

14 leprosy patients detected in Jhenidah

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Jan 28: A total of 14 leprosy patients were detected in Jhenidah district so far, according to an statistics by the District Civil Surgeon's office sources.

Three patients were detected in Jhenidah Sadar thana, five in Salkupa thana, four in Kaliganj thana, one in Hariakundu thana and one in Mohespur thana of the district. This was stated in a seminar held in the office of the Civil Surgeon with Dr. Sardar Badar Uddin in the chair. The Civil Surgeon (CS) told newsmen that the leprosy was not a harmful disease nowadays. The CS said that the leprosy affected patients were not as feared as they used to be. But the diseases might be cured if the patients were treated regularly. He also informed that the disease like leprosy might be eradicated if the people are more conscious. In the society a good number of leprosy affected patients could not meet the doctors as the leprosy patients were not removed earlier which had been removed partially, the Civil Surgeon added.

Clash over land: 6 hurt in Jhenidah

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Jan 28: Six persons were injured, two of them seriously in a clash at village Bhutiarigati in Jhenidah sadar thana on January 25 last, according to local people and eyewitnesses.

Local people said, the clash originated following land dispute. Both the groups faced each other with *Dhal*, *Falla*, *Ramdao* and other lethal weapons. Injured Jahid, Toufik and Khaled were admitted to Jhenidah Sadar Hospital. Of them Jahid and Toufik were shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital in critical condition, hospital sources said.

A case was filed with Jhenidah thana and police arrested one Shaqil in this connection, police said.

25 passengers hurt as seven wagons derail

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Jan 28: At least 25 passengers sustained injuries in a train disaster which took place at the outer signal point of Bonapara Railway station when seven bogies of 7-up mail train derailed on January 25.

According to the eyewitnesses the train was moving in slow motion towards the station. Suddenly the bogies of the train one after another derailed after breaking the sleepers. At least 25 persons received grievous injuries when the train derailed. Passengers were pulled out of the train.

It was alleged that the Railway track at some points between Teestamuk ghat and Bonapara was not fit for service due to lack of proper maintenance and repairing. Almost all the wooden sleepers were found to be damaged which the authority did not replace duly.

Meanwhile our staff correspondent from Khulna adds: Unprecedented power failure here brought normal life to a miserable condition in the city and the adjoining areas. The fasting Muslims, SSC and HSC candidates preparing for their examinations are suffering under the clock.

The worst sufferers are owners of mills and factories where power failure has been a common phenomenon hitting production works.

The power generating units are miserably failing to meet the need due to frequent mechanical defects. As a result, the required amount of electricity is not being produced in this region. Only 40 megawatt of electricity is now being produced from Goalpara 110 megawatt power plant.

The two barge-mounted units at Khulna are reportedly producing only 20 megawatt of electricity less than one-third of the capacity.

It is learnt from a reliable source that the amount of electricity being produced is less than half of the production capacity. As a result, shortage of electricity persists. The crisis has thrown the people into continued load-shedding for the last one month. Khulna needs 90 megawatt of electricity, but it only gets less than half of the need.

Two policemen suspended

MAGURA, Jan 28: The district Police Superintendent has suspended two policemen in Shalikhtha thana after an arrested dacoit escaped from their custody, reports UNB.

The dacoit, Bablu, was admitted to Shalikhtha Hospital along with an accomplice. Satar after they were severely mauled and handed over to the police on January 14. Bablu fled from the hospital at mid-night. Police said, three highway robbers, disguised as passengers, took control of a bus on Magura-Jessore road and started looting cash and property of the passengers.

The bus hit an electric pole at Angpara bazar where the dacoits tried to flee. But the local people along with the passengers caught hold of them and handed them over to police after mass beating.



Shellfish (oyster) collection is a popular pursuit among Bedes (roving snake charmers) residing near the bank of the river Shitalakhya in Narayanganj district. They earn their livelihood selling pearls. They sell a piece of pearl in between Tk 10 and Tk 20 only.

