The growers complained that BADC seeds are sold on blackmarket. The BADC seeds are available in the different haats and bazars.

Farmers of the district have urged the government to ensure supply of seeds in the better interest of the country. Jamalpur Railway Station is beset with several problems for a long time.

Many anti-social activities are done at the station compound even at day time. Much of the railway property has been illegally occupied by unauthorised persons through the construction of hotels, bidi shops and houses. The railway authority made attempts to evict these illegal

occupants, but failed. A clash between railway police and illegal occupants occurred at the station compound four months ago. About 50 persons were injured including ex-Jatiya Party MP, Shaful Islam during the clash.

The district administration failed to take any effective measure in this respect. The waiting rooms have been occupied by the railway police for living. As a result, the passengers are to remain standing at the platform. The worst sufferers are women, children and old persons.

The waiting room for the first class passengers is kept closed for most of the time. The gay girls are reportedly engaged in immoral activities in cooperation with railway police. It is alleged.

The higher authority has been urged to take immediate action regarding the matter.

Forged currency notes recovered, case filed

JESSORE, Jan 5: A case against holder of forged Bangladeshi currency notes worth Taka 20,000 has been filed with Kotwali thana by Jessore Central Jail Authority 15 days after the recovery from a prisoner recently, said a reliable source.

According to Kotwali Police, 200 fake notes of Taka 100 each were recovered from possession of Pushpa Rani, now under imprisonment. Series number of 63 notes were KA/DHA 4199254, 78 notes were KA/THA 3821705 and 59 were KA/CHA 7232460 out of the total notes recovered, the source added.

According to confession of Pushpa Rani to Police the fake notes were given to her by one of her associate, the source added.

She was arrested by BDR while crossing the border and is serving her jail terms.

Wife of Niranyan Halder, Pushpa Rani hails from the village Rudrapur under Pirojpur district, it is learnt.

Another report says: A seminar on development of handicapped children, arranged by PROTIUS(Protibondhee Khnayan Sangstha) was held at Khajura in the district on 1st January in observance of English New Year.

It has attracted focus of all local people for its role played in social life.

From Our Correspondent

BDR seizes contraband goods worth Tk 2.9 cr.

COMILLA, Jan 5: Bangladesh Rifles nabbed 77 alleged smugglers and recovered 51 smuggled goods worth over Taka 2.92 crore from their possession during the month of last December, reports UNB.

BDR of 29 battalion recovered the goods worth Taka 2.92 crore while being smuggled into the country and contrabands worth Taka 2.29 lakh while being smuggled out to India.

The recovered goods include Indian sarees, sugar, pulses, turmeric, luxury items, cows, bamboo, timber, bicycles, spare parts, fruits, electric goods, matches, phenisidyl syrup, wine, ganja and medicine, fish, copper, soy-aben oil.

The goods were deposited with the customs officials and separate cases have been filed with the police.

Another report from Brahmanbaria says: Police in different raids recovered at least 319 bottles of wine in the district during the last month.

Police sources said 248 bottles of wine were recovered on December 4, 16 bottles on December 8, 30 bottles on December 19 and 25 bottles on December 22.

Besides, police also recovered Indian fish, 160 bottles of phenisidyl syrup and 7.07 kg ganja worth Taka 2.30 lakh, 25 pieces of Indian sarees from different parts of the district.

Separate cases were lodged with the police.

Indian tortoise seized

RAJSHAHI, Jan 5: Members of 20 Rifle Battalion seized a truck loaded with Indian tortoise worth Tk 12 lakh from a village under Godagary thana of the district yesterday, reports BSS.

Later, the seized contraband was handed over to Rajshahi Customs Office.

Bamboo output on wane

SATKHIRA, Jan 5: Bamboo production in the district is declining for want of proper maintenance, nursing of clusters and absence of planned plantation programmes.

Price of bamboo has gone up in the local markets due to its scarcity causing sufferings to the poor people who mainly depend on bamboo for building houses and making items of cottage industry.

The local people do not know the proper production method of bamboo. They cut bamboos and sell those in the markets. These people even sell their bamboo plants at a nominal price during economic crisis.

Satkhira was once famous for bamboo production. There were thousands of clusters but these are now gradually decreasing. This has hit adversely both the day labourers and the bamboo-based cottage industries.

Repair and construction work of kutchha houses in the rural areas are being seriously hampered for want of bamboo and traditional cottage industry depending on bamboo is also facing extinction.

About 80 per cent village Outlawed activist held with arms

CHUADANGA, Jan 5: Police Tuesday arrested a leader of the outlawed Purba Banglar Communist Party along with an Indian-made pistol at Mominpur here, reports UNB.

Nurul Islam Roki, 25, was going to village Hatbaila in Alamdanga thana by a van to attend a secret conference of his organisation when he was caught.

Police said they also recovered five rounds of ammunition from his bag. He was wanted in a number of cases, including four murder cases in Jhenidah.

