

Dhaka-Barisal STOL services from March likely

From Staff Correspondent
BARISAL, Feb 12: The Short Take-Off and Landing (STOL) service between Dhaka and Barisal is expected to be started in March.

The repair works of terminal building, construction works of 2600 feet runway including other works have already been completed.

The 2159 feet runway is a necessity for STOL service operation. Besides, telephone connection and VHF communication system have already been established.

Expansion work of second phase of runway is going on in full swing. The chairman of Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) visited the runway at Rahmatpur recently.

The CAAB Chairman said all necessary arrangements have already been completed and now this runway is ready to operate.

Earlier, the CAAB Chairman said that ten days would be required to check-up and verify all documents of the pilots, aircraft and the private airlines who obtained provisional licence to operate STOL service.

It is learnt that the aircraft are yet to be placed by the private airline companies to get necessary clearance from the authority concerned.

Shortage of housing facilities

MOULVIBAZAR, Feb 12: Office employees and low income group of people have been adversely affected by the shortage of housing facilities in the town, reports UNB.

Local people said, new houses could not be built to cope with the rising population in the town due to price hike of construction materials like cement, rod, tin etc.

Besides, many government, autonomous and semi autonomous bodies and different banks have opened their offices in rented houses making the problem more acute.

In the absence of staff quarters, bank and other employees are compelled to live in rented houses.

Taking advantage of the situation, the houseowners are charging exorbitant rent, some bankers and government officers alleged.

Local people have called upon the government to construct new buildings for its offices and employees to ease the suffering of the concerned people.

Plan to flourish national culture

MIRZAPUR (Tangail), Feb 12: State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahan Ara Begum Friday said the government has a comprehensive plan for creating a healthy atmosphere to flourish the national culture, reports UNB.

She was addressing a rally of poets and litterateurs at the "Pakullah Zeminder Bari" premises at Mirzapur.

The function was organised by Jatiya Sahitya Parishad on the occasion of its 8th founding anniversary.

The state minister said there are many promising poets, litterateurs and artists in the country whose works are of world class.

"Government will take proper care to help develop their creativity," she said and sought cooperation from all in this regard.

Presided over by Sahitya Parishad Director General Mohammad Matur Rahman Chowdhury, the function was also addressed by Abul Kalam Azad and Ezaz Khan Chowdhury.

Later, the state minister distributed prizes among the winners of the literature competition organised by the parishad.

Poor sanitation facilities

GAZIPUR, Feb 12: Kutcha latrines are posing threat to public health throughout the district town and its six thanas, says UNB.

The people in general are using kutcha latrines out of their ignorance about the health hazards.

Thousands of kutcha latrines have been set up on the banks of the rivers, canals and ponds in the rural areas of the district, causing outbreak of water-borne diseases like diarrhoea and cholera.

The health department allegedly is not taking any initiative to make the people of the district aware of the health hazards caused by using kutcha latrines.

Local leaders have urged the concerned authorities to start motivation campaign to create awareness among the people for the utility of the sanitary latrines.



SYLHET: The DC, local pourashava chairman and others offering special munajat after inauguration of the newly constructed building of Hazrat Khadija (RA) Institute of local Islamic Complex recently. —Star photo

Tk 42 lakh sugar goes down the drain in Mubarakganj mill

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Feb 12: A total of 150 metric tons of sugar worth Taka 42 lakh has been damaged due to negligence of the management in Mubarakganj Sugar Mills in the district.

According to reports from January 13 to 15, the mill crushed one lakh 65 thousand metric tons of sugarcane where at least 320 metric tons of sugar were scheduled to be produced. Where as the production was only 165 metric tons. The rest of the one hundred fifty five metric tons of sugar fell short due to leakage in they sugar producing pan.

20 hurt in clashes

At least 20 people were injured in a clash in village Raninagar in Saikupa thana of the district recently.

Witnesses said that two rival groups fought each other with lethal weapons following a dispute over a land. At least 20 persons received injuries in the clash.