Cerebral malaria claims 15 lives in remote villages of Sunamganj

From Iqbal Siddiquee

SYLHET, Jan 28: Cerebral malaria, that broke out in different areas of Sunamganj district has already caused death of about 30 people since December 1996. The affected villages are in Tahirpur, Biswambharpur and Doarabazar thanas. At least three thousand others are still suffering from the diseases various, unofficial sources claimed.

The disease has spread creating panic among the people of affected areas. When contacted, district health office sources said, 15 deaths had been reported from the villages of Tahirpur thana. With a view to bringing the situation under control seven medical teams had been formed while a temporary camp has already been started.

While talking to this correspondent, a physician working in the area said, when a mosquito, named, *Maculeetus*, very rare type bites someone, the patient becomes unconscious and the brain haemorrhage causes his death within 24 to 72 hours. He further said,

the germ carried by *Maculeetus* mosquito is termed as 'Falciparum'.

The affected areas being very remote and having no road communication with the thana headquarters or the district headquarters, the people suffer a lot. Footpath or boat is the only means of communication of the vast locality, due to which the employees of the health department show little interest to stay in the remote health centres.

The disease is now spreading to the adjacent villages of Biswambharpur and Doarabazar thanas, official sources confirmed.

It is stable here that, the deadly disease took lives of several thousand people in the last three consecutive years from 1995 in the vast areas of Tahirpur, Doarabazar, Sunamganj Sadar, Biswambharpur and Dharmpasha thanas. The Health Department had to initiate special measures to bring the situation under control. Several teams from the World Health Organisation (WHO) also

visited the affected areas and suggested immediate measures and provided necessary help.

The authorities then engaged nine medical teams and started a temporary camp. The authorities also distributed several thousand insecticide-mixed mosquito nets in the affected areas in 22 villages. Besides, *Malathion* was also sprayed in the affected villages.

A number of health officials say, the effectiveness of sprayed *Malathion* had already been exhausted. There should be an immediate arrangement for spraying *Malathion* in the vast affected areas, they viewed.

The affected areas are located at the bottom of the hilly areas in the Indian state of Meghalaya, the people, almost all of whom are very poor earn their livelihood by selling wood collected from the hilly areas. They sometimes carry the germ of mosquitoes, some health officials said.

Once the outbreak of the disease is being reported from the bordering areas as well as from even inside.

The badly affected villages in the Tahirpur thana are, Rajagram, Koraigaara, Sharam, Lakma, Sukdev and Lauregarh villages. The CARITAS, an NGO has started 3 treatment centres at Kalagaon, Chanpur and Laurregarh. But, there is not a single doctor in any of these centres.

Besides, a number of posts of medical officers and other staff had been lying vacant in Tahirpur, Biswambharpur and Doarabazar thanas, causing much for the treatment of this killer disease besides the normal health service in the concerned area.

In the previous years, the outbreak of cerebral malaria was reported during the monsoon seasons only. But, this time, the disease has broken out in the winter. It has triggered much panic among the poverty-stricken people living in remote villages.

Immediate steps should be taken for spraying *Malathion* and sufficient number of medical teams should be sent to the affected areas, it is widely felt.

Paddy purchasing unsatisfactory Rice procurement drive satisfactory in Magura

MAGURA, Jan 28: Aman rice procurement is satisfactory, but Aman paddy purchasing is disappointing in the district.

According to Food Department, Magura, about 1041 metric tons of Aman rice and 650-metric tons of Aman paddy have been procured in six Aman rice and paddy purchasing centres of the district till January 17. The Food Department has been purchasing Aman rice from the owners of rice mills. As a result, rice procurement in the district is good.

The Aman paddy growers of Arpara of Shalikhtha, Sipur, Binodpur of Muhmmadpur have given good response to sell their agricultural product, paddy. But the Food Department has been facing problem procure paddy from them due to heavy moisture and rust. According to the government circular, Food Department can purchase paddy with 14 per cent moisture and 5 per cent rust, sources said.

A total of 2120 metric tons of Aman paddy and another 2120 metric tons of Aman rice will be purchased from four thanas of the district. Of these targeted figures 440 metric tons of paddy and 440 metric tons of rice will be collected from Sipur thana.