From Our Correspondent

Five houses burnt down

SIRAJGANJ, Jan 5: Five houses were burnt down at a village in Kazipur thana here Monday night following a clash between rival groups of the villagers over capturing charland, reports UNB.

The clash between the supporters of the presidents of the Natunpara union BNP and the Charginish union Awami League on Saturday night left one person killed and 30 others injured.

Witnesses said, the BNP supporters set fire to the five houses of the AL supporters as a sequel to the clash. Owners of the houses went into hiding after a case was lodged against them.

The BNP supporters filed the case with the local police against 26 people in connection with the clash. Police arrested 12 of them on Sunday. The rest were absconding.

Another report said, cold wave claimed the life of an old man at Chardoglus Jagannathpur village in Kazipur thana Monday night.



HABIGANJ: Earth work for the construction of DC office is going on. — Star photo.

Tk 200 cr Khulna-Parbatipur railway project Supply, use of low quality ballast pose great danger

KHULNA, Jan 5: The supply of low quality ballast (stone) is going on for use on Khulna-Parbatipur broadgauge railway line.

A World Bank funded Tk 200 crore project was taken up in 1985 scheduled to be completed by 1990. The work could not be completed due to reasons not known. However, the time period was extended up to May 1994.

An international tender was floated to supply 1.5 crore cubic-feet (cft) of ballast for the said broadgauge railway line.

Three Indian companies got the contract and left the country supplying only a small amount of the required amount.

Following this, the government once again floated another tender for local contractors. According to sources, the local contractors who got the contract agreed to supply 16 lakh cft of ballast known as 'Pakur' from India through four border points namely, Darshana, Chapainabganj, Amnura and Hilli border point.

The contractors are supplying low quality ballast mixed with 30 per cent earth. It is complained. A high official of western circle of the Railway Department is involved in receiving the poor quality of ballast imported from India. It is reported.

According to engineers, this poor quality of ballast mixed with soil, sand and other materials is unfit for railway track and may cause accidents. The divisional and district level high officials had sent several letters to Rajshahi head office giving objection

From Staff Correspondent

about the supply of low quality ballast but the supply is going on.

Meanwhile, about 70,000 cft of the ballast have been used on the railway line of Jessore section. During the rainy seasons, according to an engineer, soil mixed with the ballast will be washed away posing great danger to running trains.

According to the contract, the ballast (Pakur) should be supplied after washing and screening but it has been noted that the suppliers are not supplying as per the specimen.

The matter of supplying poor quality of ballast was brought to the notice of Additional Secretary (Rail) M A Mannaf. He assured that the issue would be discussed at the next board meeting and if necessary investigation would be conducted.

The supply of ballast is being carried out through Amnura point of the border instead of Darshana border point. Bangladesh Railway will transport the ballast to Jessore section. But as the suppliers are using longer distance of Jessore-Amnura which is 313 km instead of a shorter distance of Jessore-Darshana of 70 km the cost of transportation is adding more burden to Bangladesh Railway. This extra cost could easily be avoided using Darshana border point.

According to a supplier, the decision of supplying ballast from Amnura point was taken by the project officer of the western railway circle.

The project work will take some more time, says one official. It was expected that after

the use of ballast the trains on this route will be able to run at a speed of 90 km per hour instead of the present allowed speed of only 45 km, informed an officer.

He, however, expressed concern over the quality of the project work and said, World Bank may raise question on the specification of work as had been directed by the bank earlier.

District roundup

NATORE
Electricity bill worth Tk 1.5 cr lying outstanding
Jan 5: At least Taka 1.5 crore electricity bill of Palli Buddut Samity-1 has been lying outstanding in the district, reports UNB.

According to official sources, Taka 54.86 lakh has been lying outstanding along with the irrigation sector.

On the other hand, during the last few days at least 203 transformers and 1,00,861 feet of electric string have been stolen from irrigation fields which badly affected the boro cultivation in five thanas of the district.

According to an estimate, about 50,000 acres of land in sadar, Singra, Bagatipara, Baghmara and Puthia thanas of the district were affected due to this, the source added.

The samity gave 22681 connections in 450 villages of five thanas of Natore and Rajshahi districts.

PATUAKHALI
3 pirates held with lethal weapons
Jan 5: Police have arrested three pirates with lethal weapons including a country made pipegun from Kuakata sea beach area under Khepupara thana of the district while they were allegedly preparing for a dacoity recently, reports BSS.

It is reported that a gang of armed dacoits numbering about 10 to 12 armed with weapons were preparing at the house of one Chottai Mogh of village Panchayetpara of Kuakata sea beach area for committing dacoity.

Khepupara police acting on secret information raided the house and challenged the pirates.

Some of the pirates managed to escape. Police, however, have arrested three pirates from the spot. The three were identified as Abdul Gani, Abdul Haque and Mostalin Gazi.

Two separate cases were filed with the Khepupara police.

