

National

News snaps

443 new tubewells to be set up

KISHOREGANJ, Dec 20: Public Health Engineering Department will set up 443 new tube-wells and re-sink 265 shallow wells in the district under Rural Water Supply Project during the current fiscal year, reports UNB.

Officials said the project would be implemented as part of the post-flood rehabilitation programme to ensure supply of drinking water to about one lakh rural people. Of the total, some 181 shallow tube-wells and 262 Taro pumps will be set up free of cost in 13 thanas of the district. Of the total, officials said, 56 tube-wells in Sadar, 36 in Katiadi, 32 in Itna, 31 in Hossainpur, 29 in Tarai, 43 in Karimganj, 25 in Nikli, 51 in Bajitpur, 43 in Pakundia, 25 in Astagram, 30 in Kularchar, 21 in Mitamoin and 21 in Bhairab thanas would be set up under the project. Besides, 28 tube-wells in Sadar, 25 each in Katiadi and Pakundia, 22 in Itna, 15 each in Hossainpur, Nikli, Mitamoin and Bhairab, 17 each in Tarai, Astagram and Kularchar and 27 each in Karimganj and Bajitpur thanas will be re-sunk.

Punishment for rape attempt

NAOGAON, Dec 20: A man in his 50s got his penis cut in a tricky bid of a housewife at Kumaiari in the suburb here when he entered into her house at midnight and attempted to violate her, reports UNB.

Taramoni, wife of hotel worker Taizul, did this to save her chastity from neighbour Azizur Rahman, now under treatment at Naogaon Hospital, local people said. Aziz allegedly made another attempt to rape her in her house earlier on November 26 evening when her husband was not at home.

Taramoni tactfully invited him to come to midnight. Aziz came again at night but returned with his genital organ cut off by a sharp weapon. That was, however, not enough for Aziz as local people acted rapidly and in a village arbitration fined him Tk 15,000 for the offence.

Six miscreants rounded up

CHHAGALNAYA, Dec 20: Chhaganaiya thana police rounded up six miscreants in two separate drives and recovered some arms from their possession recently, reports BSS.

The police, while on round duty in front of Hicha-Chara High School, found three men sitting in a suspicious manner. Police challenged them and after search recovered one revolver from the possession of one of the three persons, identified as Nurul Alam.

Police arrested them. In another drive in the same night Chhaganaiya thana police rounded up three miscreants at box Mahmud road culvert near Banspara while they were taking preparation to commit crimes. Police recovered, after search one LG pipe gun and one *ramdha* from their possession.

Workshop on Human Rights

TANGAIL, Dec 20: A two-day workshop on law, education and human rights sponsored by Bangladesh Human Rights Implementation Organisation, Tangail branch concluded recently at Nazrul Sena School here, reports BSS.

The workshop was inaugurated by the Deputy Commissioner, Tangail, Abdus Sattar Khan. The concluding function was presided over by Ataur Rahman Azad.

Seventy-five persons both male and female participated in the workshop.

Disbursement of agri-loan suspended

PANCHAGARH, Dec 20: Disbursement of agriculture loans in the district remained suspended on Sunday following arrest of an employee of Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank (RKUB) here recently, reports BSS.

The Post-flood Agriculture Rehabilitation Programme got stalemate in the northern district as a result, the bank sources said.

They said Azizul Islam was arrested on December 4 after the regional manager of RKUB, Abdul Motaleb, filed a case against him and three other employees of the bank. He was arrested on allegations of obstructing government activities, threatening to kill the manager and so on.

Inter-dist dacoit arrested

PATUAHALI, Dec 20: A notorious inter-district dacoit, Quddus Gazi, was arrested from his father-in-law's house at Kallakupur in the town on Friday morning, reports BSS.

Wanted by the police in several cases, Quddus, who hails from Galachipa was sentenced to 10 years jail in absentia in a dacoity case. He has confessed to the police that he came here on a contact of Tk one lakh by an influential group for an operation in the town. Quddus further confessed that he has already received Tk 40 thousand from the party. Police, however, didn't disclose the name of the party for sake of investigation. Quddus Gazi is also an accused of several launch dacoity cases in the greater Patuahali district.

Rly passengers suffering

NAOGAON, Dec 20: Suspension of services of four passenger trains in the Western Zone of Bangladesh railway for over two months now have been causing sufferings to passengers and hampering trade and commerce in the area, reports BSS.

When contacted, railway sources told that services of the Khulna Mail, Chilahat-Khulna 27 UP, Parbatipur-Amura 571 UP and another local train have been suspended since September 27 due to crisis of engine. Asked when the services could be resumed, the sources said, it depends on the availability of engines.



MANIKGANJ: Jhitka unit of Mukti Joddha Sangad in Harirampur thana accorded a reception to Khandher Quamrul Huda, author of the book 'Swadhinata Sangram and Sheikh Mujib' on December 17. Enayet Hossain Khan, commander of the Sangad handing over a letter of felicitation to the journalist and columnist. Local Thana Nirbahi Officer, elite and freedom fighters were present on the occasion.

