

NEWS SNAPS

Medical camp for ENT patients

BSS, Manikganj
A daylong medical camp on 'Ear-Nose and Throat (ENT)' was held at Barail Bazaar under the auspices of Taj Garden with the assistance of Society for Assistance to Hearing Impaired Children (SAHIC) and Diganta recently. About 300 ENT patients were given medical treatment and medicine of more than Tk one lakh free of cost. Dr MA Samad, Dr Nasimuzzaman, Dr M Easin, Dr Abu Taleb, Dr Jalal Uddin and Dr Shahjahan, among others, gave medical treatment to the patients. About 190 serious patients of ear and throat will go under surgical operation soon at hospital.

Stipends distributed

BSS, Chuadanga
The "Kaniz Fatema and Shahdat Hossain Joarder Education Trust" has distributed an amount of Taka 66,600 as stipend among 460 poor and meritorious students of 46 high schools, colleges and madrassah of four upazilas in Chuadanga district for 2002. The amount was distributed through cheques recently at a meeting held here at Chuadanga VJ Government Boys' High School. Syed Mahub Hasan, Deputy Commissioner of Chuadanga handed over cheques to the heads of the institutions.

Founding day of BRDB

BSS, Manikganj
A discussion on 'The role of Bangladesh Rural Development Board in Rural Development and Poverty Elimination' was held at Zila Parishad Auditorium to mark the 30th founding anniversary of the board. Golam Nabi, Deputy Commissioner was present as the chief guest while M Mosharrif Hoshain Bhuya, police super (SP), was the special guest. The function was chaired by Fazlur Rahman, Chairman, Manikganj Sadar Upazila Central Co-operative Association Ltd. Manik Lal Das, Deputy Director, BRDB produced a key note in the meeting.

Warm clothes distributed

UNB, Habiganj
Warm clothes, allocated from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund, were distributed among the cold-hit people in eight upazilas and four municipalities of Habiganj district. Relief and Rehabilitation Department distributed the winter clothes, including 1,400 blankets, 1,600 sweaters, 100 shawls and 37 jackets.

Acid attack on housewife

UNB, Pabna
A young housewife of village Katakhal in Chatmohar upazila suffered serious burn injuries in an acid attack last week, according to a delayed report. Police said miscreants hurled acid on Kohinur, 23, on the night of January 23 when she was asleep. They suspected that previous enmity might be the reason behind the acid throwing. She was being treated at the upazila health complex.

Harvesting of cotton starts

BSS, Chuadanga
Harvesting of cotton in the current season has just been started in the Chuadanga Zone of Bangladesh Cotton Development Board. According to official sources, in this season, a total of 6,647 tons of cotton are expected to be produced in the zone. A total of 5,780 hectares were brought under cotton cultivation here as against the target at 9,000 hectares. Due to adverse weather, the cultivation target of cotton in the zone in this season was not achieved.



Advocate Abdul Hamid, deputy leader of the opposition in Jatiya Sangsad (parliament) speaks at a reception at Bagmara High School ground in Laksham upazila in greater Comilla. Local Awami League (AL), its youth front Jubo League, student front Chhatra League and other front organisations on Thursday jointly accorded a reception to former member of parliament (MP) A H M Mostafa Kamal (Lotus Kamal) who has been elected a central leader of the party. Former agriculture minister Begum Motia Chowdhury was also present.

Price-hike of kerosene in Gaibandha

Adverse effect on IRRI-boro cultivation due to contaminated diesel, petrol

K M REZAU HAQUE, Gaibandha

Price of kerosene has shot up in Gaibandha. In remote village areas of the district kerosene is being sold at Tk 22-24 per litre. Dealers and retailers of kerosene oil, ignoring a government decision, have enhanced the price of kerosene on the plea of short supply.

Price-hike of kerosene, diesel and petrol will keep an adverse effect on IRRI-boro cultivation in the entire northern region. This is because irrigation is being affected due to this phenomenon.

At present kerosene contaminated fuel oil is on sale here including all other districts in the northern region. Because of contaminated diesel and petrol, owners of motor vehicles and irrigation engines fear damage to the engines.

Unscrupulous traders are mixing low cost fuel with oil of comparatively high price to earn windfall profit.

Senior vice-president of Bangladesh Petroleum Dealers Association Shahjada Anwarul Kabir informed that adulteration of fuel oil is an old problem, but fuel consumers always blame owners of fueling station. He further told that adulteration of fuel oil occurs at five points in the distribution channel.

Although Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) has taken mea-

sures against contamination of petrol and diesel, yet the price of kerosene has shot up.

Different political alliances including Awami League, Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) have been continuing their movement against the price-hike of fuel oil and LP gas cylinder. The parties are holding processions and protest meetings regularly.

Price-hike of diesel oil will adversely affect the output of IRRI-boro crops. Diesel oil is an essential prerequisite to IRRI-boro farming in the northern districts. Farmers in the flood prone areas solely depend on irrigation while producing crops.

Without adequate irrigation facilities none can expect minimum output of boro crops in this region.

Growers here will have to depend on bank loan or loan from local money lenders who demand high interest rate to cope with the situation. According to the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), there are 1000 deep tube-wells, one floating pump, 7,000 low lift pumps and 41,000 power tillers which are in service in the northern region. Besides, farmers in this region possess 3 lakh 80 thousand shallow tube-wells.

