# Upazila roundup

# Brahmanbaria

### Husband, in-laws sued against dowry

A housewife has lodged a case at Sadar Upazila Magistrate Court against her husband, father-in-law and mother-in-law for demanding dowry, reports UNB.

Kohinur Begum, daughter of Kamaluddin of Kazipara in pourashava area, was married to Sabur Hossain of Goutampara in Sadar Upazila.

In her plaint she stated that her husband and other relatives put continuous pressure upon her to bring dowry from her poor father. They even resorted to torture her physi-

She said the accused persons forcibly took signature from her on a Taka 50 stamp and snatched away all the ornaments from her body on November 19 last

Kohinur Begum in her plaint also said she had been compelled to leave her husband's house along with her two-month-old bady adding that at present she is residing with her father following the

# Chittagong

### APSU to help police in arms recovery

January 18: Leaders of All-Party Students Unity here on Thurdsay assured the police administration of their wholehearted cooperation for recovery of illegal arms and maintenance of peace and order during the coming election, reports BSS.

A meeting of the student leaders held at the Chittaong Metropolitan Police Commissioner's office here reviewed the law and order situation in Chittagong and the student leaders agreed to cooperate with police in recovering illegal arms and rounding up antisocial elements in order to create a congenial atmosphere for holding the elections smoothly

CUCSU Vice-president Mohammed Nazim Uddin, Chatra League (H.A) President Shafigur Rahman, Jatitiotabadi Chatra Dal President Abu Sufian, Chhatra Union President Mohammed Atiq, Chhatra Samity President Subhashaich and a few others were present at the meeting.

### Madaripur Vitamin

# deficiency

January 18: Hundreds of children in all four upazilas of the district have been suffering from different eye, skin and gastro-intestinal diseases, hospital sources said, reports

Patients were pouring into the hospitals everyday, local doctors said.

According to doctors the reasons behind the outbrak of the diseases were due to vitamin deficiency and taking of adulterated food and impure

Lack of necessary medicines in the hospital has aggravated the situation, it is learnt.

### Faridpur

### 34 more prisoners released

January 18: Thirty-four more prisoners were released here on Wednesday under a government amnesty from Faridpur district jail, official sources said, reports UNB.

With this, the total number of prisoners released stands at 50. They competed two years term or less till December, jail sources said.

Another 200 out of 518 prisoners detained under Special Powers Act would be freed by January 20, the sources added.

# Satkhira

### 7 shopkeepers arrested

January 18 : Seven shopkeepers were arrested Wednesday while demonstrating in front of Deputy Commissioner's office against the setzure of their goods by Bengladesh Rifles (BDR) on January 15, reports UNB.

Official sources said BDR setzed six bales of Bangladeshi polyester cloths while carrying from Dhaka to Satkhira, as the owners could not show any proper documents.

The arrested people are Jaiti, Humayun Kabir, Hafiz, Habib, Alauddin and Abdul

Later a procession was brought out to protest the artests of shopkeepers. They demanded immediate release of setzed cloths to its owners.

They said they would go for indefinite strike if their demands were not met immedi-

### Chandpur 11 get 10 years RI each

January 18: Eleven people were sentenced to suffer 10 years rigorous imprisonment each on charges of gang-raping two sisters, court sources said here today, reports UNB.

Suntl Chandra Paul, Assistant Sessions Judge in a judgement recently also fined them Taka 3000 each, in default, to suffer one year more.

According to the prosecution, on the mid-night of October 25, 1988, the accused persons forcibly entered the house of Abdul Khaleque of village Ghashipur under Sadar upazila, brought his two daughters Khurshida Akter and Fatema Akter out of his house and violated them one after

Later, a case was filed and police after investigation, charge-sheeted against 11

The court after examining the evidence's and records found the accused guilty and awarded them above punishment. Accused Topu Patwary was tried in absentia.

The convicted persons are Sheikh Farid, Habu Patwary. Mona Khan, Rafique Bepary Abul Kashem Munshi Alias Kashem member, Delwar Hossain, Topu Patwary. Rahim Khan, A Rahman Gazi, Syeed Patwary and Harun Bepary of the same village.

