

## News snaps

### Asrayan project opens

RAJBARI, Dec 22: To provide shelter to the destitute and homeless people, an "Asrayan" project has been inaugurated at Tenapocha in Goalundo thana, reports UNB.

Kazi Keramat Ali MP inaugurated the project on Sunday and handed over the keys of the houses to the recipients. Six barrack-type houses for the homeless people were constructed on about seven acres of land at Tenapocha under the supervision of Army personnel. The authorities allocated 138 metric tones of wheat and spent about Tk 10 lakh for the implementation of the Tenapocha Asrayan project, where 60 families, who were rendered homeless by river erosion, found shelter.

### 33 uplift schemes undertaken

HABIGANJ, Dec 22: In a bid to improve rural road communication, the District Council here has undertaken 33 schemes under its annual development project for the current fiscal year, reports UNB.

District administration sources said the schemes will cost over Tk 64.60 lakh. The works include bitumen coating of 14 roads, construction of one passenger shed, four culverts and three foot bridges, renovation of two temples, repairing of one Union Parishad office, one dakh bungalow and one community centre.

### 7 bridges under construction

GAZIPUR, Dec 22: In a step to develop the communication network of the district, Local Government Engineering Department is constructing seven bridges in sadar thana, reports UNB.

Construction works on the bridges at Mirzapur and Gacha unions are expected to be completed soon at a cost of Tk 5 crore. Another report from Manikganj adds: Dhaka Divisional Sports Association has sanctioned Tk 2.5 lakh for the development of five school playgrounds in sadar thana. The institutions are Garpara High School, Garpara Arzu Banu High School, Nabajam High School, Kucherchar High School and Muljan High School.

### Iftar party ends in clash

MYMENSINGH, Dec 22: An iftar party, organised by Nasirabad College Students' Union, ended in a fierce clash between two student groups leaving two people injured on Sunday, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the two students' groups fought a pitched battle over sitting arrangement in the iftar party at a place near Naonahal Kazi office. Two first year students - Uzzal and Iqbal - suffered bullet wounds in the fight. They were admitted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital in critical condition.

### BSIC takes up credit programme

BAGERHAT, Dec 22: Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSIC) has taken up a Tk 45 lakh credit programme in the district for the current fiscal, reports UNB.

It has already provided loans of Tk 8.83 lakh till November this year under its three projects, including self-employment and poverty alleviation, creating employment opportunities for 170 people, officials said.

### Coriander farming on 1,000 hectares

MADRIPUR, Dec 22: Some 1,000 hectares of land has been brought under coriander cultivation in the district, fixing the production target at 2,220 tons, reports UNB.

Agriculture officials said coriander will be cultivated on 200 hectares of land in sadar thana while 100 hectares in Kalkini, 200 hectares in Rajoir and 500 hectares in Shibalaya thanas.

### Progress reviewed

NARSINGDI, Dec 22: A meeting of the District Development Co-ordination Committee was held here at Deputy Commissioner's conference room on Sunday, reports BSS.

Rafiqul Islam, Deputy Commissioner, presided over the meeting. Science and Technology Minister Lt General (Retd) Mohammad Noor Uddin Khan attended the meeting as the chief guest. Former Naval Chief Rear Admiral Nurul Islam, and former Secretary Health and Family Planning and Chairman Janata Bank Mohammed Ali were present as the special guests. The meeting reviewed the progress of development work in different sectors including agriculture, public health, family planning and education in different thanas.

### Chief Whip inaugurates mosque

BOKSAL, Dec 22: Chief Whip Abul Hasanat Abdullah inaugurated the Khawaja Mainuddin Chisti (RA) Yatimkhana Mosque at Kashipur under sadar thana on Friday last, reports BSS.

A prayer and milad were held there on this occasion. Divisional Commissioner Yahia Molla, DIG Gazi Abdur Rahman, Deputy Commissioner M Alaudin, local leaders of Awami League, Juba League, Chhatri League and a large number of people participated in the milad and prayer. The mosque was constructed on a land donated by Chief Whip Abul Hasanat Abdullah. The construction was completed with the assistance of ex-upazila chairman Syed Kausar Hossain and poura commissioner Mafizul Islam Jantu, under the supervision of the chief whip.

### Eight schemes progressing

CHUADANGA, Dec 22: The implementation of eight schemes by the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) under its Rural Development Programme (RDP)-18, in all the four thanas nearing completion, reports BSS.

The schemes cost Taka 60.43 lakh. The four thanas are Chuadanga sadar, Alamdanga, Damurhuda and Jibannagar. According to an official source, of the total schemes, one scheme is being implemented in Chuadanga sadar, three schemes in Alamdanga, three schemes in Damurhuda and one scheme in Jibannagar. The schemes include reconstruction of seven-kilometre roads.