Ayub Hossain (28) was admitted to Jhenidah sadar hos-

pital and Mofazzel Hossain Hittu (18) and Tilam (19) were rushed to Saikupa health complex in critical condition.

Arms, bullets recovered

Kaligonj thana police in a recent raid recovered one pipegun, two magazines of Chinese rifles ammunition and four hundred thirty six rounds of SLR bullet from Thikdanga village.

Two separate cases were filed in this connection.

The railway passengers of western zone have been suffering much due to negligence of duties by the staff and regular theft by a group of miscreants.

The Western Railway Zone, comprising of Pakshi and Lalmonirhat railway division, is in quite poor shape due to irregular maintenance, and shortage of sleeper. The 985-mile long route of railway line is divided into two types, the major part having broad gauge and the rest having meter-gauge railway line.

Most of the sleepers on

these rail routes have either been eroded or stolen. The quantity of ballast (stone) on these rail routes are said to be inadequate.

The trains run on these rail routes over looking the danger of accidents. The authorities having knowledge of such probable danger, keep on ignoring the fact.

The passenger coaches are in very ugly condition which are quite old. Most of these passenger vans do not possess lights, benches or proper toilet facilities.

The railway authority had decided to import 117 passenger coaches along with other 20 engines under a five year development project. However, the coaches or the engines were never imported.

At present 124 passenger coaches are used on the 985-mile-long rail route with a force of 51 engines in addition to 24 intercity and another 24 mail trains.

For want of engines, the trains quite often delay in arrivals as well as departures.

People now can exercise right of franchise freely: Huda

KONABARI (Gazipur), Feb 12: Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda said here on Friday rule of the people and their fundamental rights had been well established only under the administration of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, reports BSS.

People now know that democracy is safe in the hands of nationalist force, he added.

The information minister was speaking as chief guest at a meeting organised on the occasion of joining the BNP by the chairman and members of Konabari Union and leaders and workers from different political parties.

Barrister Huda said, under the present government the people of the country have been able to exercise their right of franchise freely, smoothly and under peaceful atmosphere. Democracy is now being consolidated on solid foundation and democratic institutions are flourishing, he added.

Call to work sincerely

The information minister said, all should work sincerely to give institutional shape to democracy and make it deeply established so that on third evil force could uproot it.

He said different political parties which were in the government in the past had talked loudly in the name of democ-

racy. The party which was in power after the independence had established one-party autocratic rule in a very short time banishing multi-party democracy. At that time people could not exercise their right of franchise. It was Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman who had upheld the right of franchise of the people and established their all fundamental rights. He said adding Shaheed Zia considered people as the source of all powers.

Govt believes in rule of law

The information minister further said Shaheed Zia believed that rule of the people would be established through the public representatives elected by them and the government so established would reflect the will of the people.

He said the present nationalist government had its roots among the people and the present government had been established reflecting their will. By taking people into confidence the present government had proved that all its activities aimed at their welfare, he stressed.

Barrister Huda said all programmes of the present government being implemented throughout the country aimed at wellbeing of the people.

Referring to the two major opposition parties, the minister said these parties took part in election in 1986 under the

autocratic regime betraying the anti-autocracy mass movement. People of the country did not forget their past activities, he said.

Govt implementing edn programme

"We want all people of the country are enlightened with the spirit of education so that the whole population will be turned into a human force" he said and added that with this view in end the government under Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is implementing an elaborate programme for spreading education. "An educated population will also help consolidate the democratic process and establish the rule of people for good", Huda said.

The Minister called upon the people of all sections to directly participate in the development programmes of the government and thus to strengthen the hands of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to give the democracy a permanent shape.

A large number of leaders and workers from different political parties joined BNP expressing solidarity with the ideals and policies of BNP at the meeting.

State Minister for Science and Technology Prof M A Mannan, Mohammad Abdul Gani MP and Senior Vice President of BNP Gazipur district unit Mir Halimuzzaman, among others, spoke on the occasion.

