

## Upazila roundup

## AGRI VARSITY

## 5 get life-term for murder

**From BAU Correspondent**  
Jan 22 : M J Hafiz, Additional District and Sessions Judge, Mymensingh sentenced five persons to life-term imprisonment and fixed Taka one thousand each in default to suffer RI for one year more on charge murder recently.

The convicted persons are Kalliah, Khurshed, Mokbul and Ahmed Ali of village Mirzapur under Sadar upazila.

According to the prosecution of the case, in the morning of 3.3.1989, the convicted persons killed one Mustafizur Rahman Aungur of village Ragubpur under Sadar upazila of the district by sharp weapon over land disputes.

The judge after examining the evidences sentenced five persons to life-term.

Another report says, Gouripur Thana police arrested five dacoits with one pipegun, six round, of cartridges and one dagar.

The arrested dacoits are Nab Ali, Tuta, Mastan, Bareak.

## NETRAKONA

## Zia's birth anniversary observed

Jan 22 : The 56th birth anniversary of the late President Ziaur Rahman was observed here and elsewhere of the district with renewed pledge to uphold Bangladesh nationalism and consolidate democracy, reports BSS.

Different socio-cultural and political organisation including BNP chalked out elaborate programmes to observe the day. The programme included discussion meetings, processions and milad mahfil.

BNP Netrakona district unit arranged a discussion meeting on the life and works of shahed President Ziaur Rahman at its office premises. Presided over by Advocate Abdul Kuddus, the meeting was address by the party's district level leaders.

They recalled the glorious contribution of the late President.

## SYLHET

## Postmaster suspended

**From Our Correspondent**  
Jan 22 : A postmaster has been put under suspension and arrested for alleged misappropriation of foreign money orders. The incident took place in Biswanath upazila of the district.

According to the reliable source, Mr Abdul Matin, Postmaster of Daanhar Post Office under Biswanath upazila had misappropriated about Taka 25,000 sending from abroad through money orders to different persons.

On getting certain complaints, a departmental enquiry was held in this connection.

A case in this connection was registered with the Biswanath PS.

## BARISAL

## Body formed to implement CPEP

**From Our Correspondent**  
Jan 22 : More than 45,000 children's between age group of 5 and 7 years have been admitted into 130 government primary and 30 non-government primary schools here in Barisal under Compulsory Primary Education Programme.

A total of 15,700 students got admission in class one while 11,300 students in class two, 9,100 students in class three, 4,750 students in class four and 4,415 students have been admitted in class five.

It is learnt that a 22-member coordination committee was formed to implement the programme a success.

## KUSHTIA

## Beggar problem

Jan 22 : Beggars are on the rise in the district town of Kushtia creating much inconveniences to the town dwellers.

The beggars mostly floating people affected by natural calamities are coming to the town in large number from rural areas with the hope of better earnings.

Town dwellers complained that with their on rush various infectious diseases have broken out in the town. They regularly respond to the call of nature in open drain polluting the environment.

It is alleged that many of the women beggars have resorted to immoral practices for their livelihood giving rise to anti-social activities in the town.

## MAULVIBAZAR

## 10-day long eye camp

**From Our Correspondent**  
Jan 22 : Deputy Commissioner of Maulvibazar inaugurated a 10-day long eye camp at Sreemongal Victoria High School recently.

The camp was jointly organised by Bangladesh National Society for the Blind (BNSB), Sreemongal unit and BNSB Eye Hospital of Chittagong.

On the opening day, large number of eye patients underwent operations. Besides, a large number eye patients were treated in the camp.

Presided over by the UNO, Sreemongal. The inaugural function was addressed, among others, by Mr MA Rahim, Dr Rama Ranjan Deb and Dr Sahabuddin.

## NATORE

## Honours courses in govt college from next yr

Jan 22 : Honours courses will be introduced in Sirajdowla Government College here from next academic year, reports UNB.

Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar declared this at the installation ceremony of the College Students' Union on Monday.

He said the present government will favour spread of higher education and steps have already been taken to introduce Honours and Master's degree courses in some more colleges in the country.

Presided over by the Principal of the college, Abdul Kader Mia, the function was also addressed by State Minister for Communication Fazlur Rahman as special guest.

## JAMALPUR

## Two killed, 3 hurt in mishaps

**From Our Correspondent**  
Jan 22 : One Mobarrah Ali of village Kuladah under Sarishabari upazila was crushed under the wheels of inter-city train near Sarishabari station recently.

According to the witnesses, the victim was killed on the spot while he was crossing the railway line.

