

NEWS SNAPS

CARE blankets, warm clothes for 30,000 cold victims

UNB, Dhaka

CARE Bangladesh has distributed blankets and other warm clothes among 30,000 cold-hit people of the northern part of the country. CARE already distributed more than 25,000 blankets and other items among the poor people. With the financial assistance of USAID, the partner non-governmental organisations (NGOs) of CARE and the Disaster Management Committees of the respective district are coordinating and ensuring proper distribution among the people.

Bus terminal work ends

UNB, Satkhira

The work on the central bus terminal has been completed here involving Tk 1.37 cr. State Minister for Commerce Barkatullah Bulu inaugurated the newly constructed bus terminal Saturday. Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) implemented the project for convenience of the commuters.

One arrested with firearms

BSS, Joypurhat

Police arrested one alleged criminal accused of several cases and seized one locally made gun from his possession from Sadar upazila on Friday. According to police sources, acting on a tip-off, a police team of Chakbarkat Police Camp raided the house of wanted accused Babu, 40, son of late Mohir Uddin of village Dugar in Sadar upazila and arrested him. They also recovered an illegal firearms from his possession. A case was filed against him with Sadar Thana Police in this connection.

Kaliganj Bridge opens

UNB, Nogaon

The work on Kaliganj Bridge on Nagor River at Raninagar upazila has been completed at a cost of Tk 48 lakh. State Minister for Housing and Public Works Alamgir Kabir inaugurated the bridge Saturday.

Computer training programme in Ctg

UNB, Chittagong

A computer training programme has been launched in Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (BSC). Shipping Minister Lt Col Akbar Hossain (retd) inaugurated the programme at the main office of the BSC on Saturday.

Clash over fishing in Magura leaves 25 injured

Our Correspondent, Magura

At least 25 people were injured, six of them critically and one house was ransacked in a clash over fishing between two rival groups of villagers at village Parwarkul in Mohamadpur upazila on January 19 morning. Locals said two rival groups one led by Ismyeel Mridha and the other by Abul Majid Fakir equipped with lethal weapons clashed over fishing in a disputed water body (beel). The critically injured Baki, 30, Ashem Shiekh, 50, Motaleb Mia, 45, Belokabiri, 40, Majid Fakir, 55, Tota Mia, 52 and Banubibi, 40, were admitted to Magura sadar and Mohammadpur hospital.

One jailed for filing a false case

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

The Speedy Trial Court, Magura on January 19 sentenced a complainant to two years imprisonment. The court also fined the convict Tk 5,000, in default, to suffer one month more in jail for filing a false case against 10 persons with a motive to harass them. Magistrate Khan Nurul Amin sentenced Khokon Chakrabarti for filing a false case accusing the people of looting his shop after its damage. In the case filed with the local Speedy Trial Court Khokon Chakrabarti alleged that 10 persons including Nannu Sikder of Niznanduali area in Magura town looted his shop after damaging it on April 25, 2002. After Judicial and police investigation the case was found false and it was filed against the accused following a feud in the area. Later Nannu Shikder, on behalf of the accused, filed a case against Khokon Chakrabarti for harassing them in a false case. The court asked Khokon to reply why legal action would not be taken against him. As the reply was not satisfactory, the court awarded the punishment to him and ordered the authorities concerned to send him to jail.

School will be used as cyclone centre

UNB, Bhola

The work on a government primary school cum cyclone centre has been completed at a cost of Tk 50 lakh at Chandipur in Tajumuddin upazila. Jute Minister Hafizuddin Ahmed Bir Bikram inaugurated the centre Friday. Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) implemented the project to protect life and property of the coastal people as well as expand education in the area.



Manirul Haque Chowdhury, a member of parliament (MP) from Comilla-9 constituency takes salute of a smartly turned out contingent of scouts at a Scout Rally at Bagmara High School in Comilla. Faizur Rahman Choudhury, National Commissioner (Cub Scouting), Bangladesh Scouts, Prof Md Abdul Hafiz, chairman, Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education, Comilla are seen in the picture. Scout leaders and scouts of 67 high schools participated in the five-day rally which began on January 22.

Essentials dear in dists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prices of essential commodities have shot up in Kushtia and Gopalganj districts bringing more hardship to people of low income group. A correspondent from Kushtia reports: Prices of different kinds of rice increased alarmingly in Kushtia. Coarse rice is being sold at Tk 13-15 per kilogram (kg) as against Tk 11-13 a few days ago. Medium quality rice is being sold at Tk 15-16 kg. Super quality rice including Nazirsaila, Minicate and some other varieties are on sale varying between Tk 16-20 and Tk 21-23 respectively. Prices of winter vegetables have also shot up sharply. Brinjal is being sold at Tk 16-15 per kg. Bean is selling Tk 10-12 kg. Price of tomato has jumped to Tk 16-18 per kg from Tk 10-13 a few days ago. Potato is now on sale at Tk 14 kg while previously it was being sold at Tk 10-12. Cauliflower and cabbage are selling at Tk. 12-13. Leafy vegetables are on sale at Tk 10-15 per kg. Different kinds of pulses like 'moog', 'musur', 'motor', 'chhola' are being sold Tk 40-46 per kg.

