

Upazila roundup

**MAULVIBAZAR**  
Sreemangal Rly Station lack facilities

Dec 20: Sreemangal Railway Station, one of the busiest railway junctions of the country has been facing numerous problems for a long time, reports UNB.

Everyday thousands of passengers travel round the clock to and from the station but the number of seats is very low in the waiting rooms to accommodate the rising number of waiting passengers.

Moreover, the condition of the waiting rooms is very pitiable. It is hard to stay inside the rooms even for a few minutes as toilets are emitting bad odour in the absence of regular cleaning and maintenance. The rooms remain under lock and key most of the time, passengers alleged.

The goods shed of the station has turned into a den of anti-socials and the platform are packed most of the time by the shelterless and floating men and women.

Besides, the practice of travelling without ticket has been increasing alarmingly in this railway route due to absence of proper checking.

It is alleged that very often unscrupulous employees of the station collect exorbitant fare from the passengers.

**NETRAKONA**

Cattle disease

Dec 20: Outbreak of cattle diseases in most villages of the district has been taking a heavy toll of cattlehead, reports UNB.

At least 250 cattlehead have perished since the outbreak of the disease a few months back. The worst affected upazilas are Sadar, Atpara, Madan, Kendua, Purbadhala, Mohangonj and Durgapur.

The diseases commonly known as 'Khura' and 'Gol-afala' which make the cattle unable to walk and eat due to ulceration in the jaws and hooves.

The Livestock Department failed to take up vaccination programme due to scarcity of necessary vaccines this year. Besides, shortage of medicines has also been hampering the treatment of the cattlehead.

The affected farmers urged the authorities to take necessary steps to combat the menace without further delay.

**FARIDPUR**

Uncontested UP chairmen

Dec 20: Nazibur Rahman and Akram Hossain were elected uncontested chairmen of Alfadanga and Gopalpur Union Parishads of Alfadanga upazila, reports UNB.

According to the District Election Commission Office sources, 350 nomination papers for the post of chairmen of 77 union parishads have been found valid in scrutiny.

Nomination papers of 12 candidates were rejected.

**PABNA**

Heroin addict dies on way to hospital

Dec 20: A heroin addict rickshawpuller of village Kalha in Faridpur upazila died on way to local hospital Monday, reports UNB.

According to villagers, Mofazzal Hossain (28) used to take the drug regularly. On the fateful day he fell seriously ill following the excessive taking of the drug and the villagers sent him to the local hospital where the doctors declared him dead.

His body was sent to morgue for autopsy and a case of unnatural death has been lodged with the police.

**KUSHIYA**

Hartal for uplift of town observed

Dec 20: A dawn to dusk hartal called by Kushiya Unnayan Parishad was observed here Wednesday peacefully to press home their 23-point demand, reports UNB.

All shops and business establishments including banks remained closed and all kinds of vehicles except rickshaws were also closed. Number of attendants in offices was thin. But no untoward incident was, however, reported during the hartal period.

The demands include establishment of a medical college, the foundation stone of which was laid by late President Ziaur Rahman, completion of Rajbari-Kushiya road, construction of bus terminal and Kushiya town by-pass road.

**MADARIPUR**

Hunters killing migratory birds

Dec 20: Amateur hunters and bird catchers have been killing the local and migratory birds with impunity in the district defying government ban, reports UNB.

Witnesses said a large number of hunters are engaged in killing the guest birds that are crowding in the beels, haors, and other waterbodies of the district everyday.

The migratory birds usually throng in these region from the Siberian and other parts of the globe to avoid biting cold, experts opined. Due to indiscriminate hunting, the number of migratory birds has been decreasing rapidly, they added.

Local people urged the authorities to take stringent measures against the amateur hunters to save the local and migratory birds.

**CHANDPUR**

Eleven dacoits arrested

Dec 20: Police arrested 11 dacoits with the help of the villagers from village Bagchra of Munshiganj sadar Wednesday evening, officials said, reports UNB.

