

National

News snaps

Immunisation Day observed

KHULNA, Dec 29: The Fifth National Immunisation Day was observed here recently as elsewhere in the country aimed at eradicating polio disease from the country by the year 2000, reports BSS.

Mayor of Khulna City Corporation Sheikh Tayebur Rahman inaugurated the day by feeding polio vaccine to children under five-year age group at the local Coronation Technical School centre. The eradication of polio disease programme here is being implemented by Khulna City Corporation along with a number of voluntary organisations.

Fishing begins in govt baors

JHENIDAH, Dec 29: About 574 tonnes of fresh-water fish, worth about Tk 2.10 crore, are expected to be caught from six government baors (marshes) in the district during the current season, according to an official source, reports APB.

The Baludhar, Joidia, Fatehpur, Morjad, Kathgara and Bengobindapur baors are under the control of the Jessor Beel-Baor Fish Development Project who began fish cultivation with modern methods in 1980 with financial help from World Bank. Baludhar is expected to yield 200 tonnes of fish, Joidia 110, Kathgara 30, Fatehpur 38, Morjad 75 and Bengobindapur 121 tonnes. Fishing began in Bengobindapur on December 2. Different varieties of fish including Ruihi, Mrigal, Katta were cultivated in the baors.

Road repairing schemes taken up

HABIGANJ, Dec 29: Roads and Highways Department has taken up several schemes to repair and reconstruct different damaged roads in the district, reports UNB.

Official sources said the schemes will be implemented under the Post-flood Rehabilitation Programme at a cost of Tk 63.91 lakh. The schemes include repair and carpeting of 10km at two places on Dhaka-Sylhet highway, repair of 2 km of Habiganj-Shayestaganj highway and repair and reconstruction of 7 km of Habiganj-Nabiganj-Sherpur road. The schemes are expected to be completed by the next month, the officials said.

Two lakh children are malnourished

CHUADANGA, Dec 29: Over two lakh children are suffering from acute malnutrition in Kushtia, Meherpur and Chuadanga districts, according to health officials, reports APB.

At least 80 per cent of the families in the rural areas of these districts are now impoverished due to vagaries of nature. They have no source of income other than working for richer farmers and can not begin cultivation due to various factors including high prices of seeds and fertiliser.

Man killed in road accident

JHENIDAH, Dec 29: A middle-aged man was killed in an accident on Jhenidah-Kushtia road near Jhenidah Cadet College in the town on Friday, reports UNB.

The victim was identified as Moinuddin, 45, of Saganna village in sadar thana. Family and hospital sources said the accident occurred when a speeding truck knocked him down while he was crossing the road. The victim was rushed to the Sadar Hospital where he died later. The driver fled the scene with his vehicle.



MYMENSINGH: Some rare photographs on our Liberation War were exhibited at a stall of the Victory Fair here. Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Abdul Halim visited the stall.

— Star photo

New policy to distribute bank loans

KISHOREGANJ, Dec 29: Bangladesh Agriculture Bank, regional office, Kishoreganj has taken up a new policy to make the process of distribution of loans among the genuine farmers easier, free from corruption and popular to general people, reports BSS.

The main features of the policy is union parishad's chairman, ward members, block supervisors of agriculture department and field workers of the bank will prepare the lists of possible loan seekers. These lists after approval by the thana agriculture loan committee, will be sent to respective branches of the bank. The bank will investigate the loan cases as usual. Selected persons will be given application forms to fill up in the field. These applicants will have to go on bank on a fixed day and will be given cheque. AGM Md Noorul Islam said, this procedure will be better and easier for distributing loan among the poor and illiterate farmers. They will get loan within a few days without any harassment.

Employees receiving salaries without work

PATUAKHALI, Dec 29: The operations of eight LSD godowns in the district remained suspended for long, but some 18 employees of these establishments have been receiving their salaries without any work, reports UNB.

Official sources said the godowns are at Rangabali, Barabashidha, Char Biswas, Char Kajal, Kathalal, Kanakdia, Tegachia and Lafirhat. Many of the godowns remained in dilapidated condition due to lack of proper maintenance and repair.

