

National

Govt firm to remove illiteracy

KHULNA, Feb 9: Whip of Jatiya Sungsad Ashraf Hossain said here that the present government had given priority to education in order to wipe out illiteracy from the society, reports BSS.

The government has provided various opportunities so that younger generation in different age group could prosecute studies.

Hossain was addressing the freshers' reception of the Shapur Madhugram College at Dumuria thana in Khulna district on Monday.

The function was addressed among others by M Nurul Islam, President of Khulna City BNP, newly elected commissioners of Khulna City Corporation.

Man jailed for killing his wife

SATKHIRA, Feb 9: A special tribunal on Monday awarded a young man life imprisonment for killing his wife for dowry, reports UNB.

The convict identified as Jahangir Alam of village Bhabar Nagar in Shyamnagar thana of the district used to torture his wife since their marriage a few years back.

The case in brief was that Jahangir mercilessly beat his wife, Sirna Khatun (25) on 31st March '92 for dowry money. Later, she succumbed to her injuries.

Char dwellers fight over border demarcation

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Feb 9: Dispute over the border between Char Zahiruddin of Bhola and Char Gazaria of Lakshimpur led to a fresh round of violence at Shahjahan Bazar this afternoon.

Early this morning, hundreds of armedmen reportedly from Char Gazaria of Ramgati union raided Char Zahiruddin and Naldubi and damaged and looted some 50 houses. The miscreants also set fire to the houses leaving hundreds of people without shelter.

The inhabitants of the two char areas also fought a gun fight in the afternoon.

Earlier on Sunday the inhabitants of the two chars of the adjoining districts fought over the border demarcation.

Uninvited guests!

SATKHIRA, Feb 9: A gang of armed dacoits swooped on a marriage ceremony being held at a house in Shyamnagar thana on Saturday night, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, the dacoits numbering 10-12 forcibly entered the house of Swapna Kumar, beat the inmates, including invited guests indiscriminately and decamped with cash, ornaments and valuable worth over Taka two lakh.

A case has been filed with the police.

Town roads in poor condition

KUSHTIA, Feb 9: Almost all the roads under the paurashava are in bad shape due to absence of proper and timely repair and maintenance causing untold sufferings to the town dwellers, reports UNB.

Local people have developed at many points of the roads hindering the movement of the vehicles and pedestrians.

The plying of vehicles on Sirajuddoula road, RCRC road, Arjunadas Agarwala road, Rajabali Khan Chowdhury road and the road connecting GK resthouse has become very risky due to their dilapidated conditions.

5 dacoits held in Cox's Bazar

COX'S BAZAR, Feb 9: Police arrested five alleged dacoits including two women with huge arms and ammunition from Goakhalil village in Chokoria thana today, reports UNB.

The arrested are Emdad Mia, 48, and his two daughters Parveen Akhter, 22, and Neelufur, 15, Jasim Uddin, 25, and the Mognama UP member, Shamsul Karim, 30.

Acting on a tip, police raided the house of Emdad Mia and nabbed them with looted goods and arms and ammunition.

The arms and ammunition included one 303 rifle, one Belgium made gun, three cut guns, one cut rifle and 24 rounds of ammunition.

Police said the arrested people had a link with a number of dacoits committed in the thana recently.

Two separate cases were filed.



MADARIPUR: The only diabetic clinic in the district, Hazera Howladar Diabetic Clinic, was closed down after few days of operation.

— Star photo

Boro cultivation target may not be achieved

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Feb 9: The target of boro cultivation throughout the greater Sylhet region may not be achieved during the current season due to different reasons, it is apprehended.

Abnormal rise in the prices of different kinds of chemical fertilisers, non-availability of high yielding variety of seeds, large scale anomalies in disbursement of agricultural loans to the poor and marginal farmers are the main causes. Inappropriate system of supplying the irrigation equipment has attributed much to the situation, it is alleged.

Under the programme, in Moulvibazar district, 24 thousand hectares under local varieties and 11 thousand hectares would be brought under the high yielding variety. The production target was fixed at 84,000 thousand 900 metric tonnes of paddy.

In Sunamganj district, 86 thousand hectares and 79 thousand hectares of land would be brought under the high yielding and local varieties respectively with a target production of 3 lakh 64 thousand 650 metric tonnes of paddy.

The government has recently withdrawn the system of renting the agricultural equipments to the farmers.

Now, a number of big farmers will dominate the irrigation system.

The poor and marginal farmers will now have to buy water from those people at high rates during the peak season of irrigation.

Rise in the prices of fuel will also cause much for the farmers in general, it is learnt.

Disbursement of agricultural loans to the farmers is also not at all satisfactory, it is alleged.

Though there is sufficient sanction of loans by the different nationalised commercial banks including the Bangladesh Krishibank, a section of officials and employees of bank branches in the remote areas are found less interested in distributing the loans to the farmers, it is alleged.

Abnormal rise in the prices of different chemical fertilisers has pushed the farmers in great miseries. The supply of high yielding variety of seeds

was also quite scanty, it is alleged. These were not at all available at thana-level offices of BADC at fixed prices. But, in the open markets, these were found selling at exorbitant prices.

It is learnt that the poor stock of seeds of the farmers even of the middle class had been exhausted during the floods this year, in all the four districts.

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