

Work on Barendra project going on in full swing

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, Jan 14: The work on second phase of the Barendra Multifarious Development Project is now going on full swing.

Taka 350 crore will be spent for the completion of the work, official sources said.

The second phase work of this project started in 1990 and expected to be completed by 1995 with the financial assistance of Bangladesh government.

Taka 104 crore was spent for the first phase work of the project.

According to reports, 25 thanas of Natore, Rajshahi, Naogaon and Chapainawabganj districts have been included under the project.

Installation of deep tubewells cleaning of ponds re-excavation of canals afforestation, construction of roads have been included under the project.

The completion of this project will help produce more

three lakh metric tons of food grains every year.

During the first phase work, 1500 deep tubewells were installed. A total of 1256 deep tubewells will be installed during the second phase of much 1000 have been set up in this time.

About 3 lakh acres of land under the project will be brought under irrigation facilities.

Over 2.50 lakh families will be benefitted after the completion of the Barendra project.

Another report says: About seven lakh metric tons of wheat is expected to be produced in northern region this year.

According to reports, about 8 lakh 90 thousand 435 acres of land in 16 northern districts including Natore have been brought under wheat cultivation during the current Rabi season.

The district-wise break-up of the cultivation is as follows: About 40,755 acres of land in

Natore, 74,100 acres of land in Rajshahi, 49,400 acres of land in Naogaon, 12,270 acres of land in Pabna, 1 lakh 3 thousand 740 acres of land in Sirajganj, 27,170 acres of land in Bogra, 17,290 acres of land in Joypurhat, 60,515 acres of land in Rangpur, 41,990 acres of land in Gaibandha, 96,330 acres of land in Dinajpur, 14,820 acres of land in Lalmonirhat, 49,400 acres of land in Kurigram, 38,285 acres of land in Nilphamari, 1 lakh 11,150 acres of land in Thakurgaon, and 37,050 acres of land have been brought under wheat cultivation in Panchagarh district.

Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) and local Agriculture Extension Department (AED) will assist farmers with seeds, fertilizers, insecticides, and proper training to boost the wheat production.

Forged notes recovered

RANGPUR, Jan 14: The CID police arrested a man and recovered 11 forged notes of Taka 100 denomination from his possession from the railway station of the town, reports UNB.

The arrested was identified as Mokhlesur Rahman of Alinagar village in Manikganj district who came here from Lalmonirhat district.

Acting on secret information, police challenged Mokhlesur Rahman and recovered the forged notes.

A case has been filed with the sadar thana.

2 dacoits held, valuables recovered

NARSINGDI, Jan 14: Police arrested two alleged dacoits from Shahepratab village in sadar thana and recovered some valuables from their possessions, reports UNB.

Mohammad Abul Hashim (50) and Sultan Mia were nabbed last week in connection with a textile mills dacoity, police said.



Tariqul Islam, Minister for Post and Tele Communication and others offering munajat after opening Kapotakho Lions and Diabetic Hospital at Hushola Bakhor, Jessore recently. — Star photo

District roundup

JAMALPUR
Taka 53 crore road uplift work in progress

Jan 14: Work on 21 road development schemes in the greater Jamalpur is progressing fast at a cost of Taka 53 crore, reports UNB.

According to official sources, Roads and Highways Department and Local Government Engineer Department have separately implementing the schemes.

Ten roads in Sherpur and 11 roads in Jamalpur are being constructed and with the completion of the schemes, communication system of the two districts will improve.

Besides, communication system between Jamalpur sadar and Bhuapur area of the proposed Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge project via Jamuna Fertilizer Factory will also be established.

The schemes are expected to be completed by June next, the sources added.

KUSHITIA
Eight held with arms, ammunition

Jan 14: At least eight persons were arrested and some weapons, including three pipe guns and five rounds of ammunition, were recovered from them on Saturday, reports BSS.

