

Tk 83.4cr electrification programme in Netrokona

NETROKONA, Feb 22: The government is implementing a comprehensive rural electrification programme at a cost of Tk 83.40 crore in the district, reports UNB.

The programme covering all the 10 thanas of the district had been launched in 1992-93 and is scheduled to be completed by the end of the current fiscal.

Rural Electrification Board (REB) is implementing the project under the Netrokona Pally Bidyut Samity, a new PBS in REB network.

The programme will provide 60,000 consumers by electrifying 2110 villages. Some 9700 consumers in 110 villages have already been brought under the programme.

Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Khandaker Mosharrar Hossain formally inaugurated the electrification programme at a simple ceremony here on Sunday.

emony that over 10.50 lakh rural consumers had been provided by bringing 15,350 villages under the rural electrification programme.

Outlining the success of rural electrification programme, Dr Mosharrar said it has become part and parcel of our rural development process.

"The programme, identified as the most successful drive for rural development, has also become as the model of development in the South Asian countries", he said lauding the role of REB.

The minister expressed satisfaction learning that distribution system loss of REB was about 15 per cent and its collection rate was about 98 per cent, said an official handout.

The ceremony was also addressed by Whip MA Karim, Abu Abbas MP, Begum Bani Ashraf MP, Brig M Enamul Huq, REB Chairman, and Deputy Commissioner of the district.



NARAYANGANJ: People of Enayetnagar area under Fatulla thana brought out a truck procession in the town recently protesting the air pollution caused by various industrial units. —Star photo

Notes from Satkhira

Wall collapse kills minor girl

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Feb 22: One minor girl Marufa Bilkis Kanika, 8, daughter of Abul Kashem, Commissioner, Satkhira Pourashava, died on the spot when a wall collapsed on her on February 16 at Sultanpur Bazar.

While the girl was playing on the roof of her house, a newly-built wall collapsed on her. She died instantaneously.

Osmany's death anniversary observed

The 11th death anniversary of Bangabir M A G Osmany, under the auspices of Satkhira district Muktiyoddha Sangsad, was observed here at the sangsad premises recently.

Abdur Rashid presided over the function while Irial Sardar, Kamruzzaman Babu, Masud Khan Chowdhury, A Rashid Mollah, Dilip Kumar Dey and Sk Magfur Hasan Mukul spoke on the occasion. A milad mahfil was also held on the occasion.

Daring theft

A theft was committed at the cloth shop of one Khoda Box of Nazimogj Bazar under Kaligonj thana recently.

A gang of thieves entered into the shop by breaking open the window of the shop at dead of night and took away cash amounting to Taka 20 thousand and clothes worth Taka about one lakh. A case was lodged with Kaligonj police.

Motor cycle stolen

A gang of organised group of thieves stole a motor cycle from the house of one Anowar Hossain of Sultanpur Pal Para of Satkhira town recently.

A case has been lodged with Satkhira police.

Smuggled goods recovered

The BDR personnel of 21 Rifles Battalion, Satkhira recovered smuggled goods worth Taka about 30 lakh from different border areas of the district during the last week.

The smuggled goods included cattle, salt, sugar, pulses, clothes, spices, medicines, cycles, cycle parts, and cosmetics.

Rasel Smriti Sangsad

A general meeting of Kaligonj thana Rasel Smriti Sangsad was held at its office premises with SK Wahiduzzaman in the chair recently.

Enamul Hossain, Anowarul Kabir Eyasin and others spoke on the occasion. In the meeting a 19-member executive committee of Kaligonj thana Rasel Smriti Sangsad was formed with Anowarul Kabir and Eyasin as president and general secretary respectively.

Installation ceremony of BINASA

MYMENSINGH, Feb 22: Dr M Anwarul Kader Sheikh, Director, Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture (BINA), called upon the scientists to work relentlessly for the development of agriculture, reports UNB.

He was addressing the installation ceremony of the newly elected office-bearers of the Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture Scientists Association (BINASA) on February 14 as chief guest at the Agriculture University campus.

Presided over by outgoing president of the association Dr S M Rahman, it was also addressed by CS Shaha, Dr Md Idris Ali, R K Dutta, newly elected association president Dr Md Jalauddin and secretary M J Khalil.

Dr Kader said agriculture and the farmers are the backbone of the nation. He called upon the scientists to give emphasis on agriculture research.

The other office-bearers of the newly elected biennial committee of the association are: Vice-President Dr MA Samad, Asst General secretary GKM Mostafizur Rahman, Treasurer M Baset Mian and Members M Monzurul Islam, Mirza Mofazzal Islam, AFM Saiful Islam and M Suratuzzaman.

