

News snaps

Imams' confce in Tangail

TANGAIL, Jan 24: A conference of imams of different mosques of the district sponsored by Bangladesh Islamic Foundation was held on Wednesday at Beparipara mosque premises here, reports BSS.

One hundred trained imams from 11 thanas of the district were present in the conference. Mohammad Abdur Rab, Deputy Director of the Islamic Foundation presided over the conference. Deputy Commissioner Abdus Sattar Khan was present as the chief guest. Dr M Kamruzzaman, M Shamsuzzaman Khan, Maulana Shamsuddin, Shahinur Rahman Khan and M Abdur Razzak, among others, spoke on the occasion.

Warm clothes distributed

MOULVIBAZAR, Jan 24: Winter clothes were distributed among the slum dwellers at Shamernagar under Moulvibazar district last week, reports BSS.

Local leaders and workers of Awami League and its front organisations were present. Besides, Moulvibazar district administration distributed winter clothes among 350 destitute of West Barhat slums of Moulvibazar town. G K M Nurul Amin, Deputy Commissioner distributed clothes on behalf of the administration. Police Super Mazharul Islam, Secretary of Moulvibazar Press Club, M A Salam and chairman of Moulvibazar pourashava were present on the occasion.

People deprived of health services

SUNAMGANJ, Jan 24: Over two lakh people of Biswambharpur and Doarabazar thanas are being deprived of health services for delay in inauguration of one and non-completion of construction works of another health complexes, reports UNB.

Public Works Department (PWD) started construction of the 30-bed Biswambharpur thana health complex in the year 1994 which completed in June last year on four acres of land at a cost of over Tk 6.16 crore. But since then the complex is left inoperative on the plea of formal inauguration causing untold suffering to the local people. Local people time and again appealed to the authority concerned to start functioning of the health complex as the patients are facing innumerable problems to get proper treatment but nothing has yet been done in this respect. Meanwhile, the construction works of the Doarabazar thana health complex at a cost of over Tk 5.49 crore are going on at snail's pace. Nobody knows when the work will be completed.

Phensidyl seized : 5 arrested

MADARIPUR, Jan 24: Detective Branch of police arrested five people and seized 740 bottles of phensidyl and two private cars in the Kawkandi Ferry ghat on Bhanga-Mawa highway of the district on Wednesday night, reports UNB.

Police said they arrested Yaqub Khan and Babul Hossain with 390 bottles of phensidyl from the car Dhaka Metro 03-1997 and from another car Dhaka Metro 03-1974 they seized 250 bottles of phensidyl but the driver of the car managed to flee. Police in another raid on the same day arrested Abdul Motalab and Anzad from Arsal Khan ferry ghat with 90 bottles of phensidyl and Shipon Sarkar with 10 bottles of phensidyl. Separate cases have been filed with the police.

Loan distributed among poor farmers

BANDARBAN, Jan 24: District Social Welfare Department has so far disbursed Tk 17.55 lakh interest-free loan among 6,736 poor farmers for development of their socio-economic condition, reports UNB.

Of the loan—Tk 2.07 lakh was disbursed in Ruma thana, Tk 1.06 lakh in Ali Kadam, Tk 4.17 lakh in Thanchhi, Tk 1.86 lakh in Naikhangchhari, Tk 3.71 lakh in Lama, Tk 3.40 lakh in Roangchhari and Tk 1.25 lakh in Sadar thana. Official sources said the department will disburse more Tk 11 lakh as interest-free loan in seven thanas soon. It also said that Children Welfare Project will be launched soon in the district, in which orphan children would be cared. The government has already announced an allocation of Tk 1.26 lakh for the project for the first time.

Social welfare assocs get cheques

JAMALPUR, Jan 24: The social welfare department distributed Taka 1,78,000 among 78 registered social welfare associations of the district recently, reports BSS.

A meeting of Jamalpur district social welfare committee was held on this occasion. The meeting was attended by Thana Nirbahi Officers and members of the committee.

The local district magistrate M Muslehuddin handed over the cheques to the office-bearers of the respective social welfare associations.

Work of collectorate bldg progressing

CHANDPUR, Jan 24: The construction work of Chandpur Collectorate building at Sholagar at a cost of Taka 6.98,00,000 has been progressing fast, reports BSS.

