

News snaps

5,000 illegal arms recovered

CHUADANGA, Feb 5: Some 5,000 illegal firearms and a huge quantity of ammunition were recovered in raids by police in different areas of the district in the last 15 years, reports APB.

Police sources told that most of these arms, which included automatic pistols, rifles and revolvers, were smuggled in from across the border. Most of these firearms were recovered from the members of outlawed parties. There are half a dozen outlawed extremist political parties in the district now, they said. A large number of the outlaws were also arrested during the period, police said. The highest number of 1,416 firearms were recovered in 1986, followed by 153 in 1996 and 504 in 1991, they said.

BNP candidates sweep bar assoc poll

SIRAJGANJ, Feb 5: Pro-BNP candidates swept the annual elections to the Sirajganj District Bar Association, bagging 15 out of 17 posts including those of the president and the general secretary, reports APB.

The newly elected President of the Bar Association Advocate Mobarak Ali polled 124 votes defeating his AL-backed contender Advocate Abdur Rahim, who got 119 votes. Advocate Rafiq Sarkar, who is also a member of the Human Rights Enforcement Society in Kamarkanda thana, was elected general secretary with 129 votes. His Awami League-backed contender Advocate Shah Alam David polled only 111 votes, out of total 244 valid votes counted. Awami League backed contestants Advocate Rajab Ali Sarkar and Advocate Moazzam Hossain have been elected councilors of the new Executive Committee.

Telecom system in pitiable condition

MADRIPUR, Feb 5: Telecommunication system in the town continues to be in a pitiable condition, reports APB.

Local subscribers can hardly make a telephone call outside the district. Although installation of another 200 new lines has been completed, no new connection is being given due to lack of decision by higher authorities, local T&T officials said. The government, as a result, is losing revenue of at least one lakh taka every month, sources in the local T&T office said. The local NWD system has become almost inoperable. There are only eight incoming and outgoing channels, most of which remain out of order. The worst sufferers are local journalists.

Hunting of guest birds continuing

PANCHAGARH, Feb 5: Hunting of guest birds in violation of a government ban has been continuing in the five thanas of Panchagarh district, reports APB.

Birds locally known as Balihash, Chakha, Manikjora, Gangabutbar, Narundi, Cheema, Grover, Karali, Pankauri, Sarali, Kora, Chamahash, Perihash and Banbakh usually fly into Panchagarh and neighbouring districts from colder regions in Siberia, China and the Himalayas during the winter. Bird hunters, especially those residing in the urban areas, are hunting the guest birds, local people alleged. Most of the hunters happen to be highly placed government officials and so nobody dares to challenge them, they said. These guest birds are found in Karatoya, Mahananda, Tangon, Bhera and Gabur rivers as well as in numerous canals, beels, haors and jungles.

Nine Sampans looted

JHALAKATI, Feb 5: Pirates took away about one lakh taka in cash and valuables from nine engine-driven Sampans at Phultala in Barisal district in broad daylight on Sunday last, reports APB.

The Sampans were going to Jhalakathi with unrefined salt and other goods from Chokoria in Cox's Bazar, police said. The pirates, numbering about 15 came in an engine boat and swooped on the Sampans firing blank shots. They got on board the boats one after another, beat the boatmen and looted money and all the goods except salt. When some local journalists inquired about the incident, the boatmen said that hundreds of people saw the incident from both banks of the river, but none came forward to help them. The boats laden with salt reached Jhalakati on Sunday afternoon.

Five fishing boats looted

NOAKHALI, Feb 5: In a series of swoops, pirates looted valuables, including nets, spare parts and fish, from five fishing boats in the river Meghna on Monday, reports UNB.

Fishermen alleged that masked robbers attacked a fishing boat in Ramgati thana of Laximpur district on Monday and looted its engine and nets, tiding up the fisherman. On the same day, 20-25 pirates swooped on three fishing boats in Charpate area and made off with nets and spare parts worth about Tk three lakh. At Charbata in-between Sadar and Hatia thanas, pirates looted fish and nets worth about Tk 1.5 lakh from a fishing boat. Accusing police of inaction, fishermen associations of the two districts have urged the higher authorities to take effective measures to check piracies in the river.

