

NEWS SNAPS

Pneumonia claims 100 babies in a month

UNB, Kishoreganj

Some 100 children died of pneumonia in 13 upazilas Kishoreganj in last one month. Family and medical sources said 30 babies died in Bhairab upazila alone during the period. Dr AB Siddique, Managing Director of a private clinic at Bhairab, told that 30-40 babies were being admitted to his clinic with pneumonia each day. He attributed the outbreak of the disease to cold weather, malnutrition and environment pollution. When contacted Dr Zahirul Haq at Bhairab upazila health complex admitted the outbreak of pneumonia but claimed that the situation was under control.

Separate incidents kill two

UNB, Barisal

Two people died in separate incidents and a businessman was stabbed in Barisal in two days.

Golapi Samaddar, 32, a housewife of village Dhandoba in Gouranadi upazila allegedly committed suicide by taking pesticide on Wednesday. Golapi took poison failing to endure acute pain in her abdomen. She was rushed to upazila health complex where the attending doctors declared her dead. Santu Talukdar, 25, of Londa village in Kalapara upazila of Patuakhali fell seriously sick after taking country made liquor Tuesday night. He was rushed to Bansal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital where he died Wednesday morning. Businessman Shafiqul Islam Swapan, 28, of Muladi upazila was stabbed by some extortionists at his house Tuesday night for refusing to pay them Tk one lakh toll. He was admitted to the same hospital.

Three-year-old boy drowns

UNB, Patuakhali

A three-year-old boy was drowned in a pond at Shabuzbag of Patuakhali town on Wednesday.

Family sources said Suman, son of Sobhan Miah, fell into the pond while playing at the premises of his house. He was taken to local hospital, but the on-duty doctors declared him dead.

Nine injured in road accident

UNB, Sunamganj

Nine passengers including two women were injured when a tempo collided with a minibus at Boglarkara on Sunamganj-Diril road in Tuesday.

Of the injured, Ali Noor was admitted to Sadar Hospital in a critical condition. Others were released after first aid.

51 AL leaders, workers surrender

UNB, Rangpur

Fifty-one Awami League (AL) leaders and workers of Sujanar upazila were sent to jail hajat Thursday, as the Magistrate Court rejected their bail prayers.

Earlier in the day, the AL leaders and workers, including BCL leader Aminul Huq Bakku, surrendered to the court seeking bail. They were wanted in a number of cases.

67 marriages solemnised in a day

UNB, Sunamganj

Following a remour, some 67 marriages of Hindu Community were solemnised in Sunamganj town on Thursday.

According to the remour, no marriage would take place in the Bengali year of 1409, as it is the "mal year" as per the Hindu calendar. The large number of marriages in a same day created an acute shortage of Hindu purohita priests for solemnising the marriages, bridal parties, musical instruments and decoration items.

23 motorcycles, valuables gutted

UNB, Rangpur

Twenty-three motorcycles and valuable documents, including books, were gutted in a fire at the Sadar Upazila Primary Education office Wednesday.

On information, firefighters rushed to the spot and put out flame after five hours of hectic efforts, but they could not ascertain from where the fire originated. A five-member enquiry committee, headed by Additional Deputy Commissioner Santosh Ronjon Talukder, has been formed to probe into the fire incident.

Soft loan for farmers

UNB, Rangpur

Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) under its Rural Poverty Alleviation Programme so far disbursed Tk 6.27 crore among 6,558 farmers in Rangpur.

The soft loans were disbursed through 240 cooperatives for cattle rearing, poultry farming, pisciculture and small business in Sadar and Kaunia upazila. Official sources said the board has also realised Tk 4.51 crore from the borrowers till December 2001. Under the supervision of BRDB, the cooperative group members have built up capital amounting to Tk 50 lakh and deposited Tk 26.47 lakh to the group fund.

Four women raped in Satkhira last month

ABU AHMED, Satkhira

Four women were raped in Satkhira last month. According to police, a teen aged girl was raped by a miscreant at village Madra in Tala upazila on February 3.

The victim of village Kalagachha in Tala upazila went to her relative's house at Madra village where at dead of night Prakash Mondal, son of Surya Ranjan Mondal of village Kalagachha of the same upazila raped her.

A case was filed with Tala police station. Police arrested Prakash Mondal in this connection.

On February 5 a housewife, mother of two was raped by a group of miscreants at village Khalia in Assasumi upazila.

According to police sources, the victim of village Khalia in Assasumi upazila was gangraped by a group of miscreants who identified themselves as police personnel. They entered into the house and raped her in front of her children at dead of night.

