

National

In Pabna

News snaps

Privatisation meet in Rangpur

RANGPUR, Feb 9: A meeting for exchanging views to create mass awareness on privatisation of industries was held at the local Circuit House here on Thursday, reports BSS.

Privatisation Board Chairman Kazi Zafarullah attended the meeting as chief guest while British High Commissioner in Bangladesh David C Walker was the special guest. Ashiqur Rahman MP, Anisul Haque Chowdhury MP, NK Alam Chowdhury MP, Privatisation Board member SM Zakaria and Director KC Shah, Press Club President Sadru Alam Dulu, FBCCI Director Golam Mostafa and Rangpur Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Mosaddeq Hossain Babu, among others, spoke on the occasion. Presided over by Deputy Commissioner Moazzem Hossain, the meeting was also attended by local elite, industrialists, journalists and officials.

Chuadanga hospital to be upgraded

CHUADANGA, Feb 9: The Chuadanga District Sadar Hospital will be upgraded from 50 bed to 100 beds. This was disclosed by the Health Minister, Salauddin Yusuf at a meeting with the elite of Chuadanga held at the conference room of the Deputy Commissioner of Chuadanga recently, reports BSS.

The minister further told that all the district level hospitals of the country will be upgraded to 200 to 250 beds gradually. He also said that the 3rd and 4th year nursing training courses will also be introduced at Chuadanga Nursing Training Centre as early as possible. The minister, who visited two thana health complexes of the district at Jibannagar and Damurhuda expressed dissatisfaction for the service standard.

Triennial confce of Krishak League

GAIBANDHA, Feb 9: Triennial conference of Gaibandha District Krishak League was held on February 2 at the local municipal park, reports BSS.

Ahmed Rashed Mosarraf, State Minister for Land and President, Bangladesh Krishak League attended the conference as the chief guest. The conference was inaugurated by Mohammad Khaled, president, Gaibandha District Awami League. The conference was presided over by Shah Ali Sardar, president, Gaibandha District Krishak League. Speaking on the occasion, Mosarraf said that the farmers have been playing a vital role in the national economy and the present government has taken various measures for ameliorating the socio-economic condition of the farmers. A new committee of Gaibandha District Awami League has been formed with Shah Ali Sardar as president and Dipak Pal as general secretary.

Bright prospect of guava farming

PANCHAGARH, Feb 9: Guava cultivation has bright prospects in Panchagarh, Thakurgaon and Dinajpur districts because of suitable climatic conditions, reports APP.

Very good qualities of guava are produced in Boda, Atowari, Thakurgaon, Birganj and Dinajpur Sadar thanas which are ideal of commercial orchards. High yielding Kozai and Mukundapuri varieties can be grown very well in the areas, horticulturists say. About 500 hectares of land are now under guava cultivation in greater Dinajpur district, about 5,000 tonnes of guava worth Tk 30 crore can be grown in these lands if scientific methods are applied, they said. A grower now gets Tk 500 to Tk 800 from a full-grown tree per year.

Potato farming exceeds target

RANGPUR, Feb 9: The target of potato cultivation has exceeded in eight thanas of the district during the current season, reports BSS.

Agriculture Extension Department said some 22,375 hectares of land have been cultivated against the target of 15,000 hectares. Of the total, 4,500 hectares of land were cultivated in Sadar, 1,600 in Kauna, 1,045 in Gangachara, 5,345 in Mithapukur, 3,240 in Piroganj, 3,200 in Pirogacha, 2,065 in Badarganj and 1,350 in Taraganj thanas. Officials said after successful implementation of the scheme a total of 4.90 lakh metric tons of potato will be produced in the district.

Teachers shortage

MADRIPUR, Feb 9: Academic life of the students of Government Nazimuddin University College here is being seriously hampered as some 25 posts of teachers have been lying vacant for long, reports UNB.

The vacant posts included nine Assistant Professors, seven Associate Professors, six Lecturers and three demonstrators. There is no Associate Professor in Philosophy, History and Political Science departments, said the sources adding that Bangla, English, Political Science, History and Philosophy departments have no Assistant Professor and Physics and Economics departments lack lecturers. Students and local guardians have urged the authorities concerned to fill up the posts on emergency basis.

Rat killing drive begins

JESSORE, Feb 9: A month long rat killing drive began from Tuesday at a simple function in the district to save the destruction of crops by the small animal, reports BSS.

Local MP Ali Reza Razu attended the inaugural function as chief guest while Sirajul Islam, Additional Director, Agriculture Extension was present as special guest. The function, held at the auditorium of thana Parishad was chaired by SM Abdus Sattar, Deputy Director, Agriculture Extension, Jessor Zone. Ali Reza Razu in his speech stressed the need for coordinated efforts to make up food deficit caused by natural calamities as well as by rats every year. He urged the participants, engaged in the drive, to work sincerely to motivate the people to make the drive a success. The drive will continue till 28 February.

Tubewells installation programme

RAJBARI, Feb 9: The Public Health Engineering Department (PHED), has launched a programme to sink and repair 332 tube-wells in three thanas of the district to supply drinking water, reports APP.

The 40-lakh taka programme will benefit about 40,000 people of Rajbari Sadar, Pangsha and Goalundo thanas, sources in the PHED said. About 211 Tara pumps and 54 shallow tube-wells will be sunk and 67 tube-wells will be repaired. Besides this, the government has allocated Tk 11.48,000 under a post-flood rehabilitation programme to ensure smooth supply of drinking water in Rajbari municipal area. ADB is providing financial assistance for the programme.