COMILLA
Smuggled goods worth Tk 1.89 lakh seized, 3 held
Jan 5: Bangladesh Rifles seized Indian smuggled goods worth Taka 1.89 lakh and arrested three smugglers from Mirgal in Kotwali thana on Dec 29, says UNB.

The arrested people were identified as Razaque Mia, Sharafat Ali and Md Yasin. Later they were handed over to the police.

Acting on a tip, BDR patrol party recovered the goods including 277 bottles of phenisidyl syrup, 177 pieces of sarees and different luxury items.

The contrabands were handed over to the local customs officials.

TANGAIL
Office-bearers of Press Club
Jan 5: The Annual General Meeting and election of Tangail Press Club was held on Friday at the club premises, says BSS.

Abdur Rakib presided over the meeting. Qamrul Hasan Chowdhury, Secretary and Salauddin Ahmed, Treasurer placed the annual report and budget of the club, which were approved.

The meeting elected an eleven-member executive committee for the year 1994.

The committee included Professor Kamruzzaman president, Professor Biman Bhari Das and Prof Ataur Rahman vice presidents, Qamrul Hasan Chowdhury secretary, Zafar Ahmed and Zakerul Maola joint secretaries, Salauddin Ahmed treasurer.

Zahurul Islam Khan, Abdur Raquib, Advocate Khan Mohd Khaled and Rafiqul Islam Rafique were elected members of executive committee.

Speakers at the meeting hoped that under the able leadership of the newly elected committee the long-felt need of the press club building will be materialised.

JAMALPUR
Eye camp held
Jan 5: An eye camp was held at Balijuri in Madarganj thana under the auspices of Udayan Sangha recently, reports BSS.

Fifty cataract patients and over one hundred patients with other complications were given treatment in the camp.

Lion Club of Dhaka Progressive organised the camp. Medicines and glasses were supplied by the organisers to the patients free of cost.

BARISAL
Diarrhoea kills 6, another 175 attacked
Jan 5: At least six persons died of diarrhoea and another 175 were attacked by this disease in Patuakhali and Barisal districts during the last few weeks, reports BSS.

One person died of the disease and 15 others were attacked in Patuakhali district while five persons died and over 150 were attacked in Nalchity thana of Jhalakati district.

The dead are Mayaful Begum (75), Iqbal Hossain (4), Haron Hawlader (60), Piara Begum (26), Rokeya Begum (50) of Jhalakati district, and Rashid Sarder (60) of Patuakhali district.

Local people claimed, the death toll was more than the present figures. More than 450 were attacked by the disease, they said.

FENI
LGED to implement 81 uplift projects
Jan 5: Local Government Engineering Department has been implementing 81 uplift projects in the district during the current financial year, says UNB.

The government has sanctioned Taka 3.85 crore and 623 metric tons of wheat for implementing the projects.

Of the projects, 29 are bricklaying of roads, seven road carpeting and one construction of culverts. Under the Annual Development Programme 30 km road and 42 culverts will be repaired in five thanas of the district.

Official sources said, 570,868 metric tons of wheat have been allotted for earth filling of five roads.

For earth filling of a growth centre road, another 52,273 metric tons of wheat were allocated.

The work is going on in full swing and is expected to be completed by June next.

MAJDEE COURT
Seed shortage affects potato cultivation
Jan 5: Acute shortage of seeds has been hampering potato farming in six thanas of the district, reports UNB.

Official source said, adequate quantity of potato could not be preserved last year. The farmers who preserved the potato at cold storages sold out the same to the consumers before the cultivation season following its price rise.

Moreover, the large sadar thana cold storage was affected badly due to frequent short circuit problem. As a result some hundred tons of potatoes were damaged.

Besides, government had failed to supply the seeds to the farmers.

Thus, production of potato in the district is quite unsatisfactory this year resulting in price hike of new potato varieties.

KUSHLIA
Ammunition, arms recovered, one held
Jan 5: Police arrested a man and recovered a shutter gun from his possession from Dakkhin Mal village in Kumarkhali thana Sunday, says UNB.

Police also recovered rounds of ammunition of 303 rifle.

Another message from Satkhira adds: Police recovered a revolver from Bhudhata Bazar in Assasani thana of the district on December 31.

Acting on a tip, police raided the place and found the revolver in abandoned condition.

A case was filed with the police.

RANGPUR
Free text books for pry school students
Jan 5: Government has taken a programme to distribute 2,08,500 sets of text books for the primary school students in the district free of cost during the current academic session, reports UNB.

Of the total books, 90,000 sets have been allotted for class one, 70,000 sets for class two, 36,500 sets for class three, 46,700 sets for class four and 37,300 sets for class five.

Thana-wise allocations are: sadar thana — 65,000 sets, Mithapukur — 55,500 sets, — 35,500, Gangachara — 32,500, Badarganj — 31,500, Piggachha — 33,500, Kauria — 21,000 and Taraganj — 14,500 sets.



JESSORE: The BDR personnel recovered 180 grams of heroin from one Zohar Ali of Sharsha thana recently. — Star photo