

National

News snaps

PHED takes up 2 uplift projects

KISHOREGANJ, Feb 16: Public Health and Engineering Department (PHED) has taken up two development projects called 'Bhairab Pouro Water Supply Project' and 'Sharishabari-Bajitpur Pouro Project' for the 1997-98 fiscal year, reports BSS.

According to PHED official sources, the government has sanctioned Taka 8.90 crore for the implementation of the projects. The projects included land development, sinking of deep and tara tubewells, construction of pump house, high water container, pipe-line, surface drainage and buying and setting of pumps. About 25 per cent of the work has already been completed and the rest is in full-swing, the source informed.

Female student commits suicide

RANGAMATI, Feb 16: A female college student allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself at her residence in Patharghata in the town on Saturday, reports UNB.

The victim was identified as Anju Nag, 22, student of Rangamati University College. It is suspected that Anju committed suicide following a family feud. An unnatural death case was filed with the police.

Special train for Medinipur

RAJBARI, Feb 16: A special train leaves the local station on Sunday for Medinipur in the West Bengal of India to attend the Urs of Hazrat Morshid Ali Al Kadri Al Hasaini Al Hosaini Al Bajadi (Ra), reports UNB.

Organised by Anzuman E Kaderia, the train will leave the local station at 10pm with about 1000 devotees and is scheduled to return on February 20. Mentionable that the West Bengal and Bangladesh Railways have been jointly organising a special train on this occasion since 1901, said a western railway source.

New books yet to reach schools

SUNAMGANJ, Feb 16: Primary education in some thanas of the district is being hampered due to the late and incomplete delivery of free books, reports UNB.

The new books for the primary schools have yet to reach the schools in three thanas of the district. The thanas are Salsah, Dharmapasha and Dowarabazar. Sources said the enlisted contractors of these thanas have stopped the collection and distribution of books on the plea of bad communication in the region. Local people alleged irregularities in the distribution of books sent from the Board. They said primary books are being illegally sold at different shops at high prices.

Golden jubilee ceremony of Ansars

NARSINGDI, Feb 16: A golden jubilee ceremony of Ansar and VDP members of the district was held on Thursday at the parade ground of district adjutant of Ansar and VDP office, reports BSS.

A rally, participated by about 450 male and female members of Ansars and VDP was held in this connection. District adjutant Abdul Awal presided over the rally. Deputy Commissioner, Narsingdi, Rafiqul Islam and Police Super, Narsingdi, Mokhlessur Rahman were present at the rally as chief guest and special guest respectively. The district adjutant of Ansar and VDP presented welcome address at the rally. The chief guest distributed the prizes of TV set, torchlight, umbrella among the best Ansar and VDP members.

OMS of rice starts in Satkhira

SATKHIRA, Feb 16: Open Market Sale (OMS) of rice has started recently in Satkhira town by five dealers, reports BSS.

A large numbers of poor people used to gather at each shop everyday to buy the rice. According to the relevant sources, five dealers have got the dealership licence for selling rice in the town.

Each dealer gets 500 kgs of rice to sale at Taka 12.50 per kilogram. One person can buy more than 3 kgs of rice everyday.

Science Week opens

MYMENSINGH, Feb 16: The 21st Science and Technology Week was inaugurated on Saturday by Deputy Commissioner Md Rafiqul Islam at the premises of Mymensingh Zila School, reports BSS.

Speaking on the occasion, the deputy commissioner urged all concerned to come forward to free the country from the curse of illiteracy. He said that removal of illiteracy is essential for poverty alleviation and national development. A total of 160 stalls have been set up in the science fair by the students of different educational institutions and members of science clubs.

OMS of rice starts in Kushtia

KUSHTIA, Feb 16: Open Market Sale (OMS) of rice started in five out of six thanas of the district from February 9, reports BSS.

OMS was earlier, started in sadar thana before Eid. Rice is being sold in OMS at the rate of Taka twelve and fifty paisa per kilogram.

Road development work progressing

MANIKGANJ, Feb 16: The development work of Katigram Road in Manikganj sadar thana under Second Rural Road and Bazar Development and Maintenance Programme at a cost of Taka 1,08,50,000 is nearing completion. Local Government Engineering Department is implementing the project. More than 95 per cent work of the project has already been completed. The communication system of the area will be developed much after the completion of the project.

Reception to eminent personalities

THAKURGAON, Feb 16: A reception was accorded to eight eminent persons of Pirkhan thana at Pirkhan Press Club recently, reports BSS.

The noted persons included educationists, political leader, journalists, freedom fighter and sportsman. Arranged by Pirkhan Press Club, the function as presided over by M Faizul Islam, president of the club. M Imdadul Hug MP was present at the reception as chief guest. The speakers recalled the contribution of the eminent persons to their respective fields.

Science fair concludes

JHALAKATI, Feb 16: A science fair on the occasion of '21st National Science and Technology Week' concluded here on Jhalakati Government College campus on Thursday, reports BSS.