Young man commits suicide

CHUADANGA, Feb 22: A young man of High School Para in Sadar thana allegedly committed suicide by taking poison on Monday, reports UNB.

The victim identified as Sushil, 18, was working in a jewellery shop at sadar thana. The reason behind the suicide could not be known immediately.

A case was lodged with the police. The body was sent to morgue for autopsy.

1000 tubewells out of order in Kushtia

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Feb 22: The number of damaged tubewells is increasing sharply in the district due to rampant stealing of spare parts and lack of proper maintenance by the authorities concerned.

At present more than one thousand tubewells are out of order and as a result, most of the rural people are forced to use ponds, rivers and canals as a source of drinking water and become vulnerable to various diseases including diarrhoea and dysentery.

The Public Health Engineering Department is entrusted with the task of installing tubewells, repairing the damaged ones and maintain them properly to ensure adequate supply of pure water.

Local people alleged that they hardly visit rural areas to inspect the operation of the tubewells and take any effective measures to stop rampant

stealing of spare parts, and repair and replace the old ones.

The villagers urged the authorities to look into the matter and take immediate steps to ensure smooth supply of pure water in the rural areas.

Meanwhile, kutcha latrines have been posing threat to public health in the district headquarters for quite a long time. "These are polluting the environment. Flies, mosquitoes and other insects carry germs from these latrines and are spreading disease among the town dwellers.

Many kutcha latrines have been set up by the side of the roads, rivers and canals which are causing inconvenience to the local people. When contacted, the district Public Health and Engineering Department officials said they had adequate stock of rings and slabs for low cost sanitary latrines.



BRAHMANBARIA: State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Harun Al-Rashid inaugurated the re-cavation programme of a part of the river Titas near Uzanisar under Sadar thana here recently. —Star photo

Poor power supply in Jhenidah dist

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Feb 22: Frequent power failure and load-shedding have become a regular feature in the town and all six thanas of the district causing much inconvenience to the town dwellers.

Local people alleged that hardly a day or night passes without power disruption. Almost every night electricity supply goes off plunging the entire town and adjoining areas into darkness. As a result, students and businessmen have been suffering badly.

Erratic power supply has also affected production in the local industries. Irrigation sec-

tor in the IRRi-boro field with power connection have also been affected.

Frequent power failure is also contributing in the price-like of foodstuff in the markets.

Besides fluctuation of voltage causes damage to electronic articles.

Villagers rescue kidnapped person in Gaibandha

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Feb 22: One Nuruzzaman of village Dhali Patadhoo under Fulchhari Thana was recovered in a critical condition on February 18 from Mollar char 54 hours after he was kidnapped.

On February 15 at dead night a gang of armed miscreants raided the house of Nuruzzaman. They beat up the inmates of the house and kidnapped him after looting the valuables. Four persons were injured seriously.

The miscreants took the victim to Mollar char under sadar Thana and confined him to a house at village Chitulia Digor. He was tortured severely.

The villagers rescued him in a critical condition. He was rushed to Gaibandha hospital. Dacoity and kidnapping cases have been filed.

Housewife beaten to death in Rangpur

RANGPUR, Feb 22: A housewife was beaten to death allegedly by her husband here on Sunday, police said, reports UNB.

According to family sources, the newly married Momota Rani, 18 of village Janpur in Maninpur union of Kotwali thana discovered an illicit affair of her husband Dhanoshor Mohanta with a neighbouring girl when she first came to her husband's house.

She tried to restrain her husband from going to the girl but failed. On the fateful day, Mohanta picked up a quarrel with his wife illicit affair openly.

At one stage of altercation, Mohanta started beating up Momota. She died on the spot. Her body was sent to morgue for autopsy.

Despite govt ban fishermen continue to catch fish fry

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Feb 22: Catching of fish fry is going on rampantly in all six thanas of Jhenidah district battering the prospect of fish production.

A section of unscrupulous people and fishermen are catching fish fry like ruhi, kalla, mrigal, silver carp, American ruhi and other big fishes in rivers, canals, beels, haors, ponds and other waterbodies of Jhenidah sadar, Saikupa, Harinakanda, Kaliganj, Kotchandpur and Meherpur thanas of the district. A huge quantity of fish fry is being

marketed every day in almost all the markets. Each fish fry is about four inches to seven inches in length.

It may be mentioned here that the government has strictly prohibited catching fish fry below nine inches in size.

A Fisheries Department source said fish scarcity would intensify again in the near future due to rampant catching fry.

The source said they could not take necessary steps against the fishermen or

sellers for want of law enforcing agencies.

