

Upazila roundup

RANGAMATI

Discussion on CHT problems tomorrow

Jan 27: A discussion meeting on "Problems of Chittagong Hill Tracts and its solutions" will be held on January 29 at Reserve Bazar Square here, reports UNB.

Organised by Bangladesh Islamic Chhatra Sena and Juba Sena, district unit, the discussion meeting will be held in two separate sessions.

Chairman of the Local Government Council Gautam Dewen, former Minister B K Dewan, Chief Reporter of the Daily Azadi Obaidul Huq, President of Rangamati Press Club A K M Magaoud Ahmad, President of Chhatra Sena Central Committee S U M Samad will take part in the first session.

Alhaj Khondakar Golam Mousa, Secretary General of Ahle Sunnat-Wal-Jamaat, Alhaj Mufti Obaidul Huq Naimi, Jafar Abidin Juberi, Alhaj Abdul Malek Noori, Alhaj Nazrul Islam among others, will take part in the second session at 9 pm.

SATKHIRA

60 Indian cows seized

Jan 27: Bangladesh Rifles seized 60 Indian cows from two markets in Kalaroa Upazila of the district Saturday, reports UNB.

Acting on secret information, BDR jawans recovered 50 cattle from Kalaroa Market and 10 from Parulia Market. None was arrested in this connection.

The seized cows were handed over to the local customs authorities.

Two separate cases have been filed with Debhata and Kalaroa police stations.

KISHOREGANJ

Muktijoddha Sangsad unit dissolved

Jan 27: The Central Command Council of Bangladesh Muktijoddha Sangsad has dissolved the district unit, adhoc committee of the sangsad, reports UNB.

A seven-member new adhoc committee has been formed with Advocate Md Mahmudul Islam Ganu as its convenor.

The other members of the committee are: Md Giasuddin, Md Mostafa Galib Khan, Md Abu Kaiser, Md Nurul Islam, Advocate Motahar Hossain and Md Abdul Jabbar.

The Central Council also directed the former convenor Md Irtis Ali to handover all official documents and assets to the new committee.

A full-fledged committee will be elected within two months.

NARAIL

Book fair in honour of SM Sultan

Jan 27: An 8-day-long book fair and photo exhibition began at Government Victoria College here on Friday, reports BSS.

The book fair and exhibition have been organised by Mukhtadha, a leading publishing house, in honour of veteran painter S M Sultan.

The inaugural function was presided over by Mohammad Shamsur Ali, Principal, Government Victoria College while Mohammad Ali Hossain, Deputy Commissioner, Narail was the chief guest. Mr Chitta Ranjan Saha, Managing director of Mukhtadha spoke on the occasion.

A short film on the life and works of SM Sultan was screened. The 8-day programme included discussion meetings and cultural function.

JHENIDAH

Two activists surrender with arms, ammunition

Jan 27: Two activists of Biplobi Communist Party (M-L Haque Group) surrendered here with arms and ammunition to the Deputy Commissioner of the district at his office on Saturday, reports UNB.

Arms deposited include one Indian and one country made guns and a good number of ammunition.

They were identified as Jahangir Hossain Badsha (32), of village Baguta in Shalakkupa Upazila and Moshir Rahman (30), of Bhanipur village in Harinakunda Upazila.

Moshir Rahman MP and Abdul Wahab MP were also present in the surrendering ceremony.

Talking to UNB they said they were convinced of the bonafide of the amnesty declared by the government. They wanted to avail of it and get involved in nation building activities initiated by the democratically elected government.

MPs and district administration officials gave them assurance of all facilities of rehabilitation.

GOPALGANJ

Installation work of 893 tubewells in progress

Jan 27: Work on installation of 893 tubewells in five upazilas of the district is progressing fast, reports UNB.

According to official sources, 273 tubewells will be installed in Sadar, 221 in Kashedant, 182 in Maksudpur, 152 in Kotlipara and 65 in Tungipara upazilas.

The tubewells are being sunk jointly by the UNICEF and Public Health Engineering Department.

The installation work is expected to be completed by the end of the February next.

JHALOKATHI

Over 48 projects implemented last year

Jan 27: At least 48 projects were implemented in Kathalia Upazila of the district in the last year under Annual Development Programme, reports UNB.

According to official sources, Taka 17.50 lakh was spent for implementation of the development projects.

Of the total, 33 projects were executed in construction sector, 2 in health and social services sectors and 13 in other sectors.

According to another report, 13 primary schools were constructed in four upazilas of the district at a cost of Taka 55 lakh.

According to official sources, 3 schools were constructed in Nalchiti Upazila, 2 in Kathalia Upazila and 4 each in Sadar and Rajapur upazilas.

