

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 airliners 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 housewives 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 Bar" 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 artistes 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 Matiur 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 the sugar producing pan.

20 hurt in clashes

At least 20 people were injured in a clash in village Raninagar in Saikupura 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 Huda (18) and Tilam (19) were rushed to Saikupura 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 these 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 broadgauge and the rest having meter-gauge railway line.

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 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.

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 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-

racracy. The party which was in power after the independence had established one-party autocratic rule in a very short time banishing multi-party democracy. 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.

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 pro-

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