Health complex doctor, staff jailed for corruption

KISHOREGANJ, Feb 12: An official and an employee of the Itna Thana Health Complex were sentenced to one year in jail each in a judgement delivered here by the Special and Additional Court for corruption by drawing government money against false bills, reports UNB.

The convicts are: Medical Officer Dr Shahabuddin and LD Cum Typist Bilal Hossain.

Court sources on Friday said, the convicts were also fined Taka 43,887.08. Three-fourth of the amount would be charged from the former and the rest from the later.

Three other accused, Dr SM Zia, Accountant Fazul Karim and Auditor Giasuddin were acquitted of the charges.

The Special and Additional Session Judge Ikhted Ahmad awarded the judgement after examining record of the case.

Another report says: The Bureau of Anti-Corruption has filed a case against four people, including Ashtagram UP Chairman and its two members, for misappropriating wheat worth about Taka one lakh.

Official sources said, the UP Chairman Syed Abul Nyeem and the UP members Yunus Ali and Zubeid Ali and another unidentified man misappropriated wheat about 13.20 metric tons allocated for the reconstruction of DC-Mohishur Road.

Tk 6 cr potato expected to be produced in Chuadanga

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, Feb 12: About 11,000 metric tons of potato worth about Taka six crore may be produced in four thanas of the district during the current season.

The thanas of the district are: Chuadanga sadar, Alamdanga, Damurhuda and Jibannagar.

During the current rabi season, 1000 hectares of land have been brought under potato cultivation in the four thanas of the district.

Of the total land, 250 hectares have been brought under cultivation in Chuadanga sadar thana, 365 hectares in Alamdanga thana, 155 hectares in Damurhuda thana and 230 hectares in Jibannagar thana.

Nearly 2750 metric tons of potato may be produced in Chuadanga sadar thana, 3300 metric tons in Alamdanga thana, 2200 metric tons in Damurhuda thana and 2750 metric tons in Jibannagar thana.

Harvesting of potato in the district will begin soon.

A total of 171 schemes under Test Relief (TR)

Programme have been completed in four thanas and three pourashavas of the district.

An amount of 318 metric tons of wheat were required for the implementation of the schemes. The schemes included construction and reconstruction of kutcha roads, clearing of water hyacinths and levelling the premises of madrasahs, high and junior high schools and graveyards.

Of the total schemes, 32 schemes were implemented in Chuadanga sadar thana, 17 in Chuadanga pourashava area, 55 in Alamdanga thana, six in Alamdanga poura area, 29 in Damurhuda thana, six in Darsana pourashava area and 26 in Jibannagar thana.

Annual Waz Mahfil from Feb-26

JHALAKATHI, Feb 12: The annual Waz Mahfil of Hadua Darbar Sharif will be held at Hadua, Nalchiti, on February 26, 27 and 28, reports BSS.



GAIBANDHA: The unhygienic condition of the local Station Road. —Star photo

Shortage of physicians, medicine in hospitals

PATUAKHALI, Feb 12: Treatment in the hospitals and health centres is being hampered in the district due to shortage of medicine, physicians, blood-bank, ambulance and other logistic supports, reports UNB.

There are one 100-bed hospital, one TB clinic, five thana health complexes and 12 sub-health complexes (union level) in the district for extending health services and treatment of the people.

Local people said most of the treatment centres of the district are ill-managed and running without necessary medicines and even adequate number of doctors.

According to them the Baga sub-health complex in Baupal thana has been running without doctor for the last six months.

Besides, the doctors of Chatitabunia, Mohishkata, Kalisuri and Kanakdia sub-health complexes are reportedly serving elsewhere on deputations.

It is also learnt that the

union level sub-health complexes of Chaita, Kharizuma, Ulania, Char Biswas and Mahipur are also running without doctors for a long-time causing immense problems for the patients of the locality.

Local people also alleged that the TB clinic of the town is also running without the specialist physicians.

