

News snaps

Admn asked to complete uplift work

KHAGRACHHARI, Jan 17: Minister for Labour and Manpower MA Mannan has directed the administration to complete the incomplete development projects in the district as early as possible, reports BSS.

Presiding over the meeting on the rural infrastructure preservation and reform committee here on January 15, the main objective of the present government was to improve the lot of the commonmen and that was why the development work must be expedited and strengthened with the limited resources of the country. The deputy commissioner apprised the minister of the progress of various projects undertaken during 1997-98 fiscal. The meeting was held at the local circuit house, an official handout said. Referring to the CHT accord, the minister said this agreement was accomplished upholding the spirit of the constitution as well as sovereignty and independence of the country.

IFAD president visits Netrakona

NETRAKONA, Jan 17: President, International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) Fawzi H al Sultan on January 14 visited the activities of Netrakona Integrated Agriculture Production and Water Management Project in different areas of Netrakona district, reports BSS.

He visited different roads, bridges and culverts which were constructed by LGED, Netrakona, polder repair and maintenance scheme executed by Water Development Board, Netrakona, block demonstration of wheat and vegetables which was jointly set up by district agriculture extension department and an NGO-styled Community Development Association, Netrakona at Paspai village about 10 kms from Netrakona district headquarters. The IFAD president also visited LGED constructed market shed board, drain, union parishad building and vegetables demonstration plots set up by District Agriculture Extension Department at Lakshiganj and Kurpur area under Netrakona sadar thana.

Rice allocated for uplift projects

RANGAMATI, Jan 17: Over 1,000 metric tons of rice have been allocated for implementation of 256 projects in the hill district under rural infrastructure maintenance and repair programmes in the current fiscal year, reports UNB.

This was informed at a meeting of the district coordination committee here on Friday with Labour and Manpower Minister MA Mannan in the chair. Of the total rice, 420 metric tons of rice have been sanctioned for 213 projects under infrastructure maintenance programme, 413 metric tons for 40 projects under repair programme and 200 metric tons for special projects.

Seminar on road accident

MANIKGANJ, Jan 17: A seminar on 'road accident and safety of the people' sponsored by Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB) was held in the conference room of the Deputy Commissioner, Manikganj recently, reports BSS.

Md Anwar Hossain Manju, Minister for Communication was present in the meeting as chief guest, while Al-haj Rashed Mosharraf, State Minister for Land and Abdul Wahab Khan, MP were special guests. The keynote paper on the causes of road accident and its remedies was presented by Quazi Faruque, General Secretary, CAB.

Founding day of Laksham Barta

COMILLA, Jan 17: A discussion meeting was held on December 26 at Laksham Pilot Atul High School premises marking the first founding anniversary of the weekly 'Laksham Barta', reports BSS.

Tajul Islam MP was present at the discussion as chief guest. Laksham Banik Samity president Alhaj Chand Miah presided over the meeting.

The speakers highlighted the role of local newspapers in the national development.

24,581 tubewells sunk in Kishoreganj

KISHOREGANJ, Jan 17: Public Health Department has sunk a total of 24,581 tubewells in 13 thanas of the district, reports BSS.

According to official sources, of these tubewells 23,299 are working well and the rest 1282 are out of order. The official sources said, 2918 tubewells have been sunk in Kishoreganj sadar thana, 2471 in Karimganj thana, 1500 in Tarail thana, 1767 in Hossainpur thana, 2285 in Pakondia thana, 2807 in Katiadi thana, 2224 in Bajitpur thana, 1953 in Bhairab thana, 1162 in Kuliarchar thana, 1324 in Austogram thana, 1343 in Nikli thana, 1079 in Mithaman thana and 1502 in Itna thana.

Poush Mela at Kaliganj

GAZIPUR, Jan 17: A day-long Poush Mela was held at Kaliganj on Wednesday on the bank of the river Shitalakshya, reports BSS.

The traditional Poush Mela is held here every year. Which attracts hundreds of people from all walks of life. Low-priced woodcraft toys, bamboo-craft and kaleidoscopic items were displayed and sold at the mela.

Massive Boro farming programme

NOAKHALI, Jan 17: The Agriculture Extension Department has taken up a programme to bring about 45 thousand hectares under Boro cultivation in Noakhali district in the current season, reports BSS.

A source of Noakhali District Agriculture Extension Department told that 8650 hectares in sadar, 25005 hectares in Begumganj, 3685 hectares in Senbag, 7150 hectares in Chaktil and 73 hectares in Compaiganj thana have been brought under the scheme. The target of production has been fixed at 2,75,000 tonnes of Boro paddy.