Acting on a secret information, a police team led by ASP (Circle) Khandaker Nazir Ahmed chased the dacoits from Chandpur by speed boat. The dacoits were fleeing by an engine boat after committing a dacoity on a Sureshwar C and B ghat bound launch MV Jaltari Tuesday, looting cash and valuables worth about Taka 2.50 lakh. The dacoits also injured a number of passengers while committing dacoity.

Police brought the arrested dacoits in the town. They also recovered some looted goods from their possession.

Deputy Commissioner Md Yakub Ali and Additional District Magistrate Tushar Kanti Barua visited the dacoits in Chandpur thana.

**JHENIDAH**

Recovery of kidnapped girl demanded

Dec 20: A kidnapped girl student of class seven of Kanchannagar Model High School was not yet rescued even after 22 days of her abduction, reports UNB.

Local people said that, Nusrat Jerin Jhumi (12), daughter of Prof. Khandker Hafiz Farook of village Kanchannagar of Sadar upazila was kidnapped on November 26 from outside the school when she just came out from the class room.

They said, three young boys riding on motor cycle allegedly kidnapped Jhumi.

A case was filed in this connection.

Meanwhile, Jhumi's father arranged a press conference at the local Press Club Sunday evening demanding immediate recovery of his daughter and arrest of the kidnapers.

Local leaders present at the conference also urged the law enforcing agencies to take immediate steps for her recovery.

**PIROJPUR**

Fish diseases

Dec 18: Fish diseases have broken out in an epidemic form in Nesarabad Upazila of the district, reports UNB.

According to informed sources, shing, kot, magur, soal, gozar, baid, takti, puti and other species of fish have been attacked by the ulcerative diseases.

Fish both in rivers and ponds as reported have been attacked.

Professional fishermen are facing a dull market as consumers are reluctant to buy fish.

They have urged the authorities to take measures to control the disease without further delay.