A total of 25 schools, colleges, madrasahs, science clubs and children organisations from four thanas of the district took part in the three-day fair. Over a hundred of science projects were exhibited in the fair. Science-based essay, extempore speech, debate and quiz competition were also arranged. Deputy Commissioner M Jaliruddin was the chief guest on the inaugural day while educationist Prof Kudrat-e-Khuda attended as chief guest on the concluding day.

Young man commits suicide

BANDARBAN, Feb 16: A young man allegedly committed suicide by taking poison at Chalengdong union in Alikadam thana on Friday, reports UNB.

The dead was identified as Abdul Malek, 28. Villagers said Malek took poison and laid unconscious on the road. They rushed him to the Thana Health Complex where the attending physicians declared him dead. The reason behind the suicide could not be known immediately. The body was sent to Bandarban Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

Khokon murderer: Principal accused held

COMILLA, Feb 16: Principal accused of student leader Khokon murder case Noor Alam was arrested from Thirapukur area in the town on Friday, reports UNB.

Alam, said to be a smuggler, stabbed AGS of Ajit Guha College Khorshid Alam Bhuiyan (Khokon) to death on February 27, 1996. Wanted in connection with many cases, including dacoity, abduction, smuggling and terrorism, Alam also awarded five-year jail term in absentia in a criminal case.

UP chairmen asked to serve commonmen

MYMENSINGH, Feb 16: State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Prof Dr M Amanullah called upon the newly elected chairmen and members of union parishads to come forward with a view to rendering their service for the common people of the country, reports BSS.

The state minister was speaking as the chief guest at the oath taking ceremony of the newly elected union parishad chairmen and members of Bhaluka thana on Saturday last. He said that education and health are essential for national development and to achieve these two factors the women can play a very important role.

Businessman robbed, stabbed to death

NARSINGDI, Feb 16: A businessman has been robbed and stabbed to death by some miscreants at Madhyonagar village in Raipura thana in the district, reports UNB.

According to police, Abu Bakar, 35, son of late Altaf Ali was waylaid on Thursday by some villagers when he was returning home from Raipura thana headquarters. The attackers stabbed him indiscriminately, looted Tk 65,000 and managed to escape. He was sent to DMCH in a critical condition. He died on Friday. A case has been filed with the Raipura thana, but the miscreants are said to be absconding.



KHULNA: Health and Family Welfare Minister Salahuddin Yusuf on February 13 inaugurated the Spring Fair organised by Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) at Khulna Zilla School

Scarcity of quality seed Cotton seed production likely to be hampered

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Feb 16: Cotton seed production is likely to be hampered next year for want of quality seeds, according to officials of Cotton Development Board (CDB).

According to CDB sources, they had taken a target to produce cotton seeds on a total of 11,000 hectares of land. Under the programme 750 hectares of land was brought under Mohespur unit, 550 hectares under Bidyadhampur unit, 1,350 hectares under Shyamkun unit, 975 hectares under Napa unit, 800 hectares under Jinanagar unit, 575 hectares under Cetrad unit, 850 hectares under Kotchandpur unit, 675 hectares under Jhenidah unit, 250 hectares under Dakbandha unit, 800 hectares under Saikupur unit, 800 hectares under Seikhpara unit and 500 hectares under Hafizalpur unit of Jhenidah district and 600 hectares under Ichhakhada

unit, 500 hectares under Magura unit, 275 hectares under Satrjipur unit, 300 hectares under Langalbandh unit and on 750 hectares of land under Sripur unit of Magura district this season.

But 8,000 hectares of land was brought under the programme. 12,792 metric tonnes of cotton seeds is likely to be produced from Jhenidah zone which comprised of Jhenidah zone and Magura districts.

When this correspondent visited Hafizalpur, Saikupur and Jhenidah units of the zone, he saw the farmers are harvesting cotton seeds and selling the wet ones to the buyers between Taka 1,050 and 1,100 per maund from their land. Dried cotton seeds are being sold between Taka 1,250 and 1,300 instead of government rate of Taka 1,200 per maund.

MA Waseque, Chief Cotton Development Officer (CCDO) of Jhenidah district and 600 hectares under Ichhakhada

CDB said they had taken target to purchase 130 metric tonnes of cotton seeds. But till February 8 last only 30 metric tonnes of cotton seeds are available. Another 20 metric tonnes of cotton seeds are hardly produced for the purpose.

Some farmers said, cotton farming has become a profitable one and the number of farmers are increasing every year.

CCDO of CDB informed, the buyers are purchasing wet cotton seeds which might not be used as seeds. If those seeds are used on cotton fields the farmers would get poor yield. Further the quality of fibre of cotton would not be ensured though the mill owners were purchasing cotton seeds rampantly.

An official of CDB requesting anonymity said that there was no concrete policy for cotton seed purchasing.

MA Waseque, Chief Cotton Development Officer (CCDO) of

Democracy Killing Day observed

KHULNA, Feb 16: Democracy Killing Day on February 15 was observed here by Awami League and its front organisations, Jatiya Party and various other organisations, reports BSS.