According to Public Works Department office sources, about 90 per cent work of the collectorate building has already been completed and the rest will be completed within a month. DC's office will immediately be shifted to new building after the completion of the construction. The construction work of district judge's office has also been completed at a cost of Taka 3,95,00,000. Besides construction work of police line at a cost of Taka nine crore is in full swing.

Hospital work nearing completion

NARSINGDI, Jan 24: Construction of 100-bed district hospital at Basail, Narsingdi is now nearing completion at a cost of Taka nine crore ninety-eight lakh, reports BSS.

According to district civil surgeon office sources, the hospital will start functioning soon. The hospital will provide treatment to more than 400 patients everyday at out-patient department. Various treatments like surgery, gynaec, ENT, orthopedics will be provided in the hospital. Arrangements for sufficient seats for the in-door patients of the hospital will also be made.

Biman team visits Osmani Airport runway

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Jan 24: A two-member technical team of Biman visited the Sylhet Osmani Airport runway and other technical aspects with a view to studying the feasibility of introducing Airbus service on Dhaka-Sylhet route.

The officials, Chief of Flight Safety Captain P Chowdhury and Assistant Manager of Flight Safety M A Wadud talked to the Biman and Civil Aviation officials here and visited the runway which had been expended for facilitating wide-bodied aircrafts, Biman sources said. They left Sylhet on January 22 afternoon.

Housewife stabbed to death

PABNA, Jan 24: A youngman stabbed to death his sister-in-law at Sibrampur in the town on Thursday, reports UNB.

Police said one Hossain Ali, 30, stabbed his sister-in-law (elder brother's wife) Laili Begum, 35, following a family feud in the morning. She died on the spot. Police arrested Hossain in connection with the killing. A case was filed.

One killed by younger brother

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Jan 24: Sohrah Hossain, 30, was killed by his younger brother Aziz Baksh of Marug under Chowgacha thana in the district on a dispute over possession of land recently.

According to police and witnesses, when Sohrah Hossain was plucking beans from his land, his brother Aziz came there and out of previous enmity hit him on his neck causing his death on the spot. A long standing dispute of the deceased with his brother over possession of land sparked this incident. Police sent the body to General Hospital, Jessore for autopsy. A case has been record with local thana in this connection.

Valuables worth Tk 1,50,000 looted

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Jan 24: Dacoities in five shops were committed and goods worth about Taka one lakh fifth thousand were looted from Geragonj bazar in Sailkupa thana of the district recently, according to police source.

Police said, a gang of armed miscreants numbering 14 to 15 entered into the shops of Shakhawat Hossain, Habibur Rahman, Kaziruddin, Litu, Farhad Hossain and Ramesh Chandra and looted valuables. The incident occurred between 1 am and 2 am, police suspected. Separate cases were filed with Sailkupa thana in this connection and no one was arrested so far.

Alleged terrorist arrested

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Jan 24: Rupsha thana police arrested recently an alleged terrorist named Siddique, 22, from Ramnagar village having confirmed his direct involvement in looting of five rifles from the Sundarbans Seafood Industry on December 29, 1997.

But none of the looted rifles was recovered despite combing operation in the nook and corner of different areas under all the police stations of Bagerhat district.

Number of Thalassaemia patients increasing in northern districts

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Jan 24: Number of Thalassaemia patients is on increase in the northern districts of the country.

According to sources, there is no effective diagnostic and treatment facilities available for thalassaemia in the northern districts resulting in rise in death toll every year.

A survey conducted in the Paediatric medicine department of Rajshahi Medical College and Hospital (RMCH) shows that 103 children patients had been taking blood transfusions regularly in 1997. The numbers were below 80 in the previous year. Out of 103, 66 patients were male and 37 patients were female. Almost all the patients came from the families of low socio-economic condition from the districts of greater Rajshahi, Pabna and Bogra.

Dr MH Haidari, Assistant Professor of Paediatric medicine department of RMCH observed that the number of thalassaemia patients would increase more.

According to him, there are many patients in the village areas who don't come to the hospitals rather they go to the quacks or traditional physicians. Their diseases are neither diagnosed nor treated resulting in their inevitable early death. Some guardians stop treatment of their children midway either for lack of money or being disappointed of caring. Some pa-

tients also take treatment in the thana health complexes, district hospitals and private clinics. Some other patients get admitted in to the medicine department. All these together will form a large number of thalassaemia patients. It is a matter of anxiety, Dr Haidari observes.

