

News snaps

Work of Pakshey Bridge yet to start

KUSHTIA, Jan 13: The construction of Pakshey Bridge over the river Padma is yet to start though the feasibility study and necessary survey for the construction work had been completed in 1996, reports UNB.

The government earlier approved Tk 600 crore project with financial assurance from Japanese government for smooth road communication between northern and southern parts of the country. The bridge, to be the second longest in the country, will connect directly 16 northern district to the south-western Bangladesh making it easy to approach Mongla sea port. According to the project plan, the bridge will be constructed at a point 300 metres downstream of the existing Hardinge railway bridge.

Reception to British minister

SYLHET, Jan 13: British Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State Mike O'Brien, MP, was accorded a hearty reception on his arrival here on Monday, reports UNB.

Organised by the local Overseas Centre at Zindabazar, the function was addressed by the social and political leaders with Deputy Commissioner M Ayub in the chair. The British Minister, responsible for passport and immigration matters, in his address as chief guest termed the existing relationship between UK and Bangladesh as friendly and cordial. He also hoped that the ties would be strengthened further. He asked the British High Commission officials to give special attention to the applicants of Sylhet after he was given a memorandum on various problems relating to Visa and other immigration matters.

Kushtia Transport Syndicate executives

KUSHTIA, Jan 13: The election of the office-bearers of the Kushtia Transport Syndicate was held at its office here recently, reports BSS.

Shahabuddin Ahmed and A S Rezaul Islam have been elected chairman and general secretary respectively of the organisation. Other office-bearers are Rezaul Rahman Khan Chowdhury, Executive Vice-Chairman and Shamsul Alam — Vice Chairman.

Wheat sanctioned for uplift work

BARISAL, Jan 13: The government has sanctioned 5,402 metric tons of wheat for repair and maintenance of rural infrastructure of 10 thanas and three paurashavas of the district in the current dry season, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the projects to be implemented are now being prepared at the thana headquarters on an emergency basis. Of the total, 679 metric tons of wheat has been allocated under special maintenance programme of the rural infrastructure, 1,061 metric tons under general programme, 2,351 metric tons for repair of rural infrastructure and 1,311 metric tons on electoral area basis. The projects will help create job opportunity for the rural poor during the dry season.

Workshop on production of vegetables

BANDARBAN, Jan 13: A three-day workshop on 'production of winter vegetables and spices' concluded here on Tuesday under the auspices of Balaghata Horticulture Development Project, reports UNB.

Deputy Director of Agriculture Extension Department M Anwarullah presided over the programme while Local Government Parishad member and Convenor of the Agriculture Affairs Sub-committee Abdur Rahim Chowdhury attended as chief guest at the opening day. A total of 30 tribal men and women were imparted training on producing vegetables and spices. AED sources said 1,200 more tribal farmers would also be given training during the current year.

Smuggled goods seized

COMILLA, Jan 13: Bangladesh Rifles seized smuggled goods worth Tk 23.86 lakh from different border points in the district within six days, reports UNB.

A special patrol party of jawans of 17th battalion of Kotbari raided a truck at Belghar area in sadar thana on January 1 and recovered contraband items worth over Tk 20 lakh. In another raid the jawans of Barajala border outpost recovered 765 Indian sarees worth about Tk 2 lakh from Shalghar in Sadar thana on December 29. Besides, in separate raids BDR jawans from December 27 to January 1, seized Indian goods from Bibir Bazar, Shankuchail, Moyeenpur, Shahid Bazar, Chowdhagram and Nayanpur areas. The smuggled goods included Indian sugar, salt, spices, powder milk, Horlicks, baby food, phensidyl and wine.

Young girl raped

NARSINGDI, Jan 13: A young girl was violated by some armed miscreants on Friday night at a jungle near the village Char Marjal in Raipur thana of the district, reports UNB.

Police said the miscreants attacked the house of the girl in the village and kidnapped her at gun point. They took victim to the nearby jungle and gangraped her. She was rushed to Raipur Thana Health Complex after being rescued in profusely bleeding condition by the police and the local people. Her father lodged a case with the police.

Sanction for development of health sector

BANDARBAN, Jan 13: The government has decided to sanction Tk 6.60 crore for the development of health sector in the district, reports UNB.