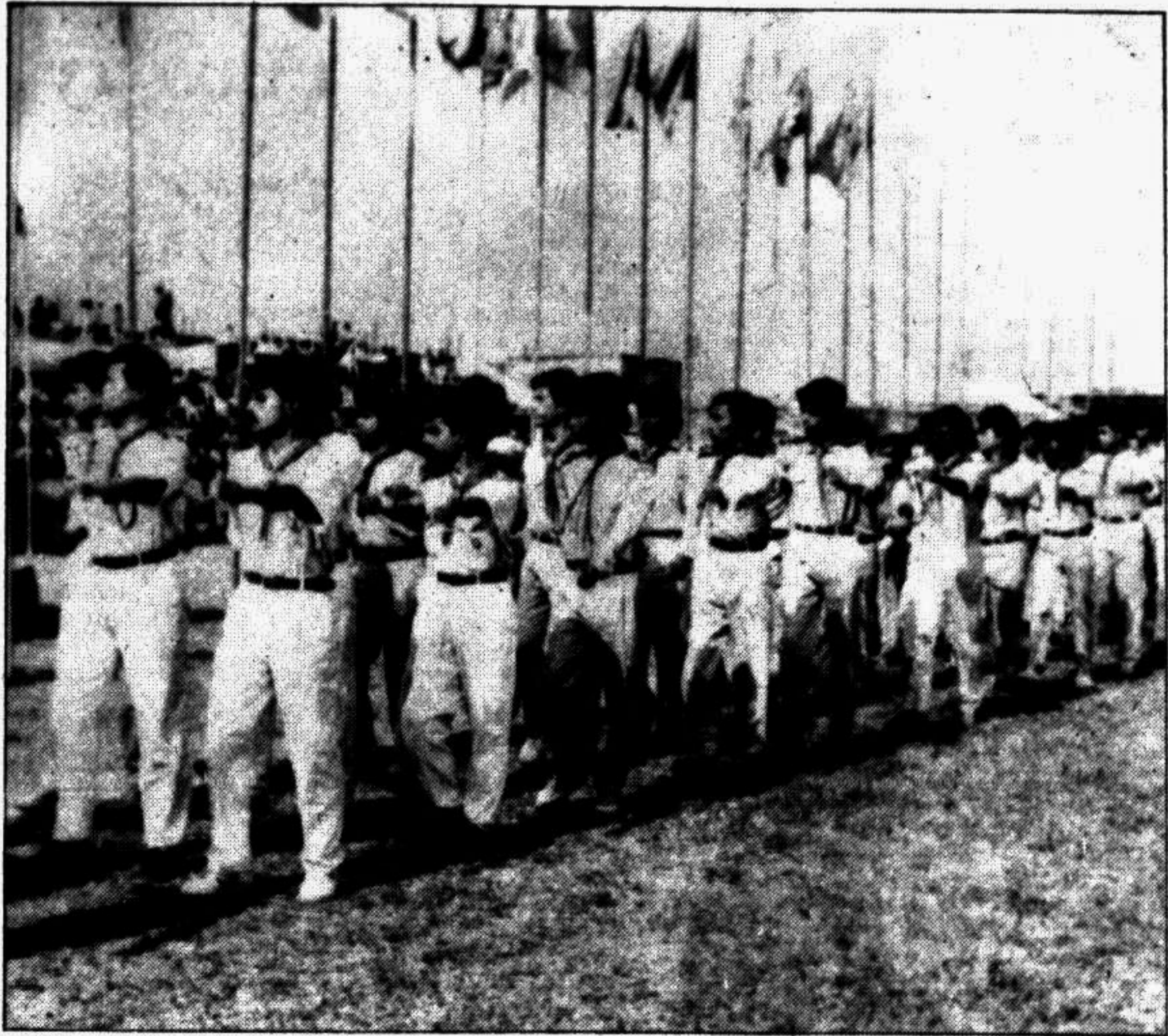
**CHUADANGA**

Dacoity at Customs godown

Dec 20: A daring dacoity was committed at Chuadanga Customs and Excise Godown Sunday midnight, reports UNB.

Local people said a gang of dacoits broke open the door of the godown, tied up two night guards and decamped with 1,000 pieces of Indian sarees, 10 grams of gold ornaments and cash money.

A case was registered with the Chuadanga police. Night guards Abdul Hamid and Abdus Salam were taken into custody and interrogated.



RAJSHAHI: The members of the Boys Scout are at the Victory Day parade at the local stadium. — Star photo

Pledge to uphold spirit of Liberation War

The 20th anniversary of Victory Day was observed in the districts with a renewed pledge to maintain peaceful atmosphere for the economic emancipation of the people.

Different organisations of the districts chalked out various programmes to mark the day. The programmes include meeting, processions, discussion meetings, cultural shows, exhibitions and milad mahfils.

**Rangpur**

Our Rangpur Correspondent reports: The Victory Day was observed here amidst colourful programmes.

The day-long programme was switched on with the 21-gun salute at 12-01 mid-night.

In the early morning National Flag was hoisted atop all government and non-government buildings and floral wreaths were placed at the Shaheed Minar.

The day's other programmes include display of police parade and band party, rally at the stadium, documentary shows of films, special prayers, distribution of rich foods among the inmates of the jail, hospitals and orphanages, sports, discussion meetings and cultural functions.

**Madaripur**

Our correspondent from Madaripur says: The 20th Victory Day was observed here with great enthusiasm and renewed pledge to build a happy and prosperous Bangladesh.

The day heralded with 21-gun salute at dawn at the local police ground and ceremonial hoisting of flag at the local stadium.

Mr Ashaikul Huq Chowdhury, Deputy Commissioner took the salute at the march out parade of the police. The distinguished personalities of the town were also present on the occasion.

The day-long programmes included an impressive rally at the local stadium which were participated by various organisations of the district.

**Chuadanga**

Our Chuadanga correspondent informs: The Victory Day was observed here with a befitting manner.

The day's programmes started with 21-gun salute at the local Borobazar.

The other programmes of the day include hoisting of National Flag atop all buildings.

The formal hoisting of National Flag and march out parade was held at the local stadium where the DC took the salute.

Improved diet, were served to the inmates of the jail, hospital and orphanages. Special prayers were also arranged on the occasion where the attendants prayed for peace and progress of the country.