The superintendent of police on secret information followed a gang of dacoits who were going for a dacoity at the housing estate at night.

The police party challenged the dacoits in front of the VTC at Kumergara and arrested them.

SIRAJGANJ
Clash over land leaves 12 injured

Jan 14: A clash between rival groups over land dispute Sunday left 12 people injured, six seriously, at West Lakhikola village in Royganj thana of Sirajganj district, says UNB.

Of the critically injured, three were rushed to Bogra Mohammad Ali Hospital. Three others were admitted at Royganj thana health center.

Police sources said, Tamijuddin of West Lakhikola had a quarrel with his brothers over the family property. After an exchange of hot words the two groups attacked each other leaving 12 people injured.

A case has been filed with the local police.

COMILLA
Coach plunges into ditch, 20 injured

Jan 14: Twenty passengers were injured when a night coach plunged into a ditch near Gauripur of Daudkandi thana in the early hours of Tuesday, says UNB.

Police and witnesses said, the accident occurred on Dhaka-Chittagong highway when the driver of a Chittagong bound night coach, 'SR Pariobahan' from Dhaka lost control of the gear.

Following the accident at 4 am, playing of vehicles in the area was disrupted for about three hours causing untold suffering to the passengers.

The injured were sent to local hospital.

SHERPUR
Uplift works reviewed

Jan 14: A meeting of the district development co-ordination committee was held at Sherpur recently, says BSS.

Ataur Rahman, Deputy Commissioner, Sherpur was in the chair.

The meeting was addressed among others by Choudhury Afab Uddin A D C (Gen), Abdur Razzake Ashish, Chairman, Sherpur Pourasava, Amzad Hossain, President, Sherpur Chambers of Commerce, Abu Baker, Editor, Weekly Daskhanita. The meeting reviewed the progress of development projects in the district.

CHUADANGA
2 activists of Sharbahara Party arrested

Jan 14: Two leaders of outlawed Purba Banglar Communist Party were arrested in two separate police raids Saturday, reports UNB.

Police said, Comrade Abdur Rashid, regional leader of the party was taken into custody from Kakkiladah village. He was shot at in counter fire by police. A 303 rifle and some ammunition were recovered from him.

In another raid, Comrade Ekramul Haque was arrested from Hazrahahi village.

They were wanted by police in connection with a number of murder and dacoity cases.

SATKHIRA
One killed by man eater

Jan 14: A man, Sital Mandal (35) of Dhumghat under Shyamnagar of Satkhira district was killed by a man eater along the Kalagachia river in the Sundarbans recently, reports BSS.

His companion said that a man eater jumped on him and dragged him to the near-by jungle while he was catching fish.

His relatives later collected the skeleton.

BARISAL
Telephone lines snapped

Jan Bangladesh T and T Board, Barisal Division, snapped 750 telephone connections for non-payment of arrear bills till December 31, says BSS.

According to an official source, the outstanding bills stand at about Taka 30 lakh.

RAJBARI
Free text books for pry school students

Jan 14: Government will distribute 1.29 lakh sets of text books free of cost among the primary school students of the district under the compulsory free primary education programme, reports UNB.

According to the officials, the distribution has begun on January 1 this year among the 263 government and 100 registered primary schools.

Of the books, 38,200 will be distributed in class one, 32,400 in class two, 23,900 in class three, 18,900 in class four and 15,600 in class five.

District primary education office sources said, the distribution of books would be completed by January 15.

The first phase work on various uplift projects of Rajbari pourashava is progressing fast under 12-town water supply and sanitation programme at a cost of over Taka 1.9 crore.

The projects include, setting up of four deep tubewells and two pump houses, one kilometre water pipeline, siltmenting of 29 tubewells, 375 low cost latrines and a public toilet.



MADARIPUR: The Madaripur-Barisal canal needs reexcavation to facilitate irrigation and communication. — Star photo

47 criminals rounded up

TANGAIL, Jan 14: Police arrested 47 persons from Tangail town Friday under different charges including terrorism and toll collections, reports BSS.