Officials here said a letter from the Ministry concerned has been sent to the Local Government Council of Bandaran asking to send project proposals in this regard.

Prizes awarded to teachers

JAMALPUR, Jan 13: A total of 189 teachers, students and librarians received prizes for their best performance in mosque-based child and adult education and library work during 1997, Islamic Foundation office sources said, reports BSS.

A function was held by Islamic Foundation, Jamalpur district office on January 5 at Jamalpur Public Library. The prizes were distributed by the Deputy Commissioner, Jamalpur Aachyata Pada Goswami. Principal Sujat Ali Miah presided over the function. Moulana Abul Hussain, Pesh Imam of baro jama masjid and Utpal Kanti Dhar, district correspondent of Daily Sangbad addressed the meeting.

Contraband goods seized

COMILLA, Jan 13: The Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) seized contraband smuggled goods worth Taka 9.44.42,000 from January to December 1997 from different border areas of Comilla, Brahmanbaria and Kasba, reports BSS.

A BDR source said the goods included 8,300 bottles of wine, 281 kilograms of ganja, 27,027 bottles of phensidyl syrup, 38,328 pieces of sarees, huge quantities of sugar, salt, timber, milk powder, matches, medicine and bi-cycle. 2,202 cases were filed with respective police stations and 69 persons were arrested in this connection.

20 uplift projects being implemented

KISHOREGANJ, Jan 13: Facilities Department has been implementing 20 development projects started in 1996-97 fiscal year, reports BSS.

According to official sources, the projects include construction and re-construction of educational and religious institutions. The work is in full-swing.

Efforts on to strengthen rural economy

CHANDPUR, Jan 13: State Minister for LGED and Cooperatives Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya Bir Bikram said the present government is determined to strengthen the village economy through necessary infrastructural development, reports UNB.

He was addressing a meeting organised by the Matlab thana Awami League here on Monday. He said it was the life-long dream of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to establish a prosperous country through changing the lot of common people. He called upon all to work with honesty and sincerity to materialise the dream of Bangabandhu. The meeting was addressed by the Matlab thana Awami League secretary Adv Ruhul Amin, district AL secretary M Saifullah, Yusuf Gazi and others.

Fishermen defying ban on current nets

SATKHIRA, Jan 13: Current nets are being used indiscriminately for fishing in different waterbodies including the rivers, canals, haors and beels hampering the prospect of fish production, reports UNB.

Local people said a number of unscrupulous fishermen are using the net defying the government ban and fishing fry and undersized fish. Government imposed restriction on using current net and fishing of fry under nine inches. Fish fry are being sold openly in the hats and bazars of the district. Fishermen fish a large amount of fry of various species including Vetki, Parsha, Rohit, Katla, Mrigel and Silver Carp everyday. Some shopowners openly sale current nets in the markets, local people alleged adding that law-enforcement agencies or the Fisheries Department officials are not taking any action against them.



SYLHET: Dr M S Nigomba, former Dean and head of the department of Manipuri Language and Linguistics, University of Manipur, India, speaking at a 2-day seminar on 'Socio Cultural and Linguistic Identity of Manipuris' held at Sylhet auditorium on Monday.

Rural electrification programme facing serious setback

NATORE, Jan 13: Rural electrification programme in the district is facing a setback due to non-payment of huge outstanding bills, stealing of transformers and erratic power supply of the PDB, reports UNB.

Officials of Natore Palli Bidyut Samity-1, which started its operation in early 1981, said the total amount of outstanding bill now stands at Tk 2.15 crore. They said though the existing rate of collection is very satisfactory which is 95.24 per cent, but the outstanding huge amount is hampering the expansion work of the samity.

The samity collected over Tk

7.59 crore as electric bills during the last fiscal year from its 35,678 subscribers.

Among the subscribers, 27,598 are residential, 4,167 industrial, 337 deep tubewells, 1,817 shallow tubewells, 107 LLP and 748 charitable institutions.

The samity covers 1,633 square kilometres of area of 504 villages under five thanas. The thanas are: Sadar, Singra and Bagatpara of Natore and Puthia and Bughmara of Rajshahi district.

