

Tk 1.16 cr scheme to construct school buildings in Bhola

BHOLA, Jan 12: Facilities Department under the Ministry of Education has taken up a scheme to construct four primary schools in Borhanuddin thana at a cost of Tk 1.16 crore during the current fiscal, says UNB.

With the financial cooperation of OPEC, the construction work will start soon and is expected to be completed by June next.

According to official sources, the two-storied school buildings will consist of classrooms, teachers' and student common rooms and library.

Deep tubewells will be installed at each of the school compounds to ensure supply of pure water, the sources added.

The school buildings will also be used as cyclone shelters.

Another report adds: A new weekly 'Bhola Barta' has been launched here recently. On the occasion a function was held at the local Press Club.

Speakers at the function stressed the need for objective journalism to ventilate the hopes and aspirations of the people.

Deputy Commissioner of the district addressed the function as chief guest with Press Club president Faruq Rahman in the chair.

Establishment of BSCIC industrial units uncertain

GAIBANDHA, Jan 12: Establishment to industrial units at BSCIC estate here has become uncertain due to absence of water supply system, says UNB.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries (BSCIC) authority has distributed 20 such plots since the establishment of the estate in 1990 and nine plot owners have taken preparations to set up machineries.

But in the absence of water supply system in the area the entrepreneurs are facing problems in taking the initiative and sustaining financial loss.

The entrepreneurs alleged that it has become a signboard based industrial estate due to lack of basic infrastructural facilities.

When contacted, local BSCIC officials said, they have sent proposals to higher authority to set up water supply plant in the industrial estate.

But nothing has yet been done in this regard.

Standing aman crops on huge areas under pest attack

NATORE, Jan 12: Standing aman crops on vast areas of land in the district have been hit by the pest causing concern among the farmers, reports UNB.

According to an Agronomist, pests locally known as Purnipoka, Mazrapoka and Guripoka have been damaging the crops in other northern districts also. With the attack paddy plants grew yellowish and subsequently reduced to straw.

Local farmers alleged that new paddy fields are being attacked every day in the absence of necessary measures by the concerned authorities to check the menace.

Almost all the spray machines of insecticides have been lying inoperative in agri office for want of spare parts, it is learnt.

It was also alleged that the authorities take measures on the basis of the report of Block Supervisors who prepare imaginary reports on pests attack without visiting the affected areas.

The farmers said they cannot afford to buy the pesticides due to its abnormal price hike in the local market. Moreover, adulterated and low quality pesticides are being sold in the market before the nose of the law enforcing agencies.

Two arrested with guns, ammunition

BARISAL, Jan 12: Police arrested two alleged dacoits along with two guns at Rupali near to Barisal town in early hour Saturday, reports UNB.

The arrested were identified as Abdus Sattar 28 and Md Nabir Howlader 31. Police, however, declined to give further details of their identity.

Acting on a secret information, police arrested Sattar and Howlader when they were travelling by a boat in the river Kirtankhola. Recovered arms and ammunition included one pipe gun, one country-made gun and two rounds of bullets.

The arrested were reportedly involved in the last Thursday's rifle looting incident at the Agrani Bank in Kotwali thana of the district.

Barisal Poursava election '95 gathering momentum

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Jan 12: As the date of Barisal Poursava (municipality) election is near, thousands of people of this divisional headquarters, Barisal have been gripped by the election fever. The election will be held on January 22.

Now it is understood that this election has turned into a prestige issue for BNP, Awami League and even for Jatiya Party.

All these three major political parties of the country are

man has little background as a politician. Now as an Awami League is proceeding with his campaigning. I will shake Barisal Poursava, a non-political, non-party organisation if elected, he said in a meeting held here on Saturday morning last.

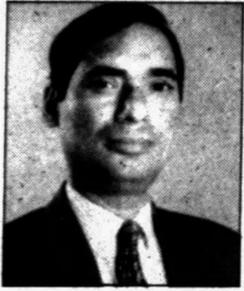
Mahub with his followers, friends and supporters are now engaged in door to door election campaign in different areas of poursava everyday.

Mahub, if elected, may

perform better, public opinions say. No tax will be increased during my time, if elected, Mahub said in a meeting recently.

Alhaj Golam Mowla, Jatiya Party backed chairman candidate for Barisal Poursava election is also working very hard with his supporters and wellwishers. In his election campaign meetings he said, "If I am elected in the poll I will make this a well decorated poursava."