### Discussion on Victory Day

COMILLA, Dec 22: A discussion was held here at town hall premises organised by District Administration on the occasion of Victory Day, reports BSS.

The meeting was presided over by Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Enamul Haque, Chairman of Public Administration Reforms Commission (PARC). ATM Shamsul Haque attended the meeting as the chief guest. It was addressed, among others, by Prof Khorshed Alam, Principal Abdur Rouf, Jasimuddin Ahmed Chowdhury, ATM Mahbubur Rahman and Advocate Abu Khar.

### Tk 10.16 cr BWDB projects

BAGERHAT, Dec 22: Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) has undertaken 10 development projects in four thanas for the current fiscal year at a cost of Tk 10.16 crore, reports UNB.

Official sources said the board will construct 17 sluice gates, 11.4 kilometre cross dam and 3.91 kilometre riverbank protection work in sadar, Morelganj, Chitalmari and Mollarhat thanas. The work is expected to begin in January next. Of the total cost, World Bank will provide Tk 2.31 crore as grant for the implementation of the project.

### Road construction project

KHULNA, Dec 22: The Roads and Highway Department has taken up a programme to construct and repair fourteen roads in Khulna district in the current financial year, official sources said, reports BSS.

Over Taka 14 crore twenty lakh have been sanctioned for the purpose. Work of the project will start soon and is expected to be completed by June next. Communication system in the rural areas will be further developed after the completion of the projects.

### Spurious liquor kills man

KHULNA, Dec 22: An unidentified man died allegedly after taking spurious liquor from a bar in the New Market area here Saturday night, reports UNB.

Locals said after the death of the man by taking the liquor, the employees of the bar left the body in an abandoned condition at a nearby place. Police recovered the body but later handed over to an unknown person without conducting post-mortem. Police said the bar don't have legal license to run the restricted business. It was learnt that the bar was once a den of notorious criminal of the area, Ershad Shikder, who is now in prison.

### BHRC's discussion held

MADRIPUR, Dec 22: A discussion organised by Bangladesh Human Rights Commission (BHRC) was held here at its premises recently, reports BSS.

The discussion was presided over by BHRC President Madaripur M. Mahbubur Rahman. Principal Jalal Uddin attended the discussion as the chief guest while Prof Abdur Rob was special guest. It was addressed, among others, by BHRC Secretary, Madaripur AKM Nurun Nabi, Prof Masudur Rahman, Prof M Bashirullah, Prof M Ataur Rahman, Prof Nizamuddin and Prof Najma Sultana.

## National

# Problems grip Rajshahi goat, poultry farms

From Abdul Wadood

RAJSHAHI, Dec 22: Rajabari Poultry Farm and Goat Development Farm have been facing manifold problems for many years.

As a result, the two farms cannot fulfil the expected target.

Rajabari Poultry Farm, the only government one of its kind in Rajshahi Division, was established in December, 1981 on 15 acres of land. Out of the total lands, five acres are used for poultry farming, five acres for cultivation of foodgrains, 1.50 acres for pisciculture and 3.50 acres for forestry.

Since 1982 it has produced about 34 lakhs of chickens in 17 years at an average rate of two lakhs a year. Each chick sells at Taka 8. Private poultry farms, Non-government Organisations (NGO) like BRAC, PROSIKA and individual poultry rearers buy chicken from the farm.

At the same time, Rajabari Poultry Farm has been working for extension of poultry in private sector through providing expertise to both the individual and group entrepreneurs.

"It has proved its efficacy in meeting demands of animal protein, poverty alleviation and social development, but the government has not shown keen interest for its expansion and development," said on official condition of anonymity.

There are 20 sanctioned posts of officials and workers for the farm. Of the total, four posts of officials have remained vacant for a long time and two others are working at another place on deputation. Lack of necessary manpower has been disturbing normal functioning. It has been suggested for creation of at least 10 more posts in addition to the existing ones and immediate filling up of the vacant posts for ensuring its ef-

fective functioning.

The main problem, however, according to the concerned sources, is frequent and long-durable loadshedding. "We do not have electricity for at least eight hours everyday which seriously hampers hatching and nursing of chicken", said an official.

Loadshedding and fluctuation of voltage waste five per cent eggs, 10 per cent eggs hatch with defects and growth of 15 per cent chicken is retarded. Attack of various diseases also hampers its production.

Meanwhile, the farm has no independent hatchery. The rest house of the farm built for accommodating guests has been used as hatchery-room.

