

News snaps

Training programme for farmers

BANDARBAN, Jan 21: The Horticulture Development Project (HDP) has undertaken a programme to impart training to some 1,200 farmers on cultivation of seasonal vegetables and crops on phase-wise basis, reports BSS.

One hundred twenty farmers, both tribal and non-tribal, from sadar thana of the district were given training in the first batch on January 12 to 14 at the HDP training centre, Balaghat of the town. Training for the second batch will be held soon, officials said. The training is being conducted by Abdulhai, the officer in-charge of HDP. Abdul Rahim Chowdhury, convener of agriculture committee of the local government council of Bandarban hill district inaugurated the training course of the first batch.

Narail-Kalia road in bad shape

NARAIL, Jan 21: The 22 km long road from Narail town to Kalia thana headquarters via Chanchuri and Baroipara is now in deplorable condition hampering traffic movement, reports UNB.

The road has been damaged at several points making it almost unfit for vehicular traffic and as well as pedestrians. The road becomes muddy and slippery after a slight rainfall as cracks and potholes have developed at many points. Hundreds of cars, buses, trucks, auto-rickshaws, tempos and rickshaws are plying everyday on the road with utmost risk. Many hats, bazars, schools and other establishments are established on both sides of the busy road. Local people have urged the Roads and Highways Department to take necessary scheme to renovate the road without further delay.

Govt deprived of land registration fees

NETRAKONA, Jan 21: Government is being deprived of several lakh taka every year as land registration fees in different thanas of Netrakona, Kishoreganj and Munshiganj districts due to undervaluation of land property, reports UNB.

The government is being deprived at the time of transferring the ownership of land in the sub-registry offices with the negotiation of sellers and buyers in collaboration with some dishonest officials. The concerned staff of the sub-registry office in connivance with the deed writers fix up valuation of the land much below the actual rate to minimise registration fee. Besides, some corrupt officials violating the registration rules allegedly take excess fees in the name of registration. Poor and illiterate people are victims of such situation.

Tk 60 lakh uplift programme taken up

SUNAMGANJ, Jan 21: The Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) has taken up 10 development programmes under Rural Development Project-3 at an allocation of Tk 60 lakh in the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

The LGED sources said, the projects include construction of bridge, culvert, and carpeting of roads.

Pabna MP distributes warm clothes

ISHURDI, Jan 21: Parliament member from Pabna-4 M Shamsur Rahman Sharif Delu distributed warm clothes among the cold-stricken people of Ishurdi at Ishurdi pourashava premises here recently, reports BSS.

A large number of cold-hit poor and distressed assembled at the premises of Ishurdi pourashava to receive warm clothes. Delu distributed among them blankets, sweaters, jackets and wrappers. The distribution of relief goods was arranged by Ishurdi pourashava and Ishurdi Thana Parishad. Thana Awami League Secretary Nuruzzaman Biswas, Thana Nirbahi Officer Shafiqul Alam addressed the gathering.

Maize farming scheme in Sunamganj

SUNAMGANJ, Jan 21: Maize, a nutritious food, is being cultivated on 500 hectares of land in Sunamganj district, reports BSS.

Agricultural Extension Department (AED) has taken up cultivation of maize in 10 thanas of the district. AED has fixed production target of 1200 tonnes of maize in the district this year.

Shaheed Asad Day observed

KHULNA, Jan 21: Shaheed Asad Day was observed here on Tuesday by various political and socio-cultural organisations in a befitting manner, reports BSS.

Shaheed Asad was a student leader during the 1969 mass movement and killed when police opened fire on a students' procession against the autocracy of the then Pakistan government near the old Arts building area of Dhaka University on January 20, 1969. Speakers at different meetings recalled the supreme sacrifice of Shaheed Asad for upholding the cause of democracy.

2 killed in road accident

COMILLA, Jan 21: A traffic mishap on Dhaka-Chittagong highway at Sujaiganj in Sadar thana left a government official and his maid servant dead and three of his family members injured, reports UNB.

