

News snaps

Road accidents claim 3 lives

JESSORE, Dec 5: Three people, including a boy, were crushed to death under the wheels of speeding vehicles in separate incidents in Sarsa and Sadar thanas on Thursday, reports UNB.

Police and hospital sources said Abul Hashem, 16, a Class X student of Jamtola High School, was run over by a microbus while crossing the Magura-Satkhira road at Bagachara at about 11 am. Hashem was the son of Meher Ali of village Panchpota in Sarsa thana. A four-year-old boy, Zahid Hasan, son of Sufiuzzaman of village Balidanga in Sadar thana died on the spot when a truck knocked him down on Jessore-Narail road at about 8 am. In another mishap, labourer Abdul Malek, 35, was critically injured when a truck hit him at Sathmali Bazaar in Sadar thana on the same day. He was rushed to Jessore General Hospital, where the attending doctors declared him dead. Three separate cases were filed in connection with the incidents.

Uplift activities reviewed

NARSINGDI, Dec 5: Minister for Science and Technology Lt Gen (retd) Mohammed Nooruddin Khan on Wednesday underscored the need for implementation of the projects in due time to accelerate the pace of development, reports BSS.

Speaking as the chief guest at the meeting of Monohardi thana development project implementation committee, Nooruddin laid emphasis on the use of quality goods in implementing the development projects to help maintain the standard of works. The Minister sought cooperation of members of the implementation committee as well as the local people in finishing the development projects on schedule. Officials said, development projects worth about Taka 27 crore were implemented in building of physical infrastructures and in communication, education and health sectors in Monohardi thana during the last three and a half years. Authorities have also implemented 684 projects under rural infrastructures reforms and maintenance programme, they said.

New building for orphans

MEHERPUR, Dec 5: The government has constructed a new building for the orphans in the suburbs of the town at a cost of over Tk 1.70 crore, reports UNB.

The newly constructed building of former Shishu Sadan of the government on 2.13 acres of land has been turned into Shishu Paribar, State Minister for Social Welfare Dr Moazzam Hossain formally inaugurated the new building on November 30. Later, the state minister distributed Tk 15 lakh as interest free loan among the distressed people at the local shilpakala academy and Gangni Thana Parisad Hall.

Waz mahfil' held

TANGAIL, Dec 5: The annual 'waz mahfil' of Madhupur Barabaid Yatimkhana Madrasa was held on Saturday at its campus, reports BSS.

Alhaj Moulana Abdus Salam Rajee presided over the 'mahfil'. Eminent Islamic thinkers of the country delivered lectures on Quran and Hadith in the 'mahfil'. KH Musa Chowdhury, a donor, laid the foundation stone of a pucca mosque there. Among others, Subir Kishore Chowdhury, TNO Madhupur, AC (Land) and thana social welfare officer attended the function.

Discussion meeting

MANIKGANJ, Dec 5: A discussion was held here at the first Shaheed Minar premises on Sunday, reports BSS.

It was presided over by convenor of Language Martyr Memorial Council Mujibur Rahman. The discussion was addressed, among others, by district children affairs officer Shariful Islam and Advocate Dipak Ghosh.

Six trucks looted

NAOGAON, Dec 5: Dacoits looted six trucks at Kowatola in sadar thana on Naogaon-Badalgachi Road on Thursday midnight, reports UNB.

The armed bandits barricaded the road for two hours and looted the belongings of truckers from 1:30 am. Truck workers said police did not go to the spot even after sending message to them. Local transport workers raised barricade placing trucks helter-skelter on the roads in the bus terminal area on Friday morning, protesting the indifference of police. The agitated workers, however, cooled down after police nabbed a man identified as Sana on charge of the robbery.

Wheat allotted for uplift work

SHERPUR, Dec 5: The government has allotted 1,359 metric tons of wheat for rural infrastructure development during the current fiscal year, reports UNB.

The wheat, under Food for Work Programme (FWP) of the government, will be utilised to construct and reconstruct the roads, construction of dams and earth filling in playgrounds of different educational institutions. According to the district relief and rehabilitation department, the work on the projects will begin within next month. The wheat has already been sent to respective thanas. Thanawise wheat allocations are: Sadar-410 metric tons, Nakla-210 tons, Naithabari-265 tons, Jhenaidah-180 tons and Sreerampur-294 tons.

