

Upazila roundup

Chittagong  
Dockyard to repair fishing boats

January 17: Community Development Centre (CODEC) has set up a dockyard at a cost of Taka 19 lakh near the Karnaphuli Bridge here, reports BSS.

The dockyard is part of CODEC's self-reliant and income generating programme for the socio-economic uplift of coastal fishermen in Bangladesh, officials of the centre said.

It will offer facilities for repair of fishing boats of different sizes and trawlers engaged in fishing in the Bay of Bengal. CODEC took the project two years ago with financial assistance from Danida and concurrence of Ministry of Fisheries, Government of Bangladesh.

Urs

The 85th holy annual Urs Sharif of the great saint of the sub-continent Chousul Azam Hazrat Moulana Shah Sufi Syed Ahammudullah (R.A) Matzbandari will be held at Matzbandari Darbar Sharif, Ghossia Ahmadi Manzil, Chittagong on January 24, a press release said. The Urs will be followed by a discussion meeting, Samaa, Milad, Faheh, distribution of tobrak and munajat.

Borguna  
Rickshaws cause traffic jam

January 17: Indiscriminate parking of rickshaws in the busy commercial areas of the town has been causing much inconveniences to the vehicular movement and pedestrians, reports UNB.

According to pourashava sources, unlicensed mandriven three wheelers outnumbering the licensed ones have been crowding the town making frequent traffic jam. At least 10,000 rickshaws have valid licence.

Rickshaws with licences from adjacent unions are also crowding the town worsening the situation.

Ricksawpullers unaware of traffic rules is said to have multiplied the problem. Encroachments on sidewalks by traders and vendors have aggravated the situation.

Rajshahi  
Regional radio workshop begins

January 17: A three-day long regional radio workshop began at Rajshahi Industrial Relation Institute Wednesday morning, reports BSS.

Organised by Bangladesh Rural Development Board, the workshop is being participated by the officers of BRDB, Agriculture Extension Department, Radio Bangladesh and Agriculture Information Service of Rajshahi, Natore, Naogaon, Chapainawabganj, Sirajganj, Pabna and Kushtia districts.

Inaugurated by the Divisional Commissioner of Rajshahi, the main objective of the workshop is to popularise the activities of BRDB.

Joypurhat  
Diarrhoea claims two lives

January 17: Diarrhoea has claimed two lives and attacked a dozen others in Sadar upazila of the district on Tuesday, reports UNB.

The dead were Marzina (25) of Malopara and Aleya (20) of village Helkunda.

Of those attacked by diarrhoea, six were admitted to Sadar Hospital in critical condition, hospital sources said.

They are: Sahana Banu (14) Waresa (30) and Mozammel

Arms recovery not satisfactory

From our Khulna Correspondent

Government's deadline for surrendering unauthorised weapons expired on December 26. During the time of general amnesty only one firearm was deposited in Khulna district. Even after the expiry of the prescribed date Khulna district and Metropolitan police managed to recover 10 unauthorised weapons and 86 rounds of ammunition during the last fortnight from Khulna and its adjoining upazilas.

Of them an unclaimed pipe-gun was recovered from Ghat No.4 area of the city on January 1, while two pipe-guns were recovered from Mamudkathi village under Patk-acha upazila on January 2. On

Haq (48) of Helkunda village. Sharifun (26) of Puranapoll. Sumad Miah (30) of Haniat Bombo and Nurunnahar of Bhanai kushalya. A medical team was sent to the affected area to combat the disease.

Netrakona  
Mustard cultivated in 6, 879 hectares

January 17: Mustard has been cultivated in 6,879 hectares of land in Netrakona district in the current season, reports BSS.

According to Agriculture Extension Department, 6,000 hectares have been brought under pulse in different upazilas of the district.

Potato and sweet potato have been cultivated in 992 hectares and 2,023 hectares respectively. Vegetables have been cultivated in 10,174 hectares.

Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) distributed seeds, fertilizer, pesticides and other inputs for optimum output of Rabi crops.