With the construction of the schools about 4000 children will get education facilities in the upazilas, it is learnt.

BARISAL

45,000 sets of books distributed

Jan 27: About 45,000 sets of text books have already been distributed free of cost among the students of primary schools in the district, reports UNB.

According to official sources, 15,600 sets distributed for class one students, 11,270 sets for class two, 9,000 sets for class three, 4,700 sets for class four and 4,410 sets for class five under the Universal Primary Education Programme.

A 22-member co-ordination committee has been formed for smooth implementation of Compulsory Primary Education Programme in the district.

FENI

Tk 80 lakh for road development

Jan 27: Road communication in the upazila will get a new boost with about 80 lakh Taka sanctioned by the Local Government and Engineering Bureau, reports UNB.

Five major roads in three upazilas of the district will be treated under the post flood rehabilitation programme.

Besides Taka 31.28 lakh was sanctioned for road carpeting in Chhaganatiya Upazila, Taka 16 lakh for the reconstruction of Strahadi-Podua (HOP) Road and Taka 23.36 lakh for Farhad Nagar Road of Sadar upazila and Taka 6.25 lakh for a bridge in Box Mahmud Road in Porshuram Upazila, official sources said.

With the successful implementation of the schemes, about five lakh people will be benefited, sources added.

TANGAIL

8 face charge on destroying forest resource

Jan 27: The Forest Department recently filed a case against eight persons including a former Chairman of Ghatal Upazila Parishad on charge of encroachment into forest area and destroying the valuable forest resources worth several lakh taka in Sandhanpur Union, reports BSS.

Police said six persons have been arrested in this connection.



KUSHTIA: The teachers of Bangladesh Sikkhak Samity Federation, local unit brought out a procession in support of their demands recently. The teachers are still now on strike. —Star photo

Downward trend of farm output

From Our Correspondent

DINAJPUR, Jan 27: The agricultural production in Biral upazila of the district is moving downwards over the past few years as the farmers are not getting requisite agricultural inputs and financial help from the concerned departments.

Agricultural experts say that the district had all the potentialities to become self-sufficient in food but in the absence of proper facilities they are passing very hard days.

The farmers are compelled to sell their lands and even animals to local mohajans to arrange the expenditure of their bare survival.

The irrigation facilities in the upazila is virtually quite inadequate. Some farmers of the upazila have been provided with deep and shallow tubewells but these are seen out of order for most of the times.

The non-supply of power, shortage of spare parts and skilled manpower are depriving the villagers to avail the irrigation facilities. The high price of fuels discourage the farmers to use pumps for irrigation purposes.

The authority do not supply pumps to those areas where electricity is not available, it is alleged. The farmers are keenly feeling the necessity of irrigation but for the last three years they are not getting it.

An organised gang of criminals often take away the pumps at night, it is informed.

The concerned authorities have been urged to take steps to repair the out of order tubewells and supply power to those areas where it is needed to boost agricultural production.

The Parbatipur Railway Station is lacking basic amenities for which the passengers are suffering much.

The platform of the station is partly covered up by sheds to protect the passengers from heat, cold and rain. Only one third of the total platform are covered by shed where there are leakages.

The sitting arrangement at the platform is quite inadequate for the number of passengers. There are only two small waiting rooms where facilities are meagre.

The absence of tubewell at the platform is causing paucity of drinking water. The rush of hawkers is also hampering the easy movement of passengers. The platform has become the abode of floating people who are using it as their homes which pollutes the atmosphere.

The concerned authorities have been urged to take steps

to keep the platform clean and extend facilities for the passengers.

A UNB report says: A girl student of Gashpara area of the town allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself on Thursday.

The victim identified as Lipi (18), daughter of one Nazrul Islam was looking for an Adarsha College of the town. The reason behind her alleged suicide could not be ascertained immediately.

Meanwhile, a teenaged girl of Chowhadi village in Biral upazila of the district was allegedly raped by a co-villager on January 21.

According to family sources, Shilpi (14), daughter of Abul Kashem was looking for a job due to poverty. On the fateful day co-villager Taslim alluring her for a job in his house allegedly violated her.

Bamboo production on decrease

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Jan 27: Bamboo production is decreasing day by day in Paba, Tanore, Durgapur, Bagha and Charghat upazilas of the district due to lack of proper care of bamboo clusters and absence of plantation programme.

It may be mentioned here that bamboo is the main material for the construction of kuncha houses and there are 95 per cent kuncha houses in the villages all over Bangladesh.

Thousands of bamboos are cut and sold in the hats and bazars of the villages to meet the daily necessities of the people. Rajshahi district was once famous for bamboo production and there were lakhs of clusters on vast tract land of the district.