Sanitation exhibition at Thakurgaon

THAKURGAON, Dec 20: A two-day sanitation exhibition organised by Thakurgaon NGO Cell and Rangpur NGO Forum was held at the local public club premises last week, reports BSS.

Md Abdul Baki, Deputy Commissioner, Thakurgaon was present at the inaugural function as the chief guest while Shamsul Haque Pramanik, Public Health Engineer and Md Ilias Hosain, Thana Nirbahi Officer, Thakurgaon were special guests. The function was presided over by Md Hamidul Haque, Convenor, organising committee of the sanitation exhibition. A total of 19 organisations including Thakurgaon Pourasava participated in the exhibition — sanitary wares, handicrafts, models of cottage industries and books were put on display in the exhibition.

Arms recovered

RAJBARI, Dec 20: Daulatdia river outpost police recovered two country-made revolvers with three rounds of bullets and arrested two people last week, reports BSS.

Police said arrested Ashrafuzzaman Asu of Satkhira and Kausar Ahmed Titu of Noakhali while they were moving suspiciously on a ferry. In their confessional statements they said they were going to reach the arms to their gang leader at Ghati bus terminal in Dhaka.

Workshop on cattle fattening work

TANGAIL, Dec 20: Five-day workshop on cattle fattening work concluded recently in BRDB, Training Centre here, reports BSS.

A total of 25 women from Comilla, Jessor, Mymensingh, Gazipur and Tangail took part in the workshop. The participants were awarded with certificate in the concluding session.

15,000 Dahagram-Angorpota people in miseries

From Mozammel Hoq

RANGPUR, Dec 20: A total of 15,000 people of Dahagram and Angorpota enclaves are in great miseries following damage of crops by floods, pest-attack and lack of jobs for the day labourers.

About 85 per cent people of the enclaves are landless and day labourers while the rest 15 per cent are small and marginal farmers and employees of different offices and small traders.

An elderly inhabitant of Dahagram enclave named Alimuddin, 60, told that he had faced a severe crop loss in his only one acre of land due to deluge and insect-attack. A few maunds of 'Aman' paddy which he harvested is quite insufficient to meet his tilling cost. He is now apprehending very hard days ahead. He is fearing starvation along with his family members at his present economic hardship. There are no work in the field and no crop left in the field to harvest, he added. Many other residents of the enclaves expressed the similar painful stories to the journalists and said, 'We don't want alms, but we want to survive by doing works.'

The total area of the enclaves is around 20 square

Sarinusia BCL confce

NETRAKONA Dec 20: A conference of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) Sarinusia union unit was held at Aboypasha Government Primary School premises under Atpara thana of the district recently, reports BSS.

A presidium member of Bangladesh Awami Jubo League, Monju Kader Quraishi attended the conference as the chief guest while president of Sarinusia union BCL Sanjoy Chakrabarti presided.

The conference was addressed, among others, by President of Netrakona district BCL Prasanta Ray, president of Atpara thana BCL Abul Kalam Azad and Vice President of Netrakona Government University College Students Union Shamsur Rahman Khan Liton.

Maize to be cultivated in 6 Narsingdi thanas

NARSINGDI, Dec 20: The Agriculture Extension Department has taken up a programme for extensive cultivation of maize in six thanas of Narsingdi district this year, reports BSS.

According to an official source, 300 hectares have been brought under maize cultivation in the district this year and the production target had been fixed at 700 tonnes.

Last year maize was cultivated on only fifty hectares in two thanas of the district. Cultivation of this crop has been gaining popularity in Narsingdi because of favourable market price. The soil of the area is suitable for maize cultivation, farmers and agronomists say.

Maize is being cultivated in comparatively high fallow land where scope of other crops cultivation is limited. Maize has been introduced in this district recently. Farmers are eager to grow more maize because it is profitable, an agriculture department officer opines.

Scarcity of fodder in Narail

NARAIL, Dec 20: The flood-affected farmers have been selling their cattle at throwaway prices due to unprecedented scarcity of fodder, reports BSS.

Most of the farmers in 37 unions and two paurashavas of the district have been badly affected by the prolonged flood this year, which also damaged standing crops, seeds, seedlings and fodder for cattlehead.

Local farmers said that they have been passing their days in hardships for want of food, shelter as well as fodder for their cattle.

At least Tk 80 to Tk 100 is needed per month for buying fodder for a pair of bullocks, which is a burden for them during the post-flood crisis period.

Moreover, various cattle diseases like 'Khura' and 'Black Quarter' have broken out throughout the district and has claimed a number of cattle in Kalia and Lohagara thanas.

Most of the cattle became weak for want of fodder and pure milk has become scarce in the local markets.

Cultivation of 'Rabi' crops is being hampered due to the cattle diseases, scarcity of fodder and selling of cattlehead during the current cultivation season.

Agriculture experts have underscored the need for power tiller to cover the losses and ensure the cultivation of 'Rabi' crops in the district.

The farmers urged to authorities concerned to take necessary and immediate steps to mitigate their sufferings.

Pol Sc hons Results yet to be published after 14 months

PABNA, Dec 20: Results of final year examination of honours course of the department of Political Science of Pabna Edward University College have not yet been published even after 14 months, reports BSS.