Price hike of diesel oil is likely to reduce command areas of IRRI-boro farming in the northern districts.

Jubo League activist killed in Jhenidah

UNB, Jhenidah

An activist of Jubo League, youth front of the opposition Awami League, was shot dead by unknown gunmen near his house in the municipal area here on Friday night. Locals said a gang of miscreants numbering 10-12 stormed into the house of Rezaul, 35, at about 8:15pm. They shot him dead after calling him out of his house.

When contacted, the on-duty police officer failed to give further details.

Cold spell affects vegetable plants in Gaibandha

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Prices of essentials, especially vegetables have shot up in Gaibandha district.

Continued cold spell has affected the vegetable plants causing scanty supply of different vegetables in the markets.

Price-hike of fuel oil results in additional charge in transport of vegetables. Farmers complain of attack of fungus in the plants of potato, brinjal, cauliflower and cabbage. This phenomenon leads to rotting of roots. So, all kinds of vegetables are being sold two to three times higher than the actual price.

Loan for distressed women

UNB, Rangamati

Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) distributed Tk 30 lakh among 404 distressed women during the first six months of the current fiscal year.

BRDB distributed the loan among women of Kaptai and Rangamati Sadar under poverty alleviation programme.

Over 400 women in two upazilas became self-reliant through receiving small credit from BRDB.

Worker killed in landslide in Ctg

UNB, Chittagong

A construction worker was killed and five others were injured critically in a landslide at Agrabad here Friday.

Police and witnesses said a chunk of soil fell on six construction workers who were digging earth of Akhtaruzzaman Centre, a multistoried building, at about 6pm

on the day.

As a result they were seriously injured. After their rescue they were rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital. One of them Alamgir, 24, succumbed to his injuries there.

The other injured are Sohag, Jahangir, Abdul Mannan and Nasir.

Muggers loot money, valuables from expatriate in Feni

UNB, Feni

Muggers looted US 5,000 dollar from an expatriate at Betua in Dagonbhuiyan upazila here Thursday.

Police said one lady named Sakina Khatun along with her two sons went to Dhaka airport. There they received her husband M Mosharrif Hossain who returned home from abroad. Then all of them were returning home by a microbus.

Five armed muggers inter-

cepted the microbus of Mosharrif of village Rampur in Companyganj upazila and looted dollars and gold ornaments from his possession.

The miscreants left the place along with the microbus leaving Mosharrif and his family members on road.

On information, police seized the microbus and arrested three of them Aiyub Ali, 32, Noor Muhammad, 22, and Ali Akber Manik, 30, -- but could recover the looted dollars and valuables. A case was filed.

Armed robbery at Tongi: Tk 50,000 cash, valuables looted

UNB, Gazipur

Armed robbers looted cash and valuables worth over Tk 50,000 from a telecom office at Cherag Ali bazaar in Tongi on Thursday.

Locals said a gang of bandits numbering about five swooped on Padma Telecom of Nurul Islam,

Tongi Correspondent of Daily Janakantha. They looted cash and valuables, including mobile phone set, at gunpoint at about 10pm.

Before committing this robbery, they also looted cash and valuables worth Tk 20,000 from Dallas Colour Lab in the same area.

'Drug peddler' arrested in Rajshahi

UNB, Rajshahi

An alleged miscreant and drug peddler was arrested from his Panchabari residence in Rajshahi town Thursday night.

The arrested was identified as Arman Ali, 28, wanted accused in a case under speedy trial act.

New post office in Ctg

UNB, Chittagong

Late Monir Ahmed Chairman Memorial Town Sub-Post office has been inaugurated here at Rampura.

Commerce Minister Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury inaugurated the sub-post office on Friday.

The post office has been established on the land donated by the family members of Late Monir Ahmed. Code number of the newly constructed post office is 422800.

Scout camp in Barguna

UNB, Barguna

The 6th upazila scout camp has got underway at the Gogon Memorial Secondary School at Korotoli Sonakhali in Barguna town.

Scouts Commissioner Prof Mozammel Haque inaugurated the five-day camp on Wednesday with scout M Nowabullah Miah in the chair.

A total of 19 teams from 15 schools and three madrassahs are taking part in the camp.



PHOTO: STAR

Prof Moslehuddin Ahmed, Pro-Vice Chancellor of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST), Sylhet speaks as the chief guest at the inaugural function of the First National Mathematics Olympiad on January 31. Bangladesh Mathematics Association and SUST in collaboration with Prothom Alo, a major vernacular national daily, jointly organised the two-day conference in the divisional city.

Polythene bags still available in all markets in Narail

UNB, Narail

Polythene bags have again flooded the markets, shops and bazaars of all the upazilas in Narail.

The official ban on production, marketing, use and storage of polythene is being defied everywhere in the district.

If any customer purchases vegetable from kutcha bazaar, the shop owner supplies him polythene bags. Even in medicine shops, the banned item is easily available.

Polybags are hung at kutcha bazaar in all the places of the district. Cloth shop owners also supply polybags to their customers.

The authorities concerned are

not taking any step to stop the sale of polybags.

In the rural areas, where presence of the law enforcing agency is almost rare, polythene bags are found in all the shops and markets, local people said.

Besides, the environmentally hazardous polythene is still being used for packing cement, fertiliser and other commodities.

When asked for comments on use of polythene bags, some customers said they would continue to use polythene bags as long as cheap and easily portable bags are not available in the market.