

NEWS SNAPS

Workshop on prevention of human trafficking**UNB, Brahmanbaria**

A daylong orientation workshop on prevention of woman and child trafficking was held in Akhura upazila here Thursday.

Voluntary organisation Aid with the assistance of NORAD organised the workshop under the coordinated programme for child development and prevention of child trafficking of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs. A total of 35 union parishad (UP) chairmen, teachers, journalists and activists of non-governmental organisations (NGO) took part in the workshop.

The workshop emphasised on raising public awareness for prevention of woman and child trafficking.

Work on four UP**complex bldgs completed****UNB, Panchagarh**

Local Government and Engineering Department (LGED) finished construction work of four union parishad (UP) complex buildings involving Tk one crore in Panchagarh.

Local people will get all kinds of facilities, including health, agriculture and education, from the newly constructed UP buildings at Baroshahi, Chilahati, Satmera and Balorampur.

Erosion protection work progressing**UNB, Madaripur**

Work on a project to protect the Tekerhat river port from erosion by the Kumar River in Rajoir upazila is progressing fast.

Water Development Board is implementing the project at a cost of Tk one crore. The project works include dumping of concrete blocks in the erosion-affected areas and protecting the 500-metre riverbank by constructing RCC blocks.

176 uplift projects going on**UNB, Madaripur**

A total of 176 projects are being implemented in four upazilas of Madaripur for the development of rural roads, naval communication and irrigation facilities.

Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) is implementing the projects. The projects include excavation and re-excavation of canals, and construction and reconstruction of kutcha roads in Kalkini, Rajoir, Sadar and Shibchar upazilas.

Valuables looted by bandits**UNB, Jalakathi**

Armed robbers looted cash and valuables from three houses at village Rampur in Sadar upazila injuring six people Thursday.

A gang of armed bandits numbering 7/8 entered into the houses of Shishu Halder, Dasharat Bapari and Dhiran Bapari at dead of night and looted valuables after beating the family members.

The injured are identified as Sishu Halder, 60, Kushumi Rani, 48, Dhiran Bapari, 45, Malati Bapari, 35, Dasharat Bapari, 70, and Shemol Bpary, 35.

India-bound garlic seized**BSS, Rajshahi**

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) personnel of Rajshahi sector in an anti-smuggling drive seized substantial quantity of garlic bound for India from a village near the border in Godagari upazila here on Dec 9 night, BDR sources said.

Acting on a tip-off, a BDR party from the sector headquarters went to village Char Raninagar on the border at about 11.30 pm and seized 710 kilograms of garlic worth about Tk 35,500 after raiding a house. None could be arrested in this connection. However, the seized goods were deposited with the local Customs authorities.

Uplift scheme for selected schools**BSS, Chuadanga**

The Education Engineering Department under its "Development of Selected Secondary Schools" programme has taken up four high schools in Chuadanga for development during the current financial year at a total cost of Tk 70 lakh.

According to official sources, of the total schemes, two will be implemented each in Chuadanga Sadar Upazila and Alamdanga Upazila. The undertaken schemes include construction of a three-roomed one storied class room building each in Makhaldanga Boys' High School and Alukdia Romela Khatun Girls' High School in Chuadanga Sadar and Belgachhi Boys' High School and Sebabag Boys High School in Alamdanga.

Sirajganj people remember memories of Liberation War

AKHTERUZZAMAN BABLU, Sirajganj

Sirajganj Liberation Day was observed here on Saturday (December 14). People remembered the memories of the Liberation War days through befitting programmes.

Sirajganj was freed on this very day in 1971 from the occupation of the Pakistani Army.

Local unit of the Muktiyoddha Sangsad brought out a procession led by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ibadat Ali, who is also the chief patron of the organisation. The procession paraded the main thoroughfares of the town. District unit commander of Muktiyoddha Sangsad Gazi Alauddin, former commander Gazi Lutfar Rahman Arun, Sirajganj town four-party convener Azizur Rahman Dulal, former president of Sadar thana BNP Mokbul Hossain Chowdhury, Muktiyoddha Sangsad joint convener Abdul Aziz Sarker and others participated there.