Some organisations hold discussion meetings where the speakers stressed the need for unity to make the country happy and prosperous. They also paid glowing tributes to the memory of martyrs who laid down their lives for the greater interest of the nation.

**Gaibandaha**

BSS from Gaibandaha says: Victory day was observed in the district through elaborate programme by different political and cultural organisations.

Discussions, meetings, seminars and cultural functions were held to mark the occasion. Muktijoddha Sangsad, Gaibandaha unit staged a drama. A discussion meeting was held at Shaheed Minar under auspices of Awami League. BNP

held meeting at their office premises.

**Tangail**

Another report from Tangail says: The Victory Day was observed here in a befitting manner.

The programme started in the morning with twenty one gun salute. National Flag were hoisted atop private and public houses. Floral wreaths were placed at Shaheed Minar and special prayers were for the salvation of souls of the Liberation War martyrs.

Different children's organisations, socio-cultural organisations, educational institutions hold programmes on the occasion.

**Netrakona**

A report from Netrakona adds: Different political and socio-cultural organisations held discussion meetings and cultural functions on December 16 to mark the 20th anniversary of Victory Day.

BNP, Netrakona District Unit organised a discussion meeting on the significance of the Liberation War. Presided over by Advocate Siddique Rahman, Vice-President of Netrakona District BNP, the meeting was addressed among others by Advocate Habibur Rahman, and ATM Mostafa Churnu.

A rally was organised by Jatiyatabadi Mahila Dal at Netrakona Mahila College premises. Mrs Hamida Karim inaugurated the rally.

Shilpakala Academy, Netrakona held a cultural function at Netrakona Public Hall.

The district administration accorded a reception to the Freedom Fighters at a function held at the conference room of the collectorate.

Bamboo price up, house construction hampered

SATKHIRA, Dec 20: The construction of new houses and repair of old ones are being hampered greatly for scarcity of bamboos.

The traditional cottage industry is also facing set back due to the shortage of bamboos which is the main raw material for the same.

It is learnt that the huge sale of bamboos by the farmers to collect money for their livelihood was mainly responsible for the crisis. It can be mentioned here that bamboos are mainly used in the construction of kutcha houses in rural areas.

The people engaged in cottage industry are compelled to give up their traditional profession for want of bamboos and are passing hard days.

At present, a medium size bamboo is selling between Taka 60 and 80 which is beyond the purchasing capacity of the poor people of the villages.

Consequently, most of the poor people are unable to repair their houses.

The candidates of Bangladesh Islami Chhatra Shibir got all the seats in the students union election of Satkhira Government College defeating Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD).

The election held recently in a peaceful atmosphere.

Abdul Kader and Selim were elected Vice-President and General Secretary of the students union.

**From Our Correspondent**

**Death condoled**

The death of Mr Ashraf Ali, a Shrestader of the local Judge Court was condoled in a meeting held recently at the court premises.

Presided over by Mr Abdur Rob Mia, District and Sessions Judge, Satkhira, the meeting

**Toll collectors stab college student, dies**

From Our Correspondent MYMENSINGH, Dec 20: Kamrul Alam Delal, a college student was stabbed by some miscreants on Monday last.

The victim was rushed to the local hospital where he died.

It is reported that the miscreants attacked Kamrul Alam when he was attending the Victory Day parade at the local stadium in the morning. The miscreants stabbed him in the back.

The family sources of Kamrul told this correspondent that some miscreants demanded chanda from Kamrul but he did not oblige to the demand. The miscreants later threatened him to kill.

Kamrul Alam left behind a 4-month baby, wife, parents and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

In connection with the case, the police have arrested Kamal, Alhaj, Sohel, Salim and Tablik of the town.

was addressed by Mr Amir Hossain, Additional District and Sessions Judge.

The speakers expressed deep sorrow at the death of Ashraf Ali and prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul.

One Sheikh Anisuddin, Manager, Sunderban Circus Company and an inhabitant of village Bhatpara under Satkhira Sadar Upazila allegedly committed suicide recently.