Farmers' representatives meeting

COMILLA, Jan 17: A meeting of the farmers' representatives of greater Comilla district sponsored by Krishak O Khetmujur Sangram Parishad was held at Malial High School premises here last week, reports BSS.

Comrade Anisul Islam presided over the meeting, comrade Abdur Rouf, President, Bangladesh Chashi Samity and Bazul Rashid Rouf, central leader of the Samajtantrik Khetmujur O Krihak Front, among others, addressed the meeting. The speakers urged upon the authorities concerned to ensure fair price of agricultural produces in order to protect the interest of the small farmers.

Work of steel bridges completed

NARSINGDI, Jan 17: The Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) has completed five portable steel bridges at a cost of Taka 1,01,51,203 in the current fiscal year under rural development project in Narsingdi district, reports BSS.

An official source said one bridge was built on Nilokha road under Balabo thana, three were built at different points on Shibpur-Gallara road under Shibpur thana and one bridge on Charsindur-Birajnagar road in Polash thana. The construction of portable steel bridges is first of its kind in the district by the LGED, the source said.

Siltation hampers cultivation

SYLHET, Jan 17: The farmers of Jakiganj thana of the district can not cultivate Aman and Boro crops on 4000 acres of land for the last few years due to the siltation of a number of canals, reports UNB.

Some affected 30,000 farmers of five unions of the thana are being deprived of producing crops worth about Tk 10 lakh every year due to the siltation of the irrigation canals. Some local farmers said the time and again appealed to authority to re-excavate the silted canals to ensure water flow to the cropfields in the dry season, but no steps have yet been taken in this regard. The effected farmers have again urged the authorities concerned to take steps to re-excavate the silted canals of the thana without further delay.

Soyabean cultivation programme

PABNA, Jan 17: More than 6,000 acres of land have been brought under soyabean cultivation through the country during the current Rabi crops season, reports UNB.

National Agro-products Ltd of Dhaka has taken responsibility for marketing the entire produce. This was disclosed in a workshop on soyabean cultivation organised by Tebunia Agriculture Training Institute on January 12. Some 100 farmers and field workers of an NGO participated in the workshop. Seed technologist Asaduzzaman revealed that the soil and climate conditions of the northern region are suitable for soyabean cultivation. The workshop informed about the cultivation technique of high yielding variety crops in Rabi and Kharif seasons.

Road construction projects in progress

FENI, 17: Feni Zila Parishad has sanctioned about Taka 60 lakh for the execution of 12 projects in the district, reports BSS.

The projects include construction and reconstruction of rural roads, bridges and culverts. The implementation of these projects will be completed within this financial year. After completion of this project the communication system in these areas will be developed.

Unemployment rate up in Satkhira district

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Jan 17: Standard of living of local people throughout Satkhira district has been falling due to absence of employment opportunities and development activities, sharp fall in agricultural production and repeated natural calamities.

People of the district have urged the successive governments since 1947 and the Liberation War to solve these problems, but the local political leaders who made pledges during the election campaign did nothing when voted to power.

The district is a neglected district. Agricultural sector has already been ravaged by repeated devastating natural calamities like floods, droughts, hailstorm, cyclones, unabated pest invasion and rainless winter season.

The hazards in all types of communication have ruined the prospects of industrialisation of both urban and rural areas. More than 90 per cent roads of the district are Kutchha. As a re-

sult the road communication in the rainy season in this vast area comes to a standstill.

About 80 per cent of the people depend mainly on river transport, but the massive siltation and emergence of shoals in the rivers have jeopardised the boat and launch journey. No step is being taken to dredge the silted rivers. Most of the 78 unions of seven police stations are still isolated from the thana and district town.

Education sector also wears a dismal look as large number of primary and high schools and colleges in different thanas of the district were devastated by repeated natural calamities and have been left unrepaired giving rise to the number of illiterates. Most government educational institutions are virtually facing closure for shortage of staff and fund constraints.

The elite of the district demanded Honours and MA and M Com classes in Satkhira Government College to widen the opportunities for the youths

to have higher education. They said, hundreds of meritorious student, who are assets of the country, are being deprived of higher education as they can not afford to study in the universities in distant places.

The leaders of different political parties including Awami League stressed the need for setting up industrial units for creating job opportunities. They added that there were bright prospect of establishing jute mills and more textile mills in Satkhira. The cultivators pass nine months of a year sitting idle as there is no work.

They also called for installation of Radio sub-station and Television station here at Satkhira. They opined that the government could earn huge foreign currency by creating tourism centres in different areas of the district. The prospect of tourism centres in seven thanas of the district is bright with historical places which are well known at home and abroad.