The office-buildings and quarters have never been renovated since its inception. Rainwaters ooze through some roofs of the buildings. Plasters are coming off from the walls. Herbs and shrubs have already covered some walls and roofs. Most of the buildings have become damp.

The boundary walls have no barbed-wire fencing. Thieves easily enter into the farm premises anytime at day or night and steal goods.

Official sources said, they have written to the higher authorities for solving their problems, but no positive result are in sight.

Rajabari Poultry Farm is now incurring a loss of Taka 5-6 lakhs every year. "To make the farm profitable the existing problems should be solved first and then new programmes should be taken to hatch and rear broiler varieties of chicken," said a farm official.

The Goat Development Farm is situated on only about 100 yards away from the poultry farm. It was established in 1990 on about 15 acres of land.

It was initially a development project which was included in the revenue budget in 1996.

A total of 11 officials and workers are working here.

The farm was established with a view to producing improved variety of he-goat and sell them to the farmers.

The poor people mostly from rural areas are finding it difficult to purchase old clothes as the price is more than double this year.

The hawkers are making brisk business installing temporary shops on the pavements and footpaths in main areas of the town.

A sample survey in the old clothes market showed that a woolen sweater was selling at Tk 200 as against Tk 80 to Tk 100 last year.

The farm has now about 300 goats. An official of the farm said that programmes should be taken for production of goats and fattening animals to make the farm profitable.



Innumerable shoals have emerged from Sirajganj launch ghat (jetty) to Bangabandhu Jamuna Bridge due drastic fall in water level of once mighty Jamuna.

— Star photo by Akhteruzzaman

### Man killed in clash over harvesting

Four Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Dec 22: A man was killed in a clash at village Hazramina under Shailakupa thana on Sunday morning.

The dead was identified as Huzur Ali, 52.

Witnesses said the man was killed when two rival groups clashed over harvesting on a disputed land in the village. The villagers used sharp weapons in the clash.

Huzur Ali was rushed to hospital with severe stab injuries, but attending doctors declared him dead.

### Atrai thana BTA poll

NAOGAON, Dec 22: The election of Bangladesh Teachers Association (BTA) Atrai thana unit was held here recently, reports BSS.

Prof M. Ehaque Ali and M. Mokhsad Ali were elected president and general secretary respectively.

The other elected members were: M. Belal Hossain, M. Aminul Islam, M. Abul Hossain, M. Ayub Ali, Ahsan Habib, Poritosh Chandra Saha and M. Abu Baker Siddique.

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# Eye operations in CSS hospital suspended

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Dec 22: Eye operations in the Christian Services Society (CSS)-run Abdul Wadud Memorial Hospital here have been suspended amid concerns over the use of 'spurious' BSS (Balanced Salt Solution) saline, which allegedly damaged eyesight of eight patients.

There were only 13 out of 60 patients in the hospital on Monday who asked doctors to suspend eye operations.

Patients, whose eyesight was damaged, were under intensive care and were not allowed to leave the hospital until Monday.

Denying the charge of carelessness of the hospital doctors and nurses, the hospital authorities said the saline bags were full of bacteria.

The manufacturing company, whose area manager also visited the hospital on Saturday, has neither denied the charge of the hospital authorities nor taken the responsibility.

### Shoals in Jamuna threaten river communication

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Dec 22: With the advent of dry season and lack of dredging innumerable shoals have emerged in the River Jamuna, threatening the river communication.

As the water level continues to fall movements of boats launches are being hampered seriously.

The river communication between Tarakar Sagar of Jagannathganj and Sirajganj has been facing closure threat. Boats and barges cannot take full load as the river route is losing navigability at different points, increasing transport cost.

A huge quantity of fertilisers is transported through the route. If the boat service is disrupted, cultivation in the current Rabi season will suffer serious setback, local people said.

At present, each bag of fertiliser containing 50 kg is being sold at Tk 300 in local markets against Tk 270 last week, market sources said.

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Chief Conservator of Forests

Ban Bhaban, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212

Dated: 22-12-1999

### Tender Notice

1. Tenders are hereby invited from bonafide importers/agents/dealers/suppliers in sealed envelope under Asian Development Bank Funded Forestry Sector Project as per detail schedule of requirement and specification embodied in the relevant tender document for purchasing the goods mentioned in the short schedule below.

#### Hardware to be Supplied (new)

Sl No	Item/Description	Qty
(A) 1	Personal Computer (Brand) (IBM compatible) - Pentium III 500MHz	1
2	16-button mouse for digitizer - 2 nos. CalComp digitizer, Drawing Board III - 6 nos. Summagraphics digitizer, Summagrid IV	8
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