Kutchia latrines pose health hazard

Increasing number of kutchia latrines in the pourashava areas has been posing a threat to public health, reports UNB.

The house owners in the densely populated areas have constructed kutchia latrines beside their dwelling houses which emit constant bad odours.

Besides, there are innumerable kutchia latrines by the side of the roads in different areas of the town creating inconveniences to the pedestrians.

These latrines create obnoxious situation during the rainy season polluting the surrounding atmosphere.

Panchagarh  
Tk 2 cr sanctioned to build culverts

January 17: Government has sanctioned an amount of over Taka two crore for construction of 47 culverts in five upazilas of the district, reports UNB.

According to official sources, the project will be implemented with the financial assistance of Asian Development Bank (ADB).

The construction work is expected to be completed by June next.

Khulna  
Robbery in Shishu Hospital

January 17: Armed miscreants broke into the local Shishu Hospital Monday midnight and robbed an attending mother, reports UNB.

Police said Nasreen Akter (20) who was attending her ailing baby at the hospital, was attacked by two young men at gun point. They took away her necklace, earrings and other ornaments.

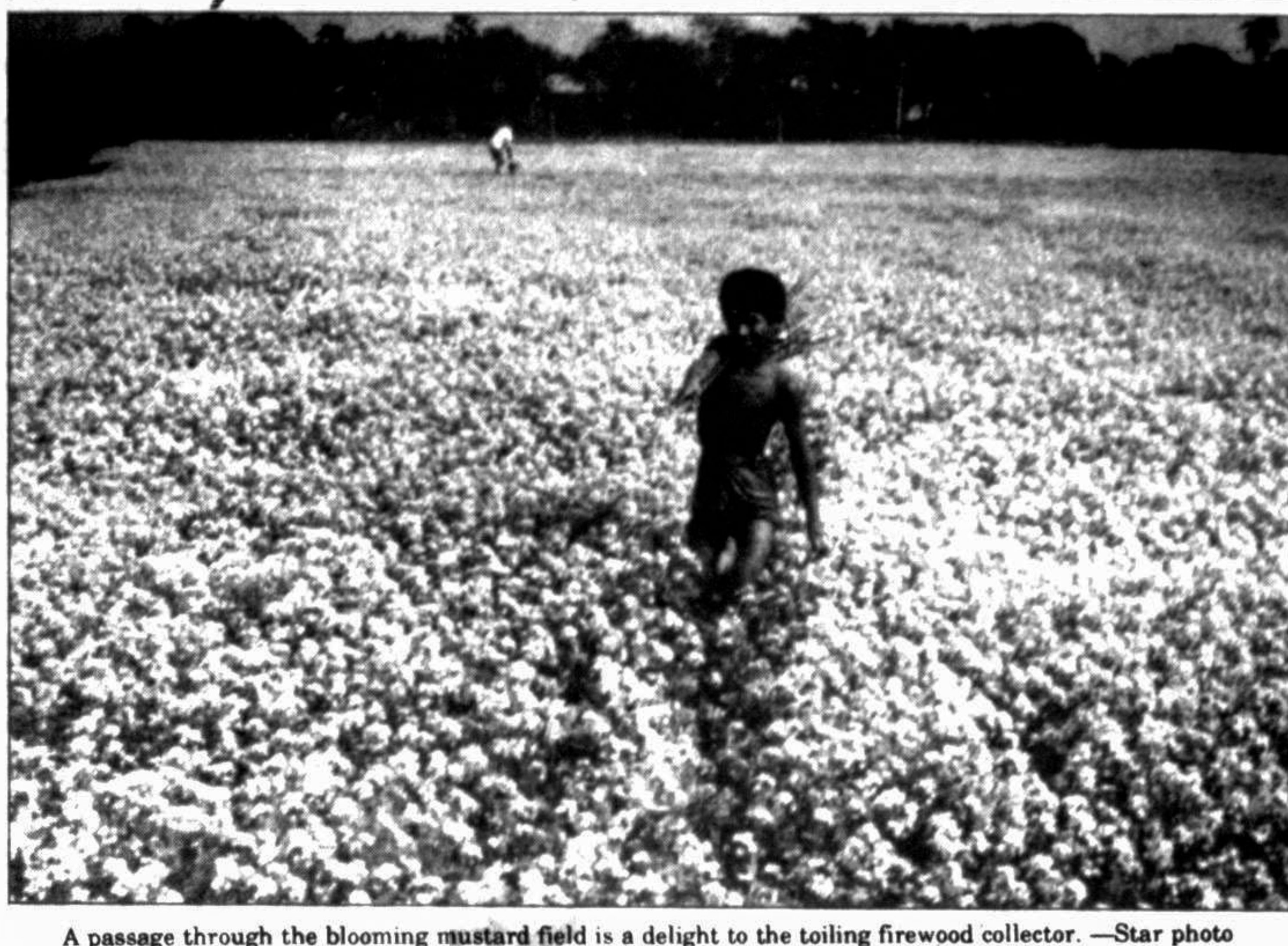
The miscreants, carrying a revolver and two daggers, first switched off power line on entering the hospital.