The body was sent to the Jamalpur General Hospital for postmortem.

A unnatural death case was filed in this connection with ORP Thana.

Another report says : One housewife, Riyamoni Rani (29) was burnt alive and her three children were injured from a fire that occurred near Samuna Fertilizer area of the district recently.

## GAIBANDHA

## Book reading competition

**From Our Correspondent**  
Jan 22 : Annual Prize Distribution on book reading competition of Bishaw Sahitya Kendra, Gaibandha Zila Unit for the students of eleventh classes concluded here at Gaibandha Girls High School auditorium recently.

Mr Shamur Pal, Secretary, Gaibandha Zila Parishad was present as chief guest and gave away prizes among 31 students of both Gaibandha College and Gaibandha Govt. Mohila College. Of them four got distinction.

The function and presided over by Zila Unit Coordinator Mr KM Reza Hogue and those who spoke among others by Mr Gobinda Lal Das, President, Bangladesh Sangbadik Samity, Gaibandha Unit, Mr Abdus Samad Babu, Secretary, Gaibandha Press Club, Mr Abu Zafar Sabu, Organiser of Gaibandha Kendra and Mr Mahabubul Alam of Gaibandha College, Miss Lukna Easmin of Mohila College.

## MAIZDEE COURT

## Fire service station faces problems

Jan 21 : The fire service station of the district headquarters has been plagued with multifarious problems for want of adequate staff and equipments, reports UNB.

At present, the fire station has only 14 staff out of the total requirement of 19 and only four drivers out of 5. Moreover, one fireman has been deputed for office work.

The only one ambulance of the station, which often goes out of order, has been sent to Chittagong for repair.

Local elite have urged the authorities to provide modern equipments and adequate staff to meet the growing demand of the people without further delay.



JAMALPUR : About 8,000 poor and destitute women recently gheraoed the DC office demanding work and food.

## 8,000 poor women gherao DC for work, food

## From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Jan 22 : About 8,000 poor and distressed women gheraoed the office of Deputy Commissioner, Jamalpur and shouted slogans in support of their demand. They also handed over a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner.

The continuous flood and massive erosion in the district have rendered thousands of people homeless and caused heavy losses of the property and other valuables.

The destitute and jobless women of the district also brought out a procession which paraded the main thoroughfares of the town and chanted various slogans for work and food.

The distressed village women demanded the formation of 'Kalsi Bahini' system under Food for Works Programme. The 'Kalsi Bahini' system was introduced during the time of shahed President Ziaur Rahman.

Earlier, the distressed women participated at a rally at Shaheed Minar premises which was presided by one Samila Khatun.

Speakers at the rally expressed their untold sufferings caused by the floods, drought, cyclone and other natural calamities. They want work to live, but the condition of the villages are not favourable, they said.

They demanded that it was the duty of the government to arrange work and food for all the citizen of the country.

Later, the distressed

women from villages gheraoed the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Jamalpur and shouted slogans in support of their demand. They also handed over a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner.

It can be mentioned here that this is for the first time the destitute women assembled at the district headquarters in such a huge gathering where they raised their demands.

## FF seeks help

Mr Md Abdur Razzak, a crippled Freedom Fighter of the district has appealed to the Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, her government, the Members of the Parliament and the people of the country for their generous financial help for the survival of his family.

Abdur Razzak of village Kamapur under Jamalpur Sadar upazila became crippled in a fight during Liberation War in 1971.

Razzak, who fought dauntlessly in the Liberation War to free the country from the occupation of Pakistan forces is now struggling hard for survival. He has been suffering from poverty for about 20 years and could do nothing for the removal of his condition and to decrease the hardships of his family members dependent on him.

He was honoured by the shahed President Ziaur

Rahman for fearless fighting during the Liberation War under Sector-11.

After the return from battle field, he found himself quite helpless as his close relatives were killed and the dwelling houses and other property were destroyed by the anti-liberation forces.

BSS report says : Babu Jagabandhu Shaha, a well-known teacher of Dewanganj High School under this district, died recently after prolonged illness. He was 69, reports BSS.

The death news of the dedicated teacher, who retired from active service a few years ago, spread a shock wave in Dewanganj Upazila. Hundreds of students and admirers of Babu Jagabandhu Shaha assembled at the Dewanganj residence of the deceased to pay him last respect.

The elderly teacher left behind his wife, two daughters and 6 sons.

Property worth about Taka one lakh was gutted in fire broken out at village Rampur in Aona Union under Sarishabari Upazila recently.

