

News snaps

Loadshedding becomes a regular feature

BANDARBAN, Jan 11: With the beginning of the Ramadan, load-shedding has become a regular feature in the town causing suffering to the people, reports BSS.

The devotees are taking iftar and offering Tarabi prayers in great difficulties as the power started going off for more than four hours after the iftar since January 1. An official of local electricity department said higher authorities have been urged to do load-shedding in day time for the convenience of the devotees. But the devotees complained the situation remained unchanged after repeated appeal to the district administration. Meanwhile, scarcity of drinking water has been prevailing in the district as deep and shallow tubewells remain inoperative most of the time due to continuous load-shedding and erratic power supply.

Health centre in bad shape

NARAIL, Jan 11: Singa-Sholepur union health centre in Sadar thana is in bad shape due to lack of maintenance and care, reports BSS.

Since the establishment of the semi-pucca building 50 years ago, no renovation works have so far been taken by the authority concerned. Several pillars of the building have become worn out and cracks have developed in its walls and rooftops making the building unfit for use. A physician and other staff members work here with high risk of life. Besides, the centre is plagued with manifold problems due to shortage of manpower and necessary medicine. The patients are to buy medicine from outside at high prices. Local elite have urged the authority to take immediate steps to renovate and modernise the health centre for the interest of the local people.

Cattle lifting becomes rampant

RANGPUR, Jan 11: Cattle lifting has become rampant in two thanas of the district in the last few weeks causing concern among the farmers, reports BSS.

According to the affected people, at least 28 cattlehead were stolen in Kaunia and Taragonj in the last week. Farmers said they are to spend sleepless nights in cow-sheds to protect their animals as no measures were taken by the law enforcing agencies to check the cattle lifting. They said an organised gang is engaged in cattle lifting with the connivance of some influential people and dishonest law enforcing agency men. Many victims who have lost their cattle alleged that they could not file cases due to the mysterious reluctance of the police.

Work of Gorai bridge starts

KUSHTIA, Jan 11: The much awaited construction work of Gorai bridge over river Gorai has at last started at a cost of Tk 16.32 crore, reports BSS.

The Roads and Highways Department has given work to M/s Momen Ltd and the earth work of the bridge is progressing fast. With the completion of the bridge the distance between Kushtia and Dhaka will be reduced from 150 to 110 miles. At present the ferry services remained suspended due to the emergency of shoals in mid-river and sharp fall in water level. With further reduction of water level the department will construct a Bailey bridge for smooth plying of vehicles.

Massive Boro farming programme

NARSINGDI, Jan 11: About 40,200 hectares have been brought under Boro paddy cultivation in the six thanas of Narsingdi district in the current season, reports BSS.

According to an official sources, 7,200 hectares have been brought under Boro paddy cultivation in Narsingdi sadar thana, 10,300 hectares in Raypura thana, 3,050 hectares in Polas thana, 7,100 hectares in Shibpur thana, 7,600 hectares in Monohardi thana and 4,950 hectares in Balabo thana. This year the production target has been fixed at 1,10,200 metric tons of paddy in the district.

2 succumb to burn injuries

SATKHIRA, Jan 11: Two persons were killed and another one was seriously injured by a fire-caught in a hut of village Small Shanta under Debhatta thana of the district on Monday night, reports BSS.

According to police sources, Abdus Samad, 25, Shahin, 16, and Jalil, 24, of the village, were sleeping in the hut. On the night of Monday fire originated from a burning lamp, caught the hut. Samad and Shahin died on the spot while Jalil managed to come out from the burning hut. He was admitted to Shakhipur Health Complex in a critical condition.

Electricity supplied to more villages

KISHOREGANJ, Jan 11: Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board, Kishoreganj branch has supplied electricity to 423 villages under eight thanas of the district, reports BSS.

A total of 1699.82 kilometre electric line has been installed. The total number of customers are 27,300. According to official sources, eight thanas are Kishoreganj sadar, Karimganj, Hossainpur, Pakondia, Katiadi, Tarai, Itra and Mithamaj.

Bridge-culverts work going on

NETRAKONA, Jan 11: The construction work of 33 bridge-culverts is going on in different parts of Netrakona district under the supervision of Local Government and Engineering Department (LGED), Netrakona reports BSS.

An official source said, the project was undertaken at a cost of Taka 29,93,936 under the North East Minor Irrigation Project in Netrakona in the current financial year. The construction work is expected to be completed soon. After construction of the bridge-culverts, the rural road communication and irrigation net work of the district would be improved considerably, project manager Fozlur Rahman told.

School reconstruction work completes

JHENIDAH, Jan 11: Facilities Department of the Ministry of Education has completed the reconstruction work of 12 dilapidated school buildings in Jhenidah district with a total cost of Taka nine lakh in the ongoing session, officials sources said, reports BSS.