Training course on use of biofertilizer

From Our Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, Jan 17: A one day training course in 20 batches on use of biofertilizer for farmers and extension personnel was organised by the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) in collaboration with Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture (BINA) during November 8 to December 21) last year.

In the course, 300 farmers of 12 districts, 250 Block Supervisors of 8 districts and 106 extension officers of 33 districts participated. Training of the officers was held at BINA, Mymensingh and DAE, Khamarbari, Dhaka. Farmer and Block Supervisors were trained at 14 district's DAE offices of Mymensingh, Sherpur, Jamalpur, Netrakona, Narsingdi, Munshiganj, Comilla, Khagrachhari, Bhola, Bogra, Jhenidah, Chuadanga, Pabna and Nawabganj. The trainers of the course were Dr M A Sattar, Dr A K Podder, Z Islam and M B Hossain of BINA, Mymensingh and M A Awal, Dr Sayeed Ahmed and M A Sattar Khan of Field Services Wing of DAE, Khamarbari, Dhaka.

Cold wave claims 15 lives in Gaibandha

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Jan 17: Severe cold wave has been continuing in the district since January 2. It has paralysed normal life. Biting cold spell has claimed 15 lives in the district.

The sun did not appear during the last nine days. Sufferings of poor and destitute reached to unbearable point.

According to the information available here, a total of 15 persons including children died of severe cold attack in the district during the last 9 days.

The victims are: Rostum Ali, 58, of village Fakirganj, Budu Mia, 60, of village Bakchar, Fakrul, 62, of village Gobindanagar, Malek 55, of village Durgapur, Mohosin, 63, of village Sonaidanga, Fazlunnessa, 55, of village Bhogaria, Kazen, 61, of village Par Kachua, Gatu Munshi, 59, of village Jagannathpur under Gobindaganj Thana, Apel, 5, of Jamsheer Ali, 40, Alefa, 2, of Palashbari thana sadar, Abdul Malek, 58, Nazlar Bepari, 41, of village Moller char, a child age two of Abu Bakker of Station road under Gaibandha sadar thana and Tota Mia, 68, of village Bausi under Fulchari thana.

Besides, hundreds other old persons have become sick in different remote areas. Moreover, many of the poultry birds and cattle heads have died.

A special prayer was held in all the mosques last Friday for the salvation from severe cold wave and seeking mercy of the Almighty.



SYLHET: Mike O'Brien MP, Parliamentary Undersecretary of State of UK on Monday speaking at the reception hosted in his honour in the divisional town. Bangladesh Overseas Centre, Sylhet arranged the programme. — Star photo

Over Tk 6.5cr projects for edn development

From Our Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, Jan 17: The Faculty Department of the Education Ministry has taken up some 347 projects under education development programme against the estimated amount of Tk 6,52,25,000 in two districts of Mymensingh zone in the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

The two districts are Mymensingh and Sherpur. According to an official source, the projects include installation of tubewells, construction of latrine, and supply of furniture in 310 high schools against Tk 4,27,00,000, construction of three-storied buildings in 2 schools against Tk 80,00,000, repair of 20 government high schools against Taka 60,00,000 and construction of 15 government primary schools in sadar thana of Mymensingh and Sherpur district against Tk 85,25,000.

The source further informed that the construction work of 310 high schools in the districts of Mymensingh and Sherpur had already been completed at a cost of Tk 23,25,00,000 during the last four fiscal years since 1993-94.

Bangabandhu's homecoming day observed in Khulna

From Our Correspondent

GHULNA, Jan 17: The homecoming day of father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was observed here, reports BSS.

A day-long elaborate programmes were taken up by Awami League and its front organisations and various other socio-cultural organisations in observance of the day in a befitting manner.

The day-long programmes included the hoisting of national flag and party flag at Awami League Central office at Shamim Square. Wreaths were placed at the altar of the portrait of Bangabandhu, a discussion was held at the Awami League central office.

Speakers at the discussion termed January 10 as the historic homecoming day. On this day twenty-five years ago Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the greatest son of the soil returned home after nine months of captivity in Pakistan jail, immediately after coming back home Bangabandhu started reconstruction of the war ravaged country but the vested interests killed the great leader only after three and a half years time and tried to wipe out the history of independence and freedom struggle. Time has come, the speakers further said, to depict the true history of independence and freedom movement before the nation and the posterity.

Ban on hunting guest birds sought

PATUAKHALI, Jan 17: The amateur and professional bird hunters have become active in the southern regions of the country with the advent of the winter, reports BSS.