On the occasion a discussion meeting was held at the Muktiyoddha Sangsad office where the discussants remembered the heroic deeds of the great sons of the soil. A milad mahfil was also held at 3 PM in the Muktiyoddha Sangsad office on the occasion.

The Pakistani occupation forces launched a crackdown on innocent people in the district on April 25. But the occupation soldiers faced stiff resistance on the first day at Sirajganj town, the then sub-divisional headquarters. Members of the Sechhasebak Bahani, a voluntary organisation built a strong resistance against the occupation army. They halted a train carrying Pakistani soldiers in Gatina railway bridge area.

However, the soldiers finally defeated the patriotic force and killed hundreds of innocent people, including women and children. They destroyed a good number of dwelling houses and business establishments. Biharis and activists of Muslim League joined the Pakistani forces. They also killed many

prominent figures in the town. The army captured all the nine thana headquarters by April 26, 1971. The Pakistani forces set up their camps at government buildings in the town.

Following the crackdown people fled the town. Most of them took shelter in villages and neighbouring India. Thousands of young men left the country for India to take military training. Many also stayed in the country and organised people to fight the Pakistani forces.

Lutfar Rahman Arun was assigned to impart training to local youths. On June 14, the training camp at Bhadrachhat in Kamarkhanda thana came under Pakistani troops' attack. Pakistani soldiers equipped with modern weapons faced a strong resistance.

In June and July the freedom fighters regained their strength. At the period freedom fighters led by Amir Hossain Bhulu, Abdul Latif Mirza, Lutfar Rahman Makhani, Ishak Ali, Alamgir Hossain, Abdul, Aziz Sarker, Abdul Aziz Mirza, Motahar Hossain Talukder and Ismail Hossain launched fierce guerrilla attacks on the occupation soldiers and their local collaborators—Razakar, Al-Badar and Al Shams forces.

Fierce battles took place in Tarash, Bhadrachhat, Boritoly Soilabari, and Ullapara thana areas. In Tarash battle on November 11, at least 100 Pakistani soldiers were killed and arrest of 11 including a Captain.

Freedom fighters Gazi Lutfar Rahman Arun, Abdul Latif Mirza, Lutfar Rahman Makhani, Alamgir Hossain, Abdul Aziz Sarker, Abdul Aziz Mirza, played important role in the battle.

Battle of Soilabari was other important battle. Advancing freedom fighters faced resistance from the Pakistani occupation forces in Sadar thana. Freedom fighter Sultan, Abdul Aziz, Samad, Safor, Rabial, Shahed, Abdul Khaleque embraced martyrdom. Freedom fighters entered Sirajganj town at midnight on December 13 and conquered the then sub-divisional headquarters.

Bazaars in Satkhira in bad shape

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Most of the village markets in seven upazilas of Satkhira district are in bad condition. This is due to lack of proper maintenance.

As a result, people have to suffer a lot.

There are 256 bazaars in Seven upazilas of the district.

The bazaars are Bardar bazaar, Pratapnagar bazaar, Khajra bazaar, Bangdah bazaar, Khajra bazaar, Patkelghata bazaar, Jethua bazaar, Jatpur bazaar, Shuvashini bazaar, Mithabari bazaar, Islamkati bazaar, Sigansa bazaar, Mela bazaar, Tala bazaar, Khalishkhali bazaar, Magura bazaar, Nazimgonj bazaar, Nalta bazaar, Rotompur bazaar, Iswaripur bazaar, Dhalbaria bazaar, Baliadanga bazaar, Mathureshpur bazaar, Bhatsala bazaar, Shapmaphul bazaar, Parulia bazaar, Gazirhat bazaar, Debhata bazaar, Kulia bazaar, Baher bazaar, Town Sreepur bazaar, Munshigonj bazaar, Noor Nagar bazaar Ranjan Nagar bazaar, Burigoalini bazaar, Noabeki bazaar, Kaikhali bazaar, Agardari bazaar, Jhhowdanga bazaar, Banshdah bazaar, Baikari bazaar, Akhrakola bazaar, Madhab Kati bazaar, Dhulihar bazaar, Rejuji bazaar, Alipur bazaar, Babulia bazaar, Kazirhat bazaar, Sonabari bazaar, Gaira bazaar, Hijaldi bazaar, Ramkrishnapur bazaar, Baliadanga bazaar, Sarashkati bazaar, Dumdum

bazaar, Bamankhali bazaar and Joynagar bazaar.

