

News snaps

Habiganj Press Club executives

HABIGANJ, Jan 2: A 15-member executive committee of the district Press Club was formed for a two-year term in an election held at the club premises on Thursday, reports UNB. Saifur Rahman Chowdhury and Shamsul Alam Chowdhury Rahat were elected as president and general secretary respectively while M Abdus Shaheed and AHM Iqbal Ahmed were elected vice presidents. Other office-bearers are: joint secretary Harun-ur-Rashid Chowdhury, sports secretary Abdul Moin Chowdhury Tpu, cultural secretary Shoyeb Chowdhury, office and library secretary M Fazlul Rahman, treasurer M Niaz and members: M Amir Hossain, Monsur Uddin Ahmed Iqbal, Syed Ashraf Uddin Mamun, Shamim Ahsan, Selim Azad and Abdul Bari Laskar.

Manpower shortage in Health Deptt

PANCHAGARH, Jan 2: A large number of posts in the health department have been lying vacant for long causing immense suffering to the local people, reports UNB.

The patients are being deprived of necessary treatment due to the shortage of physicians and other staff members in different hospitals and health complexes. This has also created obstacles in performing day to day official work in the department. According to official sources, out of total 553 posts, 125 remained vacant since last year. These include medical officers, dental surgeons, gynecologists, specialists, junior and senior consultants, junior health education officers, sanitary inspectors, nursing supervisors, nurses and technicians.

2 killed in Tangail road accident

TANGAIL, Jan 2: Two persons were killed and three others were injured in a road accident on Tangail-Bhuyapur road near Shalokol on December 23, reports BS.

The accident occurred when a rush driven truck hit a tempo with passengers. Abdul Mannan of village Bashuria and an unidentified woman of about 40 years died on the spot. Jamila, 25, of Kalihati village, Nazim, 25, of Bhuyapur and Abu Syeed of village Gagangai under Sirajganj district, passengers of the tempo were seriously injured. A case was registered with the Kalihati thana. The driver of the killer truck managed to escape.

Gambling vitiating atmosphere

NARSIGNDI, Jan 2: Gambling and obscene dances are on in the name of Jatra at Marjal and Rainagar in Raipur thana here vitiating the serene atmosphere, reports UNB.

Local people complained that an influential quarter organised the Jatra for money without any permission from the district administration. The local people in a protest rally demanded ban on the on-going Jatra without further delay. They later brought out a procession and handed over a memorandum to the district administration. While contacted police super said he did not give any permission for holding the Jatra.

Massive wheat cultivation programme

PABNA, Jan 2: A total of 1,97,000 hectares of land will be brought under high yielding wheat cultivation in eight northern districts under Rangpur Agriculture Extension Zone during the current season, reports UNB.

According to an official source, the production target has been fixed at 3,94,000 metric tons. Of the total land, some 30,500 hectares will be cultivated in Rangpur, 24,000 hectares in Kurigram, 15,500 hectares in Gaibandha, 12,000 hectares in Lalmonirhat, 16,000 hectares in Nilphamari, 45,000 hectares in Dinajpur, 14,000 hectares in Panchagarh and 40,000 hectares in Thakurgaon. The Agriculture Extension Department will set up six integrated demonstration plots in these districts to acquaint the farmers with the scientific methods of wheat cultivation.

Pest-attack on Aman paddy field

BHERAMARA, Jan 2: At least five hundred hectares of transplanted Aman paddy field and Boro seedbed have been attacked by pests in Bheramara, Kushtia sadar, Khoksa, Kumarkhali, Mirpur and Daulatpur thanas of Kushtia district.

When contacted the Agriculture Extension Department sources told BSS that adequate measures have already been taken to combat the menace. The farmers, however, complained that acute scarcity of pesticides was prevailing in the district.

Plots allotted to establish industries

KISHOREGANJ, Jan 2: The Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) has allotted plots for establishment of several industries in the district, reports BSS.

The decision was taken at a recent meeting presided over by the Deputy Commissioner, Kishoreganj AMM Farhad. Senior district level officers attended the meeting. The plots were allotted in favour of the following industries: Mouware Nail Industries, Uddog Food and Processing, Masum Paduka Industries, Rainnick Food Processing Private Limited, Khondker Perfumery and Chemical Works, Ahmed Still Industries and Noovel Enterprise.