According to doctors, thalassaemia is a hereditary haemolytic disorder that is carried to the children from their parents. When both the parents have the defect, one out of their four children is affected seriously. Then the disease is called thalassaemia major. To children gain less severe defect called thalassaemia minor. One child may be with no defect.

Signs and symptoms of the disease start to manifest after the age of three months. The child becomes pale in colour (anaemia) and fails to grow. The spleen and the liver enlarge. The spleen gradually extends all over the abdomen. Mild jaundice is seen. The bones of the forehead and the cheeks become prominent. Sexual development is retarded and impaired. The patient's skin assumes clay like ugly appearance, ultimately the patient develops cardiac and liver diseases and dies from cardiac failure or cirrhosis of liver within the second decades of age. The child cannot lead normal life.

In our country, the only treatment facility is to give blood transfusion every 3-5 weeks interval to lengthen the life of the patient as far as possible.

According to experts, continuous blood transfusion causes deposition of iron in the body creating complications. There is a medicine for checking iron deposition, but the treatment is painful and expensive.

When the spleen enlarges excessively, it is operated out to lessen complications.

Dr Shafiqur Rahman, Professor and Head of the Paediatric medicine department of RMCH observes that prevention measures should be taken to avoid thalassaemia. Pre-marriage blood tests will detect the carriers of thalassaemia defects and marriage between the carriers should be avoided. There are some investigations which reveal whether the foetus is affected with during pregnancy. In the positive cases, abortion may be done to check the disease.

Meanwhile, RMCH sources say, there is no facility of blood test (Haemoglobin Electrophoresis) for detection of Thalassaemia defects in the northern districts. The patients are identified at first by clinical features and then diagnosed as Haemolytic anaemia by peripheral blood film study.



RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY. A sequence of drama 'Galpa Hekim Shaheb' written by Monuj Mitra and directed by Moloy Bhowmik was staged by the university teachers at Kazi Nazrul Islam auditorium here recently.

Literacy rate very poor in Pabna district

PABNA, Jan 24: Cultivation of different Rabi crops including vegetables is being affected badly due to the prevailing severe cold wave and foggy weather in 16 northern districts including Pabna, reports UNB.

The cultivation is also being hampered due to price spiral of agricultural inputs and fuel. Moreover, the target of production may not be achieved due to sudden attack of 'fungus', pests and 'satrak' in different areas of northern districts.

According to Agricultural Extension Department, a massive scheme has been taken up

in the northern districts to bring 14,62,343 hectares of land under Rabi crops cultivation. And the target of production has been fixed at about 29,30,102 metric tons.

Of the total 8,39,300 hectares have been brought under Boro paddy, 3,79,500 hectares under wheat, 1,26,112 hectares under mustard, 96,550 hectares under potato and the rest under other crops cultivation.

But official sources said 25 per cent of the standing crops have been attacked by new diseases 'fungus' and 'satrak'

causing concern among the farmers.

Moreover a vast tract of IRRRI-Boro land have been attacked by pests in the northern districts. The farmers alleged that they are not getting expected results by spraying locally available low quality pesticides.

Pabna agri officials when contacted told that due to the prevailing severe cold and attack of 'fungus' and 'satrak' will hamper production of wheat, mustard and winter vegetables badly.

Future of Ganges Barrage project still uncertain

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Jan 24: People's lot in 25 Southwestern districts of the country might be changed and great economic stride will take place if the Ganges Barrage project is implemented.

It will help solve water problem and irrigation. It will prevent desertification of the southwestern and northern part of the country. The previously proposed Tk 1131 crore Ganges Barrage project which was scheduled to be constructed at four-kilometre downstream of Harding Bridge near Talbaria was not implemented after lapse of 17 years.

The work began in 1980-81. The scheme was taken up in the backdrop of unilateral withdrawal of water of the Ganges in the upper reaches by India

through Farakka Barrage. The scheme was aimed at solving water scarcity for irrigation, flood protection and improvement of irrigation in 25 southwestern districts of the country. The districts are Pabna, Rajshahi, Chuadanga, Kushtia, Natore, Nawabganj, Naogaon, Sirajganj, Meherpur, Narail, Magura, Jhenidah, Jessore, Satkhira, Jhalakathi, Khulna, Bagerhat, Bhola, Pirojpur, Saratpur, Faridpur, Gopalganj, Rajbari and Madaripur. In the year 1980-81 a project implementation cell was formed under the auspices of Water Development Board.