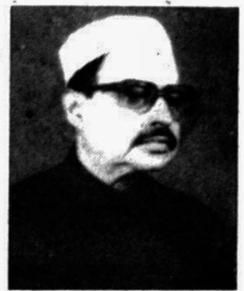
Besides, almost all through the day till dead of night mik-



Mahabub Uddin Ahmed



Ahsan Habib Kamal



Alhaj Golam Mowla

providing their full support and strength for their respective candidates to win the election.

Ahsan Habib Kamal, a candidate of BNP is the government appointed Barisal Poursava administrator, once an elected poursava ward commissioner, is working hard for about last three years for development of Barisal poursava.

Meantime, Kamal as a poursava administrator has taken up some major development projects in the poura area.

Many of these projects are underway and yet to be completed. But Kamal is trying hard to complete these projects as soon as possible. As he once said in his election campaign, that, if I am elected the Bangladesh road and Kazipara road including other roads will be necessarily required. He also informed that the on-going projects were started after he came to office.

Mahub Uddin Ahmed, Btr Bikram, a veteran Freedom Fighter is a well established businessman now who is contesting as a chairman candidate for Barisal Poursava election from Awami League.

Mahub, a highly educated

ing in favour of different candidates is going on in the streets, lanes and bylanes in the poura-area asking votes from the voters and blessings from all.

It may be mentioned here that three candidates have already been elected ward commissioners uncontested from Amanatganj union.

Under the 15 sq. kilometers poura area there are 10 wards. Number of voters are 87 thousands 955 including 38 thousand 467 female voters.

Meantime, ward commissioner candidates have also strengthened their electoral campaign activities in their respective areas.

After long ten years the Barisal Poursava election is being held where one chairman and 30 ward commissioners will be elected.

Besides all these, there is a strong speculation that Mohammad Hanif, Dhaka City Mayor, Abdus Salam Talukder BNP Secretary General, JP presidium member Shah Moazzem Hossain and some other high ranking leaders of different political parties may visit Barisal to participate poura election campaigns in favour of their respective party backed candidates.

He added, "I will try to maintain the heritage of Barisal Poursava and if elected I will try to solve all the problems and will undertake a master plan for development of the poursava."

Nigar Sultana Hanufa, the



SYLHET The Deputy Mayor Councillor of Tower Hamlet Borough Council, London, Golam Mortuja speaking at a reception accorded to him by Sylhet Poursava Monday — Star photo

Bangladeshis in UK keen to invest money in country

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Jan 12: The Bangladeshi community living abroad has expressed their willingness to come forward in investing huge amount of foreign currency in the country if a congenial atmosphere is ensured with further development of law and order. The Deputy Mayor Councillor of Tower Hamlet Borough Council, London, Golam Mortuja said this, while addressing a reception function accorded in his honour by the Sylhet Poursava Monday.

Mortuja said, the Bangladesh community had been playing an important role in the economy, society, politics and other fields of UK for

long. He also stressed the need for launching cultural and educational exchange programmes between the Sylhet Poursava and Tower Hamlet Borough Council with a view to creating better understanding among the people of Sylhet and those Bangladesh living in UK, specially in East London.

He also called upon the British government for starting a regional centre of British council in Sylhet, and separate immigration desk in Sylhet with a view to facilitating the concerned people.

Presided over by the Sylhet Poursava, Chairman, AFM Kamal, the function was also addressed by the Deputy Co-

missioner ABU Taher Khan, ADC (general) Kabir Mohammad Ahsraf Alam, Trustee of Bangladesh Overseas Centre, Nurul Islam General Secretary, of Bangladesh Welfare Association in UK, Shafiqur Rahman Chowdhury, Editor of the Bengali weekly Surma of London, Nazrul Islam Bashon, Editor the daily Aker Sylhet Iqbal Kabir, Abdul Malik Chowdhury, Reporter, Ittefaq, Labour Leader, Syed Mostafa Kamal, President, Sylhet Unit of Prabin Hitoishi Sangha, Alauddin Chowdhury and Sylhet Poursava Commissioner, Syed Ahmed Hossain.



CHANDIPUR: A procession was brought out in the town on the occasion of National Book Fair on January 1, 95. — Star photo

Police officer killed in road accident

NARSINGDI, Jan 12: A police Sub-inspector was killed and another injured in a road accident on the Dhaka-Narsingdi highway near village Chaitanya Tuesday, reports UNB.