Of the total reconstructed buildings seven are in Shailakupa thana and the rests are in Harinakunda thana. About 3,000 students of these non-government high schools will be benefited by these work, the sources added.

Labourer killed by rivals

NARAIL, Jan 11: A day labourer was killed and five others were injured in an attack by rivals over sharing of money at Chalighat village in Lahagara thana on Monday, reports BSS.

Tajibor Barai, 35, died on the spot when his rivals hacked him to death following a hot exchange. The injured were admitted to the local health centre. A case was filed with the police.

Annual assembly of Ansars

MEHERPUR, Jan 11: The annual assembly of Meherpur district Ansar and Village Defence Party (VDP) was held on December 29 at the district Ansar Headquarters premises here, reports BSS.

M Sadik Hasan Rumi, Deputy Director General of Ansar and VDP was present at the function as chief guest. Deputy Commissioner, Meherpur M Shamsul Huq presided over the function. Five hundred Ansars and VDP members took part in the assembly.

Polio vaccine given to children

TANGAIL, Jan 11: A total of 547,145 children below five years of age were given polio vaccine in a two-day campaign in the district recently, reports BSS.

The district health department in collaboration with a large number of volunteer organisations conducted the campaign. 2,537 centres were opened in 11 thanas of the district for the purpose. The health department fixed the target of polio vaccine at 556,538 children in the district.

Founding anniversary of BCL

MADRIPUR, Jan 11: The 50th founding anniversary of Bangladesh Chhatra League (S-P) was observed here on January 4, in a befitting manner, reports BSS.

Chhatra League, Madripur district unit arranged elaborate programmes on the occasion. The programmes included placing of floral wreath at the portrait of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, colourful rally, discussion meeting and cultural function. The discussion meeting was held at the local office of Chhatra League. Khalid Hossain Erad, president of district Chhatra League presided over the meeting. Leaders of Chhatra League spoke in the meeting.

7 US made revolvers recovered

SYLHET, Jan 11: Police seized seven US made revolvers from behind a house at village Majhergaon in Companiganj thana on Tuesday, reports BSS.

Acting on secret information, police recovered the arms in an abandoned condition. Police suspected that conflict of interest among the members of the gang may be the reason behind leaving the arms in an abandoned condition. A case has been lodged and further investigation is on.

National

Death toll now 5

Cold wave paralyses life in Sherpur

From Ratan Chowdhury

SHERPUR, Jan 11: Mercury in Sherpur district and its adjoining places recorded further fall. It has been fluctuating between 8 degree Celsius to 9 degree Celsius till Wednesday causing immense sufferings to the inhabitants of the areas especially to poor.

Local people and eyewitnesses said at least five persons have died, three in Jhenaiagati, one in Sherpur and rest one in Srebdhara thana of the district.

Sadar hospital sources said diseases like asthma, whooping cough, cold and dysentery are on increase. Sadar hospital authority is admitting 10 cold related disease affected patients each day on average. The number of cold related patients have increased by 35 per cent in five hospitals of the district.

Local weather experts and some social organisations said on rush of cold wave from the Himalayan region and thick fog have intensified winter in the district. The district is about 30 to 35 kms south-east of Garo hills in Bangladesh and neighbour-

boring India.

The sun could seldom be seen even in the day time and dense fog is visible in the whole area. However, local residents and political leaders of the district alleged that the prices of warm clothes including second hand clothes have increased throughout the district.

Deputy commissioner, Sherpur, Md Naofel Miah told to The Daily Star, some 1219 pieces of clothes and warm clothes have been sanctioned from the respective ministry.

District administration has arranged speedy distribution of relief materials among the distressed people in five thanas of the district. The relief materials include blankets, sarees, blouse, shirt, full-pant, half-pant, ganjee, old clothes, jacket, jumper, mufler, safarree, child dresses and blankets.

Child-labourers who perform odd jobs in different places are also seen having no warm clothes as their masters did not provide them with requisite quantity of warm clothes.

The cold wave victims are identified as, Hajji Fayeduzzin Mia, 85, of Shandakura and Shakhina Khatun, 38, under Jhenaiagati proper under Jhenaiagati thana and another woman who remained unidentified. In Sadar thana Abdur Rashid, 52, of village Holghore in Rowha union and other new born child (girl) at Charabana Gunapara under Sadar thana of the district.

Mohammad Naofel Miah said day-labourers, rickshaw-pullers, and child-labourers are badly affected by severe cold. On the other hand, local social workers alleged that out of the

sanctioned relief warm clothes only a small quantity was distributed recently at Nakla thana and other materials are yet been distributed.

Sherpur Bar Association president, Advocate Saiful Islam Kalam told that middle class are seen visiting old cloth shop, but the price seem to be high. They are going back without purchasing any clothes.

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