A police source said that anybody found to be causing disturbance in the society would be brought to book. Earlier, on Thursday, the district administration held a meeting with the elite of the town, political leaders and sought their cooperation on maintaining law and order situation in the district.

This police vigilance followed some terrorist incidents in the district. One, Omar Ali, a rice dealer, was stabbed in his shop at Chaiani Bazar. He was admitted to the sadar hospital.

In protest against the incident, the shopkeepers observed a strike and held protest meeting.

Fire destroys huge property

KUSHITIA, Jan 14: Five shops were gutted and property worth about Taka one lakh including cash Taka 25,000 were destroyed in a devastating fire at Shomospur bazar of Khoksha thana on Tuesday morning, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, the fire originating from an electric short circuit which soon engulfed the adjacent areas and gutted one hotel of Sanad Kumar, a tea stall of Sobhan Sardar and three grocery shops of Abdul Mannan and Bakhtillah.

Local people after one hour of frantic efforts brought the fire under control.

The affected shopowners urged the government to sanction grant for their early rehabilitation.

Three held with gold ornaments

CHANDPUR, Jan 14: Police recovered gold ornaments worth about Taka 3.5 lakh and arrested three people from Chandpur launch terminal on Monday night, reports UNB.

The arrested people were Swapan Bonik (35), Dilip Karmaker (40) and Nepal Das (32).

Police said, following a tip-off, they challenged the three who were going to Bholia from Chaumahani of Noakhali district via Chandpur and recovered the ornaments from their possession.

Rabi crop cultivation Target may not be achieved

SIRAJGANJ, Jan 14: Target of Rabi crops cultivation may not be achieved during the current season for want and price hike of seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and irrigation facilities in the district.

The Agricultural Extension Department (AED) in formed that during the current season Rabi crop cultivations target was fixed at 8,596 hectares for

wheat, 3,803 hectares for potato, 28,270 hectares for mustered and 4,743 hectares for vegetables.

But 40 per cent of the targeted land have been remaining fallow due to shortage of seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and irrigation facilities.

The Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC) has failed to supply

seeds in due time. The farmers could not buy seeds from open market due to price hike.

In the open market potato seeds were sold at Taka 24 per kilogram as against Taka 13, wheat seeds at Taka 13 per kg and mustered seeds were sold at Taka 25 per kg.

The prices of fertilizers also rise abnormally. A 50 kg bag of MP (Murate of Potash) is being sold at Taka 900 in the open market. Tripple Super Phosphate (TSP) is being sold at Taka 475 and urea at Taka 250 against Taka 400 and Taka 200 respectively.

Due to frequent loadshedding and high price of diesel, irrigation in the lands was also disturbed.

It is observed that a section of hoarders have created artificial fertilizer crisis in Sirajganj district. Many godowns have been set up at Sirajganj ghat area to hoard fertilizers of the Jamuna Fertilizer Factory. The hoarders supply fertilizer to the dealers on their wishes creating crisis of fertilizers which causes price hike in the open market.

The farmers have appealed to the higher authority to ensure supply of seeds, fertilizers and pesticides at fair price before the sowing season of crops.

Another report says Sirajganj district unit of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) have been formed in the general meeting at the MATS auditorium recently.

Dr Suzabuzzaman and Dr. Akramuzzaman were elected President and General Secretary of Sirajganj BMA unit respectively for the year 1994.

Plan underway to add more commercial vessels

CHITTAGONG, Jan 14: An effective merchant navy is vitally important for a steady growth of the important export trade as well as of the economy of a nation, said Finance Minister Saifur Rahman, reports UNB.

He was addressing as chief guest the passing-out parade of the 28th batch of cadets of the Marine Academy here recently.

Shipping Minister M K Anwar, Sirajul Islam, MP and Rosy Kabir MP were present on the occasion.