Police said the accident occurred when the car of Additional Commissioner (Taxation) Dhaka, Dr Azizur Rahman, 45, dashed a roadside tree, leaving Rahman and his maid Asma, 12, dead on the spot. Rahman, who was scheduled to visit Australia next month, was himself driving the car to Dhaka. His wife Nurun Nahar 35, sons Ashik and Nasir suffered serious injuries in the accident. They were rushed to Comilla Medical College Hospital. A case was filed with Sadar thana.

Poor people receive winter clothes

GAZIPUR, Jan 21: Asanullah Master MP distributed winter clothes among the cold-stricken poor people of Gacha union under sadar thana on Wednesday, reports BSS.

Among the clothes were jacket, sweater and muffler. Deputy Commissioner of Gazipur Nazrul Islam, Gacha Union Parishad chairman Abdul Rashid, ex-chairman Sirajul Islam and local Awami League leaders were present.

3 km dam constructed by WDB

NOAKHALI, Jan 21: Water Development Board (WDB) constructed three km embankment and repaired 13 sluice gates costing about Tk one crore at Sadar thana in the current fiscal year, reports UNB.

With the implementation of the project thousands of acres of land would get protection from the intrusion of saline water, official sources said. Besides, WDB has also repaired 10 km embankment under food for works at Companiganj thana during the same period. WDB sources said some more projects for construction of embankment and repair of sluice gates are under consideration to protect crops from flood and salinity.

Workshop on food processing tech

GAZIPUR, Jan 21: A five-day workshop on vegetables and food processing technology concluded on Thursday at the Bangladesh Agriculture Research Institute (BARI) here, reports BSS.

Thirty house wives from Dhaka and Gazipur districts participated in the workshop sponsored by the BARI. Resource persons of the BARI imparted training to the participants on modern systems of vegetables and food processing.

Workshop on sanitation

MYMENSINGH, Jan 21: A two-day workshop on the role of journalists in the implementation of the programme for safe water and sanitation concluded on Sunday at the local press club, reports BSS.

Jointly sponsored by Mymensingh Press Club and NGO Forum for Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation the workshop was participated by local journalists. Senior instructor of the Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) Rafiqul Islam Nasim conducted the workshop.

Bagerhat Bar Assoc election

BAGERHAT, Jan 21: The annual election of the executive committee of Bagerhat District Bar Association was held recently at its office here, reports BSS.

Prafulla Kumar Pal and Noor Mohammad Unkil have been elected president and general secretary respectively of the association for the year 1998.

Production capacity of mills increased

FENI, Jan 21: Some 7,000 spindles have been added to the Dost Textile Mills of Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation increasing the total number to 20,000, reports UNB.

Officials said the new spindles, which have been added from January 1 this year, have created jobs for 163 workers in the industrial unit, among which 60 are women. The total number of workers in the mills now is 411, they said adding that the production capacity of the unit has increased to 9,000 pounds per day.

Kushtia-Jhenidah bus service suspended

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Jan 21: Bus service between Kushtia and Jhenidah remained suspended during last few days causing untold sufferings to the travelling passengers.

The situation arose out of a clash between bus workers of both Kushtia and Jhenidah due to past enmity. The clash ensued on January 16.

On the day of the incident Jhenidah Motor workers beat up a driver of Kushtia Motor workers union. Then the driver on way back to Kushtia ransacked a bus belonging to the owner of Jhenidah and retaliated by beating the driver and helper. As a result bus service between Kushtia and Jhenidah stopped causing immense suffering to the travelling passengers.

Passengers and general public have demanded immediate solution of the problem in the greater interest of the traveling passengers.

Drought, pest affect Aman production

PATUAKHALI, Jan 21: Drought and pest attack have affected the Aman production in the district this year resulting in a deficit of about 30,000 metric tons of paddy, reports UNB.

District Agriculture Extension Department sources said 3.15 lakh metric tons of paddy have been produced in six thanas of the district against the target of 3.45 lakh metric tons.

Some 2.30 lakh hectares of land were brought under the cultivation during the season.