They chased their way directly to the children ward and looked for Nasreen.

After snatching away the ornaments from Nasreen, witnesses said, the miscreants warned her that they would victimize her husband Ali Akbar, a local businessman and reported to be a Jatiya Party worker.

Police suspect that past rivalry was the cause of the incident.

A case has been filed in this connection.



A passage through the blooming mustard field is a delight to the toiling firewood collector. —Star photo

Yarn shortage hits hosiery industry

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Jan 17: The hosiery industry of Narayanganj is playing an important role in the national economy. This industry was famous in undivided Bengal and retain its fame and glory till today. This small scale industry has grown up with small, medium and large capital. It has flourished collectively and individually.

Fake project consumes 300 tons rice

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Jan 17: About 300 metric tons of rice for distressed mothers have been withdrawn from food godown against a fake project.

The volume of rice was allotted by the Deputy Commissioner, Pabna in the name of Dustha Kalyan Samity, Gopalpur, Pabna, to one Isharat Ali Jinna, son of Late Asalat of Radhanagar Mahalla of Pabna allotted by Former State Minister for Relief Major (Retd) Monzur Quader.

Isharat Ali went into hiding during last political movement for which he could not be able to draw the rice. Later on Deputy Commissioner, Pabna and Chairman of Pabna

Draft cattle shortage hampers cultivation

From Our Correspondent

MANIKGANJ, Jan 17: Cultivation has been adversely affected by acute shortage of bullocks in the district.

About 60 to 65 per cent farmers are tilling their land on share basis or by hiring bullocks. Many have been compelled to use milch cows for ploughing.

Meanwhile, cattle diseases which broke out in alarming form in Shibalaya, Daulatpur and Singair upazilas claimed 750 cattleheads over the last few days and attacked several others.

Farmers feared that the diseases might take a serious turn if Livestock Department failed to take any effective measures soon.

Acute scarcity of medicines hampered medicare of the cattleheads, official sources said.

Betel leaf cultivation in Manikganj and Tangail districts has been affected by abnormal price rise of bamboo, fertilizer, oil cake and pesticides.

According to official sources, there are about 20,000 'baraj' in two districts and about one lakh people are engaged in this profession to earn their livelihood. Fund shortage is also impeding betel leaf cultivation.

Betel leaf growers alleged that a section of dishonest bank officials create bottlenecks in sanctioning loans and take bribe from them.

As a result, growers are forced to borrow money from village money lenders at high rate of interest only to compound their sufferings.

set up in 1931. The development of cotton textile industry in Bangladesh has been associated with rapid expansion in hosiery mills in the country.

Starting from virtual scratch in the year 1947, it has made rapid stride in development and now a large quantity of hosiery goods is available to meet domestic demand and the surplus is exported.

The first hosiery mill was set up in 1931. The development of cotton textile industry in Bangladesh has been associated with rapid expansion in hosiery mills in the country.

In course of its growth, it has significantly contributed to the national income, export earnings and employment opportunities.

