

Mishap on rail crossing, 10 injured

From Our Correspondent
GAIBANDHA, Jan 24: Ten persons received injuries when a loaded tempo dashed with a running train at Chapadha Rail crossing point on January 20 last.

A tempo, A S Delux with ten passengers on board bound for Laxmipur from Gaibandha while passing through Chapadha level crossing, was suddenly dashed with 8 down mail train in which all the passengers on board sustained injuries. Condition of Masud Rana, 18 was stated to be critical and was admitted to hospital. It was alleged that the said rail gate 19/F level crossing remains open all the time.

Patients suffer due to lack of medicines

PABNA, Jan 24: Patients of the district are facing serious problems as scarcity of medicine in almost all hospitals, health complexes and union health centres has been prevailing for a long time, reports UNB.

Patients alleged that medical officers of these centres are not attending the out door patients due to non-availability of medicines.

People from remote areas complained that even simple emergency medicines like Dettol and Savion were not available in the rural health centres.

According to an official source, Tk 2.5 lakh is allotted for each hospital every year to buy medicines, mattress, bed sheets, pillows and other surgical instruments and Tk 30,000 for each union health centres.

On the other hand, it was also alleged that some dishonest officials are engaged in selling the medicine in the black market creating a crisis in the hospitals and health centres.

Patients from far lung areas are the worst sufferers and they are to go back disappointed in the absence of adequate treatment facilities.

Some admitted patients alleged that they are to collect medicines from outside at high prices.

Sugar mill workers not getting salary

NARSINGDI, Jan 24: About 300 workers and employees of Deshbandhu Sugar Mills under Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation have been passing their days in hardship due to non-payment of their salary for about a year, reports UNB.

The authorities closed the mill last March. During that year the mill incurred a loss of Tk 2.5 crore.

Officials and CBA leaders said, the loss was due mainly to yearly payment of bank interest Tk 1.30 crore as Tk 19 crore was borrowed from the bank during the installation of the sugar mill.

The production capacity of the mill was 1,050 metric tons per crushing season. But in 1994-95 season it produced 1100 metric tons of sugar exceeding the target.

Under the directives of BSFC the authority closed the mill in March 1995 and it was decided to reopen and start crushing last October.

Accordingly the mill authorities disbursed Tk 40 lakh among the sugarcane growers in advance. But due to mysterious reason the authorities failed to reopen the mill in time.

The workers and the sugarcane growers urged the authorities to reopen the mill immediately to mitigate their suffering.

34 fire arms, 50 rounds of bullet recovered so far in Comilla

COMILLA, Jan 24: Law enforcing agencies in the last one month recovered 34 fire arms, 50 rounds of bullets and some lethal weapons from 12 thanas of the district, police said today, reports UNB.

According to official sources, during the period from December 20 to January 20 last, the members of police and Army also arrested 517 in the district wanted in connection with several criminal cases.

Cub leaders' basic course held

MYMENSINGH, Jan 24: A week-long cub leaders' basic course was held at the premises of Police Line Primary School recently, reports BSS.

Organised by the sadar thana Boy Scouts, the course was inaugurated by Abdul Aziz ADC (General), Alhaj Md Shahidur Rahman Bhuiyan, Police Super Mymensingh attended the grand camp fire as chief guest. Both inaugural and grand camp fire were presided over by Md Saiful Islam TNO sadar thana and President Sadar thana Scouts.

A total of 70 leaders including 30 female leaders from different primary schools of Sadar thana participated in the course.



NOAKHALI: Partial view of what was once a dense man-made forest in the island of Nijhum located some 40 km from the main land of the district. Hundreds of trees, both mature and immature are being cut everyday for use as fire wood. The forest was created in the island in early 1980s funded by the World Bank. The project was very effective. However, following human habitation the existence of the forest has been seriously threatened. No one seems to stop such cruel act, the locals allege.

Build a society as beautiful as the flowers: Pabna DC

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Jan 24: While addressing a large gathering on Sunday night (January 21) that assembled at the concluding ceremony of the four-day seventh annual flower exhibition in the Town Hall maidan, Deputy Commissioner of Pabna, Mohammad Ishaque Ali, called upon the people to build a society as beautiful as the flowers that are being exhibited here. He asserted that since through a devoted cultivation, so beautiful flowers could be successfully grown, our people had quite the capability of growing or building our children similarly beautiful spreading fragrance like flowers.

The concluding function of the four-day 'Abu Jafar Pushpa Pradarshani' was presided over by Zahurul Islam Bishu, president of the exhibition committee and was addressed, among others, by Jashed Uddin Bhuiyan, Superintendent of Police, Pabna and advocate Shaiful Islam Shibli, Secretary of the Exhibition Committee.

The exhibition was inaugurated on January 18 and during the four days, it drew a large number of people, men, women and children, who visited displayed in the exhibition. The Deputy Commissioner of Pabna, who was the chief guest at the concluding function, gave away prizes among the winners.

