

## News snaps

## Farmers passing days in panic

PATUAKHALI, Dec 28 : Police sometimes give protection to *lathials* who forcibly harvest the paddy of marginal farmers at Char Baret in Bauphal thana, some farmers have alleged, reports APB.

When the *lathials*, hired by big landowners, enter into the char area, they are sometimes seen accompanied by policemen from the newly set up outpost set up by Borhappuddin thana on the eastern side the Tetulia river, they alleged. The matter was brought to the notice of Bauphal police, but no action has been taken so far, they said. The farmers told that they are passing days in fear following threats from *lathials*.

## 12 political killings in 13 months

FENI, Dec 28 : Twelve political activists belonging to both ruling and opposition parties were killed in the district in encounter with their rivals during the last 13 months, reports APB.

Official sources said, eight of them belonged to the ruling Awami League and its front organisations while the rest are the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist leaders and workers. The leaders and activists of Awami League and its front organisations, who were brutally murdered are UP Chairman Rezaul Karim, Sramik League leader Azizur Rahman Milon, Abdul Mannan, Abul Kasem, Didarul Alam, Manjur Hossain Chowdhury Shamim, Saleh Uddin and Abul Kasem. From BNP the list of those killed comprises Sohanur Rahman Sohan, Nurunabu, Mohammad Yousuf alias Sabuj and Mizanur Rahman, were murdered by their rivals during the period from November 1997 to December 1998, the sources said.

## Irregular attendance of employees

KISHOREGANJ, Dec 28 : The normal functioning of the government offices here is being hampered seriously due to irregular attendance of the officers and employees, reports UNB.

Sources said the tendency of irregular attendance is noticeable mostly in the offices of the thana headquarters specially in *haor* areas. Most of them serve here keeping their families at their village homes. A large number of officials and employees are found absent in offices on Thursday when many of them take leave to spend the weekend with their families. The worse situation can be witnessed on Sundays as most of them return late on the day. The attendance rate is the lowest in four *haor* thanas of the district as most of the officers and employees prefer *haor* thanas of the district as most of the officers and employees prefer *haor* areas' job to draw their monthly salaries remaining absent most of the days. Four health complexes in the four *haor* thanas are worse affected by the low percentage of attendance.

## Wheat allotted for FWP projects

NETRAKONA, Dec 28 : The government has allotted 2,120 tonnes of wheat for the execution of 158 projects under Food for Works Programme (FWP) in ten thanas of Netrakona district in the current financial year, reports BSS.

The projects are being implemented under the supervision of district relief and disaster management department. An official source said, the projects included construction and reconstruction of different *kutcha* roads, road cum embankments and culverts, reexcavation of derelict ponds and earth work in different educational and religious institutions. The work on these projects has already been started and is expected to be completed within the month of April next, official source added.

## Sanction in different sectors

PIROJPUR, Dec 28 : Government has so far sanctioned Tk 56.20 lakh in different sectors to recoup the losses caused by the recent devastating flood, reports UNB.

But the quantity of sanctioned money is quite inadequate to overcome the losses incurred the poor and marginal farmers here, local leaders alleged. Of the allotment, Tk 30 lakh in communication and infrastructure sector, Tk 1.20 lakh in livestock sector, Tk five lakh to rebuild embankments and Tk 20 lakh in agriculture sector. According to the latest statistics, crops on 1,37,000 hectares of land worth about Tk 21 crore have been damaged by the century worse calamity while fishes of Tk 8.11 crore were washed away. Besides, 200km roads, 230 educational institutions, 259 bridges and culverts and 390 mosques and shrines were damaged completely or partially. A total of 12,033 dwelling houses have been damaged completely while 34,867 partially.

## Drug addicts on rise

NARAIL, Dec 28 : The number of drug addicts has been increasing in an alarming proportion in 10 south-western districts of the country in recent days, reports UNB.

Frustrated youths, students, activists of different political parties and their front organisations are the majority among the addicts. Drugs like heroin, hemp, phenesidyl, opium, cocaine and injections are being sold everywhere in the region, said the witnesses. The drugs are entering into the country through different border points of Sathkhira, Jessor, Kushtia, Meherpur and Chuadanga districts. Some organised gangs in connivance with a section of dishonest officials and employees are allegedly involved in the illegal trade.