Contraband goods seized

MEHERPUR, Jan 2: The Bangladesh Rifles on December 22 seized Indian contraband goods worth about Taka two lakh from Dinajpur and Bidyadharpur villages under Meherpur sadar thana, reports BSS.

An official source said the goods included Indian saree, sugar, salt, medicine, bicycle and spare parts of motor vehicles. Two cases were filed in this connection.

New president, secy of Comilla Press Club

COMILLA, Jan 2: The annual election of the executive committee of Comilla Press Club was held on December 26 at its premises here, reports BSS.

Rezaul Karim Shamim and Nurur Rahman have been elected president and general secretary respectively of the 17th member executive committee. The annual general meeting of Comilla Press Club was also held on the same day with the outgoing president Zahurul Islam in the chair.

LGED implementing 21 projects

BARISAL, Jan 2: The Local Government Engineering Department has been implementing 21 projects in Jhalakati district at an allocation of about Taka two crore in the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the work of the project, includes construction and reconstruction of roads, culverts and box culverts. The work of these projects will begin soon and is expected to be completed by June 1998.

Efforts on to ensure health for all

From A Correspondent

GAZIPUR, Jan 2: The Health and Family Welfare Minister, Salahuddin Yusuf said here recently the present government has been making all efforts to ensure Health for All by the year 2000 with particular emphasis on the health of women and children.

The minister was speaking as chief guest at the inaugural session of the 3-day workshop on "implementing women's health programmes in the community operationalising the ICPD and Beijing plans of action in Bangladesh" held in the BRAC auditorium at Rajendrapur, Gazipur. The workshop was addressed, among others, by Faruq Ahmed Chowdhury, Advisor, BRAC Dr Richard Cash, and Dr Sadia A Chowdhury, workshop coordinators of BRAC.

Work of Shishu Sadan progressing

CHUADANGA, Jan 2: Expansion work in the local shishu sadan is now nearing completion at a cost of Taka one crore 26 lakh, reports BSS.

Under the expansion scheme a dormitory with the capacity to accommodate 100 boys, a 1000 square feet staff-quarters, another 750 square-feet staff quarters, one office building, one training centre and a pre-primary school building are being constructed.

Scarcity of fire wood

SYLHET, Jan 2: With the setting up of a large number of kilns for baking bricks, an acute scarcity of fire wood has been created in three districts of the Sylhet division, reports UNB.

The brick field owners in Sylhet, Moulvibazar and Habiganj districts are burning bushes, fruit bearing trees and even trees in tea gardens, defying the government ban in this regard. According to local people, an organised gang is involved with the brick field owners to supply fire woods to their kilns.

130 cases pending in Bogra

KURIGRAM, Jan 2: Nearly 130 cases have been pending in the Bogra Tribunal Court as a post of member (Judge) lying vacant for long, reports UNB.

The post in the Administrative Tribunal fell vacant after the retirement of the District Judge and the Tribunal member Mujibur Rahman. Sixteen districts of Rajshahi division and seven of Khulna division are under the purview of the Administrative Tribunal.



AGRI-VARSITY (Mymensingh): Prof Dr Muhammed Hussain, Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) addressing as chief guest at the inaugural function of a two-day long fourth annual conference and seminar on "Animal parasites and human health in Bangladesh" held under the auspices of Bangladesh Society for Parasitology at BAU campus.

Arsenic detected in tubewell water in 203 villages

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Jan 2: Arsenic contamination of water has been detected in a large number of tubewells in 203 villages of the country.

Pabna is one of the districts where arsenic contamination has been detected in four thanas while conducting survey by Dhaka Community Hospital.

Prof Quazi Kamruzzaman, Chairman, Dhaka Community Hospital, who came to Pabna along with a high powered international team for surveying arsenic pollution of tubewell water in different districts of Bangladesh.