These storage facilities were abandoned due to various reasons including problems in transportation of foods. Local officials have already informed the higher authorities to take necessary measures about the employees now receiving salary against the godowns and requested for permission to reopen the LSD at Barabashidha. But there was no response so far regarding this matter, the source said.

Case filed against UP chairman

COMILLA, Dec 29: A case was filed against the chairman of a Union Parishad (UP) alleging misappropriation of 900 kg wheat of Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) programme, reports BSS.

The chairman of Poyalgachha union in Barura thana of the district remained absconding since the filing of the case on December 3.

The thana administration has informed the district administration about the matter and requested for order to appoint an Acting Chairman. Meanwhile, two members of the UP, Amir Hossain and Saleh Ahmed, while speaking to the journalists at the press club here on December 24, said the development works in the union have seriously been affected due to absence of the chairman.

Menace of pie dogs

JHENIDAH, Dec 29: The menace of pie dogs has assumed an alarming proportion in the district town as well as at the thana headquarters over the last few months, much to the concern of the people, reports APB.

Local people said that pie dogs bit a good number of people including some children in the haats and bazars of the district town. Especially worried are the school-going children and their parents. Many of the parents have urged the authorities concerned to take appropriate steps to curb the menace.

Two more killed in road accident

SATKHIRA, Dec 29: Two persons were killed and another twenty injured in a road accident near Kanchonmagar area on Satkhira-Khulna road recently, reports BSS.

Police and hospital sources said a Khulna-bound mini bus fell into a road side ditch near Kanchonmagar area. Two unidentified men died on the spot. Another 20 persons were seriously injured. The injured persons were admitted to Khulna 250-bed hospital and Satkhira Sadar Hospital. Police seized the bus.

Rokeya Dibas observed

BARISAL, Dec 29: Begum Rokeya Day was observed here in this divisional town in a befitting manner recently, reports BSS.

Different socio-cultural organisations took up various programmes to mark the day. Begum Rokeya Dibas Uddyan Committee brought out a procession in the town from the Awami Kumar Town Hall and paraded the main roads of the town in the morning. Discussion, cultural function, publication, essay competition and prize distribution ceremony were also included in the programme. Eight NGOs and Barisal district unit of Mahila Parishad arranged discussions at their office venues on this occasion.



NARAYANGANJ: Local press club distributed relief materials among 500 flood affected families of the adjoining areas of the town recently. State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader, local MP Shamim Osman, among others, were present on the occasion.

— Star photo

In Cox's Bazar dist Over 60 pc people do not use sanitary latrines

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, Dec 29: More than 60 per cent people in rural areas of seven thanas in Cox's Bazar district do not use sanitary latrine due to lack of proper initiative, said local sources.

According to the reports, about nine lakh people live in rural areas of seven thanas in the district. Less than two thirds of them have no access to proper sanitary latrines, an unofficial survey report said.

Majority of the villagers discharge human waste in the bushes, barren land, bank of the canal, pond or river and crop land. As a result, human waste mixes with water of canals, ponds, river, beels and polluted the water.

The Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) sources said they are supplying water sealed latrine's equipment from their thana offices at a low cost. But due to lack of awareness people of the rural areas do not show interest to set

up water sealed latrines in their houses.

Ansarul Haque, a social worker of Matar Bari village in Moshkhali thana told this correspondent that a large number of children belonging

1,30,000 fries, cash distributed among flood victims

MAGURA, Dec 29: The government has distributed 1,30,000 fish fries and Tk one lakh as cash among the flood-affected fish farmers of the district under the post-flood rehabilitation programme, reports UNB.

The Fisheries Department distributed fries and money among 149 farmers affected during the flood.

Of the fries, 60,000 were distributed in Mohammadpur, 40,000 in Sripur, 22,500 in Sadar and 7,500 in Salikhia thanas of the district, officials said.

Local leaders and experts have appealed to the authorities concerned to take necessary steps for motivating the poor rural people for good sanitation.

to poor families of the village areas do not use latrines at all.

Some local leaders in village areas of Teknaf thana said, some families in their areas use kutch latrines which mostly stand on the banks of rivers, beels and canals. By allowing human waste to fall into rivers, beels and canals such latrines pollutes the water.

Local doctors said, due to lack of good sanitation rural people including children suffer from diarrhoeal diseases around the year.