The fire originating from kitchen rapidly spread to the house of one Majam Ali and 18 dwelling houses were burnt to ashes.

Affected people were reported to be the poor day labourers and passing their days miserably.

## Notes from Sylhet

## From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Jan 22 : An intensive programme has been taken up in all the four districts of Greater Sylhet region during the current rabi season for cultivation of Wheat.

According to an official source, Wheat will be cultivated in 85,000 hectares of land in the region. It includes 4000 hectares in different upazilas of Habiganj, 600 hectares in Sylhet, 400 hectares in Moulvibazar and the rest 3500 hectares in Sunamganj district.

The target of Wheat production has been fixed at 16,745 metric tonnes, the source informed.

Steps are being taken to supply seeds and other inputs to the farmers during the season, the source added.

## Minor girl crushed to death

A minor girl (8) was crushed to death under the wheels of speeding minibus in Sylhet-Tamabil Road recently.

According to the report, the tragic accident took place near Darbast Bazar when the victim was trying to cross the road. The victim Shaima Begum died on the spot. She is the daughter of one Habibur Rahman of village Tengra.

The driver was immediately caught by the villagers and was handedover to the police along with the Minibus.

A case in this connection had already been lodged with the Jaintapur P.S.

## New Bengali weekly

The publication ceremony of a new Bengali weekly 'Banglar Alo' was held at Sylhet Press Club recently.

The function was presided over by Borhanuddin Khan, President, Sylhet Press Club while Shahiduddin Ahmed, Deputy Commissioner was present as chief guest.

The function was also addressed among others by FUM Golam Kibria, Principal, Sylhet Government College, Nazrul Islam, Principal, Madan Mohan College, Abdul Mannan, Headmaster, Sylhet Pilot High School and Nazrul Islam Basan, Editor, Weekly 'The Surma' of London. Strajul Islam, Editor of the new weekly also spoke on the occasion. Abdul Hamid Manik, Executive Editor, Dainik Jalalabadi conducted the function.

## Two commit suicide

A 12-year girl committed suicide at Tultikur village of Sylhet Sadar upazila.

According to the report, the victim Nasmin had an exchange of hot words with her elder brother on the day. Following this, she hanged herself with the roof of their house at about 10 am. On the same day.

On getting information police recovered the body and sent it to the MAG Osmany Medical College Hospital for post-mortem. A case of unnatural death had been lodged with the police.

Another incident of suicide took place at village Dharadharpur under Tetli Union Parishad of Sylhet Sadar upazila recently.

One Rakesh Chandra Kapali (65) committed suicide by hanging himself with the roof of his house. The cause of the incident could not be ascertained yet. Police sent the body to the Morgue for post-mortem.

A case of unnatural death was also lodged with the PS in this connection.

## Transport workers clash, 30 hurt

SIRAJGANJ, Jan 22 : Thirty people were injured, four of them seriously, in clashes between two rival groups of transport workers at the Sirajganj ghat on Tuesday, reports UNB.

At least 40 cocktills were exploded and a hut was set ablaze during clashes in the ghat area, witnesses said.

The clash first ensued in the morning over disagreement about the recruitment of two workers. Another clash occurred at about 8.30 pm.

The situation was brought under control after the union leaders and police reached the spot following the second clash.

Police was deployed to avert further trouble with tension prevailing in and around the ghat.

A earlier reports say: Local units of BNP, Awami League, JSD (Inu) and Jatiya Party held a joint meeting in Shahjadpur upazila here to avoid further clash among their student wings.

Activists of JCD, JSD and Chhatra League clashed recently over admission of a group of students in Shahjadpur Government College leaving 13 people injured.

The meeting was attended, among others, by Anwar Hossain of BNP, Golam Azam of Awami League, Madhu Miah of JSD and Hashibur Rahman Swapan of Jatiya Party. Officer-In-Charge of Shahjadpur police station was present.

At least four people were reported missing when a boat capsized in the Jamuna recently.

Police and witnesses said the paddy-carrying boat heading towards Natuarpara amid dense fog from Megahi Ghat of Kaziupara upazila sank at the middle of the river at 9 pm.

Police could not yet trace the boat or the four missing people on board.

Meanwhile, a worker Babul (35) was also reported missing after he fell from a launch, MV Jony. The launch was going to Sirajganj from Jagannath Ghat.

## Officials asked to regain heritage of silk industry

RAJSHAHI, Jan 22 : State Minister for Textiles MA Mannan on Tuesday said the glorious heritage of the silk industry had to be regained through hard work, sincerity and dedication of all particularly those associated with the Rajshahi Sericulture Board, reports BSS.