From Our Correspondent

280 metric tons of Aman paddy and 280 metric tons of rice from Muhmmadpur thana, 720 metric tons of paddy and 720 metric tons of rice from Shalikhtha thana and 680 metric tons of paddy and 680 metric tons of rice from Magura Sadar.

According to Agriculture Extension Department (AED) about one lakh 76 thousand metric tons of Aman paddy have been produced in the district. The paddy production has been fully hampered in Muhmmadpur thana due to flood of the last rainy season. As a result no paddy was procured till January 17 from Muhmmadpur purchasing centre. The Aman procurement drive has been started with effect from December 01, 1996 and expected to be concluded on January 31. The government procurement rate of Aman paddy and rice have been fixed this year at Taka 6.70 per kg and Taka 10.50 per kg respectively.

Talking to the paddy growers who come to the paddy purchasing centres to sell paddy said, many farmers are not able to sell their paddy because the said

purchasing centres have limited government circular for paddy procurement. A farmer can sell 70 kilogram paddy at least and one metric ton at best at a time. As a result, established paddy growers face problem to sell large amount of paddy in the purchasing centres at a time.

On the other hand, Food Department are purchasing good quality of paddy. The percentage of moisture and rust in this area are high, official sources added. The Food Department makes arrangement for removing 'chitta' (smut of paddy) from the paddy drying in their purchasing centres.

The farmers are not interested to do so due to high labour cost.

Some established paddy growers also told this correspondent that they were satisfied as a whole for the procurement rate rice, but they face various problems due to certain regulation of paddy procurement. As a result, many paddy farmers have to sell their paddy in the local markets at a low price.

260 bags of fertilizer seized

NETRAKONA, Jan 28: Acting on secret information police seized 260 bags of fertilizer near Barhatta, about 15 kms from here, on Netrakona-Mahanganj road recently while a truck loaded with fertilizer was being allegedly smuggled out to other district from Mahanganj thana sadar under Netrakona district, police sources said here, reports BSS.

Police arrested one Shahidul Alam of Sombhuganjar under Mymensingh district from the spot on charge of his alleged involvement in the fertilizer smuggling, police sources said.

FEP in doldrums for corruption

JESSORE, Jan 28: Food for Education Programme (FEP) has been facing a set back in the district due to alleged corruption and irregularities, shattering the basic education of about half a lakh school-going children, reports UNB.

According to a survey conducted by the Primary Education Department, there are about 3,63,153 school-going children in eight thanas of the district. Of them, only 3,04,264 are enrolled in the existing schools.

But the survey showed that about a half lakh students who were prosecuting studies under FEP have been deserting their schools as they are not getting allotted foodgrains from the school management bodies.

Local elite and parents alleged that the Food for Education Programme is in doldrums due to lack of inspection of the authorities about the proper distribution of allotted foodgrains against the deserving students.

According to officials, there are 612 government 444 registered and 168 non-registered primary schools, 205 Ebtada madrasa, 52 community centres and 16 kindergarten schools in eight thanas of the district. Besides, Islamic Foundation and different NGOs have been conducting several hundred non-formal education centres.

District Education Department said three posts of assistant and other 13 posts of Thana Education Officer, 12 posts of headmasters and 34 posts of assistant teachers have been lying vacant for long.

Guardians demanded proper investigation into irregularities to ensure the children's education under FEP.

Abducted businessman freed

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Jan 28: Abducted businessman of Salkupa town, Sankar Kumar Saha was at last released from the occupation of abductors on January 24 night last, according to family sources.

Sources said, Sankar was allegedly abducted by a group of armed miscreants in the night of January 22 last at about 8.00 pm from Rangopara in Salkupa town. He was returning home from his shop.


Shop owners assoc call indefinite strike

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Jan 28: Shop Owners Association of Jhenidah town called an indefinite strike in the town Monday from 2 pm in protest of looting a cloth store allegedly by a group of youngsters.

Some leaders of the association alleged that the youngsters looted cloths worth about Taka five lakh from Madina Cloth Store in the town at about 1.30 pm Monday.