Prof Kamruzzaman disclosed to The Daily Star Correspondent, three villages of Baroipara Union Parishad under Fakirhat thana of Bagerhat district, six villages under Khan Jahan Ali Union Parishad of Rupsha thana under Khulna district, two villages under Dighulia Union Parishad of Daulatpur thana, four villages of Damodar Union Parishad under Fultala thana, three villages of Magurasona Union under Dumuria thana — all of Khulna district; five villages under Tentulia Union Parishad within Sathkira district and six villages under Tala thana of the same Sathkira district; two villages under Naoapara thana and two other villages of Khanpur Union Parishad under Monirampur thana of Jessore district; village Sanawar of Ghapa Union Parishad of the same thana; five villages of Rupdia Union Parishad under Jessore Sadar thana; three villages of Gungunathpur Union Parishad; two villages of Bidhanandakandi Union Parishad under Jhikargachha thana of Jessore district; four villages of Moheshpur Union Parishad

under Moheshpur thana of Jhenidah district; three villages of Jhenidah Union Parishad under Alamdanga thana of Chuadanga district; four villages of Kutubpur Union Parishad of the sadar thana under Meherpur district; six mahallas under Kushtia Pourashabha; three villages of Poradaha Union Parishad under Mirpur thana; three villages under Mokarrampur Union of Bheramara thana of Kushtia district; six villages of Paksey Union under Ishurdi thana; five mahallas of Bera Pourashabha; Sujanagar village under Sujanagar Union Parishad, three villages under Sathbaria Union; one village under Dulai Union of Sujanagar thana, four villages of Karamia Union under Santhia thana and four mahallas within Pabna Pourashabha of Pabna district; three mahallas of Nowabganj Pourashabha under Chapainawabganj district; two villages under Ambikapur Union Parishad of Faridpur thana and four villages under Ramnagar Union Parishad of Nagarkanda thana of Faridpur district; three villages of Hemardi Union Parishad under Bhanga thana; three villages of Hashimpur Union Parishad under Balakandi thana of Rajbari district, four villages of Rajbari sadar thana; four villages of Kasundi Union Parishad under sadar thana, four villages of Birnoidpur Union Parishad under Mohammadpur thana of Haziganj sadar thana; three villages of Sadullapur Union Parishad under Matlab thana, four villages of Rajargan Union Parishad of Chandpur sadar thana, three villages of

sadar thana of Chandpur district; four villages of Chhatkhail thana; six villages under Amanullahpur Union Parishad of Begumganj thana; Mirzapur villages of Nattiswar Union Parishad under Noakhali district; six mahallas of Luxmipur Pourashabha; five villages of Raipur Union Parishad of Raipur thana; four villages under Charbail Union Parishad; three villages under Ramganj thana; three villages under Irabpur Union of Luxmipur district; three mahallas within Narayanganj Pourashabha; six villages under Aminpur Union Parishad of Sonargaon thana;

two villages under Shambhupur Union Parishad; three mahallas of Fatulla Pourashabha under Narayanganj district; two villages of Chandarkandi Union Parishad under Raipura thana of Narsingdi district; four villages of Srinagar Union Parishad under Srinagar thana of Munshiganj district four villages of Purbo Sandalpur Union Parishad under Daudkandi thana of Comilla district; five villages under Kushali Union Parishad of Tungipara thana of Gopalganj district; five villages of Moksdepur Union Parishad under Moksdepur thana of Gopalganj district and several villages under Projpur district are under arsenic pollution of many tubewells.

Prof Kamruzzaman further disclosed that both the government of Bangladesh and also the World Bank have now come forward to detect arsenic pollution of tubewell water in Bangladesh. The work is like to be completed within three months.

Gopalganj hospital in bad shape

From Our Correspondent

GOPALGANJ, Jan 2: The medicare facilities at Gopalganj district hospital are poor. As a result the patients are deprived of proper medical treatment. The district hospital has only 100 beds for the population of 15 lakh people. Many patients are compelled to stay on the floor. Sometimes the hospital authority refuse to admit patients for want of accommodation.

On average 300 to 350 patients come to the hospital from far-flung areas of the district daily, but they do not get proper treatment and medicare facilities. The problems include shortage of physicians, beds and medicines, lack of modern investigation facilities, ambulance service and isolation ward for the patients suffering from infectious diseases.

The hospital was established during Pakistan regime with 25 beds. In 1984 the number of beds were extended to 50. Since then there was no expansion of the hospital though the population of the district has increased. The Gopalganj sadar hospital was upgraded from 50 beds to 100 beds in 1990.

A plan to upgrade the 100-bed hospital into 250 beds was taken up about three years ago, but it has not yet been implemented. The Health and Family Planning Welfare Minister of the government announced the plan.