The district general hospital is lacking its blood bank, ambulance and generator facilities. As a result, the patients are not getting proper treatment at the time of their need. Besides, the hospital lacks specialist physicians in the areas of surgery, medicine and gynaecology.

A dacoity was committed at passenger motor launch M L Mahobbat near Kalagachhia while it was coming to Patuakhali from Galachipa recently. The dacoity took away valuables worth about Taka two lakh. Six passengers were injured, reports BSS.

30 police camps set up

BARISAL, Feb 12: A total of 30 police camps has been set up at char areas of four districts recently to curb criminal activities by jotedars, rioters and lathials, reports UNB.

The districts are: Barisal, Bhola, Patuakhali and Noakhali.

The camps were set up as per the decision, taken at a meeting held at the Bhola Circuit House on January 3.

The meeting was attended by DIs of Police of Barisal and Chittagong and DCs and SPs of Barisal and Chittagong.

Another report says: An 11-member executive committee of the Barisal Bar Association

was held at its library on Sunday for the current year.

Advocate Abdul Gaffar Khan and Advocate Sakawat Hossain were elected President and General Secretary respectively.

The election was in its annual general meeting held at the Bar Library.

Another report from Jhalokathi says: The election of the Jhalokathi Bar Association was held on Thursday.

Yusuf Ali Mollah and Abdul Monwar were elected President and General Secretary respectively of the association.

District roundup

PATUAKHALI

No science laboratory in most high schools

Feb 12: In the absence of science laboratory, classes of most of the secondary schools and madrasahs of greater Patuakhali are being held without practical demonstration, reports UNB.

According to a report, only 110 institutions out of 529, have science laboratory. There are 170, secondary schools and 152 madrasahs in Patuakhali, 89 high schools and 118 madrasahs in Barguna.

There are three categories of science buildings attached to the high schools. Under the first category, there are 23 boys high schools and one girls high school, under the second category there are 11 high schools and one madrasa and under the third category there is one madrasa in Patuakhali district.

Besides, one girls and two boys high schools and one madrasa in every thana will be brought under construction of science building during the current financial year, it is learnt.

At present a large number of schools and madrasahs are deprived of practical science learning facilities.

NETRAKONA

Poush mela concludes

Feb 12: The fortnight-long "Poush mela" 94 concluded here recently with a call to flourish our culture and literature, reports BSS.

Deputy leader of the Jatiya Sangsad Prof A S M Badrudozza Chowdhury inaugurated the mela which was sponsored by Netrakona Shilpakala Academy.

The programmes of the fortnight included holding of discussion meetings and seminars on folk culture and literature, exhibition of handicrafts and cottage industries products, functions on culture, musical soiree based on patriotic songs and staging of drama and jatra.

Eminent personalities, writer, and dramatist including Humayun Ahmed, Shamsur Rahman, Sreenoti Deva Kananya Sen visited the mela.

RAJSHAHI

Ph D degree conferred

Feb 12: Rajshahi University has conferred Ph D degree to Md Mansur Rahman for his thesis "A study on Social identity and minority influence in Bangladesh", reports UNB.

Md Mansur Rahman, a student of Department of Psychology, completed his research work under the supervision of Dr Moazzammel Huq Prof Department of Psychology.

The university authority conferred the degree last month.

Rahman is the second son of MD Amir Ali and late Firoza Begum of village Mothurapur in Bogra.

MAGURA

Tk 8.35 lakh looted

Feb 12: Armed robbers swooped on a microbus, of a construction firm carrying Taka 8.33 lakh, at Doarpur at the town on the Daulatdia-Kushtia road and decamped with the looted cash in the last week, police said here on Friday, reports UNB.

The microbus of China Complaint was returning to its office with the cash when it was attacked by the gang of dacoits, armed with fire arms.

Police arrested four people in their alleged connection with the robbery. The arrested are Bablu, Zainul, Tata and Mohan Kumar. They were produced before the court.