### Pabna

### 3 Sarbahara Party activists held

January 18: Police arrested three outlawed members of Sarbahara Party and recovered three fire arms from their possession on Tuesday from Paikasha village under Santhia upazila of the district, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip off, police raided the house of Anisul Huq, a member of Dapadaha union parishad and nabbed Abdur Razzaque Mhammat Islam (32) and Abdul Latif (29) and recovered a country-made gun, a pipegun and a country-made point 22 bore pistol and 10 rounds of bullets from their possession.

### Habigani

# Bus, truck dacoity

January 16: Dacoits Monday in separate attacks robbed Taka 24,000 from a minibus and some trucks near Shatcharee tea garden of Chunarughat upazila, police here said, reports UNB.

According to eye witnesses. on way to Dhaka a group of 10-15 dacoits, stopped the minibus near the garden and looted money and belongings from the driver and passengers worth about Taka 20,000.

In another incident, they forcibly stopped seven trucks one after another at the same point and snatched cash worth Taka 4,000 from the drivers. They allegedly beat up the drivers and helpers of the trucks.

### Tangail Gulf war impact

January 18: Deputy Commissioner of Tangail held a meeting on Thursday at his conference room to exchange views with local elite, businessmen, socio-political leaders and officials on influence of Gulf war over our market and

on social life

social life, reports BSS. The meeting requested the concerned persons to exercise their influence in maintaining peace in every sphere and also stablising market rate of com-

The meeting stressed the need for checking the heinous activity of the 'opportunists and black marketeers

### Netrakona

### one killed over land dispute

January 18: A man was shot dead and eight others were injured, five seriously, in a clash between two rival groups over a land dispute Wednesday at Swair village in Mohangani upazila of the district, police said, reports UNB.

The victim was identified as Abdur Rashid (30) of the same

Police and eyewitnesses said the clash ensued, when a group led by former Union Parishad chiarman Fazlur



Bangladesh the riverine country. Waterways are important communication routes and boats are essential. Here a big boat is being built at an improvised yard on Sitalakhy river bank. - Star Photo

# Rivers need dredging

# Heavy siltation obstructs transport movement

From Our Correspondent

dredged out silts in 47 days

BARISAL, Jan. 18: With the dry season approaching plying of all riverine transport are becoming hazardous due to siltation and rice of numerous chars in different places of the Meghna and some other rivers to and from Barisal, Jhalakathi, Patuakhali, Pirojpur, Bahola Borguna and Dhaka.

Absence of regular dredging in char areas and silted riverbeds of the Meghna and Bangaon almost all big vessels carrying passengers and cargo have to wait for hours for high

Meanwhile, it is very much risky for pasengers to wait on board at night near char areas as bandits roam around.

During the last two years Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) could not continue dredging in these areas due to shortage of found and dredgers. A BIWTA source said that a

river dredging programme has been taken up to keep the routes nevigable in Diara, Laxmipur, Charmatiala and Nilkamal areas in the Meghna river during this financial year. According to a hydrological

survey at least one and a half lakh cubic metres silt and mud to be dredged out from these

BIWTA failed to dredge out silts from these areas because by that time BIWTA owned eight dredgers were engaged for making riverine routes nevigable in some rivers of northern region of the country Besides. BIWTA has

from Kirtonkhola river along the Barisal river port areas in last financial year but according to the launch owners and drivers, it was not at all sufficient. Previously BIWTA had dredged out 91,117 cubic metres of silt with an expenditure of Taka 34,84,000 from Kirtonkhola river bed around Chittagong

launch terminals. During this financial year with an expenditure of Taka 21,12,000 BIWTA has dredged out 62,781 cubic metres of silts from the same area, but much silt is to be dredged.

ship terminal, Dhaka launch

ghat, ferry ghat and floating

#### Madaripur

UNB fom Madaripur adds: Riverine transportation in the district has been endangered by emergence of innumerable shoals in the rivers Arial Khan. Kumar, Kirtinasha and Padma.

Local businessmen said that trade and commerce had practically come to a standstill as many water transports suspended plying in the waterways due to poor navigability

Owners of water vessels said they were to avoid routes of the dsitrict due to heavy siltation in the rivers. Many launches and cargo vessels were agrounded earlier in the shoals, they added.

Meanwhile, water levels of the rivers have fallen sharply due to unilateral withdrawal of waters at Farakka aggravating the situation further.

