

National

Chuadanga people face arsenic threat

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, Jan 17: The people of all the four upazilas are facing the severe threat of arsenic contamination in groundwater.

According to Chuadanga District Public Health Engineering Department sources, at the first phase water of 1,417 hand pump tubewells of all the four upazilas have been tested in the month of August last and of which contamination of arsenic beyond permissible level were detected in 250 tubewells.

The four upazilas are Chuadanga Sadar, Alamdanga, Damurhuda and Jibannagar.

In Chuadanga sadar upazila the water of 400 hand pump tubewells were tested, of which contamination of arsenic beyond permissible level have been detected in 51 hand pump tubewells. In Alamdanga upazila water of 390 hand pump tubewells have been tested, of which contamination of arsenic have been detected in 72 tubewells. In Damurhuda upazila the water of 502 hand pump tubewells have been tested and of which contamination of arsenic have been detected in 115 hand pump tubewells. In Jibannagar

upazila water of 125 hand pump tubewells have been tested and of which contamination of arsenic has been detected in 12 hand pump tubewells.

The total number of hand pump tubewells in Chuadanga district are 19,378 and of which there are 4,400 hand pump tubewells in Chuadanga sadar upazila, 6,575 tubewells in Alamdanga upazila, 5,373 tubewells in Damurhuda upazila and 3,030 tubewells in Jibannagar upazila.

Of the total hand pump tubewells, 7,969 tubewells are government and 11,409 tubewells are non-government and private.

During the last three years 16 persons have died in three upazilas of Chuadanga district by drinking arsenic contaminated water. Two persons have died in Chuadanga Sadar upazila, seven persons in Alamdanga upazila and seven persons more died in Damurhuda upazila.

The Public Health Engineering Department has sealed off all the 250 arsenic contaminated hand pump tubewells.

It is learnt that the stock posi-

tion of medicine by which the water of hand pump tubewells are tested for detecting arsenic in water are too insufficient in Chuadanga district.

It is further learnt that only water of 200 hand pump tubewells can be examined with present stock. As a result water of all the hand pump tubewells of the district could not be tested for detecting arsenic.

Impact foundation, non-governmental organisation (NGO), started resinking work of arsenic contaminated hand pump tubewells in Chuadanga district in August last, but could not succeed because they said that through resinking of hand pump tubewells it is not possible make a hand pump tubewell arsenic free. Only remedy is to install new ones. The arsenic contaminated hand pump tubewells are needed to be sealed forever.

To save the people of Chuadanga from arsenic steps are needed because water of 60 per cent tubewells in all the four upazilas of the district are arsenic contaminated.

Dilly-dallying attitude of Jessore Education Board

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Jan 17: Registration process of some one thousand examinees of SSC examinations to be held under newly launched Barisal Education Board (BEB) this year is being hampered.

The students earlier got them registered with Jessore Education Board. Schools of the students were under the jurisdiction of Jessore until the Barisal Board was set up. But now Jessore Board is making delay in sending the records to Barisal Board.

It is alleged that a section of officials and employees of Jessore Board are reluctant to send the papers in time. Some officials of BEB said Jessore Board's dilly-dallying attitude is making the registration process more complicated.

About 60,000 examinees from BEB will be appearing in the examinations of 2001.

Tk 55,000 snatched in Bandarban

From A Correspondent

BANDARBAN, Jan 17: A group of masked men numbering 14-15 snatched Tk 55,000 from an employee of Jamiluddin Group of Industries in Tarabunia area on Loma-Alkadam road in the district on Sunday.

The masked men intercepted a motor vehicle in which salesman of the company Palash Kanti Das was travelling. The gangsters also stabbed driver Monirul Alam before decamping with the money.

Embezzlement of fund in Kishoreganj

KISHOREGANJ, Jan 17: Three separate cases have been filed against former chairman and four staff members of Sadar municipality for embezzling fund and misuse of power, reports

MANIKGANJ, Jan 17: An estimated 2 lakh children are deprived of primary education in the district due to negligence of teachers, failure to supply text books and corruption by a section of education officials, reports UNB.

While visiting a number of primary schools the agency correspondents found a dismal picture and both teachers and guardians alleged of widespread corruption and irregularities in Food for Education Programme.

Non-availability of textbooks and lack of seriousness among a section of the teachers, children are getting more and more prone to TV and undesirable activities, said the guardians.

They felt that the government



Passengers have to suffer a lot due to absence of a waiting shed at Tograihat Railway Station in Kurigram district. -- Star photo

Waiting shed in rly station needed

From A Correspondent

KURIGRAM, Jan 17: In absence of a waiting shed at Tograihat Railway Station, the passengers have been facing much inconvenience.

A large number of people come to this railway station everyday, but in absence of a waiting shed they roam about aimlessly at the station for hours together.

During the rainy season and summer the scorching heat of the sun multiplies their misery. The verandah of the station is

the only place where people can take shelter. But the small verandah itself remains packed with the goods which are brought for sending to other places of the country.

There is no parcel room at the station. The lone waiting room meant for the passengers are being used for parcel room since long. People of Tograihat have urged the higher authority of Railway Department to take immediate steps for solving the problems.