Local people alleged that the law enforcing agencies did not take any punitive measures against illegal catching of fish fry.

1276mt of wheat sanctioned

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Feb 22: One thousand two hundred seventy six metric tons of wheat has been allocated for six thanas of the district under Food for Works Programme (FWP) during the current dry season.

According to a source, two hundred eighty six metric tons of wheat has been allocated against 25 projects in Jhenidah sadar thana, two hundred eighty three metric tons against 17 projects in Saikupa thana, one hundred seventy two metric tons against 17 projects in Harinakanda thana, one hundred ninety nine metric tons against 12 projects in Kaliganj thana, eighty eight metric tons against 11 projects in Kotchandpur thana and two hundred forty eight metric tons against 23 projects in Mohepur thana of the district.

The source said that construction and reconstruction of kucha roads in rural areas, earth work in fields of various educational institutions, digging and reexcavation of canals will be done under the projects.

It may be noted here that work on one hundred ninety projects is expected to be completed by three hundred eighteen metric tons of wheat in the district.

One killed in road mishap

RAJSHAHI, Feb 22: A middle-aged man was run over by a speeding truck in front of the Rajshahi University Central Mosque on Thursday morning, reports UNB.

The accident occurred when Abdul Jalil, 45, an employee of Bangladesh Institute of Technology, Rajshahi, was hit by the truck while he was going to office.

He was immediately rushed to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

Police seized the truck but the driver fled the scene. A case was filed with the local police.

High prices of agri inputs hit irri-boro cultivation

SHIRAJGANJ, Feb 22: Cultivation of irri-boro in the 16 northern districts, including Sirajganj, is being seriously hampered due to high prices of agricultural inputs, reports UNB.

It was learnt that in the northern region, there is a shortage of irrigation pumps. Many shallow tubewells went out of operation due to sudden fall in the ground water level. Moreover, high prices of fuel and electricity forced many farmers to abandon their plan of cultivation.

Besides, serious shortage of seedlings and excessive cost of fertilizers are also discouraging the farmers to cultivate irri-boro paddy this year.

Although the government has taken several measures for making available fertilizers to

the farmers at fair price but the farmers alleged that the fertilizers are being sold between Tk 310 and Tk 330 per bag instead of retail price of Tk 230 per bag.

Under the government measures, the Deputy Commissioners have been given responsibility to distribute fertilizers among the farmers at fair prices.

In Sirajganj, District Administration has received 192 metric tons of urea for distribution through dealers at fair price. But it was alleged that the fertilizer is also being sold at high price.

Sources said if immediate measures are not taken to ensure supply of inputs, the irri-boro production will be seriously hampered this year.

Prices of essentials rise sharply

BRAHMANBARIA, Feb 22: Prices of essentials have shot up in eight thanas of the district causing immense suffering to the consumers particularly the fixed and low income groups, reports UNB.

Prices of rice, flour, pulses, edible oil, milk, meat, eggs and vegetables have registered sharp rise during the last two weeks.

According to the local people, irri coarse rice is being sold at Tk 430 per maund, paddy at Tk 550 and 600 and aman at Tk 550 in the different markets.

Various species of fish have nearly disappeared from the markets. The fish shing and

magur are being sold between Tk 200 and 250 per kg, prices of beef, mutton and chicken are Tk 60, Tk 100 and Tk 120 per kg respectively.

Prices of pulses have been showing upward trend. Masur is being sold at Tk 30 per kg, molar Tk 28 and khesari at Tk 18. Besides, the prices of vegetables have also shot up in the different markets. Karala is being sold at Tk 24 per kg, gourd medium size per piece at Tk 15.

Mustard and soyabean oil are being sold between Tk 56 and Tk 60, and Tk 49 and Tk 50 respectively. Milk is being sold between Tk 20 and Tk 22 per litre in different markets.

Zoha Day observed at RU

From RU Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Feb 22: Zoha Day, the 26th death anniversary of Shaheed Dr Shamsuzzoha was observed at the Rajshahi University in a befitting manner on Saturday last.

Dr Shamsuzzoha, Reader of the Chemistry Department and then Proctor of the University was killed by the Pakistani occupation forces during the mass upsurge in 1969 at the main gate of the varsity.

Various organisations including university authority, Shaheed Smriti Sangrahasala, Teachers' Association (RUTA), Chemistry Department and University Officers' Association observed the day through hoisting of the black flag atop the Administrative Building, placing of wreaths at Zoha's mazar and at the memorial, special prayers and discussion.