The victims committed suicide by hanging himself on the roof of his bedroom.

It is reported that Anisuddin lost his mental balance as he was facing an acute financial crisis.

Twelve people have been sentenced to life imprisonment for committing a murder in the Kayerkanda village of Sadar upazila.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Shyam Narayan Paul delivered the judgement recently and fined the convicts Taka 5000 each, in default to suffer RI for one year more.

According to the prosecution story, a gang of miscreants of village Kayerkanda attacked Chand Mia of the same village when he was fishing at a nearby pond along with his brothers. Chand Mia received serious injuries in the clash and died on way to his house.

A case was filed and after investigation police submitted charge sheet against 12 people. The judge after examining the witnesses and evidences awarded the said punishment.

Smuggling along Jessore border

Honda, Motorbikes as main carrier

From A Correspondent

JESSORE, Dec 20: Smuggling along the Jessore border is going on unchallenged for quite sometime past.

The border is virtually open for the smugglers and the law enforcing agencies there take little care against it. The whole situation here presents a painful picture.

Reports received from different sources indicate that many items including VCP, polyester cloths, fish, motor-tyres, cement, valuable metals as gold, copper and palm oil are being smuggled out of Bangladesh while a wide variety of goods like paddy, rice, salt, sugar, onion, peeper, vegetables, fertilizers, sari, fruits, bicycle, matches and cattle in a massive quantity are being smuggled into Bangladesh from India.

An unauthorised cattle-hat at village Daulatpur under Sukpukuria union of Chowgacha upzila in Jessore wellknown for selling smuggled cattle is running in peaceful and stable manner with no objection from any corner. Another mentionable smuggling point is village Arsinagar near Andulia, BOP.

Purapura market under Sukpukuria union is a place for lifting the goods. Besides, Purapura Hat is the main centre for selling Indian cattle, it is informed.

Goga, Baganchara, Navaron and Benapole hats are the other points of selling smuggled goods.

It is learnt that the use of motor-cycle in carrying the smuggled goods has become safer for the persons involved in this illegal trade. Very often, dozens of motor-cycles in broad day light are found moving with the contraband items, it is alleged.

Recently, rickshaw vans and bkyckes have been engaged for quick transportation of goods

in addition to day labourers who carry goods.

A local survey uncovers that this profession has become very lucrative to the unemployed literate and illiterate youths who are supported by the local influential persons.

The honest people of the locality have urged the concerned authorities to take immediate steps to stop smuggling which might save the trade and industries of the country.

BSF returns rifle of BDR jawan

From Our Staff Correspondent

KIULNA, Dec 20: Indian Border Security Force (BSF) has returned the rifle of a BDR jawan snatched by smugglers on Saturday last.

The handover of the rifle was held in flag meeting between the BDR and BSF.

BDR sources said that some of their men of Gazipur Camp came across a gang of smugglers and chased them up to the no man's land on Friday last. The smugglers caught the BDR jawan, Abdul Mannan, beat him up, snatched his rifle and crossed the border.

Mannan was admitted to the hospital with serious injuries.

BDR Sector Commander, Colonel Anwar Hossain told The Daily Star that the four BDR personnel who failed to open fire during the incident were suspended a further investigation was going on in this regard.

Meanwhile, tension has been prevailing along the border areas. The smugglers have become desperate and very much active in ill activities under the backing of BSF, it is learnt.

Power supply irregular

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Dec 18: Frequent power failure has become a regular feature in Bajitpur Town and its adjoining areas causing much inconvenience to the residents of the localities.

Town dwellers complained that the areas plunge into darkness almost every day giving rise to anti-social activities. The erratic power supply leaves some of the electronic goods out of order for which the dwellers have to incur a heavy loss. The production in the local mills and factories and the total irrigation system are greatly affected by the irregular power supply.

The prices of foodstuffs go up for the erratic power supply as the mill owners can not crush the paddy and rice regularly.

The local people urged the concerned authorities to take necessary steps to help regularise the power supply.