2 lakh children deprived of primary education

programme of education for all by 2005 is unlikely to achieve success if the situation continues.

The education officials said 1,82,383 children are enrolled in 1,897 primary schools in the district. Of the schools, 457 are government, 126 registered, 6 unregistered, 27 community and 22 satellite.

In most schools the number of enrolled students is inflated. Some teachers on condition of anonymity admitted that many of the students enrolled in the register are either irregular or never attend the school.

Food grains are given to the students to encourage poor families send their wards to school.

Seed shortage may hit onion farming

FARMERS said, "BADC seed dealers, taking the advantage, are selling seeds at an exorbitant price, throwing us in great uncertainty.

Now, one kg local variety onion seed is being sold between Tk 700 and Tk 800 against the BADC rate of Tk 600 while the Indian seed between Tk 500 and Tk 600.

The farmers apprehend that production target will not be achieved if the situation continues.

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production target will not be achieved if the situation continues.

News snaps

Tk 4.31 looted from bank

CHANDPUR, Jan 17: Robbers broke into Janata Bank's Matlab upazila branch and looted Tk 4.31 lakh Sunday night, reports UNB.

Manager of the branch Mokhlesur Rahman said, "Although the incident took place at midnight, I was informed about it at 8 am. The bank is situated some 300 yards away from Matlab police station. A case was filed.

Female FFs' council formed

BARISAL, Jan 17: Mohila Mukti Joddha Command Council (female freedom fighters' command council) of Barisal district was formed here at a function at Barisal district unit of Bangladesh Mukti Joddha Sangsads Office on Saturday, reports BSS.

Commander of Barisal district unit of Mukti Joddha Sangsads (female freedom fighters' council) Sheikh Kubutubdin Ahmed presided over the function. A 51-member Mohila Mukti Joddha Command Council with Fazilatun Nesa Firdaus as Coordinator, Mamta Basbar and Shyamoli Saha as Joint Coordinator, and Kohinoor Begum as Member-secretary was formed.

Transformer recovered

NAOGAON, Jan 17: Police recovered a stolen transformer of Polli Bidyut Samity last week and arrested a man in this connection, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip, police raided Bakapur Sannatoli area of Chowbaria Hat in Manda upazila and recovered the transformer while it was taking away by a truck. Police nabbed Binol Kumar alias Mogla from the spot but his accomplices managed to flee the scene. A case was filed.

Housewife suffers acid injuries

SATKHIRA, Jan 17: A young housewife in Kaliganj upazila in the district suffered critical acid burn injuries on Saturday night, reports UNB.

Police said a gang of miscreants threw acid on Parvin, 24, wife of Sadek Ali of village Bandhakari, while she was sleeping in her house. She was rushed to the Kaliganj Upazila Health Complex in a critical condition. The reason behind the acid attack could not be known immediately. Police arrested two villagers Golam Mostafa and Shamsur Rahman in this connection. A case was filed with the police. According to a non-government organisation, some 272 incidents of acid throwing occurred across the country in the last year.

FFs' grand rally

PIROJPUR, Jan 17: A grand rally of freedom fighters and their children was held in the town Tuesday morning, reports UNB.

Chairman of Mukti Joddha Central Command Council Principal Ahad Chowdhury was present in the meeting organised by local Mukti Joddha Command.

A large number of war veterans including female freedom fighters attended the meeting chaired by district unit president Shafuddin Ahmed. Speaking on the occasion Principal Ahad Chowdhury called for greater unity of the freedom fighters.

Workshop for journalists

KHULNA, Jan 17: Twenty-five journalists from different districts of the division are taking part in a workshop on gender issues which began on Sunday at the city's officers club auditorium, reports BSS.

The five-day workshop has been arranged by Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) under Policy Leadership and Advocacy for Gender Equality Programme of Women and Children Affairs Ministry. Divisional Commissioner MA Taher inaugurated the workshop as chief guest.

Old man killed in clash

BRAHMANBARIA, Jan 17: An old man was killed and five people were injured in a clash over a minor dispute at Shambari village in Kashba upazila Sunday, reports UNB.

The deceased was identified as Chand Mia Bhuiyan alias Chunnun Bhuiyan, 65. The clash between two groups of villagers took place over Tk 40. A case was filed.

Prices of warm clothes up

MADARIPUR, Jan 17: Prices of secondhand warm clothes have shot up in local markets as the severe cold continues to sweep the district, reports UNB.

A secondhand sweater, which was sold at Tk 40-50 two weeks back, is now selling at Tk 100-120. Prices of various quilts and mattresses have also gone up in the market. A piece of cloth used for quilt was sold at Tk 15 a month back and now is selling at Tk 25-26 per yard. Cotton price has also marked a rise by Tk 10-15 per kg.

Two killed in road mishaps

NAOGAON, Jan 17: Two people, one of them an SSC candidate, were killed and two people injured in separate road incidents in the district recently, reports UNB.

Police said Anwarul Islam Prince, 16, an SSC candidate and son of A Samad of village Chakla in Mahadevpur, died on the spot when a truck hit a rickshaw in which he was travelling near a bridge on river Atrai.