SIRAJGANJ

Diarrhoea claims three

Feb 12: At least three people, two of them of same family died of diarrhoea in two thanas of the district on Tuesday night, civil surgeon office source here said, reports UNB.

The deceased were identified as Lipi, 13, and her brother Sumon, 9, children of Moniruddin of village Mothurapur under Raiganj thana, and Abdul Ali of Kazipur thana.

With these three deaths, official figure now stands at 10 in last seven days while unofficial sources have put the death toll at 15.

According to unofficial sources, so far at least 400 people were attacked by diarrhoea in nine thanas of the district. However, official sources said only 249 were attacked by the disease.

JHENIDAH

Rickshawpuller found beheaded

Feb 12: A rickshawpuller was killed in Hatkhola slum in the town early Tuesday, police said, reports UNB.

Salam Biswas, 45 of Khankhanapur village in Rajbari district was found beheaded in the slum where he lived in a rented hut.

Police arrested the victim's son, Selim, who came for money from his village home in Rajbari. But Selim, found distracted after the incident, could not say anything.

A case was filed with Jhenidah police. The body was sent to Jhenidah sadar hospital for autopsy.

MAULVIBAZAR

Power supply erratic

Feb 12: Power disruption has become a common feature in the district affecting business, production in the mills and factories and normal life of the town residents, reports UNB.

Power supply remains disrupted for about three to four hours everyday, local people alleged.

Normal functioning in the mills and factories, godowns, cinema halls and the commercial centres disrupt frequently due to power failure.

Electronic goods in the residences are being damaged due to voltage fluctuation.

Power, transformers are also failing and going out of order due to overloading at some points where unauthorised connections have been given to dishonest consumers, they added.

GAZIPUR

Betel leaf growers facing hurdles

Feb 12: About 2,500 betel leaf growers of the district are facing professional hurdles due to price hike of betel inputs materials, reports UNB.

The cultivators said that they were incurring loss as the market price for their goods are below their production cost.

They said the price of bamboo and straw, the two important inputs in the betel plantation, has been raised and is now selling at Tk 3000 and Tk 80-90 per maund respectively.

Many growers were forced to leave the profession due to the crisis, growers said.

Betel leaf production in the district is significant and is cultivated in six thanas of the district.

The major portion of the leaf produced here is being supplied to different parts of the country.

AGRI VARSITY

BAUTA executives

Feb 12: Prof Dr Md Monsurul Amin and Prof Dr A M Farouk were elected President and General Secretary respectively of the Bangladesh Agricultural University Teachers' Association (BAUTA) for the year 1994, reports UNB.

The other office bearers are: Vice President Dr M Abdul Haque, Treasurer Dr Md Mostafizur Rahman and Joint Secretary Dr Mirza Abul Hashim.

The six executive members are: Dr Md Aminul Islam, Dr Md Iqbal Hossain, Dr Md Mahbubul Karim, Dr Shafuddin Ahmed, Dr Md Shahidul Haque and Dr K M Hasanuzzaman.

Prof Dr Md Idris conducted the election of BAUTA which was held at BAU club recently.

TANGAIL

Ten-day-long camp begins

Feb 12: A ten-day-long world-camp sponsored jointly by Bangla-German Sampreety and Society for Peace and Development has started at Santosh Islamic University campus recently, reports BSS.

Fifty persons from Germany, Japan, France, Netherlands, Poland, Philippines, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Bangladesh are attending the camp. The camp is aimed at knowing and implementing the ideology of Maulana Bhasani and to put inspiration for establishing santrash (terrorism) free world through love and affection.

Badiur Rahman, Divisional Commissioner, Dhaka inaugurated the camp. Azizul Haque, President Bangla German Sampreety presided over the function. The camp also included practical work on excavation of derelict tanks and canals, and repairing of roads.



MYMENSINGH: Prof Dr Shah Muhammad Farouk, VC, BAU awarding badge to one of the Rover Scouts of the varsity for their outstanding performances recently. —Star photo