Sources said the farmers of Golachipa are hard hit by the poor output while production in Bauphal, Dasmina, Kalapara, Mirzagonj and Sadar thanas has also suffered to some extent.

Meanwhile, price of rice has increased abnormally in the local markets. Now per maund rice is being sold between Tk 680 and 740 which is beyond the reach of poor people.

The low income group of people have expressed their concern over the increasing price-hike of essentials particularly rice and they urged the authority to ensure adequate supply of rice in the district to face the imminent food crisis.

Potato cultivation programme in Jhenidah

JHENIDAH, Jan 21: A total of 1,300 hectares of land in six thanas of the district have been brought under potato cultivation in the current season with a production target of 15,600 metric tons, reports UNB.

According to Agriculture Extension Department, of the total, 100 hectares have been brought in sadar, 330 hectares in Kaliganj, 95 hectares in Kotchandpur, 550 hectares in Mohepur, 95 hectares in Shailakupa and 130 hectares in Harinakundu thana.

Some 10 demonstration plots have been set up to acquaint the farmers with the modern methods of potato cultivation.

Meanwhile, a total of 6,000 hectares of land have been brought under vegetable cultivation in the current season in the district with a production target of 90,000 metric tons.

Of the total, 695 hectares have been brought in Sadar, 1,040 hectares of Kaliganj, 600 hectares of Kotchandpur, 1,715 hectares in Mohepur, 1,620 hectares of Shailakupa and 330 hectares in Harinakundu thanas.

Housewife beaten to death

RANGPUR, Jan 21: A young housewife was beaten to death at village Hossainpur in Pirganj thana of the district on Wednesday, reports UNB.

Police said Tahmina Begum, 20, was beaten mercilessly by her husband Mongal Hossain for dowry causing her instantaneous death.

Her body was sent to the morgue for autopsy. A case was lodged with the police.

Another report from Gaibandha adds: Police recovered the body of a young man from village Dakshin Sripur in Govindaganj thana on January 13.

Death toll 9 Cold wave hits hard IRRI farming in Jessore

From Our Correspondent



JESSORE: Rush of buyers at local quilt market. - Star photo

JESSORE, Jan 21: The worst ever cold wave that swept over the western zone of the country for a week ending January 13 claimed nine lives.

Business activities were also paralysed in different areas of the district.

The victims were identified as Sairabibi, 80, Sobhan Mondol, 90, Noya Bibi (105), all of Balunda, Sadhan Bibi, 95, Sobhan Mia, 85, of Mohisa, under Sharsha thana and Ansar Ali of Kashimpur under Kotwali thana.

Five other persons also suffered burn injuries when they were warm up in fire place during the same period. They were identified as Surajit, son of Madan Kumar of Arappur, Nargis Parvin, daughter of Nur Islam of Birampur, Momena, wife of Lalmia of Churamonkali, Nargis Khatun, wife of Babu of Hamidpur all under Kotwali and Shirina Khatun, wife of Amiruddin of Sharsha.

Besides, pneumonia, chest congestion and other cold-related diseases have reportedly been spreading.

The whole atmosphere in this period after sunset remained densely fogged throughout the night. It continued till afternoon the next day. The sun appeared at around 2 pm only for a while. In fact, nothing was sighted on the landscape.

Poor rickshaw and van drivers, day-labourers, fishermen and poor farmers did not dare to come out of their houses till noon. They stayed inside their huts to escape the icy touch of the chilly winter.

A group of octogenarians including Sadar Ali, Ashraf Ali

thana. When asked about their experience of cold in the last week, told The Daily Star, that it was most severe and biting particularly for the old, for whom it was very hard to survive. They further told that in their memorable past the temperature of this year was all time low.

Surging, crowds were marked in local Nixon Market's to buy winter clothes. It was unprecedented, told the shopkeepers. It was learnt that the price of sweater, shirts, mufflers, blankets, caps, hand gloves, shoes, trousers, pants and ladies garments, went up by 300 per cent. This position was made by creating artificial crisis in the market in a bid to make more profits, said buyers.