Law and order situation in the district has deteriorated causing concern to the peace loving people, local leaders alleged here.

Highway robbery, theft, murder, kidnapping, dacoity, rape, cattle lifting, smuggling and mugging have been rampant in all the 13 upazilas, they said.

Malpractice of palliation dealers

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Dec 20: Foodgrains allotted under palliation system are being sold in open market in all seven upazilas of the district.

It can be mentioned here that the government sanctions this foodgrains for the landless and distressed people of the rural areas who have cards.

According to reports, there are about 200 palliation dealers most of whom have got no ration shops in their respective unions. In most cases, they receive the allotment from the Upazila Food Officers and sell it in the open market.

Sometimes, the local rice traders buy it and sell it to others at a higher price.

The upazilas of the district are: Sadar, Bakshiganj, Dewanganj, Islampur, Madarganj, Sarishabari and Melandah.

The palliation dealers keep their shops closed for most of the times.

Some dealers collect the cards from the holders in the name of renewal and never return it back. The dealers sell the ration rice at Taka 13.00 as against the government price of Taka 7.50.

It is learnt that some Upazila Food Officers are allegedly involved in the malpractice.

It is further alleged that the dealers maintain some false cards by which they do all these bad practices.

**Khagrachhari**

A UNB report from Khagrachhari adds: Anti-corruption Bureau of the hill district unit has filed four separate cases of corruption against 14 people including 2 food officials, 2 Union Parishad Chairman, 9 Union Parishad members and one businessman.

The District Anti-corruption Officer said, the Chairman and members of the unions of

Notes from Jhenidah

Dec 15: Prices of kerosene and petrol have recorded a sharp rise in the district due to transport strike causing immense harm to the consumers and local people, reports UNB.

At present, in the local markets kerosene is being sold between at Taka 14 and 15 per litre as against Taka 10, while petrol is being sold between Taka 25 and 30 per litre against Taka 14 before transport strike.

Fuel supply at the depots are not available though district administration takes control of the depots.

Shortage of supply due to Paribahan strike was the main reason behind price hike of fuel, officials said.

A few number of vehicles are plying in the district while other transports specially buses and trucks are still off from the road.

**Body recovered**

Police recovered a body from a roadside ditch near Mobarakganj Sugar Mills at Kaliganj town area, police said here on Saturday.

On information police rushed to the spot and recovered body on December 7. The body was identified as Moniruzzaman Liton (17), son of Shah Alam of village Jatrapur in Chowgacha upazila of Jessore district.

The reason behind the death could not be ascertained. The body was sent to Sadar hospital for post-mortem.

A case has been recorded with Kaliganj thana.

**One killed**

A young house master was killed at village Babla Mathabhangha in Moheshpur upazila when he attempted to resist an alleged thief on Wednesday night, police said here recently.

Shahidul Islam (30) was chopped to death when he raised hue and cry and tried to resist the miscreant. Shahidul died on the spot.

The thief, however, managed to escape with valuables. None was arrested yet.

**One killed, two hurt**

A minor boy was killed and two others including his father sustained serious injuries when a Kaliganj bound sugarcane loaded tractor turned turtle at Tandah Bus Stand of the town Tuesday night.

Witnesses said the victim Hasan (11) and his father Muktar Khan (45) of village Daniabahu of Sadar upazila with another pedestrian Abul Majid (35) were standing by a roadside shop and the tractor all on a sudden fell upon them killing Hasan on the spot.

The injured were rushed to Sadar hospital.

Following the accident, agitated people of the locality blocked the road for two hours and demanded a speed breaker on that point of the road to check recurring accidents.

Police seized the vehicle but the driver fled. A case has been filed with Sadar police.

**Doctors observe strike**

Doctors of Sadar Hospital observed a day-long strike Wednesday for an assault attempt on a doctor at his hospital chamber by some youngmen Tuesday.

According to witnesses, a group of youngmen wanted to know the condition of their patient from the attending doctor Nabul Hoq. At one stage of their conversation they go furious and attempted to stab the doctor with a knife. But the onlookers resisted them and saved the doctor.