The hosiery industry that grew in a span of about two decades from 1931 to 1950 received a setback during liberation struggle. Machinery (finished and other goods worth over Taka one crore were destroyed completely) in spite of various problems from 1950 onward this cottage industry has developed to the present stage.

There are about 1400 small and big hosiery mills in the country, of which 1000 are located at Narayanganj town alone. Seventy per cent of these are run with small capital, 25 per cent are affluent in respect of capital investment. The rest five per cent possess quite a sizeable amount of capital. The owners of these five per cent hosiery mills control 80 per cent of the total capital and machinery in Narayanganj.

The rest 400 hosiery mills are located in Dhaka, Pabna, Comilla and Rangpur. A total of about taka 70 crore has been invested in Narayanganj hosiery mills. Out of this, about Taka 50 crore is in the hands of five per cent of the mills owners.

About 12,000 workers are employed in hosiery industries, besides, some 17,000 more are employed as wholesalers, retailers, hawkers, launderers and packing material manufacturers. The workers employed in the small hosiery units have no job security.

In spite of bright prospects for the development of this industry, little has been done for the growth of this industry during the past decades of colonial rule.

Realistic and comprehensive planning for its development is needed. Loans on easy terms to small shopowners, factory owners and businessmen should be ensured as soon possible to help them run trade.

The hosiery mill owners and businessmen complain that they face scarcity of yarn, spare parts and non-availability of foreign high count yarn. Moreover, lack of marketing facilities, technical know-how and high duty on imported yarn is a major impediment to the development of this industry.

All out efforts both in private and public level are imperative for smooth running of this industry. It is one of the most suitable branches of our cotton textile industry which requires comparatively less technical knowledge and capital. A buoyant hosiery industry will raise our national income, increase foreign exchange earnings and create additional job opportunities for labourers, it is felt.

Indirectly, it will have a positive impact on the development of cotton spinning industry by creating additional demand for cotton yarn.



No draft cattle, but tilling cannot wait. —Star photo

Political science

Election campaign intensifies further

Star report

Election campaign has further intensified in rural Bangladesh after the announcement of party nominations by Awami League, Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and Jamaat-e-Islami. Freedom Party and Janata Dal candidates are also contesting forthcoming parliamentary election. Candidates of major political parties who remained stuck up in Dhaka have started arriving at their constituencies for launching vigorous campaign.

Our Faridpur Correspondent writes: Eleven persons were injured when the workers of Awami League and (AL) and Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) clashed following explosion of a bomb at a meeting of Awami League at Goalchama on Sunday last.

Police said, Ali 'Pagla' exploded a bomb at the meeting while the AL nominee in the February 27 polls, Mr. Imamuddin, was addressing. Five AL workers were injured in the explosion. Police branded Ali 'Pagla' as a BNP supporter. Later the AL held another meeting at the Chowkbazar area protesting the bomb explosion. AL supporters ransacked the BNP office at Jheelkhuni. The BNP activists also attacked the AL office. During the incidents six more persons were also injured, police said. Both the offices are situated near the police station.

No case was filed and none was arrested. Our Kushtia Correspondents add: Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), Kushtia unit arranged a reception in honour of Mr. Abdur Rauf Choudhury, chief of Democratic League (Dela) recently who joined the BNP and has been nominated for Mirpur-Bheramara seat for the coming parliamentary election.

Mr. Abdur Rauf Choudhury in his address said, the coming election will be held to establish real democracy and Bangladesh nationalism. He also appealed to the people to poll their vote for cheap paddy, the symbol of BNP, to make the hands of Begum Zin stronger.

Mr. Nazibullah Khan, Vice President, BNP, Advocate Azizur Rahman, Secretary General, Joint Secretary, Mr. Hasanuzzaman, and Mr. M.A. Samem Arzu also addressed the meeting.

A big procession also paraded the town. Our Chandpur Correspondent adds: BSS from Chandpur adds: Convenor of the Five-Party Alliance and chief of BSD Khalekuzzaman Bhuyan on Monday said election clashes had to be restricted for holding free and fair elections in the country.