When contacted Jhenidah thana police told that they had seized the looted cloths from the town soon after the incident.



Bangladesh Railway Engineering Department

Corrigendum to Tender Notice


No. Eng/642-W/Sleeper/Tender/96-97 Dt. 26-1-1997

Corrigendum to Tender Notice No. Eng/642-W/Sleeper/Tender/96-97 dated: 23-12-96 in connection with supply of Group 'A': Supply of 4,500 Nos. (14,062.50 Cft.) Broad Gauge standard Garjan wooden sleepers, Group 'B': Supply of 4,000 Nos. (12,500 Cft.) Broad Gauge Sal wooden sleeper, Group 'C': Supply of 5,000 Nos. (7,500 Cft.) Metre Gauge standard Sal wooden sleepers and Group 'D': Supply of 3,426 Nos. (10,706.25) Cft. Broad Gauge Garjan wooden sleeper for West Zone hereby issued:-

(1) The date of selling and dropping of tender documents is fixed on 16-2-97 and 17-2-97 respectively instead of 27-1-97 and 28-1-97. (2) All other terms and conditions of the tender notice will remain unchanged.

RPRD. No. 556
Date: 27-1-97
D-117

for Chief Engineer/West
Bangladesh Railway
Rajshahi.




BTMC Sale Notice

Sealed tenders are invited by Bengal Textile Mills No.-1, Noapara, Jessore from interested ginners/ traders for selling 5 (five) ginning machines. Schedule of tender consisting rules & regulations and terms & conditions can be collected from (1) The Chief Accountant, Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation, BTMC Building, 7-9, Kawan Bazar, Dhaka-1215, (2) General Manager, BTMC Shipping Office, 79, Agrabad C/A, Chittagong and (3) The Accounts Division of the mill on cash payment of Tk 100/= (one hundred) per set (non-refundable) up to 15-2-97 during office hours. Tenders will be received simultaneously in the tender box kept at the "Seed-Cotton Purchase & Discarded Cotton and Goods Sales" Department of BTMC Head Office and at the Commercial Department of the mill up to 12:00 Noon of 16-2-97 which will be opened on the same day at 12:10 PM before the tenderers (if any) present. The ginning machines to be sold can be inspected any day during office hours up to 15-2-97.

The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any tender without assigning any reason.

DFP-1753-22/1
G-317

K. M. Nasim
Deputy General Manager.



Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority

141-143, Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka

Tender Notice

Sealed tenders in authority's approved tender form are invited from bonafide manufacturer/supplying firms for supply of various kinds of stationery goods:-

1. Tender No. : Purchase -01/97 dated 15.1.97.
2. Earnest money : 2.5% of the total quoted amount (refundable) as earnest money should be submitted with the tender through Pay Order/Call Deposit/Bank Draft from any scheduled bank in favour of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority.
3. Price of tender : Tk 100/- (one hundred) only (non-refundable).
4. Place of obtaining tender : Accounts Department, BIWTA, 9th floor, BIWTA Building, 141-143, Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka.
5. Place, date & time of submitting tender : Purchase & Stores Department, BIWTA, Zonal Office, 1st floor, BIWTA Building 141-143 Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka, up to 12:00 Noon of 4.2.97.
6. Date & time of opening tender : On 4.2.97 at 12:15 PM before the tenderers (if any) present.

No tender will be sold on the tender opening day. No tender will be received after the prescribed time. The authority reserves the right to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason.

P.R.13/97
DFP-1709-22/1
G-316

Saeed Hasan Badruddoza
Director (Purchase & Stores)

Crackdown on criminals fails to yield result

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Jan 28: The special police drive against criminals launched from January 15 has, in fact, yielded no result, which can ensure minimum security of life of the people.

The crackdown conducted in nine thanas of the Khulna district and five thanas in the city has so far been a total failure in the true sense of the term.

In the special offensive till January 24, police recovered a total of 33 pigeons, an unused rifle, an Indian pistol, a home-made gun and 24 rounds of live gun cartridges. But fact remains that all but two pipe guns were found abandoned. Of course, Sonadanga police unearthed an

arms factory during the operation.