Chandpur district.

beginning of the dry season. water level of Meghna and Dakatia cotinued to fall so abnormally that innumerable islands and chars appear in business and communication between Chandpur and other districts. Steamer, launches and big country boats connot ply systematically on these

Sometimes the launch services between Chandpur-Dhaka and Chandpur-Barisal Faridpur run aground in chars. Transhipment of merchandise goods to different centres from Chandpur district is hampered.

Accordingly, steamers and launches are plying through far off routes instead of regular routes, due to siltation. As a result riverine scheduled timings are not maintained.

According to Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) sources, dredging of water at Farraka has led to the siltation in these

constant and intensive dredging and necessary for maintaining regular navigation services of these rivers.

Our Chandpur Correspondent writes: Massive siltation in the rivers Meghna and Dakatia has been posing a great threat to the riverine communication and transportation in

It-is reported that with the these rivers causing threat to

According to the experts

# Vegetable farming plan in 13 cluster villages

From Our Correspondent

PABNA. Jan 18: The District Agricultural Extension Directorate has taken up a massive programme of cultivating vegetable in 13 cluster villages of Pabna district during the current season.

The main objective of this programme is to improve the socio-economic condition of the inhabitants of these cluster villages by engaging themselves in income oriented vegetable cultivation.

The programme has been inaugurated with the distribution of vegetable seedling and saplings, fertilizer and pesticides free of cost among 29 families of 'Baral cluster village of Bhangura upazila recently.

The works on 61 development schemes have been started in seven upazilas of Pabna district under Food for-Works Programme during the year 1990-91. The upazilas are Pabna Sadar, ishurdi, Santhia Sujanagar, Faridpur, Bhangura and Bera.

A total of 381.613 metric tons of wheat have been allotted for these schemes which included mainly the construction and reconstruction of kutcha roads. The development works are likely to be completed by June

A 4-month long Technical Training Course on House Electrification concluded recently at skill development centre of BSCIC, Pabna under Rural Industrial Development

A total of 15 unemployed youths have completed their

Meanwhile, another 4month long course for 90 unemployed youths on radiotelevision repair, refrigeration and air conditioning, fitting cum machine shop and welding and automobile is on progress, it is learnt.

### Jamalpur

Our Correspondent from Jamalpur adds: A total of 4.5 lakh acres of land will be brought under Rabi crop cultivation in the district during the current winter season.

According Agricultural Extension Department, of the total, three lakh acres will be brought under Irri-Boro cultivation and the production target of Boro paddy has been fixed at 1,25,000 tons while last year's target was 2.5 lakh tons.

The target of wheat cultivation has been fixed at 25,000 acres with a production target of two lakh maunds.

Besides, 5,600 acres of land will be brought under Potato cultivation with a production target of 25,000 tons. Three thousand acres will be brought under high-yielding variety and the rest 28,000 acres un-

der local variety. There was a bumper production of 35,000 tons Potatoes last year.

A total of 1.5 lakh acres of land will be brought under winter vegetables farming with a production target of two lakh

Mustard seed will be cultivated on 15,000 acres with a production target of 3,000 maunds. On the other hand 10,000 acres of land will be brought under Khesari, 5,000 acres under Masur pulses and 80,000 acres of land under Sweet Potato in seven upazilas of Jamalpur district.

Fifteen thousand acres of land will be brought under sugarcane cultivation with a production target of 15,000 tons of sugar, while 15,000 acres of land will be brought under onion cultivation in seven upaztlas



### 3 killed in B' baria train accident

From Our Correspondent

BRAHMANBARIA, Jan 18: Three persons were killed and two others injured in two separate accidents at Akhaura and Ashugonj 'rail stations on Wednesday moring.

The victims met the accidents as they were crossing the lines when on its way to Dhaka Upaban Express were entering those stations.

The autopsies of the bodies were done at Sadar Hospital on Thursday.

Of the two injured, one was identified as Tahera (20) They were admitted to Sadar Hospital.

An unidentified man aged 29 years was killed by a speeding truck at Sayedabad on Dhaka-Chittgong highway on Wednesday night.

The killer driver escaped with his truck. No case has lodged with the police.