The finance minister said, steps were being taken to increase the number of commercial vessels in both, public and private sectors. He stressed the need for an improved efficiency and skill of the officers and employees concerned as well as streamlining of the management of the merchant navy, beside increasing the number of commercial vessels.

He expressed the hope that the Marine Academy authority would formulate and implement training programmes and poli-

cies for the cadets keeping in mind the greater national interest.

"Such programmes and policies would guide us towards the cherished goal of achieving an effective and self-reliant merchant navy."

Terming the cadets as life-force of the national merchant navy, the Finance Minister said, overall success and development of a merchant navy is dependent on the technological knowhow, efficiency and skilled management of the concerned officers. Such qualities could only be achieved through hard work and meaningful training.

Earlier, the minister inspected a spectacular march-past of the outgoing cadets and took salute.

He also distributed prizes among all the cadets for their outstanding performance in the academic life. Sr Cadet Captain Nazmul Hossain Bhuiyan got President Gold Medal for his overall outstanding performance.

Misuse of power Case filed against LGED Chief Engineer

JAMALPUR, Jan 14: A case has been filed with the senior sub-judge court in the district against Chief Engineer of Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) for misusing his official power, reports UNB.

Secretary of District BNP and first class contractor of LGED Mahbubur Rahman Ansary in his complaint alleged that the tender called by the LGED authorities for pavement work of Jamalpur-Bharuakhali (5.07 km to 1.20 km) road was not given to the lowest bidder.

He also alleged that the authorities accepted a tender of Taka 52.18 lakh instead of a tender of Taka 49.06 lakh.

He prayed for justice against issuing work order by the Chief Engineer which will involve wastage of government extra money of over Taka 3.12 lakh.

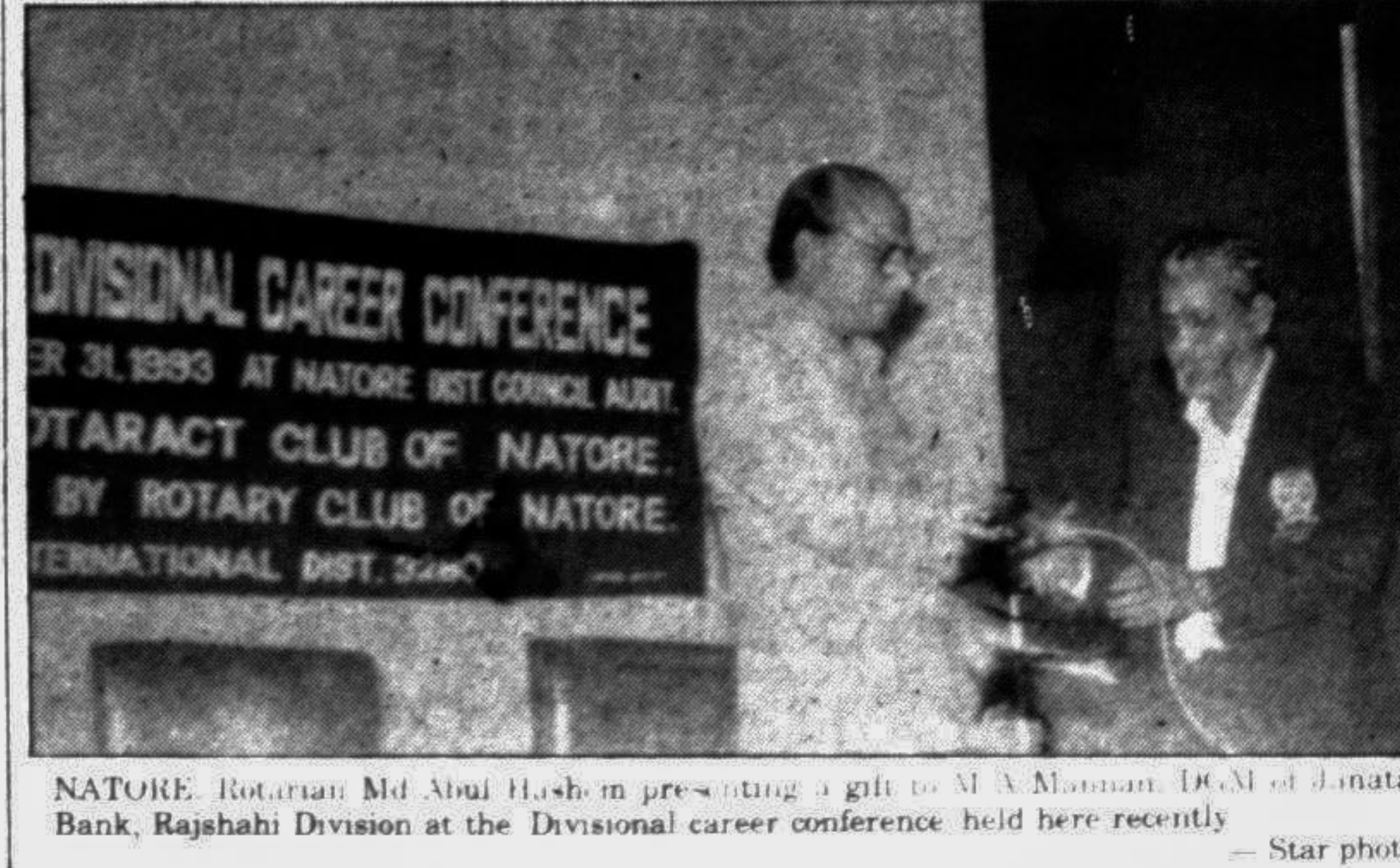
Advocate Amzad Hossain submitted the prayer on January 3 on behalf of the complainant.