University authority arranged the Zoha memorial lecture at senate Hall with Professor M Azizul Islam, Chairman of the Chemistry department in the chair. Former Vice-Chancellor of the Rajshahi University Professor M A Raquib presented the key role paper "Decay of our higher education. Problems and its solution" Vice-Chancellor of Rajshahi University Professor M Eusuff Ali spoke on the occasion.

RUTA has arranged a discussion on the life of Dr Zoha at the Zoha's Mazar premises with Prof M Aminul Islam in the chair.

Diabetic hospital in Sirajganj

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Feb 22: A 10-bed diabetic hospital was inaugurated at Sirajganj on February 10 last.

With Prof MA Matin in the chair, the inaugural ceremony was addressed by Dr Fasih Uddin Mahtab, General Secretary of Bangladesh Diabetic Association as the chief guest. He said that diabetic hospitals will be set up in every district to extend medicare facilities to the common people.

In the inaugural ceremony renowned specialists examined 250 patients and donated the collected fees amounting to Tk 50,000 for development of the new hospital.

Among others Dr AK Azad Khan examined 39 patients, heart specialist Dr Abul Kashem examined 58 patients, gynecologist Dr TA Chowdhury examined 46 patients, skin and venereal specialist Dr Reza-bin-Zaid examined 50 patients, nutrition specialist Dr Jafar Latif examined nine, diabetic specialist Dr Hazera Mahtab examined 16, dental specialist Arup Ratan Chowdhury examined 15, surgery specialist Dr Matiar Rahman examined 15 and child specialist Dr Kishori examined 19 patients in the premises of Sirajganj eye hospital.

One commits suicide

CHUADANGA, Feb 22: A young man of High School Para in Sadar thana allegedly committed suicide by taking poison on Monday, reports UNB.

The victim identified as Sushil, 18 was working in a jewellery shop at sadar thana. The reason behind the suicide could not be known immediately.

A case was lodged with the police. The body was sent to morgue for autopsy.

Another report says: Police arrested 75 people on various charges in four thanas of the district during the last year.

Police said, they also recovered 95 arms and 385 ammunition including 28 pigeons, 94 guns, five revolvers, seven pistols, 11 rifles.

3 robbers caught red-handed in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, Feb 22: Three miscreants were caught red-handed while committing dacoity in a Bogra bound bus at Chandishgati Bus Stand in Ulapara thana Saturday, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, a gang of dacoits stormed the bus, stabbed one Yunus Ali grievously and started looting their belongings when the bus reached the stand at 9 pm.

When the passengers raised hue and cry the neighbouring villagers rushed to the spot, gheraoed the dacoits and caught three of them while the others escape without the loot.

The three Rafique, Kader and Samad - were letter handed over to the police.

The wounded passenger Yunus was admitted to the Sadar Hospital.

Housewife killed in group clash

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Feb 22: A housewife was killed in a clash between two groups of villagers, at Monimpur of Osmanpur union under Habaganj thana recently.

The clash ensued after an exchange of hot words over smoking during the Ramjan. Both the groups pelted bricks on each other. The victim, wife of Akhla Ali received serious head injuries which caused her death.

A case has been lodged. The body was sent to the Sylhet MAG Osmany Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Another report says: At least twenty villagers were injured in a clash at Baonpur under Biswanath thana recently. Of them, eight with critical wounds had been admitted into the Sylhet MAG Osmany Medical College Hospital.

The clash took place as a sequel to a longstanding dispute over land ownership, police said.

Customs collect Tk 29.5 cr revenue

RANGPUR, Feb 22: The Customs and Excise department collected Tk 29.5 crore revenue in the first seven months - July '94 to January 95 - of the current fiscal, reports UNB.

Official sources said the department fixed a target of revenue earning of Tk 62.42 crore for the current financial year.

Of the total, according to the sources, Tk 12 crore was earned as customs and VAT duty while the rest Tk 17.5 crore was collected from bid and other collected items.

Clash over land dispute leaves 40 injured

SIRAJGANJ, Feb 22: At least 40 people were injured, six seriously, in a clash between two groups over a land dispute at Binoypur village of sadar thana on Friday, reports UNB.

Seriously injured are: Ruhul Amin, Shah Alam, Osman Gani, Kafiluddin, Shamsul Hoque and Ariful Hoque. They were admitted to Sirajganj General Hospital.

According to police, the clash ensued in the morning after a group of armed people backed by Saded Ali launched an attack at the paddy field, now being cultivated by Ahad Box. During the incident the attackers uprooted some newly transplanted aman seedlings on the land.

Both, Ahad and Saded have been claiming the ownership of the paddy field.



SYLHET Visitors at a stall of the three-day krishi mela which concluded here recently. The district Agricultural Extension Department organised the mela. —Star photo