5 people with Indian wine arrested

COMILLA, Feb 9: Detective Branch of police arrested five people with 24 bottles of smuggled Indian wine from a residence in Sadar thana on Thursday, reports BSS.

Acting on a tip-off, the DB police raided the residence of Rais Mia of Sriballav village and arrested him with four others and recovered the wine from their possession. The four others were identified as Anjan Kumar Ghosh, Mofizul Islam, Shamul Islam and Alamgir Hossain. All the arrested were sent to jail custody.

Official documents stolen

RAJSHAHI, Feb 9: Important official documents of the district Registry office were stolen on Tuesday night, reports BSS.

Rajpara thana police on Wednesday nabbed Shanker Kumar, a night guard of the office, on charge of involvement in the incident. An official of the office admitting the incident said that the miscreants, engaged in deed forgery, managed to take away their valuable documents by breaking open the chest of the dilapidated office room. It may be mentioned here that similar undesirable incident occurred in which the volume no 265 of over 100 documents compiled in 1975 was also stolen. An organised gang of criminal deed writers with some interested people are engaged in making fake and forged deeds with a view to grabbing the land of genuine owners.

2,791 crime recorded in Comilla last yr

COMILLA, Feb 9: A total of 2,791 crimes were recorded in 12 thanas of the district in the last year, police said, reports BSS.

Police, however, arrested 3,634 people from different parts on various charges during the period. The crimes included 283 theft, 106 smuggling, 81 killing, 85 relating to drug abuse, 70 torture on women, 57 armed vandalism, 105 riot, 30 rape, 35 abduction, 27 robbery, eight harassment by police and other crimes 1,903. According to statistics, about eight crimes were committed on average in the district per day and one was killed after every four days. Police said during the year 1997, some 2,778 crimes were committed in the district.

Loan for jobless youths

MADRIPUR, Feb 9: Kalkini thana office of Youth Development Directorate has disbursed an amount of Taka one crore 15 lakh 19 thousand as loan among 1,900 unemployed male and female youths during 1997-98 financial year, reports BSS.

The loan was given for creating self-employment opportunities. According to official sources, the directorate has also imparted training to the borrowers. The directorate realised outstanding loan amounting to Taka one crore six lakh 82 thousand from the borrowers in Kalkini thana during the same period. The directorate has also set up a target for the year 1998-99 to disburse Taka one crore thirty lakh for Kalkini thana. The credit will be disbursed to unemployed male and female youths for creating self-employment opportunities through income generating activities like poultry, dairy, pisciculture, cow-fattening, small business and other self-help schemes.

No progress in work for distribution of ID cards

PABNA, Feb 9: There has virtually been no progress in the work for distribution of voters' identity (ID) cards in the district since the 1996 parliamentary election, reports APP.

The programme hits snags due to alleged lack of cooperation from a section of government officials and people. Many eligible voters even refuse to be photographed, they said.

About 50 per cent of the voters were issued ID cards in the '95-'96 fiscal year. "But all work virtually remained stopped since the '96 polls", Abdus Sattar, who is officially linked

with the programme, told this correspondent.

The Deputy Commissioner held a meeting on January 12 where he assured us that all-out cooperation would be extended to us by his administration, but to date we have received no help from them at all. Without the active cooperation of the administration it will be impossible to implement the programme by June, as scheduled," he said.

As per Election Commission rules, the Deputy Commissioner is supposed to play the main role in coordinating and

implementing the programme, he claimed. The district administration is also responsible for creating awareness among the people about the usefulness of ID cards, he said.

There has been an adverse reaction among the people due to sudden stoppage of the work in 1996. Many of them refuse to be photographed, another source said.

There were about 10,35,976 voters in the district in 1995. The Election Commission claims that 9,12,319 ID cards have already been prepared.



JHENIDAH: Prices have come down considerably due to abundant supply of fish in the local markets in this season. — Star photo

60 file nominations for Nilphamari Pourasabha polls

From A Correspondent

NILPHAMARI, Feb 9: Despite hartaal and obstructions by the opposition parties, the candidates of BNP and Jatiya Party (JP) filed nomination papers along with the ruling party, Awami League for contesting elections in Nilphamari and Saidpur municipalities.

Nilphamari Pourasabha is a second class municipality. Three candidates will be contesting from here. The sitting chairman Dewan Kamal Ahmed will contest with Awami League ticket, while former Chhatra Dal leader and ex-Vice President of Nilphamari College Students

ticket. BNP nominated Amjad Hossain Sarker Bhoje, who is the sitting Chairman of this municipality and a veteran BNP leader. JP nominated Izaar Rahim Coco will contest with JP ticket.

A total of 43 candidates will contest for the posts of commissioners in nine wards here, while 14 candidates will contest for the reserved three women seats.

In Saidpur Pourasabha which is a first class municipality, four candidates will contest for chairmanship. Mozammel Haque, General Secretary of Truck Owners Association will contest with Awami League

ticket. BNP nominated Amjad Hossain Sarker Bhoje, who is the sitting Chairman of this municipality and a veteran BNP leader. JP nominated Izaar Rahim Coco will contest with JP ticket.

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