In 1984 a separate office was established in the name of 'Ganges Barrage Project' for its implementation. But the

progress of work of the project was measurably slow. Only about four crore taka had been placed and only a portion of survey work could be taken up. To complete first phase of the work an amount of Taka six crore was required, according to informed source. Since then no fund was allocated for the proposed Ganges Barrage Project in the Annual Development Programme.

Now future of the project remain uncertain. The project included the construction of three pump houses having lifting capacity of 16,000 cusecs of water each, three regulators and 775-kilometre long flood control embankment. These will facilitate preservation of water throughout the year. The three proposed pump houses will ensure adequate water lifting for irrigation. This will also be helpful for the Ganges-Kobadak project area which suffers a setback every year during dry season for want of adequate water in the river Ganges. It is estimated that after the completion of the project, the annual maintenance cost will be around Taka 16 crore.

One killed in road accident

SATKHIRA, Jan 24: The helper of a truck died on the spot when his vehicle turned turtle at Baghshipara in Shyamnagar thana on Tuesday, reports UNB.

The victim was identified as Shafiqul Islam of village Bankal in Sadar thana of the district.

Police seized the truck. A case was lodged with the police.



SYLHET: Prof Md Habibur Rahman, VC, Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, distributing certificates among the participants of a 3-day training workshop on 'writing on women' arranged by News Network in Sylhet.

Meghna erosion renders 6,000 homeless

NOAKHALI, Jan 24: About 6,000 people of 12 villages in Nalchira and Sukhkhara unions in Hatiya thana have been rendered homeless in last two years due to erosion by the river Meghna, reports UNB.

Harni and Chanandi unions of the thana have already been completely disappeared into the river. So far, no step has been taken by the authority to stop continuous erosion of the river, local people alleged.

According to local sources, during the last 25 years over one lakh people have been rendered homeless and a large number of schools, colleges, madrasas, mosques, hats-bazars, government and non-government offices and a vast tract of cropland in the thana have been devoured by the river.

Most of the erosion-hit shelterless people have migrated to other parts of the country in the absence government efforts for their rehabilitation and passing their days in sub-human condition.

Rest homeless people have taken shelter on WAPDA embankment and passing their days under the open sky.

The distressed people alleged that they did not get any relief from the authorities, only local non-government organisations have distributed some relief materials to them which was inadequate to meet their need.

400 uplift schemes being implemented in Madaripur

MADARIPUR, Jan 24: Some 400 uplift schemes are being implemented by utilising 810 metric tons of wheat under the test relief programme during the current dry season, reports UNB.

According to official sources, the schemes included development and renovation of different educational institutions, construction of reconstruction of roads, bridges and culverts.

The schemes have generated employment opportunities to a large number of rural poor.

Meanwhile, Public Health Engineering Department installed 288 new tubewells in all the four thanas of the district in the last fiscal year.

Training school under CDP opens

MUNSHIGANJ, Jan 24: A training school under Crop Diversification Project (CDP) jointly sponsored by Sirajdikhan Thana Agriculture Extension Department and Bangladesh Rural Development Programme (BRDP) was inaugurated by Shegufa, MP at Ichhapura under Sirajdikhan thana on Monday, reports BSS.

According to an official source the training project is aimed at imparting necessary know-how to male and female farmers on various method of diversified cultivation of crops and vegetables. This knowledge will help the trainees supplement their family income and thereby contribute to the socio-economic development of the country.

Training course on seed preservation

THAKURGAON, Jan 24: A week long training course on 'seed preservation and compost preparation for the advanced farmers of Thakurgaon sadar thana concluded here on Monday, reports BSS.

The training course, organised by Agriculture Extension Directorate (AED), was inaugurated by the Deputy Director (AED) on January 12 at the directorate office. About 180 farmers from different unions of Thakurgaon sadar thana participated in the training course which was held in batches.

Among the participants one-third were female. The farmers were given practical training on the preservation of wheat and different vegetable seeds and the preparation of compost and green manures.