It is also alleged that during the cold-wave extensive damage has been done to seedlings of IRRI. As such 80 per cent of the IRRI lands, said could not be transplanted due to non-availability of seedlings.

When contacted, a number of big farmers including Habibur Rahman and Ismail Hossain of Jahangirpur under Chowgacha thana told that the cold wave will adversely affect IRRI cultivation.

They informed that the correct time for IRRI transplantation is the second week of December. This, there has been abnormal delay in the transplantation.

Again the chance for the growth of winter vegetables looked bleak following the cold-wave.



JESSORE: Buying spree at local Nixon Market. - Star photo

Tk 234cr special uplift project undertaken by CHTDB

BANDARBAN, Jan 21: The Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board (CHTDB) has undertaken a package of special development project at a cost of Tk 234 crore to be implemented in the three hill districts of Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bandarban from March next following the restoration of peace on signing of CHT peace accord.

While detailing the break-up of the projects taken up on short term basis, officials of the CHTDB told BSS that 10 projects at a cost of Taka 34.75 crore will be implemented in the hill district of Bandarban. The projects included rehabilitation of 3,000 families affected by insurgency, construction of 12 kilometres of pucca road along with three bridges, 40 primary schools, 12 secondary schools and renovation of 50 educational institutions.

Raising of participatory horticulture on private land was

also included in the programme, officials added.

Nine special development projects including rehabilitation of 6,000 affected families, both tribal and non-tribal, construction of 32 kilometres of new pucca road, 20 free primary schools, 10 secondary schools and renovation of 50 existing educational institutions as well as raising of horticulture gardens on private land aimed at generation of income will be implemented in Rangamati Hill District at a cost of Taka 64.81 crore, officials maintained.

Eleven special projects at a cost of Taka 134.33 crore will be implemented in the hill district of Khagrachhari which included rehabilitation of 12,000 affected families, construction of 88 kilometres of road, 30 free primary schools, 12 secondary schools and renovation of 50 existing old ones. Raising of horticulture gardens on private land is also included in the project profile, officials said.

Established in 1976, the CHTDB has been carrying out multidimensional development activities to uplift the socio-economic condition of the people of CHT region.

Passengers said their launch came under attack by the robbers who stopped it at gun point at Kaichachilla under Longodu thana of the district.

The robbers decamped safely with the valuables including jewellery, clothes and cash.

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Magura Newsletter

From Our Correspondent

Bar assoc poll

MAGURA, Jan 21: The election of Magura Zilla Bar Association was held here on January 15.

Advocate Md Rafikul Akbar Nanna and Advocate Amjad Hossain have been elected resident and general secretary respectively of the nine members committee.

1 gets prison term for demanding dowry

One person has been awarded one year imprisonment for demanding dowry.

Md Shahadat Hossain, 1st class Magistrate of Magura criminal court awarded the punishment in a judgement on December 3. The convict is Ibrahim Molla at Barasulya village of Narail district.

According to the prosecution story Mosammat Alomoti at village Moshakhali under Mahanmadpur thana of the district got married with Ibrahim Molla of Barasulya village of Narail district. After marriage Ibrahim Molla demanded Taka seven thousand as dowry to his wife and after not getting dowry he turned out his wife Alomoti from his house. Then he again took second marriage.

Having no means, Alomoti filed a case. The judge delivered punishment after the trial.

World AIDS Day observed

The World AIDS Day was observed here on December 1 with different programmes.

The rally, discussion meeting, documentary film shows on awareness against the deadly disease AIDS were the main features of the programmes.

A colourful rally by youths and labourers paraded the town. After the rally a discussion meeting was held. Sayed Mokaddas Ali, president of the local ADI Committee presided over. Gopal Chandra Bhaumik was the guest. The function was also addressed, among others, by Dr Md Alimuzzaman, Abdul Halim and others.