The dead was identified as Nizamuddin.

Witnesses said the accident occurred in the afternoon when a truck ramed a motorcycle on which the policeman were riding.

He was rushed to Dhaka. But doctors declared him dead when he was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) at about 6:10 pm.

The body was sent to DMCH morgue for autopsy, hospital sources said.

Frequent power disruption in Barguna

BARGUNA, Jan 12: Frequent power failure has been affecting life and living of town dwellers and hampering production in mills and factories, reports UNB.

Residents complained that the town and its adjoining areas plunge into darkness paralysing the normal life almost at every sundown. Anti-social activities have also increased in alarming proportion, they alleged.

Water supply often remain suspended due to power failure causing untold suffering to the dwellers.

Owners of the mills and factories said they are incurring huge losses as production in their units decreased following the erratic power supply.

The dwellers have urged the concerned authority to take necessary measures on a priority basis to ensure uninterrupted power supply in the town and adjoining areas.

Immigrants' welfare assoc formed

CHITTAGONG, Jan 12: An Immigrants' Welfare Association was formed here today to look into the interest of Bangladeshis living abroad, says UNB.

There are three million Bangladeshi wage earners around the world, said its organisers while announcing the formation of the forum at a press conference at Metropolitan Journalists Association office.

They alleged that the hard earned money of the wage earners was being spent in unproductive sectors due to lack of initiative and proper management to invest the same in productive sectors.

The association demanded opening of a separate bank for the wage earners.

The press conference was addressed by Convenor of the association Nur Mohammed, and Joint Convenors M Islam and Habibur.

Fish output all time low in Brahmanbaria

BRAHMANBARIA, Jan 12: Fish disease has broken out in an alarming proportion in all the eight thanas of the district causing concern among the fishermen and consumers, says UNB.

The disease known as 'ulcerative syndrome' has been spreading fast in different waterbodies and the demand for fish has decreased in the local markets.

Meanwhile, fish output in the district has come to all time low in the absence of proper care and maintenance of the concerned authorities.

Besides, indiscriminate use of chemical fertilizer and pesticides in the cropland is also responsible for decreasing fish population.

10 females commit suicide in a week

GAIBANDHA, Jan 12: Ten females, most of them teen-aged girls, committed suicide in five thanas of the district in a week ending January 1, Sunday, police sources said, reports UNB.

In these areas, eight other people — six teen-aged girls and two young male, also took similar attempts during the period.

Love affairs and family feud were the main reasons behind the incidents. The details of the incidents could not be known immediately.

Among the incidents, five occurred in sadar thana and the rest were reported from Palashbari, Sundarganj, Sadullahpur and Gobindaganj thanas. Cases were filed with the concerned police stations.

632 victims, 80pc female Abnormal rise in suicide cases in Jhenidah dist

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Jan 12: Number of suicide cases is increasing in Jhenidah district every year. It seems it has become a tradition to a section of people especially to the housewives and teenagers.

According to a source, in 1994 in six thanas — Jhenidah sadar, Saikupa, Harinakundu, Kaliganj, Kotchandpur and Motherpur, 632 persons committed suicide. Out of this, in Saikupa thana alone 207 persons committed suicide.

Most of the cases were committed due to poverty, love affairs, want of happiness in conjugal life and family troubles. But according to police most of the suicidal cases took place due to incurable diseases like, colic pain and other reasons. A source said that a good number of murder cases were treated as suicides. The housewives are main victims here. After assaulting physically when the victim died, small quantity of pesticides or insecticides were pushed in the mouth. In this case, killers inform to police as on incident of suicide. The killers also convince the guardians of ill-

fated victims either offering money or in anyway. As a result, the guardians do not show eagerness to lodge any case with police.

Police sources said, number of suicide committed in Jhenidah district and Saikupa thana has created a panic. The source informed that about 80 percent of suicidal victims are female and most of them commit suicide by taking poison. Suicide by hanging is comparatively lesser in Jhenidah district. Age limit between 13 to 80 are the victims here in the district, the source added.

Talking to Rina Khatun, age about 15 who swallowed poison to try to kill herself a few months ago said that she took the decision when her mother scolded her. Here the reason was negligible but Rina Khatun, anyhow, tried to commit suicide. Another victim, Swarna Rani failed to commit suicide by taking poison. Swarna said that her father was very poor who could not manage sufficient money for her wedding ceremony. Another victim, Laily Khatun, 16, tried to

commit suicide by taking poison but failed. She took the decision when her parents decided to settle her marriage elsewhere with a young boy instead of her lover. In these cases most of the incident happened all of a sudden.