Students of the college alleged that the part-3 examination of 1992-93 session was held on October 2 in 1997.

The result of other subjects of the same session came out five months ago.

About 1,000 students of Political Science appeared in the examination under the National University according to the syllabus of Rajshahi University. Of them, 25 were from the Edward College.

The students who alleged this to the local newsmen include Dipali Sarkar, Rabiu Islam, Hasanuzzaman, Hafizur Rahman, Firoza Khatun, Suruchi Sultan, Momena Khanam, Nasreen Ara, Eshan Kabir, Nuruzzaman, Aftab Hamid, Kazi Husne Ara and Kallol Hossain.

Finding no other way out, they have compelled to use sulphuric acid for cleaning up the utensils making these glittering like new ones.

But the owners expressed their ignorance about the bad effect of using the chemical.

Taking food in these dishes, consumers are being attacked by different skin and intestinal diseases, said a local physician.

Separate cases were filed in

Outlaws have unleashed a reign of terror in N-dists

KUSHTIA, Dec 20: Activists of outlawed political parties have unleashed a reign of terror in the northern districts including Kushtia, reports BSS.

They killed 29 people, mostly farmers, kidnapped 14, burnt over 22 houses and looted 50 others in Kushtia district in the last four months, police said.

They are activists of Purba Bangla Communist Party (PBCP), the Biplobi Communist Party (BCP), JSD Gano Bahini, Sramajibi Andolan and the Sarbarha Party.

Sources said the BCP recently held a meeting in an undisclosed place in Kushtia and formed a committee and 'killer squads' to 'eliminate class enemies'. Members and activists of the party from Jhenidah, Chuadanga, Pabna, Rajbari and Jessor districts also attended the meeting.

Over one and a half crore people of the northern and southern districts have been passing their days in panic due to the terrorism, loot, arson, torture, and toll collection by these elements.

The terrorists also threaten members of the families of the killed persons of dangerous consequences if they inform police about it.

Kushtia district police, meantime, carried out several raids at some places since Au-

gust 20 and arrested 23 activists and 38 fugitives. They recovered over 100 firearms and huge quantities of narcotics.

Some 25 cases under the Narcotics Act, nine cases under the Arms Act and one case under the Explosives Act have been registered during period.

Influentials occupy 60,000 acres of khas land illegally

NATORE, Dec 20: About 60,000 acres of khas-land worth Tk 75 crore in 16 districts have been occupied illegally by a section of influential quarters, reports BSS.

A source of National Board of Land Reforms in Dhaka on condition of anonymity said due to absence of proper decision of the ministry concerned a section of influential people have been grabbing the land through fake documents. No initiative has been taken so far to recover the occupied khas-lands, he added.

According to an official statistics, of the total 36,090 acres of khas land in 16 northern districts about 3,09,083 acres have so far been distributed among the landless and destitute families.

In greater Khulna region

Rains, gusty squalls damage crops on 35,901 hectares

12,870 hectares, Satkhira — 6,380 hectares and Kushtia — 218 hectares.

No substantial damage to crops was reported from the other two districts of Khulna division — Chuadanga and Meherpur.

Meantime, excessive rainfalls damaged nearly 75 per cent of the standing 'Rabi' crops in 10 districts of the division. Farmers apprehend that their production would be far less than the target during the season.

The production target of these 10 districts have been set in the following manner: Wheat — 123,373 tonnes, Potato — 13,200 tonnes, Mustard — 673 tonnes, 'Musur' pulses — 979 tonnes, Jhenidah — 470 tonnes, Magura — 170 tonnes, Narail — 250 tonnes, Khulna — 14,768 hectares, Bagerhat —

Indian arms, goods seized: 8 arrested

this connection.

Another report says, police arrested six dacoits in two separate drives with arms while preparing to commit a dacoity at Chhaganaiya thana recently.

Police arrested Nurul Amin, Rezul Karim Shamim and Abul Kalam and recovered one revolver from Nurul Amin on November 29.

The team in another drive also arrested Enamul Haq, Obayed Ullah and Abul Hasem and recovered one country-made LG and a ram dao while preparing to commit a robbery at Bashpara area in sadar thana on the same day.

Police recovered the smug-
gled goods in three separate drives and arrested two people.

Separate cases were filed in

Kurigram Civil Surgeon asks restaurant owners

Refrain from using chemical in cleaning dishes

He informed that during last few months, 40 per cent of patients came to him with intestinal diseases like pain in abdomen and throat, stomach trouble, acidity, vomiting tendency, cough and peptic ulcer caused by the acid.

Not only the consumers, but also the workers who are involved in cleaning the dishes in the restaurants are suffering from skin diseases. But they are not aware of the reason behind their disease.

Lack of modern ferryboats

RAJBARI, Dec 20: Ferry service across the Padma, connecting Jokura at the border point of Pabna and Bashmara in Rajbari is reported to be handicapped due to lack of modern ferryboats, reports BSS.

The three ferryboats that operate at this point are outdated and usually take 40 minutes to cross a distance of only six kilometres. The small ferryboats cannot accommodate more than three small vehicles at a time.



Proper preservation of Mohasthan antiques sought