The scarcity of life-saving drugs is another problem for the patients. The patients who

get themselves admitted into the hospital are to buy medicines from the market at a high price. Sometimes plaster, bandage, gauge and other necessary items are not available in the hospital. The date expired medicines are supplied to the patients of the hospital, it is complained.

The ambulance service is another problem. The only ambulance has been out of order for a long time. The Health and Family Planning Welfare Minister during his recent visit has assured to supply two ambulances.

The post of surgical consultant became vacant in 1994. As a result the suffering of the patients know no bounds. The physicians are found busy with the representatives of different medicine companies rather than paying attention to the patients. The doctors go to the particular clinics or diagnostic centres to earn commission from the clinics, it is alleged.

The patients coming to the hospital for surgical treatment are advised to go to particular clinic after giving prescription in the hospital chamber, it is alleged. Sometimes the doctors advise the patients to go to their personal chambers, it is further alleged. There are no posts of eye-specialist and ENT specialist in the hospital. As a result, the patients are to go to Khulna, Barisal and Dhaka for treatment. The hospital is dirty and unhygienic. Nobody can enter into the hospital building

without pressing handkerchief on the noses. Cough, wastes, cotton, gauge and used bandages are found lying in different places of the hospital.

The latrines and bathrooms are found always overflowing with dirty water. Dogs and cats are found moving here and there of the hospital rooms. In fact the sanitary condition of the hospital is worst. The quality of diet supplied to the patients of the hospital is not satisfactory. The beds, pillows, mosquito nets and bed-sheets are unfit for use. Machinery worth Taka several lakh like autoclave machine, dental unit, incubator, endoscopy, computer for eye and RCG are lying idle for years together. Subsequently these machineries are being damaged. There are some important costly equipment worth about Taka one crore remained unutilized for years together for want of eye-specialists. There are no posts of obstetrician, pediatrics and radiology consultant resulting in the suffering of the patients.

Power failure, load-shedding and voltage fluctuation are hampering preservation of essential drugs and other medicines. As a result electronic goods are being damaged. On the other hand the pathological laboratory, sucker machine, X-ray machine and supply of drinking water are being hampered due to erratic power failure. The annual budget allocation to the hospital is also very inadequate.



SYLHET: The chairman of Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad recently speaking as the chief guest at Dr A Rasul Cyclone Stipend awarding ceremony here. — Star photo

Separate incidents claimed 509 in Jessore last year

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Jan 2: A total of 509 death cases including 106 murder cases were recorded in eight thanas of the district during the year 1997.

The year 1997 started with four murders at Laujari of Jhinkergachha thana in January of that year. It ended with triple murders at Siddipasha of Obhainagar in December last. Double murders were committed at R N Road in the local town in November last.

According to statistical report, the highest number of murder cases were recorded in August. The number was 13 and the lowest number of murder cases were recorded in February. The number was 4.

The month-wise figure of murder cases recorded in the district during the outgoing year was 11 in January, four in

February, 10 in March, five in April, eight in May, 12 in June, nine in July, 13 in August, 12 in September, eight in October, six in November and eight in December.

Besides, 125 persons were killed in road accidents, 20 in train accidents and 188 others were unnatural deaths (UD) during the year under review.

During the same year, two persons were killed by grenade explosion, two in bombs blast and two others drowned while another 66 were killed by thunderbolt, electrocution and fire.

In 1996, the total number of murder cases in the district, was more than that of 1997.

In 1996, a total of 121 persons were killed while in 1997, the number of such cases was 106.

2 alleged criminals arrested

CHITTAGONG, Jan 2: Detective Branch police, acting on a tip, arrested two criminals from Cawk Bazar Colony in the port city on Thursday, reports UNB.

The two arrested were identified as Yasin, 22, and Didarul Alam, 24, both hailing from village Shahganj in Fatikchhari thana.

Police said both confessed to their involvement in several crimes, including Kalam member murder at Shahganj.

Body recovered

SATKHIRA, Jan 2: Police recovered the body of a middle-aged man from Betna river in Assasuni thana on Wednesday, reports UNB.

The victim was identified as Amjad Dhali, 50, who was missing since December 27 from his house at Bardal village.