The authorities earn a handsome amount of revenue every year leasing out these bazaars. But it is widely alleged that development work is hardly seen in these bazaars. In most bazaars, the sellers carry on their business activities under the open sky braving the sun or the rain.

Sometimes they use polythene papers to save their goods from showers. But they have to pay tolls regularly. In the rainy season most of the bazaars go under water resulting in stoppage of business activities. After slight rains the bazaar areas become muddy hampering smooth activity of traders.

In most bazaars, leaseholders collect more toll violating the rules. They continue such bad practice without facing any opposition from anybody. In many cases leaseholders collect toll without giving any receipt to the buyers. In many bazaars, sellers sit on the roads with their commodities due to shortage of accommodation creating traffic jam and hampering activities of the markets. Filth and garbage are seen piled up here and there which emit bad smell, threatening public health.

Absence of pure drinking water in markets is another problem. Though the authorities are reluctant to develop the bazaars, yet they raise toll every year.

Most of these markets were established at local initiatives, but these are not maintained in proportion with the demand of the ever growing population.

Launch still a cheap mode of transport



PHOTO FEATURE: A K M MOHSIN

Launch journey in the southern districts is more or less pleasant. Its fare is also comparatively cheaper than any other mode of transport. As for example any launch passenger can visit Barisal from the capital city at Tk 20-30 only. Over 100 two or three-storied launches made of local technology ply to and from Sadar ghat in Dhaka and Barisal, Patuakhali, Barguna, Bhola, Char Fassion, Lal Mohon, Khulna, Hularhat, Bhandaria, Sarupkathi, Bagerhat, Faridpur and Madaripur. The launches start journey from the capital city to different routes from 6 in the evening till 10 at night. Usually upper class passengers travel in cabin while deck is for the economy class passengers. There are arrangements for taking meals in restaurants inside the launches. Many passengers take their seats on the roofs while some others spend time playing card with fellow passengers or watch television (TV) programme at night. Most of the passengers fall in deep sleep during their journey by launch.

UP polls in Sirajganj from Jan 25 to Mar 4 next year

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Election to 80 union parishads (UPs) in Sirajganj is scheduled to be held from January 25 to March 4 next year.

A meeting, held in the Deputy Commissioner's (DC) office on Saturday, with DC Ibadat Ali in the chair announced the election schedule.

Of the total, election in 10 UPs in Kazipur upazila will be held on January 25 and 27 while polling in nine UPs in Raiganj on January 30, polling in eight UPs in Tarash on February 2 and election in 13 UPs in Ullapara on February 4 and 6.

Election in four UPs in Kamarkhand is scheduled to be held on February 8, polls in 13 UPs in Shahjadpur on February 19 and 22, election in seven UPs of Chouhali on February 25 while in six UPs of Belkuchi on February 27 and in 10 unions of Sadar upazila on March 2 and 4.

Election of Monsumagar and Chargram UPs in Kazipur upazila would not be held due to election related cases.

1,48,848 MTs of boro output target fixed

UNB, Chapainawabganj

Some 43,800 hectares of land will be brought under boro cultivation with an output target of 1,48,848 metric tons (MTs) of paddy this season.

Of the total land, 43,200 hectares will be brought under high yielding variety while 600 hectares under local variety.

According to Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), 11,100 hectares will be cultivated in Sadar, 11,400 hectares in Shibganj, 12,000 hectares in Gomostapur, 5,000 hectares in Nachole, 4,300 hectares in Bholahat upazilas.

Tomato traders lust for profit

UNB, Panchagarh

Harmful chemical is being used to ripen tomatoes in Panchagarh.

A section of unscrupulous traders are using the chemicals to ripen hybrid green tomatoes quickly for gaining extra profit from the market.

The chemical is being smuggled into the country from India and green tomatoes can be ripened within 24 to 48 hours using this chemical.

Traders buy green tomatoes from the farmers at Tk 250 to 300 per maund and sell those at Tk 400 to 500 after ripening those artificially.