A case was filed with Assasumi police station. None was arrested in this regard.

In the other incident a housewife was raped by a

group of miscreants at village Kharlati in Assasumi upazila on February 12.

According to police sources, the victim of village Kharlati in Assasumi upazila was raped by Abdulllah Gazi, 30, son of Dalluuddin and Saifullah, 31, son of Sahiluddin, both of village Kharlati one after another.

In absence of her husband, the miscreants entered into the house at about 6.30 pm and raped her.

A case was filed with Assasumi police station. None was arrested in this connection.

On February 15, a housewife was gangraped by a group of miscreants at village Kamarali in Kalaroa upazila.

Police said, the victim while sleeping with her husband in her house, a group of miscreants namely Sabur Khan, Hasan Mollah and Nazrul Islam, all of village Kamarali entered into the house forcibly and raped her one after before her husband. They threatened the couple not to file any case.

A case was filed with Kalaroa police station. Police arrested Sabur Khan and Nazrul Islam in this regard.



The 43rd centre of Aptech Computer Education was opened in Naogaon recently. Sheikh Khurshid Alam, Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Naogaon was the chief guest while M Ibrahim Khalil, Area Business Head of Aptech Worldwide Bangladesh Ltd presided over the ceremony.

Hospital for heart patients in private sector in Moulvibazar

RAJAT KANTI GOSWAMI,
Moulvibazar

A modern 40-bed hospital for heart patients will be established soon in Moulvibazar town in private sector.

Poor and under privileged heart patients will get treatment free of cost. It will be the first specialised hospital in private sector in Sylhet region with all modern facilities.

The clinic will be run by professional hospital managers recruited from blue chip company on trial basis for a minimum of two years.

Three brothers living in United Kingdom (UK), Ahmed Ali Sultman, managing director of the proposal hospital 'Heartbeat Clinic Ltd.', Mahmud Ali and Azmal Ali directors of the clinic organised the press briefing to inform the local journalists about their initiatives.

Their village home is in Borhat

near Moulvibazar town. Their father died of heart attack a few years back. So, they want to do something for the heart patients, they said in the press conference.

A multi-story modern building will be constructed on 51 decimals of land donated by them.

A roof-top heli-pad to enable landing of helicopters for the seriously sick patients will be built.

The clinic will be run by professional hospital managers recruited from blue chip company on trial basis for a minimum of two years.

The organisers urged the people of Moulvibazar and Sylhet region to help them in their endeavour.

running of the clinic on day to day basis.

Equipments will be imparted from Europe and other parts of the world.

The clinic will be financed by donations and gifts from around the world. A charitable organisation office will be set up in London and Bangladesh to raise funds to run the free care treatment centre in the proposed clinic.

An amount of Tk four crore has been managed at the initial stage from their own resource. Of this Tk two crore will be spent for installation of medical equipment and machinery and the rest Tk two crore for construction of the building.

The organisers urged the people of Moulvibazar and Sylhet region to help them in their endeavour.

Problems grip RU Medical Centre

RU CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Manifold problems have gripped the Rajshahi University Medical Centre.

It was established with the objective of rendering healthcare service to about 30 thousand students, officials-teachers and their family members, but it has failed totally to serve them.

Though there are 21 medical officers in the centre, yet most of them remain absent in the cewntre. As a result a long queue is visible in

front of the few rooms of a few attending consultants. There is no specialist for ear, eye, nose or dental problem in the centre.

Students and other campus dwellers are compelled to consult the specialists in different clinics and medical chambers in the city at the cost of huge amount of money.

Sometimes many poor students suffer a lot after being failed to see the specialists.

Though there is one laboratory in the centre, but no test of blood or urine is conducted here.

The X-ray machine remains inoperative for a long time, but no initiative has been taken till filing of this report for repairing it.

There are only two ambulances in the center. But the ambulance meant for female students is always kept in the VC's lounge.

Therefore, most of the time the campus dwellers suffer a lot and are compelled to hire public transports at higher rate in critical moments. Most of the students alleged that sometimes the doctors wrongly treat the patients.

The reason behind the murder could not be known. A case was lodged with Magura Sadar thana in this connection.

Feasibility study on Comilla flood control project

UNB, Comilla

The feasibility study on the south Comilla-north Noakhali flood control and irrigation project in Chittagong upazila in the district has been completed.

Bangladesh Water Development Board is implementing the project at the cost of Tk 226 crore.