Anniversary of martyrdom

The death anniversary of 27 martyrs who were killed by brute Pak Army at Kamanna village was observed at the Dr. Lutfar Rahman Pathagar

premises of Hajipur village under sadar thana of the district on November 26. Magura District Bijoy Dibas Udyapon Committee chalked out various programmes. A memorial meeting on life of martyrs Milad Mahfil, Kabir Jariar were part of the programmes. Dr MS Akbar, local MP was the chief guest and Md Nuruzzaman Khan, Deputy Commissioner (DC), Magura, SM Mijanur Rahman, Police Supper, Magura were special guests, while Freedom Fighter Shahidulla Bihiku Mia presided over the memorial meeting.

Death anniversary

The fourth death anniversary of advocate Asaduzzaman, Freedom Fighter, former MP, and former President of Magura district Awami League was observed here in a befitting manner on December 25.

Magura District Awami League, Jubo League, Chhatra League, Krikak League, Sramik League and Mahila Awami League chalked out different programmes.

The death anniversary programmes included placing of wreaths at his portrait, mourning procession, offering of Ziarat at his grave, discussion meeting on his life and milad mahfil.

2 truck drivers killed in road accident

Two truck drivers were killed and two helpers were injured when a collision happened between two trucks on Dhaka-Khulna way on the district recently.

According to the police, two loaded trucks made a head-on collision at Kalinagar on Dhaka-Khulna highway. The truck drivers were killed on the spot. Two injured helpers were admitted Magura Sadar Hospital.

Oldest man dies

Jainul Abedin Musli, one of the oldest men in the district died at the age of 110 years on January 12.

He was a pious man of village Masalia under Sripur thana of the district. He sacrificed his life for establishing Langbandh Madrasa, many mosques and social works, family sources said.

He left behind 5 sons, 20 grand sons and daughters and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

3 held with illegal arms

JAMALPUR, Jan 21: Police arrested three people with two pipe guns, one pistol and some ammunition from sadar thana on January 14, reports UNB.

Police said they arrested Hafizul Islam Litu with a pipe gun from Nandina, Kazemuddin with a pipe gun and one round bullet from Zia collage road and Faisal with a toy pistol from Bazrapur road.

Another message from Jhenidah adds: Police nabbed three alleged snatchers from Arappur area of the town on Jan 12.

UP member held for kidnapping girl

SATKHIRA, Jan 21: A newly elected member of Sonvati union parishad in Assasuni thana was arrested on Saturday on charge of kidnapping a girl, reports UNB.

Police said Mokbul Hossain was rounded up after a case was filed against him for abducting Sundarani of Baykatjati village on the same day.

According to the complaint, the newly elected member along with his accomplices raided her house at night and abducted her from her reading room.

Local people's participation to help solve water-logging

JESSORE, Jan 21: Krishak and Khet Mojur Sangram Parishad Khulna and Jessore co-ordinating unit organised a seminar in Jessore BD hall on water logging problem of the two districts on Saturday, reports UNB.

The theme was 'Alternative thought and proposal of resolving the Jessore and Khulna water-logging problem'.

The seminar was presided over by Jakir Hossain Habi and the keynote paper was presented by Adv Abul Hossain.

General Secretary of Workers Party Rashed Khan Menon, Communist Party Secretary Sahidullah Chowdhury, Convener of BSD Mahbubul Haque, Oikya Parishad leader Abdus Salam, water expert Dr Aunur Nishat, economist Dr Swapan Adnan discussed on the keynote paper.

They expressed doubt about the effectiveness of the earlier alternative proposal given in a seminar attended by the ministers and MPs on September 9.

They said the water-logging problem must be solved with the active participation of the local people which started since 1980 in Monirampur,

Keshobpur, Avoyanagar, Kotwali, Dumoria, Fultola and a vast areas of Tala and Khulna metropolitan city.

A huge amount has already been spent by the government to solve the problem but nothing tangible has yet been achieved.

They said a pragmatic plan is needed with available technology and participation of the local people to solve the long-standing problem.

3 killed in Rangpur road accident

RANGPUR, Jan 21: Three people were killed and two others injured in a road accident on Rangpur-Kuriganj highway at Kalabagan in Sadar thana on Tuesday, reports UNB.

One of the dead was identified as Masudur Rahman Chowdhury, 45, a contractor of Salbon area in the town.

Police said