# Annual police sports meet

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, January 18: Annual sports meet of Kushtia police was inaugurated here Tuesday by Deputy Inspector General of Police, Khulna Division Mr. Shahudul Huq amid great enthusiasm. Presided over by Abu Bakkar Siddique, Kushtia Police Super the function was attended by new Deputy Commissioner, Kushtia Syed Hafiz Ahmed as special

In his inaugural address the chief guest said that this annual sports meet brings new life and enthusiasm in the minds of police force in the face of huge responsibility entrusted upon them for bringing law and order under control. He expressed his satisfaction over the march past, P. T. and hpysical feats of boys of Kushtie Police Line School

Alamgir Hossain and Md. Shajahan became joint champions in the sports meet. The prizes were distributed among the winners by Begum Sharmin Hug, wife of D.I.G. A cultural function participated by local artists was also held at Shilpakala Academy Hall in the evening.

# Kushtia weavers giving up profession

From Our Correspondent

KUSHITIA, Jan 18 Weavers of Kushtia district are facing acute hardship due to high prices of yarn, dyes, chemicals and other raw mate-

It is feared that if proper steps are not taken in this direction the handloom industry of Kushtia which has earned a countrywide fame will face extinction.

Handloom cotton weaving is a very important occupation in Kushtia. Most people of Kumarkhali upazila are also weavers. A large number of people in Kushtia and Khoksa upazilas are also weavers. The handloom industries in these areas provide vast employment opportunity.

Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC) has raised the price of cotton yarn to a great extent and the weavers fail to compete with the synthetic products and old garments imported in the country. Availability of Indian sarces in abundance in the market through smuggling at cheaper prices with attractive design has hit the local industry. The weavers are forced to sell their products at low cost.

It is for this reason that many weavers in Kushtia have given up their age-old occupation and are now employed either in agriculture or in mills

# No sanitary inspector in Madaripur

From Our Correspondent

MADARIPUR, Jan 18 : Daily markets and shops dealing in sweetmeat and grocery in Madaripur Municipal area are going without sanitary

inspection causing health

hazards to the town dwellers. Due to absence of sanitary inspector in Madaripur Municipality, numerous shopkeepers are selling adulterated oil and unwholesome foodstuffs, it is

Most of the sweetmeat dealers of the district sell sweets unhygienically. On the other hand, butchers often slaughter sick and underaged animals indiscriminately. Cows slaughtered on no- meat days are main cause of shortage of bullocks in the district.

It is learnt that owing to non-availability of a sanitary inspector the Municipality has

#### Political scene

# Polls campaign grips villages

Star report

With only 39 days left for the parliamentary election, campaign for individual candidates has gained momentum. Party activists are making house to house approach to win over the voters.

In some places the Jatiya Party workers are also holding rallies and processions.

Our Netrakona Correspondent writes: Jatiya Party Netrakona district unit held a rally at its office premises to mark the 5th founding anniversary of Jatiya Party.

Presided over by former District Council chairman and former Member of Parliament Mr Asrafuddin Khan the rally was addressed by the district level leaders including Advocate Liakat Ali, Advocate Maniruddin Fakir and Habibul Islam Sabuj. The speakers demanded immediate release of Jatiya Party Chairman H M Ershad and other leaders. The rally was followed by a milad mahfil.

#### Faridpur

Our Correspondent from Faridpur adds: Election campaign is very high in eight upazilas of Faridpur District. Banners, posters and wall writings of different political parties are now appearing in larger number.

Of them, Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), Awami League and Jamaat-e-Islami are taking lead. Posters bearing the portraits of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman with Awami League chief and the leader of the Eight-party alliance Sheikh Hasina and Ziaur Rahman with B.N.P. Chairperson and leader of the Seven-party alliance Khaleda Zia are being posted and painted on the walls of buildings and boundaries. The posters of Jamaat-e-Islami are also found here and there.

### Maulvi bazar

Our Correspondent from Maulvibazar states: The election campaign for the ensuing parliamentary election has started in fullswing throughout Maulvibazar district. In Maulvibazar-3 (Moulvi-

bazar-Rajnagar) constituency public meetings were held in different places in support of B.N.P. Eight-party alliance arranged meetings and processions and urged people to support its candidates.

It may be mentioned that there are four seats for Parliament in Moulvibazar district. Moulvibazar-1 (Borolekha) Mr. Sirajul Islam, Mr Iman Uddin, Group Captain (retd) Abdul Hamid from Awami League, Mr Ashad Uddin Batal of B.N.P.