It has 165 kilometres of supply lines and two sub-sta-

tions, each with 15 megawatt capacity.

The sources said, frequent stealing of transformers is also causing serious problem to the subscribers.

Since its inception, the samity lost 384 transformers, most of them from the irrigation schemes. Various types of cables worth about Tk 10 lakh have also been stolen, they added.

Another factor hindering the expansion of the samity programmes was erratic supply from the Power Development Board, the officials said.

No initiative to combat mosquito menace

SATKHIRA, Jan 13: Mosquito menace has become a serious problem in the town due to lack of eradication programme by the municipality, reports UNB.

Normal work after sundown has become almost impossible due to the attack of mosquito, town dwellers said. The blood-sucking insect even bite in the day time.

Students, shopkeepers and devotees performing special prayers during the holy month of Ramadan are the worst sufferers.

Local people said there is lit-

tle initiative from the part of the Public Health Department to combat the menace.

The officials said there is a serious lack of public health awareness. Many people were seen dumping household garbage at open places, beside the roads and their own homesteads, they said.

Canals, ponds and other marshy lands are found full with water hyacinths. These places are the ideal breeding grounds for mosquito, the officials said.

They informed that there is

a programme in the district's bordering areas to eradicate malaria and mosquito nets are being distributed among the people.

But the programme is not adequate to cope with the situation and the number of people affected by malaria, which was almost non-existent in the country for the last few years, is increasing.

Some 22 people in the district were reportedly affected by malaria last year. Local people demanded immediate step to eradicate the menace.

Roads in bad shape in Satkhira

SATKHIRA, Jan 13: Most of the roads in Satkhira municipality areas are in dilapidated condition causing acute problem for vehicular movement, reports UNB.

The municipality was established in 1879 and upgraded in 1988. Over the years the number of people in the municipality area has increased manifold, life style of the town dwellers has changed but the number of roads were not increased.

The roads are so narrow that two rickshaws can't run at a time. As a result, traffic congestion is a regular phenomenon in the town.

Due to unplanned drainage system roads become muddy after a slight rainfall.

Violence claims 17 in Jhenidah in 3 weeks

JHENIDAH, Jan 13: At least 17 persons including three women were killed in eight separate incidents in Jhenidah district in 3 weeks.

Mahfuz, 20, of village Raniganagar under Saikupa of the district, succumbed to his injuries at hospital. He received severe stab injuries by his village people on December 18 last, police said.

On December 28 Sarwar, 28, of village Harisankarpur under Jhenidah sadar thana was beaten to death by some unknown men on December 28. The reason behind the killing could not be known, police sources said.

Harezzuddin Biswas, 42, an activist of an outlawed party and 'Harej Bahini' chief was shot dead by a group of armed men near Kathalbagan area of Jessore district on December 26.

On January 4 Matiar Rah-

From Our Correspondent

man, 50, a village headman was shot dead on broad daylight on Bakshipur-Balarampur road at about 1 pm, local people said.

According to eyewitnesses, two armed men stopped a motor cycle and opened shots from a closer point and fled the scene. Matiar died on the spot. Police said, he was not involved with any political party while some local people said he was involved with an outlawed party.

Tofazzel Hossain, 27, alias Tofa an activist of an outlawed party succumbed to his injuries at Magura Sadar Hospital on January 5 last.

Police said, some unknown men caught Tofa from Hatgopalpur bazar area on January 4. Some people arranged to admit him at Magura Sadar Hospital in a critical condition.

Four armed activists of out-

lawed Biplabi Communist Party (BCP) were killed and five others injured in a fierce gunbattle

between the BCP men and the activists of Gano Mukti Fouz at Kanepur under Jhenidah sadar thana. The battle which started at about 5 pm continued till 6 pm and at least 200 rounds of bullets.

The injured were rushed to Jhenidah Sadar Hospital. The next day on January 8 three armed activists were killed in another gunbattle between BCP men and police near Berashola under Jhenidah thana. They were identified as Shamsur Rahman, 32, of village Baroikhal under Jhenidah thana, Kushum, 35, of village Aruakandi under Saikupa thana and identity of another dead could not be known. Police recovered one SLR, one .45 calibre, one rifle, two local guns and a few rounds of ammunition.