Tk 5.42 cr eye hospital project

JHENIDAH, Dec 5: The government has undertaken a project to establish an eye hospital here to provide eye care to the people of the region, reports UNB.

The hospital will be constructed on 1.5 acres of land near the town at a cost of Tk 5.42 crore. Social Welfare Department will implement the project, official sources said. Apart from treating eye patients, the hospital will provide education to the blind and rehabilitate them. Construction of the hospital is likely to begin soon.

23 uplift schemes progressing

PIROJPUR, Dec 5: Pirojpur Municipality has taken up a project to implement 23 schemes involving Tk 26 lakh during the current fiscal year, reports UNB.

The works included construction and reconstruction of road, afforestation, repairing of buildings and bridges and construction of pipe, boundary pillar and drain. Completion of the project, which is already underway, is expected to improve communication and drainage system in the town.

Sugarcane farming programme

MADRIPUR, Dec 5: Nearly 2,000 hectares of land will be brought under sugarcane cultivation here during the next season, reports UNB.

The production target has been fixed at 90,000 metric tons. District Agriculture Extension Department sources said the thana-wise breakup of sugarcane cultivation is: Sadar-460 hectares, Kalkini-1,050 hectares, Rajoir-120 hectares and Shibchar-350 hectares.

Pipe guns recovered

BARISAL, Dec 5: Banaripara thana police recovered two pipe guns from a pond near the women's affairs department office on Saturday, according to police sources, reports BSS.

Police arrested Firoz Hossain Talukder, Labani Khanam and Afas in this connection. A police case was lodged with Banaripara thana.

Directive to recover money

SYLHET, Dec 5: Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Accounts directed the local Sylhet Municipality to recover the money for the commissioners taken in excess of their honorarium, reports BSS.

Officials said 14 commissioners of the municipality drew Tk 35,000 from the municipal funds in excess of their honorarium in 1987-88, which was detected during the government audit. It was told that the commissioners had taken the money to meet expenses on stationery. The ministry concerned accepted the explanation and settled the matter. However, problem arose when the meeting of Public Accounts Committee rejected the proposal of the Ministry on October 28 and directed it to recover the money from the 14 commissioners of the Sylhet Pousarabha.

Priority on rural dev

LALMONI (Bhola) Dec 5: Commerce and Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed said the government is giving priority on rural based development and that's why it is providing all out assistance for building rural infrastructure and setting up small and cottage industry, reports BSS.

The government is establishing BSCIC industrial estates in these places where the people will be benefited, he said adding the previous governments had established BSCIC industrial estates indiscriminately in different areas which in fact have turned into a barren land. The minister was addressing a huge rally here with local union parishad chairman Manu Miah in the chair.

Goitre patients up in Kurigram

KURIGRAM, Dec 5: The number of goitre patients has been increasing here due to iodine deficiency and the people's ignorance of its effects, reports UNB.

According to a recent estimation, the number of goitre patients here is about 3 lakh, which majority are female.

Hundreds of women have been leading a miserable life with a big lump at their throats. The disease has also created a

social problem as unmarried girls find it hard to get married. Besides goitre, other diseases like mental disability, dwarf and dullness are also abundant here.

The main cause of the disease is deficiency of iodine in soil. Heavy downpour and recurrent flooding in the northern districts wash away the essential element of the human body from soil.

To prevent the deficiency,

the government has undertaken programme to supply iodine through salt. It is mandatory to mix iodine to the salt but a section of millers did not mix iodine in the salt. Besides, iodine-less salts are also smuggled from neighbouring country.

Due to its low price, the poor people who are also ignorant of iodine deficiency, are randomly buying and using iodine-less salt.

Locals alleged that the au-

thorities concerned are not taking any steps to check smuggling or selling of iodine-less salt.

A physician said a human being needs only 3-4 gm iodine, a chemical ingredient very essential in forming thyroid hormone for the growth of the human body.

Another report from Feni says: About 60 per cent people of three coastal districts in greater Noakhali have been suffering from malnutrition-related diseases due to non-intake of protein-rich food and mineral salt.

This was revealed in a survey conducted by some NGOs in collaboration with Health and Nutrition Department.

In some remote villages of Feni, Noakhali and Laxmipur districts up to 95 per cent people have been suffering from malnutrition, the survey said.