The best flower-cultivators who won prizes were: Marigold - Nurul Islam Sekendar Ali, Abu Ishaque

Shamim and Mira Roy. A special prize was awarded to Engineer Abdul Mannan.

It may be recalled that in 1989, Abu Jafar, an enthusiastic flower cultivator arranged for the first time in Pabna. A flower exhibition grown by himself, in his own family garden. This exhibition created much enthusiasm and drew a large number of visitors. But a few months after, Abu Jafar died.

From the next year, 1990, the friends and admirers decided to organise flower exhibition every year after the name Abu Jafar and formed 'Abu Jafar Pushpa Pradarshani Committee'. This committee has been organising flower exhibition in Pabna Town Hall maidan every year since 1990.



PABNA: A partial view of the flowers displayed at the four-day 'Abu Jafar Pushpa Pradarshani' held recently in the local Town Hall premises. — Star photo

Arms recovered, two held

BARISAL, Jan 24: Barisal thana police recovered one Indian-made revolver from Saptania areas Monday last, police sources said, reports BSS.

Police arrested Mostafizur Rahman and Sirajul Islam in this connection, the source added.

Police registered cases in this connection.

Bodies recovered

BARISAL, Jan 24: The bodies of three picnickers, who were missing when their trawler capsized in the river Tetulia on January 14, were recovered from char area of the river after four days of the incident, reports UNB.

Police said, Shaheb Uddin, 18, a college student, Nuruddin, 13, a class seven student and Poshpu, 40, were missing since the trawler carrying the picnic party capsized in the midstream.

But the rest 60 members managed to swim ashore. The picnic was arranged by Bangla Bazar Shop Owners Association.

Local fishermen of the char area recovered the bodies on Thursday. Deputy Commissioner and Police Super visited the spot.

An eye hospital for blinds opens in Sirajganj

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Jan 24: Bahela Khatun Eye and Children's hospital was inaugurated on January 20 at village Mukundaganti under Belkuchi thana. The hospital, with financial assistance of local industrialist Alhaj Mohammad Ali Sarker, was inaugurated by eminent eye specialist Prof MA Matin and was attended by eye specialists from London David Sobers, Martin Keats and Children's hospital of Sight Sobers International.

On the occasion with in the chair, among others Abdul Awal Farid, Alhaj Matiz Uddin Khan, Alhaj Hossain Sarker, Martin Keats and Prof Matin addressed the gathering. Professor Matin assured all necessary assistance form Bangladesh National Society for the Blinds (BNSB) to make the hospital fullfledged. He also said that under Community Blind Rehabilitation (CBR) the blinds will be rehabilitated in the area.

Free medicare facilities including cataract operation, and free treatment for under five children will be extended at Bahela Khatun Eye and Children's Hospital. Industrialist of Belkuchi Alhaj Mohammad Ali Sarker donated land and will construct a liveroom building for the hospital named after his departed mother.

After inaugurating the hospital about 130 eye patients were selected for cataract operation and 70 under-five children were extended treatment.

Speakers pay tribute to Monazat Uddin

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Jan 24: Speakers at a citizens condolence meeting for condoling the death of eminent journalist Monazat Uddin stressed the need of innumerable Monazat Uddins in Bangladesh in different fields like journalism, teaching, administration, politics, social works, scientists, art and literature.

Since Monazat Uddin was a true lover of the people, the down-trodden, sincere, laborious and full of sense of responsibility. The speakers said if people like journalist Monazat Uddin could come to all the fields and walks of life, Bangladesh could really develop and while paying tributes to Monazat Uddin, this aspect should be remembered.

Organised by Pabna District Gano Forum, the citizens condolence meeting was attended by hundreds of men and women from Pabna town and also from different thanas of the district.

Presided over by Pabna District Gano Forum President Advocate Ramesh Maatra, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Gano Forum leaders Abdul Aziz, Advocate Azizul Haque, Advocate Aedus Sattar, Advocate Jainul Abedin, Dr. Tamiz Uddin, Pabna District College Teachers' Association President Principal Fazul Haque, Peshajibi Parishad leader Advocate Shimul Biswas renowned social worker Nilufar Quaderi, landless peasant leaders Abdul Quayyum Sarker (Atgharia), Abdul Halim of village Kansowa (Ullapara), Sadar Uddin (Atgharia), Aminur Rashid of Luxmipur, Abdur Rashid of Atgharia and many others.

2, 592 mt of wheat distributed under Food for Edn prog in Magura

MAGURA, Jan 24: Some 2,592 metric tons (mts) of wheat were distributed among the students of 50 primary schools in 11 unions of four thanas under Food for Education programme during last year, reports UNB.

According to an official of the primary education department, of the total 38,463 students, 14,961 poor students were selected from three unions each of Sadar, Mohammadpur and Shalikka thanas and two unions of Sreepur thana.

The source said, under the programme, 15 kgs of wheat were allotted for a student of a family every month, but for two students of a family, 20 kgs of wheat were distributed.