## Teachers' confce in Rangamati

RANGAMATI, Dec 28 : Chairman of the Task Force on Repatriated Tribals and Internal Refugees Rehabilitation Affairs, Dipankar Talukder, MP urged the members of the teachers' community to discharge their responsibilities with dedication terming them as the architects of the future leaders of the country, reports BSS.

He was addressing as the chief guest in a conference held at Shahid Abdul Ali Academy recently. Organised by Chittagong Hill Tracts Teachers' Association, the conference was presided over by president of the district teachers' association, Shantimoy Chakma. Chairman of Rangamati Hill District Local Government Council, Ching Kew Roaza attended the conference as a special guest.

## 15 sex workers arrested

RAJSHAHI, Dec 28 : Police on Thursday in a raid arrested 15 sex workers along with 17 customers from two residential hotels of the town here, reports UNB.

A team of police led by an Assistant Commissioner conducted the raid in Metropolitan hotel and Surjamukhi hotel at Kumarpura and detained the anti-social elements. Flesh traders from remote areas come to the residential hotels of the town and engage in illegal activities vitiating the atmosphere, the sources said.

## UP chairman's bail petition rejected

JAMALPUR, Dec 28 : A magistrate court here recently rejected a bail petition of a UP chairman and sent him to jail hazzat, reports UNB.

Abdur Rashid, chairman of Noapara Union Parishad in Islampur thana, was arrested on Sunday night for alleged misappropriation of VGF wheat and violating the chastity of a female member. Two cases were filed against Rashid. Last week the government had temporarily suspended the chairman of Joorkhali Union Parishad Ziaul Haq for his alleged misappropriation of relief goods.

## Traffic jam common in Natore town

NATORE, Dec 28 : Traffic jam in the town has turned quite acute, as a result of which pedestrians do not find it safe to move along the main thoroughfares, reports APB.

The Natore bus terminal, Madrasah crossing, Chhayabani Cinema Hall crossing and the *kutcha* bazar road are said to be the worst-affected. Besides, sufferers say, the old hospital crossing, rail station, Ekator square and railgate areas experience nasty traffic congestion more often than not. Traffic policemen said that indiscriminate parking of vehicular traffic, loading and unloading of trucks by waysides and encroachment of the roads by vendors and shopkeepers caused most of the traffic jams.

## Open sale of rectified spirit

KISHOREGANJ, Dec 28 : The number of drug addicts are on alarming rise in the district giving rise to anti-social activities, reports UNB.

Most of the addicts are student, transport workers, rickshaw-pullers and sweepers. Local people alleged that they use rectified spirit and phenesidyl syrup almost openly as these items are available in medical stores, stationary, grocery shops and some other points of the town. Some dishonest homeopathic doctors are selling spirit to the addicts at exorbitant price, they alleged. As per the government rule, licenses for rectified spirit are only issued to the bonafide homeopathic practitioners and homeopathic medicine manufacturers. To meet the cost of their drugs the addicts are engaged in various anti-social activities including illegal trade, smuggling, theft and hijacking.

## Timbers recovered

RANGAMATI, Dec 28 : The Chittagong Hill Tracts Forest Department (North) on special drives recovered about 13,300 cubic feet timbers worth Tk 70 lakh from different ranges of the district in last one month, reports UNB.

Of the recovered timber, 4,000 cft were recovered from Baghaighat range while 600 cft from Shishak, 5,000 cft from Baghaighat, 2,000 cft from Narailchhari, 700 cft from cedar and 1,000 cft from Kachalang Zukh ranges. Apart from this, the Forest Department also seized a truck, a jeep and 25 boats and filed 110 forest cases with the Rangamati court.



JHENIDAH: A 'gachi' engaged in cutting a date tree at village Gobindapur in Jhenidah municipal area.

— Star photo

## Card phone system in Jamalpur in shambles

JAMALPUR, Dec 28: Card phone system in the district is on the verge of closure due to lack of maintenance and care causing sufferings to the users, reports UNB.

An official source said, a total of 10 telephone booths have been set up so far in the district of which, six have been set up in sadar thana while the rest at three thana headquarters — two in Sarishaband and one each in Melandah and Bakshiganj thanas.

In the town, two booths set up at telegram office and railway station remained inoperative for long and the other four also go out of order most of the time.