Police said, the BCP activists allegedly gathered at village Berashola to get involved with another gunfight as four of them were killed in gunbattle by the Gano Mukti Fouz activists. Hearing information a contingent of police led by ASP (circle) Bost Muhammad and OC Shibly Noman raided the area at about 3 pm.

Police replied the fire. The battle continued till 4:30 pm where at least 200 rounds of bullets were exchanged. At last 300 armed activists fled away leaving the bodies on the spot.

On January 9 early morning three women of a family were killed on spot and five others injured when a Kalliganj bound trolley of Mobarakganj Sugar Mills made a head on collision with a tempo coming from the opposite direction near Patbila under Kalliganj thana of the district.



BARISAL: Barisal Shishu Academy recently arranged a painting competition for children in the divisional town. — Star photo

Cotton cultivation needs govt patronisation

NATORE, Jan 13: The production of cotton, a prospective cash crop of the country, is facing setback due to lack of proper attention and patronisation of the government, reports UNB.

Official sources said only 15 per cent of the country's requirement is met by the local producers. The country produces about 86,000 bales of seed cotton every year against the annual demand of about 6 lakh bales.

Some 2.40 lakh acres of land had been earmarked last year for cotton cultivation, but only 95,000 acres could be brought under the programme, the sources said.

There is no initiative from the government in this regard, cotton growers said adding that individual growers are coming up to expand the cultivation of the crop considering its economic viability.

The supply of cotton suffered a serious setback immediately after the country's independence in 1971 as the main growing zone was in the then West Pakistan. Businessmen used to supply cotton in the eastern part from there.

After the independence, the government established Cotton Development Board (CDB) in 1972 and had taken several

steps which yielded positive results.

But in subsequent years, the board failed to maintain the pace resulting in closure of many spinning mills in the country for want of raw materials.

Violence in Narsingdi : 20 arrested

NARSINGDI, Jan 13: Police arrested 20 people in connection with the incidence of violence on Friday at village Bheluarchar in Raipur thana of the district, reports UNB.

At least 10 people sustained bullet injuries following an attack by the supporters of defeated chairman candidate of the union Shaha Alam Chowdhury at the House of Shah Alam Master.

Master is reportedly the supporter of chairman-elect Rajaul Karim Khan.

The injured were identified as Anis Miah, 30, Mohammad Ali, 30, Kamal, 20, Joinal Miah, 20, Asad, 25, Idris Ali, 35, Manik Miah, 30, Rab Miah, 28, Jahangir Ali, 23 and Tota Miah 25.

In 1982, the government undertook the Integrated Cotton Development Project (ICDP) with financial assistance from the EC to boost the production.

The programmes of the project include cotton research, seed extension and training programme.

But the EC stopped the assistance after 1993-94 due to various reasons including providing them with exaggerated figures of production in different spinning mills.

As a result, CDB faced serious problem in its extension work and the production suffered heavily.

Farmers in the country's northern part, the most prospective area for cotton cultivation, alleged that inefficient and unskilled manpower of CDB failed to make any headway in this regard.

JCD padajatra in Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Jan 13: The Sylhet unit of Jatiyatabadi Chhira Dal (JCD) will bring out a procession (padajatra) on January 18 at Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST) campus.

JCD took up this programme with a view to freeing campus from 'armed terrorists', said a JCD press release.

The varsity was closed sine die on December 24 after the BCL (S-P) called an indefinite strike. They called the strike to protest the Syndicate decision for taking punitive measures against 17 students including 11 BCL activists on charge of terrorist activities in the campus. The VC, and two professors including chief of a probe body had left the campus after they were declared 'Persona Non-Grata' by BCL.

The authority closed the varsity and asked the students to vacate the halls on December 24, but some organised groups of BCL activists remained in the campus and took some varsity vehicles under their control. It has caused a tense situation in the campus and in the town.

'Set up permanent BDR camp at Pathardubi'

KURIGRAM, Jan 13: With the growing trend of smuggling and terrorist acts at Pathardubi in Bhurungmari thana, local people have called for setting up of a permanent BDR camp in the area to stamp out bootlegging and terrorism, reports UNB.