Export-import thru' Satmasjid falls

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Feb 5: Export-import through Sonamasjid land port is marking a gradual fall for lack of a warehouse, reports UNB.

"Both exporters and importers have lost their interest to use the land port for lack of warehouse facilities," said an exporter. He said a huge quantity of goods, including exportables, are damaged in the port every year as those have to be piled up under open sky in absence of a warehouse. Meanwhile, some importers and exporters have built godowns in the area on their own initiatives in order to protect their goods. During the last year's devastating flood, the importers and exporters had suffered colossal loss as a huge quantity of goods damaged by the prolonged flooding. Officials said construction of a government warehouse has become essential for smooth holding of goods in the port.

IRRI-Boro farming hampered

SYLHET, Feb 5: Cultivation of IRRI-Boro on about 4,000 acres of land in Kanaighati thana is being hampered during the current season due to lack of irrigation, reports UNB.

Local farmers said they used to irrigate their lands in 138 mouzas of nine unions using water of different rivers, canals and beels. But this year almost all the water bodies dried up making it impossible for them to irrigate the croplands. The farmers complained that many pumps provided by the government for irrigation are not being used for unknown reasons.

Prospect of 'Rabi' farming bright

MANIKGANJ, Feb 5: Bangladesh Krishibank (BKB) and three commercial banks will disburse Taka 22,30,31,000 as agricultural loan in Manikganj district in the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

According to an official source, BKB will disburse 1,350 crore, Sonali Bank Taka 6,10 crore, Agrani Bank Taka 2,24 crore and Janata Bank Taka 4,6 lakh. The distribution of loan is in full swing and more than Taka 17 crore has already been disbursed. Crops of several crores of taka were damaged by this year's devastating flood and the farmers have been striving to recoup loss of last year's natural calamity. Agriculture Extension Department officers and farmers said, prospect of this year's 'Rabi' crops is bright in Manikganj district.

Fire at UK citizen's house in Sylhet

SYLHET, Feb 5: Valuables, including foreign currencies and two British passports, were gutted in a fire in East Shahi Mosque area of the town on Monday, reports UNB.

The fire originated from an electric short circuit in a tinshed house of a Bangladeshi-born British citizen, burnt down property worth about Tk four lakh, firebrigade sources said. On information, firefighters rushed to the spot and put out the flame with the help of local people.

26 uplift projects being implemented

TANGAIL, Feb 5: Tangail Zilla Parishad is implementing 26 development projects in the district in the current fiscal year at a cost of Taka 55.76 lakh, reports BSS.

Official sources said, under this programme construction of roads, culverts, boundary walls of graveyard and educational institutions and repairing and reconstruction of Union Parishad Bhaban will be done. The work will be completed by May this year.

BRDB loan disbursed

CHHAGALNAYA (Feni), Feb 5: Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) has distributed a total of Taka 2,65,33,273 as loan through 102 co-operative bodies among the farmers and landless men and women in Chhaglanayya thana during the last six months of the current financial year, reports BSS.

According to BRDB sources, the loan was disbursed among 6,624 members of 102 cooperative bodies under Rural Poverty Alleviation Programme. The loan was sanctioned to provide financial assistance for cattle purchasing, poultry farming, small business, cattle rearing and vegetables cultivation. BRDB has so far recovered an arrear of Tk 2,41,11,868 which is about 90 per cent of the total arrear.

Aid for distressed people

PATUAKHALI, Feb 5: The Bauphal thana administration has launched a programme to distribute Tk. 63,000 to 630 distressed people in 126 wards in the thana, reports APB.

Abul Kalam Azad, TNO of the thana, told that a list with five persons from each ward has been prepared and each person will get Tk 100. Steps have been taken to ensure proper distribution of money.

— Star photo

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