It is impossible for an employee of the telephone department to work to two districts — Jamalpur and Sherpur and to

inspect and repair the faults of card phone booths simultaneously.

Local people alleged that they can not avail the card phone facilities as most of the phones that are operative remain stopped due to closure of market and head post office where the booths were set up.

The sufferings of the users are being intensified due to lack of regular technical surveillance system to remove the technical faults.

Local people also alleged that a section of unscrupulous people are selling cards at high prices taking advantage of its scarcity.

Local leaders urged the government and concerned authorities to take necessary steps to repair the booths and take necessary measures for its maintenance and care.

## Rice-paddy procurement drive failing in Sherpur

From Our Correspondent

SHERPUR, Dec 26: The target of rice-paddy procurement drive is failing miserably in the district as the market price is higher than the procurement price fixed by the government.

The District Food Department failed to procure any rice or paddy in the current Aman season since November as against its target of 3,000 mts rice and 1,000 mts paddy.

Rice and paddy are being sold at Tk 600 per maund and Tk 400 per maund in different hat-bazars but the government rate is Tk 480 and Tk 304.

Thana-wise break-up of procurement target is as follows: 1,200 mts rice and 210 mts of paddy in sadar, 800 mts of rice and 288 mts of paddy in Nalitabari, 300 mts of rice and 152 mts of paddy in Nakla, 330 mts of rice and 152 mts of paddy in Sreebindi and 370 mts of rice and 200 mts of paddy in Jhenidah.

The procurement drive starting from the last month will continue till February 28. The food department has taken a decision to directly purchase paddy from the farmers and rice from the millers.

Meanwhile, the mill owners alleged they are facing acute

## Restoration of train service demanded

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Dec 28: The passengers including

problem as the rice and paddy market is being controlled by some middlemen.

Farmers alleged that they could not sell the paddy and rice to the purchasing centres due to its fixed low price.

## RSCIC training course ends

MADRIPUR, Dec 28: A two-day training course on unemployed male and female youths for creating self-employment opportunities, organised by Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC), concluded here at BSCIC office on December 24, reports BSS.

BSCIC office sources said, a total of 58 unemployed male and female youths from different areas of the district took part in the course.

The training programme was aimed at creating employment opportunities for the downtrodden at the grassroots level through income generating programme. After the completion of the training course these youths would be given loan for small industry.

## গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বাহি: প্রচার অনুবিভাগ

প্রকাশ মন্ত্রণালয়

ঢাকা

তারিখ ০৯-০৯-১৪০৫২১৮

নং-৩(২৮)/১৪০৫-ইপি-৩/১৬৭১

তারিখ ২৩-১২-১৪০৫২১৮

ভিডিও প্রামাণ্য অনুষ্ঠান নির্মাণ

## সংক্রান্ত দরপত্র আহ্বান

আসন্ন জাতীয় দিবস '৯৯ উপলক্ষে বিদেশী বাংলাদেশ মিশনসমূহের

মাধ্যমে প্রচার অনুবিভাগ নির্মাণ প্রক্রিয়া প্রতিষ্ঠান নির্মাণকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহ হতে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাবে।

প্রযোজনীয় তথ্যাবলী

স্থানিক দরপত্রের সিডিল নগদ,

২০০/- (দুইশত) টাকা মোল্দ (অফেরতযোগ্য) নির্মাণকারীর দরপত্র থেকে

দরপত্র দাখিলের পর্যন্ত ক্রম করা যাবে। দরপত্র দাখিলের দিনে কোন সিডিল বিক্রি করা যাবে না।

প্ররোচনা মন্ত্রণালয়ের অভ্যর্থনা করে রাখিত দরপত্রের বাকে দরপত্র দাখিলের

তারিখ ০৭/০৯/১৪০৫ বেলা ১২.০০ টাকা পর্যন্ত।

দরপত্রের সাথে উক্ত দরের শতকরা ৫.০০ টাকা হারে ব্যাংক ছাক্ট

দাখিল করা হবে।

কোন কারণ দর্শনীয় ব্যাক্তিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র এবং অথবা সময় দরপত্র

বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করেন।

আদিত্য মোনোলু হক

সহকারী পরিচালক (ঋকাশনা)

ফোন: ৯৫৫৪৮১

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