After the completion of the project, some 3.17 lakh hectares of land of Comilla, Chandpur, Noakhali, Feni and Laxmipur districts will be protected from flooding.

Water Resources Minister Eng LK Siddiqui recently visited the project site.

One stabbed to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

One person was stabbed to death by unidentified assailants at Doarpur area in the town recently.

On information, police recovered the body of Jafurul Islam, 40, and sent it to the hospital for autopsy. The body bore several stab injuries.

The reason behind the murder could not be known. A case was lodged with Magura Sadar thana in this connection.

DIRECTORATE OF CONTINUING EDUCATION (DCE) BANGLADESH UNIVERSITY OF ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY BUET

Workshop on ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AND POLLUTION PREVENTION ISSUES AND INITIATIVES

Date & Time : 12-14 March, 2002 9:00AM to 5:00PM

The Chemical Engineering Department at BUET is pleased to announce the Second Workshop on the above topic under the Linkage Program between BUET and NCATSU (North Carolina A&T State University), USA. This particular workshop is concerned with issues and initiatives covering environment and pollution. It will be useful to executives involved with environmental management in administration, industries and NGOs.

Resource Persons:

- Shamsuddin Hoss, Ph.D., P.E. (NCATSU, USA)
- Keith A. Schimel, Ph.D., P.E. (NCATSU, USA)
- A.K.M. A. Quader, Ph.D., (BUET)
- Alim Nishat, Ph.D., Country Representative, IUCN

Number of Places : 40

Application in plain paper with full particulars stating academic qualifications and experiences should reach the Director, Directorate of Continuing Education (DCE), BUET by 8 March, 2002. Detail information can be obtained at the office of DCE, BUET.

Course Fee : Tk. 3,000/- per person
Payable by Bank Draft/Pay Order/Crossed Cheque in favour of Director, BRTC, BUET

Course Coordinator :
Professor A.K.M. A. Quader, Dept. of Chemical Engg, BUET
Tel : 9665650 Ext. 7308 email : quader@che.buet.edu

Prof. Dr. Md. Golam Mohiuddin
Director, Directorate of Continuing Education (DCE), BUET
Tel : 8620738; PABX 9665650 Ext. 7503 Fax : 8613026
GD-160 NO - DR-148 (3) email : dirdce@dce.buet.edu

Move to popularise maize cultivation in two dists

UNB, Narsingdi

Maize cultivation can play a vital role in transforming traditional agriculture into commercial farming because of its multiple use and economic benefit.

According to experts, crop diversification has been given priority after Bangladesh achieved near self-sufficiency in rice.

Maize cultivation is gaining popularity in Narsingdi and Kishoreganj. For the last seven years the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) is trying to cultivate the crop in large scale and motivated a good number of farmers.

They also set up several demonstration plots in the two districts to popularise cultivation of the crop.

Maize ranks second to wheat in world cereal production followed by paddy, which is most widely grown crop among the major crops.

According to the DAE, maize is being cultivated on 500 acres of land in Narsingdi and per acre yield is 15 to

18 tons.

The maize plants collect food and water for its existence and maturity from deep layer of the soil and pest attack is comparatively low.

Maize cultivation method is very easy and production cost is comparatively low. It can be cultivated at any time of the year. Naturally it gives the highest production in the Rabi season (November to April) and Kharif season (March to July).

Maize is nutritional cereal and various delicious and nutritious foods can be made with maize flour mixing with wheat flour.

Maize is also nutritious for cattle and poultry birds. It is industrially used too. Corn oil is the super fine edible oil of the world, which is extracted from maize and the oil is used for preparing acetic acid, alcohol, paint, artificial rubber, gunpowder and medicine.

Besides maize is the only crop which contains magnesium, potassium and sodium chlorine. For this reason maize is being cultivated as an enriched food.

Bazaars in Netrakona in bad shape

UNB, Netrakona

Most of the hats and bazaars of Netrakona are in dilapidated condition causing immense sufferings to the inhabitants.

There are 450 hats and bazaars of different sizes in 10 upazilas of Netrakona. The population of the district has increased over the years but no expansion as well as development of these bazaars has taken place.

Lack of proper maintenance and development work by the

authorities concerned is the main reason behind the gradual deterioration of the condition of these rural markets, locals alleged.

The situation worsens in the rainy season when most of these markets go under knee-deep water and become muddy and slippery due to lack of proper drainage system. Besides, shortage of accommodation is also acute in these markets.

Besides, filth and garbage are stored day to day in the markets and as a result, the people are forced to respond to the call of nature in the roadsides and open places situated in the environment.