

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 Shamsenagar 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 Biswambarpur and Doarabazar thanas are being deprived of health services for delay in inauguration of one and non-completion of construction works of another health complex, reports UNB.

Public Works Department (PWD) started construction of the 30-bed Biswambarpur 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 incomplete 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

MADRIPUR, Jan 24: Detective Branch of police arrested five people and seized 740 bottles of phensidyl and two private cars in the Kawrakandi 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 03-1397 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 Motaleb and Amzad from Arial Khan ferry ghat with 90 bottles of phensidyl and Shapoor 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 Thanchi, Tk 1.86 lakh in Naikhangchhari, Tk 3.71 lakh in Loma, 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 Muslehdin 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 6.98,00000 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 3,95,00000. 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 young man 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: Sohrab Hossain, 30, was killed by his younger brother Aziz Baksh of Marug under Chowgachia thana in the district on a dispute over possession of land recently.

According to police and witnesses, when Sohrab 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

JHENGIA, Jan 24: Dacoits in five shops were committed and goods worth about Taka one lakh fifty thousand were looted from Geragonj bazar in Sajidupur 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 Shakhat Hossain, Habibur Rahman, Kaziur Rahman, 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 Sajidupur 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 been 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.

National

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 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.

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.

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 reveals whether the foetus is affected with during pregnancy. In the positive cases, abortion may be done to check the disease.

Meantime, 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.



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. — Star photo

Meghna erosion renders 6,000 homeless

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

Harmi 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 of 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

MADRIPUR, 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 Ichchupura 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
DFF-1274-201/98
G-127
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 tenders. 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.
- (A) Name of work : Earth filling work at A, B & E block of Comilla District Police Line. Financial year-1997-98.
(B) Estimated cost : Tk 22,89,753/-
(C) Earnest money : Tk 45,800/-
(D) 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