Struck by severe cold-bite in the northeast region of Asia and Siberia flocks of migratory birds belonging to various species, continued to throng to the country's southern region, the abode for birds during winter.

According to bird-watchers, birds like Siberian duck, sady-duck, pankouri, buristork, herons, pintall and other birds are usually seen in large number in different water bodies of the region.

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

Char areas and coastal-belt of the region, where guest birds frequently visit during winter have now turned unsafe zones for the stay of the birds due to frequent disturbance by the bird hunters.

Local people have urged the authority to take steps for the safe-stay of guest birds in the region effectively restricting the illegal practice of the bird hunters.

Gaibandha Newsletter

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Jan 17: A dacoity was committed at village Nurpur under Sadullapur Thana at dead of night on January 6.

A gang of miscreants numbering 10 to 12 members armed with deadly weapons raided the house of Abdul Monayem Hossain of village Nurpur by breaking open the door. The miscreants tied up all the inmates of the house and looted away cash, goods and valuables worth about Taka ninety thousand at sharp weapons point. They ransacked boxes and Almirah before their departure.

A case was filed with Sadullapur Thana. None was arrested in this connection.

Housewife killed in accident

Sharifa Begum, 25, a housewife was killed in husking machine at village Jamli under Sunderganj thana when she was cleaning husk on December 29 last year.

Abdul Baser Khoka possesses a husking machine operated by diesel engine. He set up it to different places and served to the house owners as and when called.

7 dacoits arrested

Police arrested seven notorious members of interdistrict gang of dacoits from village Ramnathar vita under Gaibandha sadar thana on January 4.

Acting on a tip-off a police contingent launched a drive at the village. They raided one house where the alleged criminals were taking preparation for committing dacoity. Police arrested seven persons from the spot. They recovered some deadly weapons from their possession.

The arrested persons are Nurunabi, Mozilul, Sumon Mia alias Montu, Sukur Sheikh, Ful Mia, Raja Mia and Mozahar Ali. A case was filed with Gaibandha sadar thana. The arrested persons were taken to jail hazzat.

Alleged thief beaten to death

Kachore Uddin, a notorious thief, was beaten to death at village Baguria under Gaibandha sadar thana on January 4.

Police said the alleged thief, Kachore was caught red-handed while engaged in stealing at the house of Mochore Ali of the village at deep night. Local people caught him red-handed while fleeing with goods on the spot. They started mass beating in which the victim died on the spot. Police recovered the body of the victim from nearby paddy field. They sent the body to the morgue for autopsy.

A case was filed with Gaibandha sadar thana.

One held for possessing arms

The district Special Branch of police arrested one person and recovered one shutter gun



RAJSHAHI: Post and Tele Communication Minister Mohammad Nasim inaugurated the newly introduced inter-city train "Sundarban Express" at a function recently held at Sirajganj Bazar Railway Station. The train will ply in Khulna-Sirajganj-Khulna route. — Star photo



MUNSHIGANJ: Foggy weather in the district during the last few weeks has affected potato cultivation very badly. As a result, the production target of potato cultivation is not likely to be achieved this season. — Star photo

Tk 22cr revenue earning thru' river dredging targeted

NARAYANGANJ, Jan 17: The government has set a target to earn a revenue of Taka 22 crore through dredging during the current financial year 1977-1978 against Taka 21 crore last year. It was officially learnt, reports BSS.

Fire at Joydebpur bazar: 2 killed

GAZIPUR, Jan 17: Two persons were killed in a devastating fire on Saturday late night which gutted at least 10 shops of Joydebpur bazar, reports BSS.

Police and eyewitnesses said the victims identified as Zahiruddin, 16, and Sudev, 15, both workers of Priyo Jewellery, were burnt alive as they were sleeping there and could not manage to come out of the shop.

Abdul Karim, 15, another worker of the same jewellery, also sustained serious burn injury.

Fire service sources said the fire, reported to be originated from a gas-burner of an adjacent restaurant of Priyo Jewellery and gutted more than 10 shops of the bazar, continued for over one and a half hours.



JESSORE: The opening ceremony of fishing in current season under Beel Baor Fisheries Development Management Programme Oxbow Lake II was held here recently. Photo shows the Director General (DG), Fisheries, Liakat Ali is flanked by Deputy Director (DD), Fisheries, Khulna division Tabibor Rahman (Left). Project Director (PD) Beel Baor Fisheries Development Management Programme, Oxbow Lake II MA Sattar (Right) and Afjur Rahman, former Upazila Chairman, Chowgachha (sitting extreme right) also seen on the dais. — Star photo