DPHE observed Sanitation Week throughout the country every year, but the rural people who live in poverty are not actually motivated for using sanitary latrines and safe water due to lack of direct contact with that class of people, they alleged.

Local leaders and experts have appealed to the authorities concerned to take necessary steps for motivating the poor rural people for good sanitation.

Prices of Iftar items soaring up in Faridpur

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, Dec 29: Prices of the 'iftar' items are soaring up at different markets in and around the town. The items include fried rice, locally called muri, gram or chhola bara or piaji made of onions, tomatoes and khira.

Local tasty fried rice is hardly available. Tasteless fried rice which is available in the markets is being sold at Tk 32 to Tk 40 a kg as against Tk 32 to Tk 30 a kg a week ago.

One of the muri sellers or hawkers of Gopalpur in Sadar thana said that this variety of muri of inferior quality is being supplied to the different mar-

kets of Faridpur district from neighbouring districts Pabna and other districts of North Bengal.

Another muri seller of Char Hajiganj in Char Bhadrashan thana said that most of the muri sellers of the locality have given up their profession because of excessive price hike of paddy especially suitable for fried rice and other related things including fir-wood and labourers adding that muri production has now become a losing concern.

Another item gram, or chhola is being sold at Tk 32 to 35 a kg in the markets. Without

Oranges, dates and bananas of different kinds are being sold comparatively at less prices in the local markets, sources said.



PABNA: Four-day Bijoy Mela concluded here recently. Photo shows (L) young artistes rendering patriotic songs (R) Advocate Amzad Hossain, an organiser of the Liberation War and an Awami League leader delivering his address.

— Star photo

Regular operation of Barisal radio station yet to start

BARISAL, Dec 29: The regular operation of the radio station here could not be started even after the completion of the construction work and commissioning of the equipment, reports UNB.

The work of Barisal station of Bangladesh Betar started in 1994. All the construction works including station bhaban, security and residential buildings and relay mast tower have already been completed.

Transmission from the station on experimental basis began from the end of 1997 following the commissioning of the equipment. Presently two hours of transmission is going on every day at 131 metre band

and 1287 kilohertz medium wave to keep the equipment operative, said the officials of the engineering department.

The authorities are broadcasting recorded programmes from the station for about a year, because there was no formal inauguration of the station, said a source.

The project period ended in June 1998 and all the components of the project profile have been completed. The only remaining work is the setting up of the central air-conditioning plant and the source said it was yet to arrive from abroad.

Besides the completion of the construction and other works, appointment of officials

and employees is also in the fi-

Prices of essentials up in Gopalganj dist

From Our Correspondent

GOPALGANJ, Dec 29: Prices of essential commodities including rice, pulse, fish, meat, flour, vegetables, salt, oil and species have shot up in the markets of four thanas of Gopalganj district during the holy month of Ramadan.

Reports say that the low income groups of landless peasants, day-labourers and rickshaw pullers are the worst sufferers.

It was reported from a survey conducted in the markets abnormally. The low quality Indian sugar is being sold between Tk 32 and Tk 35 in the markets. Indian sugar is coming to different markets of the district by Tk 180 and Tk 150 per kg, magur fish between Tk 150 and Tk 180, koi per kg between Tk 300 and Tk 250 (big size) and other fish between Tk 110 and Tk 90 per kg.

Prices of one kilogram beef varies from Tk 70 to Tk 80 and one kg mutton varies from Tk 120 to Tk 130.

In the markets of the district prices of the daily essentials are: Rice Tk 17 and Tk 24, flour Tk 12 and Tk 15, mustard oil Tk 65 and Tk 75, soyabean oil Tk 54 and Tk 56, salt Tk 10 and Tk 12, milk Tk 20 and Tk 25 per kg, molasses Tk 40 and Tk 45 per kg and date Tk 45 and Tk 50.

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Local businessman Shadat Hossain said to this correspondent, price of daily essentials rose up due to shortage of supply. But reliable sources said that scrupulous traders have been creating an artificial crisis in the local markets to make profit.

The administration failed to take effective steps to arrest the trend of price-hike. Prices of all types of pulses including motor, masur have also increased abnormally. One kilogram of motor pulse is being sold between Tk 35 and Tk 38. Masur pulse is being sold between Tk 48 and Tk 55.

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