During the training video cassettes on the topics were also shown to the trainees.

At the end of the training course each farmer was given an honorarium of Taka 50 and some seedlings of different plants.

Ministry of Social Welfare

Bangladesh National Social Welfare Council
131/2, New Eskaton, Dhaka-1000

Notification of distribution of grants in aid among the registered voluntary social welfare organizations for 1997-98 financial year by Bangladesh National Social Welfare Council

- Those actually active and contributing social development organizations, who are registered by the Directorate of Social Welfare and are willing to get grants in aid from Bangladesh National Social Welfare Council for the financial year 1997-98, are invited to apply in the scheduled forms supplied by the council. Application sets are available at the offices of (a) Deputy Director, District social welfare office, (b) Thana Social Welfare office and (c) Urban Community Development project office at the cost of Tk 20/- (Twenty) only per set. Each registered social welfare organization will have to submit the application with necessary informations to it, respective thana or district social welfare office by 10-2-98 at the latest.
- The national level organizations willing to have grants in aid need to collect application forms from Bangladesh National Social Welfare Council (131/2, New Eskaton, Dhaka-1000) and submit the application directly to the council office by 18-2-98 at the latest. Concerned Deputy Director of the District Social Welfare office will send the applications of Urban Community Development projects, Patient Welfare Associations and Offender reformation and Rehabilitation associations separately to the Bangladesh National Social Welfare Council by 18-2-98 at the latest.
- Registered voluntary social welfare organizations/institutions not included in para 2 above are successfully implementing the following programme will get priority in receiving grants in aid (a) removing illiteracy, vocational and technical education, (b) poverty alleviation and self employment (in agricultural work, poultry and animal husbandry, pisciculture, sewing, cottage industry etc.), (c) primary health care, nutrition, child welfare and maternity service, (d) birth control, family planning and family welfare, (e) helping and rehabilitation of orphans and helpless, (f) public health and conservation of environment, (g) public library, (h) sports, cultural and entertainment activities for physical and mental growth and development of the child, young and elderly and (i) other social welfare and services programme. If the applications are not filled up properly or concealing the informations and providing wrong informations the applications will be cancelled.

A K M Shafiqul Islam

Executive Secretary
Bangladesh National Social Welfare Council

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer Comilla Public Works Division, Comilla

Tender Invitation Notice

No-86/1997-98

- Tenders in Bangladesh Form No-2911 under sealed cover are invited from Public Works Division enlisted special 1st class and 1st class building contractors/Chittagong Public Works Zone enlisted 2nd class building contractors for the undermentioned work. Tenders will be received by the office of the undersigned and Executive Engineer, Public Works Division, Chandpur/Noakhali/ B'baria/ Feni/Lakhimpur up to 12:00 Noon of 05/02/98 and will be opened on the same day at 12:15 PM in presence of the interested tenderers. Each tender should be submitted superscribing the name of work on the sealed cover in the tender box kept at the respective offices. No contractor/contractor firm can purchase tender without VAT registration and TIN.
- Name of work : Earth filling work at A, B & E block of Comilla District Police Line. Financial year-1997-98.
- Estimated cost : Tk-22,89,753/=
- Earnest money : Tk 45,800/=
- Time for completion of work from the date of work order : 120 (one hundred twenty) days.
- Tender schedule can be seen & purchased up to 04-02-98.
- Tender schedule consisting items and terms & conditions can be seen and purchased on payment of Tk-750/- (seven hundred fifty) only (non-refundable) for each set of tender and Tk 25/- (twenty-five) only (non-refundable) for each Bangladesh Form No-2911 and Tk 25/- (twenty-five) only (non-refundable) for each design from the office of the undersigned and Executive Engineer, Public Works Division Chandpur/Noakhali/ B'baria/Feni/Lakhimpur and offices of all Sub-Divisional Engineers under this Division during office hours.
- If more than one tender is received with the same rate then the tender will be settled through lottery at the office chamber of the Executive Engineer, Public Works Division, Comilla at 11:30 AM of 18-2-98 in presence (if any) of the tenderers.

Md. Akhtarul Alam

Executive Engineer
Comilla Public Works Division
Comilla
Phone No-6935.

DFP-1253-20/1
G-129