On this day in 1996 the then BNP government held a so-called Jatiya Sangsads election leaving all major political parties out of the race.

Khulna city and Sonadanga thana Awami League jointly brought out a procession in the city from the Awami League office and paraded the main thoroughfares and later held a meeting in the office premises.

The meeting was presided over by president of Khulna sadar thana Awami League Prof Fakir Abu Hossain and addressed, among others, by Awami League leaders Monirul Islam Moni, MA Babul Rana, Mallik Abid Hossain Kabir, BM Jafar, Nur Islam Bandhu and Shaikh Mohammed Jahangir Alani.

Speakers in the meeting severely criticised the BNP government of killing democracy in 1996.

Tk 25cr KU
uplift project

KHULNA, Feb 16: Uplift programmes for expansion of academic activities and physical infrastructure of Khulna University (KU), involving Tk 25 crore, have been taken up under the next Five Year Plan (FYFP), reports UNB.

According to the varsity sources, the projects include construction of a new dormitory for the students, an academic building, an administrative building, staff quarters for teachers, officers and employees and collection of new educational appliances. A mosque will also be built under the scheme.

Nine more departments will be opened soon. These are: Production Engineering, Mining Engineering, Economics, English, Nutrition and Food Technology, Journalism and Public Affairs.

After the installation of the new departments, the number of students will be over 2,000 while teachers over 200 in Khulna University, the sources said.

At present, there are 1,070 students in all the 11 disciplines of the university.

Illegal occupation of R&H Deptt land

NARAIL, Feb 16: A vast areas of acquired land of the Roads and Highways (R&H) Department in the district have illegally been grabbed by a section of influential people, reports UNB.

They have built a large number of sheds, semi-pucca and pucca shops on the land beside the roads over the years without the permission of the authorities concerned.

The process of the illegal possession of the land has already narrowed the roads hindering the smooth movement of vehicular traffic.

A big portion of the roads in the heart of the town has been used as a parking place causing untold sufferings to the pedestrains.

Agriculture land and many ponds belonging to the department are also being used for cultivation and pisciculture without the lawful authority with the collaboration of some dishonest officials.

According to Gopalganj police sources, Bhulal Sheikh of village Dougra Shur under Gopalganj sadar thana committed suicide by taking poison on February 5.

It is learnt that Pintu Bakta beat his wife Ziku Bakta for family maintenance. She was very frustrated and committed suicide by taking poison on February 5 midnight.

A case has been registered with Gopalganj Police Station in this connection.

Ziku Rani Bakta, 21, wife of Pintu Bakta of village Dougra Shur under Gopalganj sadar thana committed suicide by taking poison on February 5.

An unnatural death (UD) case has been registered with Gopalganj PS in this connection.

Abdul Quium, 30, son of Has-sanuddin Sardar of village Mu-lurssur under Gopalganj sadar thana committed suicide by taking poison on February 5.

According to local people, Najar Ali Sheikh quarrelled with his wife for dowry from his father-in-law.

He beat his wife Morium Begum on February 2. Then Najar Ali's brother-in-law and other relatives tortured him. He was seriously injured.

As a result Najar Ali committed suicide by taking poison on February 3 midnight.

An unnatural death (UD) case has been registered with Gopalganj Police Station in this connection.

Shamima Begum, 21, wife of Ziad Ali Khan of Janata Road in Gopalganj town committed suicide by taking poison on February 2.

Shamima Begum quarrelled with her husband for family maintenance. She was very annoyed and committed suicide by taking poison on February 2 midnight.

According to police sources, Sebin Chowdhury quarrelled with his parents for a shirt and he was annoyed.

Ultimately Sebin committed suicide by hanging with a branch of tree by the side of his residence on February 4 night.

According to police sources, Sebin Chowdhury quarrelled with his parents for a shirt and he was annoyed.

The injured persons were admitted to Rangpur Medical College Hospital (RMCH) and Mithapukur Health Complex. Condition of five injured are critical.

The driver of the truck managed to escape.

In another accident on Saturday morning one cyclist was killed under the wheels of a Parbatipur bound passenger bus at Bardarganj.

The driver of the bus escaped.

Driver of the bus escaped.

2,000 oilmen jobless

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, Feb 16: More than two thousands oilmen in six thanas of the district are now in passing their days in miseries. They are unable to run their bullock driven oil mills, popularly known as *ghant* due to abject poverty.

Many oil producers have been forced to close down their mills and are now unemployed.

About 1,500 bullock driven oil mills once operated in the district. It generated employment for about 10,000 people. However, decline of there oil mills has led to the expansion of more efficient and cheaper mechanised oil mills in various parts of the district including

Lalpur, Bagatipara, Gurudaspar, Baralgram and Natore thanas.

The demand of bullock driven edible oil mills has been decreased now-a-days because of imported soyabean and palm oil which have flooded local markets.

About Tk 7,000 is required to operate a bullock-driven oil mill. However, without loan, the oilmen can not invest this amount of money.

Some of the oilmen collect the running capital from local money lenders at exorbitant interest rates, leading to higher costs of production.

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