

NEWS SNAPS

Soft loan for distressed

UNB, Madaripur
Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) has begun disbursement of soft loan among distressed people of Madaripur.

Official sources said the board under its poverty alleviation programme would distribute Tk 54 lakh as soft loan among the poor people, including women, in 15 unions of Sadar upazila. The borrowers are being encouraged to utilise the loan in poultry and dairy farming, goat rearing and small business.

88 road dev projects undertaken

UNB, Madaripur
The government has undertaken 88 projects in Madaripur, involving over Tk 1.75 crore, to improve road network in rural areas.

Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) will implement the projects in four upazilas in the current fiscal, officials said.

Two fugitives arrested

UNB, Sirajganj
Two fugitives were arrested from Dattapara in Sadar upazila on Sunday. On information, police raided the area and caught Wadud of BA College Road and Noor Hossain of Mahmudpur area in the town. Of them, Wadud was sentenced to 10 years rigorous imprisonment (RI) while Noor Hossain to six years jail term in separate cases.

Kutchra latrines pose threat to health

BSS, Chapainawabganj

Use of kutchra latrines have posed a serious threat to public health in different parts of Chapainawabganj.

Thousands of kutchra latrines have been set up on the banks of canals and ponds in the rural areas causing outbreak of various water-borne diseases. Chapainawabganj is regarded as one of the diarrhea prone areas in the country. The Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) source said that they had adequate stock of rings and slabs for sanitary latrines. But the rural people are not interested to rings and slabs for sanitary latrines. People in the rural areas still use kutchra latrines out of ignorance about health and sanitation, officials said.

Rice sanctioned for TR scheme

BSS, Meherpur

The government sanctioned 250 tons of rice under the Test Relief (TR) Programme for implementation of a number of schemes during the current financial year.

According to official sources, out of the total rice, 100 tons have been sanctioned for Mujibnagar upazila, 100 tons for Gangni upazila and 50 tons for Meherpur Poursabha. The sanction of rice worth about Tk 25 lakh will be utilised for the projects, which will create job opportunities in the rural areas.

Unicef health chief unhappy over poor immunisation

ROVING CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) chief for health and nutrition Dr Kaiody Weigbte expressed his dissatisfaction over success of the immunisation programme in Bangladesh.

He expressed his dissatisfaction because what he said that only 56 per cent of children were brought under the immunisation facility while about 3 million babies take birth in the country each and every year. He said this while exchanging views with the local journalists on Sunday. He came here on the occasion of a weeklong celebration of 12th anniversary of Pabna Community Clinic, a popular private organisation for providing health care to the town dwellers on community basis system.

Kaiody blamed nothing but ignorance and lack of information for poor result of the immunisation programme. He emphasised on educating people thoroughly about their basic health care. He said that in Bangladesh four out of 100 women die during child birth while the rate in the western countries is one out of 10 million women.

"The only reason behind the success of the developed countries is education which drives people to go to hospital on time in cases of any health related complication. In Bangladesh, only 20 per cent women go for check-up during pregnancy," he disclosed.

On HIV issue, he said the country is yet to face HIV as an immediate problem and Bangladesh is now there where India remained 10 years ago.

He further told that the problem is extremely expensive to deal with.

The hospitals should be provided with necessary equipment, proper and timely renovation of the operation theaters and other equipment, he suggested.

The UNICEF executive recommended for giving an urgent priority to the community based system while launching programme for people's health care and nutrition.

"A joint effort by the people and the government is a must in the current scenario of the country for betterment of the health care facility and here (the system to involve community) lies the future of Bangladesh", he said.

"The programmes will attain success when there will be people's participation. Pabna Community Clinic (PCC) is an example before us", he further said.

The UNICEF has limited resources to serve the huge number of people, yet spending US \$ 15 million in the country this year in the health and nutrition sector... and this is very poor to facilitate 130 million people of the country. So, people and the government will have to come up with joint venture programmes to solve their own problems, he explained.

An amount of US \$ 15 million will be spent for the programmes of immunisation, polio vaccination, training of the health workers and other nutrition projects, he disclosed.

The UNICEF chief also addressed a seminar on 'Role of Private Sector in Health Care' under the auspicious of the Square Pharmaceuticals Ltd at Pabna RM Academy auditorium on Sunday night.



Visitors appreciating some sarees made by the sex workers of Daulatdia in Rajbari at Payakot Bangladesh Centre where their products were on display for a few weeks. The products gained popularity within a short period.

Begum Rokeya Memorial Complex stuck in recruitment quagmire

UNB, Rangpur

Begum Rokeya Memorial Complex, constructed here one-and-half years ago, to uphold the memories of the illustrious lady is yet to start its work.

Former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the complex at Pairaband in Mithapukur upazila, the birthplace of Begum Rokeya, in July 2001.

The complex was built at a cost of about Tk 10 crore with a view to keeping alive the memories of Begum Rokeya Shakhwat

Hossain, the pioneer of women emancipation of this subcontinent.

Public Works Department (PWD) constructed the complex with funds from the Cultural Affairs Ministry. The project was implemented under the supervision of Bangla Academy.

Construction work on the complex started in 1997, 65 years after the demise of Begum Rokeya. She died in 1932.

The complex, which has a big library, one seminar room, a 500-seat auditorium, an archive, one

research room and a museum, displays the appliances used by Begum Rokeya.

Meanwhile, appointment of 10 staff, out of 13, is yet to be completed although applications for the posts were invited in January 2001.

Two guards and one gardener have so far been appointed for the complex.

Official sources said the complex would be handed over to Bangla Academy in the middle of 2003 after construction of staff quarters involving Tk 25 lakh.

536 MTs of boro seeds sold by BADC in greater Rangpur

UNB, Rangpur

Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) sold 536 metric tons (MTs) of boro seeds in greater Rangpur district in the current season.

BADC sold the seeds from its 13 sales centers through 140 dealers in five districts, according to officials.

Of the total, 130 MTs were sold in Rangpur, 110 MTs in Gaibandha, 30 MTs in Lalmonirhat, 50 MTs in Nilphamari, 100 MTs in Kurigram district.

Besides, BADC distributed 116 MTs of seeds under agriculture rehabilitation programme.

Meanwhile, BADC has taken up a programme to distribute 2800 MTs of high yielding varieties (HYV) of wheat seed - Kanchan and Protiva - in the five districts.

Teenage girl abducted, raped in Noakhali

UNB, Noakhali

Miscreants abducted a teenage girl from a village in Sadar upazila Friday and gangraped her for two days.

Acting on a tip-off, police rescued the 16-year-old girl from a shop at Tetultali in Sundulpur union Sunday in a pool of blood and arrested one of the alleged rapists, Masud, 19. He was sent to jail hajat.

Police said the hoodlums led by Masud picked up the girl from her house, took her to the shop and raped her there.

A case was filed under Woman and Child Repression Prevention Act.



PHOTO: STAR

A mourning procession in Mymensingh town on December 10 after the recent tragic incidents of bomb blasts at four cinema halls in the district town.