In another incident, a man was killed and two others suffered critical injuries when a goods-laden tractor fell into a roadside ditch on Naogaon-Rajshahi road at Mallikpur in Manda upazila. The dead was identified as Shariful Islam, son of Shamser Ali of Chakmoter village.

Paddy procurement drive begins

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Jan 17: The government has launched procurement drive of Aman paddy and rice here to give price support to the growers, reports UNB.

Official sources said the government has fixed the target of procuring 1,590 mt of paddy and 2,920 mt of rice this year. The procurement drive that started from December 3 will continue till next month. District Food Department so far purchased 171 mt of paddy and 2,344 mt of rice. Procurement rate of paddy was fixed at Tk 8 per kg and rice Tk 12.50 per kg. There are 32 food godowns in the district.

Relief money misappropriated

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Jan 17: A ward commissioner of local pourashabha allegedly embezzled relief money allocated for the flood-affected people, reports UNB.

Locals alleged that commissioner of ward-number 12 Suzauddin embezzled the relief money after distributing a small amount to his relatives instead of genuine flood affected people. Agitated people brought out a protest procession Sunday and submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner demanding probe into the matter.

Four alleged rapists held

JESSORE, Jan 17: Police arrested four alleged rapists from the town Monday night within two hours of their barbarous act, reports UNB.

Police said the arrested Ariful Islam Dipu, Saiful Islam Niru, Rezul Sheikh and Motiar Rahman took a 15-year-old girl to a house near Bahadurpur Petrol Pump and raped her at about 8:30 pm. The girl was returning home from her relative's house along with her cousin. Receiving telephone call from her cousin, Kotwali police rushed to the spot and rescued the girl but the criminals managed to flee the scene. Later, police launched a hectic operation and arrested the alleged rapists within two hours. A case was filed with local police against them.

Medical students demonstrate

BARISAL, Jan 17: Students of Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College staged demonstration on the campus on Tuesday to press home their 5-point demands, reports UNB.

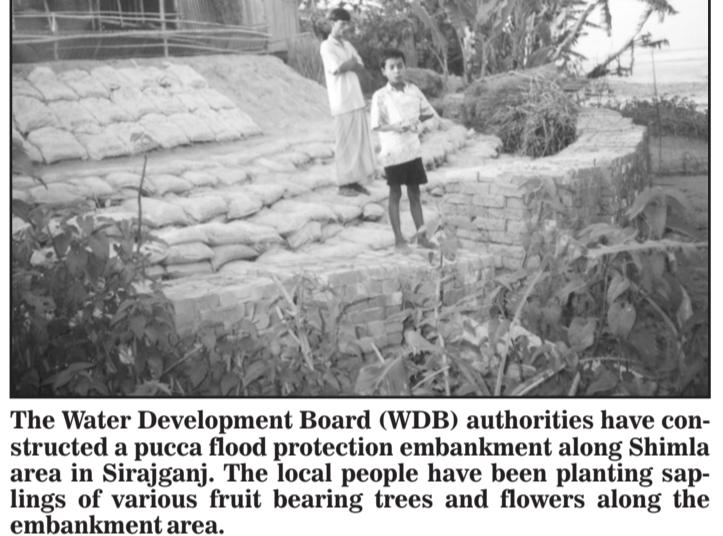
The agitated students attacked the administrative building and the principal office. They also threatened to go for a tougher action programme from January 20, if their demands are not met within the period. Earlier, they submitted a memorandum to the principal to realise their demands, which include filling up the vacant posts of the teacher, repairing of students' dormitories, adequate supply of books to the library ad taking action against the outsiders.

Timber seized

FENI, Jan 17: BDR personnel seized 195 cubic feet of Indian timber from a sawmill at GM Hat under Fulgazi upazila of the district on Friday night, report's BSS.

Acting on a secret information, BDR personnel seized the timber from the sawmill of Abdul Kuddus worth about Taka one lakh and 35 thousand.

From Our Correspondent



The Water Development Board (WDB) authorities have constructed a pucca flood protection embankment along Shimla area in Sirajganj. The local people have been planting saplings of various fruit bearing trees and flowers along the embankment area.

Beluchi-Enayetur Road, the communication will be much more easier and smoother.

On the other hand the local people have also demanded of the authorities concerned to build two pucca spars near the mazar sharif of Hazrat Khaza Shah Sufi Yunus Ali Enayetur (

Both of them were highly

factories in the gainful posts of Dewan.

Digombar Biswas was posted at Chougachha factory, while Bishnu Charan Biswas at Khalishpur in the district. But they could not stay long in their service.

In human behaviour, physical torture, oppression and labour exploitation of the poor indigo cultivators by the planters aroused their sentiment.

They rose in protest against this trade policy of the planters and began to collect manpower and train them to build up strong force against the planters.

So long the Shautal community who were engaged in the planters' factories as slaves, deserted them and joined the rebels in protest against the planters for killing their community leader Kanu by them.

This strengthened force of the rebels who regained more courage and spirit and became serious in their mission.

The Shautal community were imported by the planters from their original home in