A reliable source said, in many cases real cause of death either suicide or murder can not be identified for want of enough evidence. Police investigations are very weak in most of the cases, the source said. Talking to a high official of police Department it was learnt that in areas where pesticides or insecticides are used widely, number of suicide is higher there, as the victims can procure the same easily. A survey also revealed that most of the cases happened between the Bengali month of Baisakh and Ashwin. In this period farmers are compelled to purchase pesticides to spray in their fields. Recently even in winter season good quantity of pesticides are being sprayed on vegetables fields, the source said. Availability of pesticides is also responsible for most of the cases, the sources said.



JESSORE: A truck carrying smuggled Indian motor parts was seized by the BDR in late December, 1994 from Benapole border. — Star photo

Tk 6 crore contraband seized from Jessore, Jhenidah borders

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Jan 12: The Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) of Jessore seized contraband goods worth Taka six crore 4 lakh 17 thousand 359 from different border areas of Jessore and Jhenidah districts in 1994. They arrested a total of 167 alleged smugglers and lodged 2,766 cases with local thanas during the period under special anti-smuggling operations, said an official of BDR.

According to the source, goods including various types of vehicles, VCP/VCR, garments, clothes, imitations, crockeries, machinery parts, bicycles, cycle parts, electric parts, fruits, cosmetics, salt, sugar, cattle, polyester, wrappers, three pieces, blouse pieces, plastic bottles, fan bearings, wine, drugs, radio parts, medicines, gold, pesticides, woolen clothes, blue film tapes, pipe seeds, statue made of bronze, TV parts, valuable stones, heroin, opium, ganja, diesel injector pumps, cinema film reels, Bangladeshi and Indian currencies, US dollar, duplicate machine rollers, motor cycles, trucks, carbon paper,

crocodile, pressure cookers, shoes, dish antenna parts, private cars, cassettes, bed sheets, and many other contraband items in 1994.

It is also reported that revenues worth Taka 4 lakh 94 thousand 803 was earned as VAT by way of legalising smuggled Indian cattle from Navaran and Chowgacha corridors in the district.

Taka 3 lakh 34 thousand 430 was earned from Navaran corridor while Taka one lakh 60 thousand 373 was earned from that of Chowgacha

Handloom industries in Jamalpur face closure

JAMALPUR, Jan 12: The handloom oriented cottage industries are being closed day by day due to influx of Indian smuggled clothes in the local markets of the district, says UNB.

The rural markets of Jamalpur and Sherpur districts have been flooded with Indian goods including cotton yarn, printed sarees, blouse pieces, dyes, sugar, eggs, spices, onion, cosmetics, razor blades, match boxes and phenidyl syrup.

Every day printed sarees and blouse pieces worth lakhs of takas are coming into the country affecting the local handloom industries. Many weavers have already gave up the occupation as prices of their products have gone down

in the local markets.

It is learnt that Bahadurabad and Jagannathganj ghat rail stations in Kamalpur district and Jhinaiganj, Dhanua, Kamalpur and Patharacher border areas are the main transit points of the smuggled Indian goods.

It is alleged that smuggled goods from Chapainawabganj, Rajshahi, Iswardi, Hilly, Dhanpur and Patganj are being brought here by local and inter-city trains and unloaded at Jagannathganj and Bahadurabad ferry ghat rail stations and these are being sold in the open market.

Local people alleged that a group of influential people backed by some dishonest government officials were involved with this heinous act.

Shortage of LP gas in Khulna Div

KHULNA, Jan 12: Acute scarcity of LP (Liquid Petroleum) gas has been prevailing in 10 districts of Khulna Division causing untold suffering to the consumers, says UNB.

The consumers alleged that some dealers have created artificial scarcity, despite normal supply form the concerned authorities in the market to earn windfall profit over the last two months. But no measures have yet been taken to overcome the crisis, they said.

They also alleged that it is easy to get a cylinder from the black market if 30 to 40 per cent higher price is given.



BARISAL, MR Sikder, President, ADAB Anusangathan, Barisal is addressing the inaugural session of a workshop on women and development organised by the workshop sub-committee of Beijing 4th International Women Conference '96 at Barisal Development Society (BDS) auditorium recently. — Star photo