Female and children are the worst sufferers of the malnutrition. Some 9 per cent males, 35 per cent females and 16 per cent children have been suffering from malnutrition.

The badly hit area is Ramgati thana of Laxmipur district where nearly 97.45 per cent people have been suffering from malnutrition.

A nutritionist said a healthy man needs 43.30 gm protein daily. He said scarcity of fish is one of the main causes of protein deficiency. Once, 80 per cent animal protein comes from fish. Now, fish has become dearer in the area.

However, neither any NGOs nor government agencies have come forward to combat the situation.

Local people urged the authorities concerned to take necessary steps to boost fish production in the area to contain protein deficiency in the districts.

AL leaders urge govt

Expedite construction of four rubber dams

Mostaque Ahmed, AL leaders Alhaj Anwar Hossain, ATM Zia Uddin Zia and Jafar Alam were present at the press conference.

AL leaders said every year government has to allocate huge quantities of wheat under "Food for work programmes" to construct temporary dams for irrigation during dry season, but the dams are washed away by floods during rainy season.

Attack criticised

SHARIATPUR, Dec 5: BNP leaders at a public meeting here on Saturday urged the people to intensify their one-point movement to topple this "subservient" government, reports BNP.

Organised by the district unit of BNP, the meeting was addressed, among others, by BNP Standing Committee member Dr Khondaker Mosharraf Hossain, Sardar AKM Nasiruddin Kali, Dr KA Jalil, Yakub Ali Hawlader and SMA Altaf Mahmud. BNP district convenor of Cox's Bazar district AL

Youth chopped to death in Barisal

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Dec 5: A young man was murdered by some unidentified assailants in Billabari area, on outskirts of the town recently.

The dead was identified as Masud, 23.

Criticising police attack on

Sadek Hossain Khoka, Abdulla Al Norman and Joymohamed Faruque in Dhaka, Mosharraf said, "it was a clear attempt on the lives of the BNP leaders".

Glasuddin Ahmed said

"Awami goons" have established a reign of terror in the district, particularly in Maria thana and the terrorists are roaming around in broad daylight brandishing firearms under the shelter of a ruling party MP.

Event of district in picture



Managing Director of Loe Consultancy Services Ltd Mick Loc and Associate Consultant of Oxford Policy Management Paul Thornton recently met with Rajshahi city mayor Mijanur Rahman Minu at his office in Rajshahi. They discussed on progress of various development projects.

40 killed in 9 months in Kushtia this yr

KUSHTIA, Dec 5: In an indica-

tion of lawlessness, 40 people, including six women, were murdered in first nine months of the current year in Sadar and Gangni thanas of Meherpur district, reports UNB.

The most tragic incident took place on April 16 at Balairupur in Sadar thana where four people — Mohsin, Reasin, Nurad Ali and Ansar Ali — were killed.

The women victims were identified as Sathi, Anura Kharun, Hanula, Rubina, Parul and Fazila Khatun.

They said organised gangs of

terrorists equipped with firearms move around in broad daylight in the thanas unleashing a reign of terror.

Police said in their recent coming operation they arrested 70 terrorists and recovered 50 firearms. "But some real terrorists somehow or rather escaped arrest and are now carrying out terrorist acts," said a local elite wishing anonymity.

Uplift schemes progressing

Various development proj-

ects are progressing in Barisal, Tangail and Madaripur dist-

icts, reports agency.

Facilities Department has

been implementing 45 educa-

tion projects at a cost of Taka

7.35.65.000 in ten thanas of

Barisal district in the current

fiscal year.

According to an official

source, the government has

been financing the imple-

mentation of the projects.

The projects include the

construction of two storied

buildings for seven non-

government degree colleges,

two-storied buildings for seven

non-government Madrasas and

expansion of six secondary

schools for introducing double

shifts.

On average, 50 per cent work

on these projects has already

been completed and the rest is

expected to be completed by

April next.

Road and Highways

Department, Tangail has taken

a programme for repairing and

maintaining its seven roads in

this fiscal year.

Official sources said that

Taka 9.7 lakh has been sanc-

tized for the purpose.

The work will be completed

by this month.

The government has allotted

510 tonnes of wheat under the

Test Relief Programme to im-

plement 269 schemes in four

thanas and three pourashavas

in Madaripur district.

The schemes have been

taken up to create employ-