Soyabean is selling at Tk 48-54 per kg while mustard oil is on sale at Tk 65-70 per kg. Kerosene is being sold at Tk 24-26 per kg. All kinds of fishes are now out of the buying capacity of common people. Ruhi fish is on sale at Tk 100-140 per kilogram, Katla at Tk 60-80, Koi at Tk 250 per kg. Mutton is on sale at Tk 140-150, beef at Tk 70-80 a kg, chicken including broiler and non-broiler at Tk 65-70 and Tk 100 respectively. UNB from Gopalganj reports: Price of cylinder gas has increased by Tk 100 in last two weeks in Gopalganj district while diesel per liter by Tk 4. Each litre kerosene is being sold at Tk 22 against the previous price of Tk 17, petrol at Tk 35 against Tk 28, soyabean oil at Tk 54 against Tk 44, per kg Irri rice at Tk 13 against Tk 11, black cumin at Tk 36 against Tk 28 and pulses at Tk 46 against Tk 36. The prices of other essentials are also on the rise causing concern among the common people.

Widow killed in Gopalganj road accident

UNB, Dhaka

One woman was killed in Gopalganj, while eight others were injured in two separate road accidents in Gopalganj and

Barisal on Wednesday and Saturday. Areport from Gopalganj says: A widow was killed and a rickshaw van driver was injured in a road accident in Kuadanga area of

Gopalganj town Wednesday. Police said Anita Chintapatra, 60, of Sonabararia in Mollarhat upazila of Bagerhat district died on the spot when a truck hit the rickshaw van in which she was going to see her ailing son-in-law. Rickshaw van driver Shaheed was admitted to Sadar hospital. Police seized the truck but could not arrest the driver. A case was filed. Another report from Barisal says: Eight tempo passengers were injured, one critically, in an accident near Sagardi bridge in Barisal on Saturday. The mishap occurred when the tempo running between Barisal Launch Ghat and Rupatali bus stand collided with a power tiller and turned upside down. The seriously injured Shohag, 19, of Jhalakati district, was admitted to Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital.



PHOTO: STAR

A dance sequence from the annual drama and cultural soiree of Mymensingh Press Club. Members of the club and some local artistes participated at the function held at the club auditorium on January 20.

Demonstration at BAU Exclude Bangladesh from US list of "terror-risk" countries

UNB, Mymensingh

The teachers and students of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) organised a huge demonstration on the campus on Thursday demanding exclusion of Bangladesh from the US list of "terror-risk" countries. As part of the programme, a protest rally with BAU Vice Chancellor Prof M Mustafizur Rahman in the chair was held at Mukhtamancha. Later a procession was brought out on the campus. President of BAU Teachers' Association Prof Dr Mohammad Abdul Haq and General Secretary Prof Dr Khandaker, General Secretary of Mohila Sangha Dr Rabeya and Officers' Council President Tofazzal Hossain addressed the meeting. The speakers termed the US decision as unfortunate and insulting and demanded immediate exclusion of Bangladesh from the new registration rule of USA. The VC in his speech said the local and international vested quar-

ters have been hatching deep conspiracy to tarnish the image of Bangladesh abroad and expressed deep shock and concern at recent unexpected decision by USA with whom Bangladesh has longstanding friendly relation. He said the decision would seriously affect the growing economy of the country. People of different categories including teachers, students, officials and employees and members of various cultural organisations took part in the rally.

UP chairman candidate in Shariatpur arrested

UNB, Shariatpur

A union parishad (UP) chairman candidate was arrested from village Laukhola in Jajira upazila on Saturday. Police said they arrested Anwar Hossain alias Ainal Munshi who was wanted in a murder case. Anwar Hossain was contesting the UP election from Shaulapara union in Sadar upazila. In an instant protest, local people brought out a silent procession and staged demonstration in front of the office of the Deputy Commissioner demanding his release.

Tk 2.5 lakh valuables looted from Khulna BRAC office

UNB, Khulna

rmed robbers swooped on the office Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC), a major development organisation, in Nirala area of Sadar upazila Friday morning and looted valuables worth about Tk 2.5 lakh. Police said a gang of five robbers, all on a sudden, stormed into the office and looted two motor cycles, one color television, one bicycle, five fans and other valuables after tying up three staff members. Police Commissioner visited the spot, but none was arrested in this connection. A case was filed. Another report from Sirajganj says: Four motorbikes of BRAC were stolen from its two offices in Sadar and Belkuchi upazilas on Friday night. The thieves stole two motorbikes from in front of Sadar office after cutting fence and two others after cutting grill from Subarnachhora BRAC office. Separate cases were filed with the police, but none was arrested in this connection.