Property worth Tk 50 lakh gutted

Property worth Taka 50 lakh was damaged as 30 shops of Sanandabari market of Dewanganj thana were gutted on Thursday.

Witnesses said, the fire originating from a shop of warm clothes which soon engulfed the market.

Local people extinguished



NATORE: Rotarian Md Abul Hashim presenting a gift to M A Mannan, DCM of Janata Bank, Rajshahi Division at the Divisional career conference held here recently. — Star photo

Women urged to take part in uplift activities

BOGRA, Jan 14: State Minister for Finance Mojibur Rahman underscored the need for integrating the women, who constitute half of our population, in nation building activities to ensure all-out development of the country, reports BSS.

He was addressing a discussion on 'role of women in socio-economic development' as the chief guest at Hazradighi High School ground under Bogra sadar thana Sunday.

The state minister said, the BNP government had introduced stipend for girls student from class six to ten and made free education up to class eight for girls student for spreading education among the women. A prosperous nation could be built through building educated mother, he mentioned.

Rahman called upon the women to set up projects on handicrafts and cattle and poultry farming. He said, the government would provide all support including credit in this regard.

The state minister also urged the women to cultivate vegetables in their house premises and to plant trees.

Presided over by Md Nurul Islam, headmaster, Hazradighi High School, the discussion was addressed, among others, by Md Nuruzzaman Bhuiyan, Deputy Commissioner, Bogra, Akhil Bandu Nag, Director, Department of Mass Communication and Journalist-Juadur Rahman.

One killed, 10 injured in road mishap

Jan 14: A trader was killed and 10 others were injured, two seriously, when a speeding Singair-bound minibus crashed on a roadside tree here Sunday, reports UNB.

Witnesses said, Abdul Aziz, 35, of village Azimpur in Singair thana of Manikganj district fell off the roof of the bus and died instantly as it hit a tree in front of Amber Bread Factory on the Hemayetpur-Singair road.

The injured were admitted to Savar Thana Health Complex. The body of Aziz was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsy, said police.

The driver of the minibus fled the scene. A case has been filed.

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