They alleged that some notorious terrorists and smugglers have been trying to make the area a safe route of smuggling by removing the temporary BDR outpost set up at Pathardubi.

The bootleggers also want to make Shitakusha, an Indian enclave situated at Pathardubi village, a heaven for smuggling, said a villager insisting anonymity.

He said notorious Abdul Hamid and his gang have been carrying out terrorist acts for a long time across Pathardubi.

After establishing the temporary BDR outpost, smuggling and terrorist activities in the area have come down remarkably. Local people called for making the outpost a permanent BDR camp.



Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority

Section I: Invitation for Bids (IFB)

IWT-III Project
Credit No. 2232 BD
IFB No. ME/NA-A/214 (Part-3)
Date: January, 1998

- The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) in various currencies towards the cost of THIRD INLAND WATER TRANSPORT PROJECT (IWT-III). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this credit will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for procuring under the Project 'Establishment of Five Boat Centers'.
- The Bangladesh Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) now invites sealed bids under National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures from eligible bidders for the supply of
- 1 No. Jeep
- Payments made under this contract will only be in Bangladesh Taka. Interested eligible bidders (including foreign bidders who are willing to receive payments in Bangladesh Taka) may obtain further information from and inspect the bidding documents at the office of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority, BIWTA Bhaban (3rd Floor), 141-143, Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh, FAX NO: 880-2-9551072.
- A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the undersigned and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Tk. 1,000/- (Taka one thousand) only in the form of Bank Draft or Pay Order from any scheduled bank in Bangladesh.
- The provisions in the instructions to bidders and in the general conditions of contract are the provisions of the Standard Bidding Documents: Procurement of Goods (SBD), National Competitive Bidding (Trial Edition-June 1997), issued by the World Bank Resident Mission in Bangladesh. The Sample Forms (except Price Schedules) of the SBD remain unchanged.
- Bids must be delivered to the office of the undersigned on or before 1200 hrs on 25.01.98 and must be accompanied by a security of Tk. 40,000 (Taka forty thousand) only of bid amount as provided for in the instruction to bidders.
- Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend at 1215 hrs on 25.01.98 at the offices of Project Director, Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority, BIWTA Bhaban (3rd Floor), 141-143, Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh.

Md. Abdul Matin
Executive Engineer (N. Arch)
M&ME Dept BIWTA
&
Project Director

PR/298
DFP-410-8/1
G-66

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer
Sylhet PWD Division, Sylhet

Notice Inviting Tender

No. E/M/11/1997-98

1. Tenders in sealed cover in the BD Form No. 2911 are hereby invited from the approved eligible experienced contractors (those who are registered under VAT Regulation Act, 1991 Class-I Electrical/Mechanical contractor of PWD approved Class-II Electrical/Mechanical (Class-I, holding A, B & C Supervisory License and Class-II BC License) approved contractors under PWD Zone, Chittagong for the undermentioned work. Tenders will be received by the undersigned as well as the Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Sunamganj/Moulavibazar/Habiganj on 26/1/98 up to 12-00 Noon & will be opened on the same day at 12-15 PM in presence of the tenderers who like to remain present at the time of opening.

Name of work	Estimated cost in taka	Earnest money in taka	Time allowed
Providing internal E/I to Divisional Commissioner's residence at newly created Divisional Headquarters, Sylhet during the year 1997-98	2,63,907/-	5,385/-	90 (ninety) days

2. Contract documents consisting of BD Form No. 2911, schedule of items, additional terms & conditions etc can be seen & purchased from the office of the undersigned & Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Sunamganj/Habiganj/Moulavibazar under PWD Circle, Sylhet & Sub-Divisional Engineer-I/II/III/E.M. of Sylhet PWD Division on payment of usual charges of Tk. 425/- (Taka four hundred twenty-five) only non-refundable per set of schedule, terms & conditions & per copy of BD Form No. 2911. Tender form may be purchased by the intending contractor himself or by his authorised representative on production of upto-date renewed book of registration & other requisite papers of his eligibility with signature of the representative duly attested by the contractor on any day during the office hours up to 25/1/98.

DFP-443-8/1
G-67 Sylhet PWD Division, Sylhet.

Md Isa Haque
Executive Engineer