The unsatisfactory recovery of illegal firearms has been described by the people as an 'Eye Wash' and nothing else. Therefore, the sense of security is yet to prevail. Because, about 90 per cent armed terrorists are still at large. They are being brought up by political parties.

It is alleged that the armed terrorists are not arrested by police despite frequent demands of the people. When asked, high officials of Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP) and Khulna range office of Deputy Inspector General (DIG) said, most of the armed terrorists are

evading arrest due to political interference. Police are being subjected to harassment and threatened transfer if action is taken against criminals being harboured by some political leaders.

According to KMP sources, police recovered from different places under five police stations a total of 21 pipe guns, 16 rounds of gun cartridges, a home-made gun, a Chinese axe, a Ram dao and three cocktails.

On the other hand, from different places under seven out of nine thanas of the district police recovered 14 illegal firearms during the same period.

East-West rly link snapped second time

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Jan 28: East-West railway link was again snapped following suspension of ferry services between Teestamuk ghat and Bahadurabad ghat from Sunday for the second time.

Early this month ferry services between Teestamuk ghat and Bahadurabad ghat was suspended due to closure of ferry channel following heavy siltation and alarming decrease in water level in Brahmaputra basin.

After week long closure the ferry services was again restored by introducing dredger at Kalasana point which ultimately did not prove effective. After a week, the services was suspended for the second time. On January 26 ferry boat MV Suhrawardy while returning to Teestamuk ghat with passenger

of Teesta Express ran aground at Kabilpur where it got stranded. Passengers, however, taking risk crossed the river by available country boats paying high fare.

On the other hand, thousands of passengers of connecting trains were detained for long time at both the ghats and are suffering immensely in the biting cold.

Demanding restoration of ferry services on Monday, pas-

sengers of Ekota Express gheraoed office of Teestamuk ghat station master where some untoward incidents took place between labourers and passengers.

The Rail link between east and west is almost uncertain as the ferry routes have already lost navigable depth for the smooth plying of ferry boats along with narrow channel of Kalasana turning point, authority said.

Severe power crisis at Jhenidah distribution line

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Jan 28: Jhenidah, Magura, Kushtia, Chuadanga and Meherpur districts have been experiencing an all time high load shedding for last couple of days due to mechanical faults in Khulna power house, for want to sufficient gas supply and want of sufficient water in Kapila lake causing much inconveniences to the people of these five districts, according to Power Development Board (PDB) sources.

PDB sources said, at least 32 megawatt of power is required for the districts under Jhenidah Power Distribution Division. But now they have been provided with only 4-8 megawatt (Gw) daily. Even on January 20

there was no power supply for the division. As a result, the entire division went under darkness. All the mills, factories, large and small scale business establishments were closed for want to power supply.

PDB sources further informed that due to depletion of gas in the Bakhrabad gas fields has remained shut for months.

PDB is trying to remove the troubles as early as possible, but it will not be removed overnight, sources informed.

Sub-Division Engineer, Power Development Board Jhenidah told that finding no other alternative they were compelled to give shed load for hours together.

Bus stand manager, assistant assaulted

SYLHET, Jan 28: The manager of Salutikor bus stand at Mazumdari area of the town and his assistant were assaulted by some extortionists on Saturday, reports UNB.

Witnesses said, some extortionists demanded toll from the manager, Rimu, and on refusal, they beat him and his assistant Wahab Khari mercilessly.

Rimu was rushed to the Osmani Medical College Hospital in a critical condition.

Health complexes run short of medicine!

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, Jan 28: Medicine scarcity at different health complexes in Shariatpur district has been causing inconveniences to the patients.

Local people alleged that ordinary medicines like Dettol, Paracetamol are not available in almost all the thana health complexes.

Huge number of patients coming from far-flung areas to thana are to go back disappointed owing to lack of proper treatment and other facilities. They also alleged that some of thana health complexes are without doctors and it is also alleged that in the absence of doctors either compounders or staff members prepare prescription for the patients.

The authorities concerned are urged to look into the matter and take necessary steps.