Addressing a public meeting at WAPDA here, the BSI chief said people believed the political alliances and parties that had played the vital role in the ouster of the autocratic regime should work unitedly for institutionalising democracy, rising above petty party interests.

Presided over by Nurul Islam, the meeting was also addressed by former MP Abdullah Sarker and Shahjahan Talukdar. UNB from Rajbari adds: Kader Siddiqi asked his party colleagues to work with devotion to build an exploitation-free society as dreamt of by Bangladesh.

The Awami League leader was speaking at a reception accorded to him by the district Awami League and its front organisations.

JP meeting A report from Munshiganj adds: A meeting held at Sreenagar Sadar Upazila on Monday with Munshiganj district Jatiya Party President Jamal Hossain in the chair, demanded release of all political prisoners, including JP President H.M. Ershad and Secretary General Shah Moazzem Hossain, according to a press release.

Speakers in the meeting said former President Ershad, Deputy Prime Minister Shah Moazzem Hossain and almost all the former ministers were candidates for the coming polls and appealed to the Acting President to release them and give opportunities for election campaign.

Earlier, a procession was brought out at Sreenagar Upazila Sadar demanding release of all political prisoners including Ershad and Shah Moazzem Hossain, the press release added.

Rural markets in bad shape

From Our correspondent

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Jan 17: Rural hats and bazars of different upazilas in Chapainawabganj district are beset with manifold problems causing much inconvenience to both the buyers and sellers.

The average daily production in 1000 mills in Narayanganj is 30,000 pounds of fabrics and 20,000 dozens of ganjees. The value of which is estimated to be about Taka 60 lakh. These 1000 hosiery mills annually pay about Taka one crore to government as taxes.

The major markets like Nachol, Mallikpur, Monakasha, Shibganj, Rohanpur, Argara, Souatchandi, Bartala and Ramchandrapur are in pitiable condition and have been left un cared for decades.

Most hats and bazars of the district sit under the open sky. There are no sheds and platforms in these markets. Drainage system has not been made in a planned way and these are not cleaned regularly. During the rainy season these hats and bazars become muddy and slippery. As a result, the sufferings of the people go beyond measure. In the absence of latrines and urinals the people have been suffering much. Scarcity of pure drinking water is another problem to the hat goers.

Several hundred deed-writers have been rendered jobless in this district following ban on them imposed by registration authority recently. These deed-writers in villages, unions, upazilas and district headquarters were writing deeds without having formal licence from the authority. A recent directive from the office of the authority has asked all registration offices not to register any document written by these writers. This has thrown them out of job affecting their livelihood.

Bus passengers' plight The bus passengers of Chapainawabganj district are facing great inconveniences due to absence of a waiting room and other facilities at Chapainawabganj-Rohanpur bus stands in Chapainawabganj town since long.

Thousands of bus passengers badly suffer for want of suitable waiting rooms both for male and female passengers. The female passengers are often found standing on the road. Absence of ticket counters and urinals is also causing immense trouble to the passengers particularly the female and the children. Their sufferings become more acute during rainy season.

Steps to protect Bhairab Bridge will be taken From A Correspondent BHAIRAB BAZAR Jan 17: The government will take all necessary steps to protect Meghna (Bhairab) Railway Bridge from river erosion. Mr Nurul Momen Khan, Secretary, Railway Division told this while inspecting the protection work done by Bangladesh Railway at Bhairab Bazar on Thursday. Canadian High Commissioner in Bangladesh Mr Emile Gaubreau, Water Resource Specialist Dr Shahjahan and Dr Hannan of BUET, Eastern Zone Railway General Manager Amanul Islam Choudhury and other High Railway officials were also present during the inspection. The 2947 feet long rail bridge over river Meghna was threatened in 1988 by sudden land slide. On November 30 of that year a large number of Railway quarters were also washed away in the river by sudden erosion. Railway Engineers and workers worked day and night to protect the bridge. Railway is protecting the bridge using its own manpower and fund since then. Railway has so far spent about Taka 5 crore and 50 lakh on this account.