BSS from Tangail adds : A half-day hartal was observed here on Thursday in protest against the arrest of Kader Siddiqui. Shops remain closed and all kinds of vehicles were off the streets during the hartal period.

The hartal callers also brought processions in the town and chanted slogans demanding the immediate and unconditional release of the valiant freedom fighter.

#### Students clash in B'baria: 5 hurt

UNB adds: Five students were injured following clashes between the activists of Chhatra Dal and Chhatra League (H-

Hospital sources said that the victims Abdul Khaleque, general secretary, Brahmanbaria Government College Students Union, Sakil and Jamal of Chhatra League and Kamal and Tushar of Chhatra Dal were admitted to Sadar Hospi-

The clashes ensued due to rivalry between the two groups of students, the college sources said.

#### 3 injured in Jhenidah

Three people were injured in a clash between the supporters of Awami League and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSDlnu) recently. The incident was the sequel to clash between the activists of JSD-Inu Chhatra League and pro-Awami League Chhatra League of

Shailakupa College. According to witnesses, JSD workers ransacked the Upazila Awami League Chairman's office and his house, Abahani Krira Chakra office and the residence of Abdus Sobhan, a local Awami League worker. They also damaged the portait of Sheikh Mujibur

Rahman. The injured were admitted

to the upazila health centre.

# Overuse of fertilizer lowers soil fertility

SHERPUR, Jan 18 : Crop production may sharply decline in the district due to overuse of chemical fertilizers in soil, agri-experts feared, re-

In their opinion unscientific application of chemical fertilizers reduce soil fertifity in about 50 per cent of land. Fertility decrease was at-

ports UNB.

tributed to shortage of Sulpher and Zinc in soil caused by unrestrained use of fertilizers. The experts stressed the need for using cowdung or natural fertilizers in soil to

raise production.

Meaunhile, acute shortage of irrigation water and price htke of diesel and other essential inpputs are hampering crop production in the dis-

According to farmers, most cultivable land here are arid and need to be irrigated. Besides, prices of diesel, fertilizer, seeds, pesticides

risen sharply affecting farmers adversely. Meanwhile, Agriculture Extension Department has undertaken a scheme to bring

1:40 lakh acres of land.

and other essential inputs have

# Viswa Istema begins today

From Our Correspondent

GAZIPUR. Jan 18: The three-day Viswa Istema of 'Tabliq Jamaat' is sheduled to be held at Tongi on the bank of Turag river from tomorrow and Akheri Munajat (concluding prayer) will be offered on January 21.

The Tabiq Jamaat volunteers are erecting shelter for the 'musullies' with bamboo poles and hessian cloth. In the meantime, devotees from about 60 foreign countries have already taken shelter in tin-shed houses specially erected for them.

Although unhygiente few hundreds of latrines are nearing completion there are few small ponds of water reservoirs for washing and bathing. Although there are about two hundred tubewells for drinking water it seems that

these tubewells can meet very little demand for water. Hundreds and thousands of people assemble here on the 'Akheri Munajat' day every year. Most devotees sit on the uneven land. Tongi Pourshava

istema yard nor feel to control the bidders who create troubles for the shop-keepers of hawkers.

The concerned authorities should ensure better facilities to the devotees, it is urgently

### Tk 20.57 lakh LGEB projects in Barisal BARISAL, Jan 🗰 : The Local Government Engineering

Bureau (LGEB) has taken up two projects at a cost of Tk 20.57 lakh in Barisal Sadar and Banaripara Upazilas of Barisal district in the current fiscal year, reports BSS. According to an official source, the projects include

development reconstruction of

iron-bridge over iluhar canal of

Banaripara upazila.

Of the total, Tk. 10.27 lakh development of the road and Tk. 10.30 lakh for the reconstruction of the Ironbridge, the source said.

Work on these projects will start soon and be completed by March next.

assigned, from the office of Rahman, tried to take over the earns a huge sum of money Agri-Varsity (Mymensingh). The Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh Agricultural University Prof. M. Asadur Rahman the Civil Surgeon, Madaripur, a posession of a plot of disputed from the shops and the bid-ders. The Pourashava authority speaking as the chief guest in inaugural session of a four-day workshop on BAU Research Progress 1989-90 held at sanitary inspector who does the Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin auditorium on January 15' not perform his duty regularly. neither plans to develop the