Guest birds continue to throng S-dists

MADARIPUR, Jan 2: Struck by severe cold-bite in the north-east region of Asia, flocks of migratory birds, belonging to various species, continued to throng the country's southern region, the winter abode for birds, reports UNB.

According to watchers, birds like Siberian duck, Sandy duck, Pankouri, Buristork, Herons, Pintail and other birds were being seen in large number in different water bodies.

About 580 species of guest birds are available in different sanctuaries of the country and of them 200 species are Siberian, according to an expert.

But the stay of these guest birds are being discouraged due to continued fishing in the water bodies by a section of local people and disturbance by bird hunters.



MYMENSINGH: Two trucks of the local municipality meant for carrying garbage lying out of order for a long time.

Gaibandha Newsletter

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Jan 2: Samina Khatun, a housewife of village Malibari under Gaibandha sadar thana committed suicide by taking poison at her home on Dec 19.

The reason of her suicide could not be identified but her family source said she had been suffering from stomach pain since long. Being unable to bear the pangs of ailment she decided to commit suicide by taking pesticide. An unnatural death case was filed with Gaibandha thana.

Illegal rifle recovered

Gobindaganj thana police in a tip recovered one 303 rifle under the bridge at Khalshi on Gobindaganj-Dinajpur road in the evening of November 15. The fire arm was found abandoned under the said bridge. AGD was filed with Gobindaganj thana. None was arrested in this connection.

Tremor rocks Gaibandha

A mild tremor rocked Gaibandha recently. It lasted for nearly five seconds. Panic stricken people came out of their houses. Seven persons were injured. The exact measurement of the tremor could not be ascertained immediately.

Shortage of English teachers in educational instts

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Jan 2: Standard of English education in 80 per cent of private and government colleges in the country has become so poor that 90 per cent students fail to write correct English. Condition of students obtaining English education from Madrasa is pitiable. As a result students after passing examination can not make good result later on.

There is a serious crisis of English teachers in colleges even in schools. Teachers in schools often fail to impart proper education to their students. Besides guardians of these students being poor can rarely think of maintaining private tutors in the subject.

According to the existing rules each senior Madrasa requires a lecturer in English, an intermediate college requires two lecturers and a degree college requires three or more lecturers. But these institutions can hardly fulfil the existing rules mainly because of various reasons.

Non-availability of English teachers with requisite qualifications at least a second class both in honours and MA is the first reason. The second reason is financial conditions of these colleges and senior madrasahs are not sound for which these institutions fail to recruit lecturers in English with requisite qualification. In most cases, the senior madrasahs can not even appointment part time teachers in English.

Chandpur TB Hospital ailing

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, Jan 2: The tuberculosis (TB) hospital at Chandpur is beset with many problems. The 20-bed TB hospital was established in the decade of sixties. In view of the growing number of TB patients it was decided to raise the hospital to hundred beds. But the decision was not materialised. The hospital authorities are reportedly forced to admit more than 50 patients. The extra patients reportedly have their seats on the floor. The patients of the hospital do not get proper treatment or required medicines, it is alleged.

It is reported that patients are not properly attended by doctors and nurses. There are only two doctors and a few nurses in the hospital. Sometimes doctors and nurses are not found in the hospital. It is further reported that a large number of people are affected by TB in every year. Due to lack of proper and timely treatment the number of TB patients are increasing day by day. The TB patients complained that they were not provided with required quantity of medicine from the hospital.

Attack on Imam: Culprit's arrest demanded

SIRAJGANJ, Jan 2: The Imam of Janpur Mosque in the town was seriously injured when an angry devotee attacked him during Farabi prayers on Wednesday night, reports UNB. Police said the offender, identified as Abdul Matin, swooped on the Imam, Maulana Moazzem Hossain, 40, due to previous enmity. He was admitted to a local clinic.

Other devotees of the mosque chased outrageous Matin and held a rally demanding his arrest. A case was filed with Sadar thana.

Fresh date for repolling announced

COMILLA, Jan 2: Election Commission has announced a fresh date for repolling at 56 centers of 31 unions in 8 thanas of the district, officials said, reports UNB.

According to the fresh schedule, the reelection in Chandina and Homna thanas will be held on January 4, Borichang and Brammanpara thana on January 6, and Kotwali, Daudkandi, Nangalcot and Choudagram thanas on January 8.