He was addressing a meeting of the officials of Rajshahi Sericulture Board here at Rajshahi Silk Factory.

He expressed his dissatisfaction over the mismanagement, stagnation and corruption in the board and said an investigation team would be formed immediately to rectify the previous misdeeds and lapses of Rajshahi Sericulture Board.

Mr Mannan underscored the need for regular inspection and accountability of the members of board for proper development of silk industry. The present government was keen to introduce radical changes in the field of textile and silk industries, he added.

## 2.85 lakh tons aman rice procured

Earlier report says : Food Minister Shamsul Islam on Monday paid a surprise visit to some local depots of the district to see the progress of ongoing aman procurement drive. He was accompanied by State Minister for Land, Kabir

Hossain during the visit.

The Food Minister was apprised while visiting the depots that the procurement programme was going on the full swing without facing any problems.

The Minister directed the food officials to procure standard quality of food grains according to government directions.

He told them to be more active and aware to give fair price of products so that people would be interested in selling their food grains to the government. He also stressed the need for proper preservation and ensuring movement of food grains.

A total of 2 lakh 85 thousand metric tons of aman paddy in terms of rice so far has been procured at a cost of Taka 288 crore against the national target of 5 lakh 50 thousand metric tons. On the other hand, 54.79 per cent of the national target has been achieved from 16 districts of Rajshahi Division.

The paddy in terms of rice of 2 lakh 52 thousand metric tons from Rajshahi Division, 25 thousand 891 metric tons from Khulna, 5 thousand 361 metric tons from Dhaka and 1 thousand 717 metric tons from Chittagong Division has been bought till Monday.

## Handloom industries facing closure

PABNA, Jan 22 : Handloom industries are facing closure in the district due to influx of Indian clothes in the local markets and fund constraints, reports UNB.

About 50,000 handlooms have remained inoperative and fate of about two lakh families involved with the business has become uncertain, informed sources said.

Comparing with country's clothes, sources said: Indian low quality sarrees and other clothes are being sold in cheaper rate for which good quality clothes locally produced has abruptly lost market.

Meanwhile, price hike of cotton and other handloom inputs coupled with fund constraints, made the weavers give up their ancestral profession.

In 1983-84, government introduced loan system for the development of handloom industries, but a small number of genuine weavers got loans due to the malpractices by fake weavers with the help of some dishonest bank officials.

On the other hand, the few who received loans are facing

hardship in repaying their loans. Bank authority has started filing certificate cases against the defaulters.

Thousands of weavers held a protest rally in the district town hall demanding exemption of loan and reduction of cotton price.

The Education Minister has sanctioned Taka 23.50 crore for construction of 113 government primary schools in 16 northern districts of the country during the current fiscal year.

With the financial assistance of Islamic Development Bank, 8 primary schools will be constructed in Pabna, 6 in Sirajganj, 9 in Rajshahi, 5 in Natore, 7 in Chapainawabganj, 7 Nagoan, 8 in Bogra, 6 in Joypurhat, 3 in Thakurgaon, 12 in Dinajpur, 7 in Panchagarh, 13 in Rangpur, 10 in Gaibandha, 4 in Lalmonirhat, 2 in Nilphamari and 7 in Kurigram districts.

Official sources said, the construction work will start this month and is expected to be completed by June next.

## Development of poura area demanded

MAULVIBAZAR, Jan 22 : The elite of the Maulvibazar town have demanded speedy development of the poura area providing the essential civic amenities befitting a district headquarters, reports UNB.

The poura area covering an area of two square miles with a population of over 40,000, has only 836 miles of narrow pucca road, they said.

Most of the roads have developed cracks causing inconvenience and obstruction to pedestrians as well as vehicular traffic.

Most of the drains of the town are kutcha, and almost fully filled with garbage polluting the environment.

Heaps of garbage, trash and

excrements on the roadsides and drains compounded the situation. Unclean drains and ditches have turned into breeding grounds for mosquitoes, another menace after sunset.

Insufficient space in the fish and vegetable markets for the ever growing traders and consumers has been a constant cause for annoyance.

Unauthorised encroachment on roads and drains has posed another problem to the town-dwellers.

The elite suggested that many of the problems could be removed during the current dry season given the will and planning.



USE OF FIREWOOD : The indiscriminate cutting of trees including the small ones for use in the brickfields is deforesting the villages which is creating ecological imbalance in the country.