With this, 12,881 single-student families and 1,040 two-student families were benefited.

The official also said, after the launching of the programme, families below poverty line are not only getting benefit but also becoming interested to send their children to the schools which is decreasing the number of dropout students in the area.

Strange behaviour of nature keeps landless peasants worried

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Jan 24: Hundreds of poor jobless inhabitants of different charlands along Brahmaputra basin are living below poverty level. Many of them work in the land of others on contract and get fifty per cent of produced crops.

In charlands the peasants mainly depend on rabi crops including kawn, cheena, mustard seed, ground nut and wheat. They could not cultivate paddy or jute in time due to frequent flood. The cultivation in charlands completely depends on the mercy of nature.

Crop lands remain under water over four months in a year. So the peasants rarely harvest their crops in due time. As such a large number landless people remain jobless most of the time.

Kassh plant naturally grows in the fallow and in char areas along the river bed of Brahmaputra. This sort of plant are generally used as

straw for the shuttering of thatched roof in the village areas and its stalks are used as fire stick commonly known as 'chorall' for domestic purpose.

A large section of inhabitants in charland depends on the trade of kassh straw and its stalk for their livelihood. These persons are mainly landless and have no work other than selling of kassh straw. In the season time they procure or collect them from remote fallow areas and later sell them in high price during winter when the people renovate their thatched huts. A four diametre bundle of kassh straw is being sold at Tk 5. Besides they also remain busy with selling kassh stalk as fuel stick which is most popular in village as well as in town areas as an alternative of fire wood.

During winter people in large number engage for the collection of kassh stalk from distant char areas for selling

them to the market as fire stick. They are to travel long way from one char to another search of dried kassh stalk. Every morning people in group go out of home and return in the afternoon with bundles of fire sticks and they maintain their livelihood by selling of these sticks. Sometimes they supply these fire sticks to whole-sellers in town areas in a lots. The wholesalers then sell in rainy season at an exorbitant price.

Bachhu Mia of village Bhat-Burail char in Capasia union under Sunderganj thana told this correspondent he has been in this trade of kassh straw and its stalk from his childhood who still in this business and maintains a five member family. Bachhu further said that as he is a landless person remains engaged in fishing during the leisure time and later sells them to the fishermen.

Non-iodised salt openly sold in markets

From Our Correspondent

BRAHMANBARIA, Jan 24: In order to earn a better profit, shopkeepers are reportedly selling non-iodised salt, despite government ban, exposing people of the district to various diseases, it was alleged.

According to market sources, one kg of iodised salt is being sold at Tk 12 while the same amount of non-iodised salt is being sold at Tk 8. As a result, poor people, in order to save money, are purchasing the salt. On the other hand, it was alleged, the shopkeepers are selling non-iodised salt in packets of iodised ones.

It may be mentioned that, in order to save the nation from goitre, mental and physical retardness and other diseases caused by lack of iodine, the government im-

posed ban on sale of non-iodised salts and made 17 mandatory for salt factories to make iodised salt.

Two killed

SIRAJGANJ, Jan 23: Two people were killed in separate mishaps in the river Jamuna and Bogra-Nagarbari road in the district recently, reports UNB.

Police said, Shahrab Ali died on the spot when three trucks slammed into each other on a bridge near Raninagar in Ullapara thana at about 5:30 am.

In another mishap, Tikka, 46, a boatman died, on the spot when two mechanised boats collided in the river near Dharmair Char in Kazipur thana at about 6 am.

Land dev tax reduced to Tk 200 from Tk 1500

COX'S BAZAR, Jan 24: The government has reduced the per acre land development tax to Tk 200 from Tk 1500 for encouraging the salt growers, reports UNB.

The Ministry of Land issued the order on January 15 last, official sources said here. The order will be effective from 1990.

The previous government imposed the increased tax on the salt-producing land of the district in 1990. However, the land of same category in Chittagong and Satkhira districts remained outside of the increased tax. The decision of the then government adversely affected the salt production in the district.

Cox's Bazar Chamber of Commerce and Industry hailed the decision of the government saying it will enhance production of salt.

Phensidyl syrup bottles, ganja recovered

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Jan 24: The drug and liquor control authorities of Pabna sadar circle, led by the Circle Inspector Mohammad Azizul Haque, comprising a team of Pabna police, conducted a raid at dead of night acting upon a secret information, and succeeded in recovering 35 bottles of Phensidyl from a house in Poulanpur of Pabna town.

They also arrested one Md Abdul Hakim from the said house on charge of smuggling and storing of the said illegal goods.

After conducting another raid the same day, the team recovered 200 grams of high quality ganja (hemp) from the house of Md Nazim Uddin of Banglabazar, Pabna town. Nazim Uddin, however, could not be arrested since he was not found in the house.

Two separate cases have been registered.



PABNA: Drug and Liquor Control officials recovered 35 bottles of Indian Phensidyl and arrested Md Abdul Hakim. They also recovered 200 grams of ganja from another house. — Star photo