The indiscriminate cutting and absence of proper care have diminished the quantity of bamboos in the district. As a result, the acute scarcity of bamboo has been prevailing in these areas and consequently the prices of bamboos have increased several times.

According to reports, most of the bamboos were brought to the towns for selling those at higher prices by some farmers. These bamboos are largely purchased by the contractors to use in their construction works. Only a small number of bamboos are used for the making of kuncha houses.

On the other hand, no efforts are being taken to save bamboo clusters from decaying in these areas. The bamboos are also used as fuels in large scale in some of the areas of the district. The bamboo plants are not left for growing up.

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2 killed in road mishaps

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Jan 27: A young boy was run over by a speeding truck at Talola on Khulna-Satkhira road Wednesday night, police said here on Friday, reports UNB.

Abul Kashem (12) was hit from behind when he was walking along the roadside. The driver of the truck (Khulna TA No 610) fled away immediately after the incident. Police, however, seized the truck.

A case has been filed with the local police.

In Pabna, a school boy was killed by a speeding truck at Dashuria Bazar on Pabna-Ishwardi Highway Wednesday, police said.

Sumon (6), a student of Dashuria Primary School was hit from behind while he was going to his school. He died on the spot.

A case has been filed with the local police.

Police recovered 2 arms and some ammunition from a bush near Mrigadanga Primary School in Sadar upazila of the district of Thursday.

Notes from Gaibandha

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, JAN 27: An expectant mother who possesses dual uterus gave birth to a child after surgical operation at Nibir Nursing Home, Bogra recently.

The patient Hosne Ara Begum wife of one Rafiqul Alam of village Habbipur under Gobindganj Upazila took admission at the said clinic with complaint of abdominal pain. Dr Shamima while conducting operation surprised to find the nature freak. The child was formed in an additional uterus other than natural one.

11 injured in UP Election clash

Eleven persons were injured in an election clash at village Madanerpara under Fulchari Upazila of the district recently.

According to report, the victims, the supporter of one Akbar Hossain, a candidate for the post of Chairman of Kanchipara Union Parishad were returning home after launching election campaign at Madanerpara. Meanwhile supporters of rival candidates Abdul Based and Bablu attacked them with deadly weapons.

Injured persons are Delower Hossain (32), Daszal Huq (22), Salam (25), Jelal (27) and Khalil (23).

According to eye witness, the accused persons further raided different houses of rival supporters injuring more six persons.

Workshop on export training

One-day-long workshop on Export Training Programme under the sponsorship of Export Promotion Bureau, Rajshahi concluded here at Gaibandha Chamber of Commerce Auditorium recently.

The programme was inaugurated by Shajada Anowerul Kadir, President of Local Chamber.

Yahia Mollah, Director, export promotion Bureau, Rajshahi, Masudur Rahman Siddiqui Asst Director, EPM, Dhaka, Md Haroon, NDC, Nazrul Islam, AOM Sonali Bank, Abdul Motaleb, AOM IBSC took part in the discussion.

The five-day inter college cultural competition, first of its kind in the Rajshahi University campus, began on January 15.

One hundred and fifty participants from 21 colleges and 12 residential halls of the Varsity took part in the competition.

Property worth Tk 3 lakh gutted

A fire broke out at Naldanga Bazar adjacent to Railway Station recently and gutted property worth about Taka three lakh.

The fire originated from a Husking Mill following electric short circuit. Seven shops including two Husking Mills including all its belonging were burnt to ashes.

Shoals obstructing navigation

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, Jan 27: The rivers, Dakatia and the Meghna flowing through Chandpur have almost become silted up at several points posing threat to navigation in the district.

The launch services between Dhaka-Chandpur, Chandpur-Barisal are hampered following the emergence of innumerable shoals in the rivers.

With the advent of dry season, the water level of the rivers has fallen to a remarkable point causing problems for the movement of launches and even the country boats.

The river bed of Dakatia is now being used for cultivation and play ground as there are innumerable chars. There are now some big chars in the rivers which have emerged within two or three years.

A comprehensive dredging scheme for both Dakatia and Meghna rivers should be taken

up immediately for smooth navigation and to continue trade and commerce of the district.

The 14th founding anniversary of Chandpur Press Club was held at the club premises recently.

In this connection, a discussion meeting was held with Mr Quamruzzaman Chowdhury, President of the club in the chair. The meeting was addressed by eminent journalists working in different national dailies.

The speakers are: Mr Ruhul Amin Gazi, the Daily Sangram, Mr Shafiqur Rahman, the Ittefaq, Mr Saiful Alam, the Daily Star, Mr Zakaria Milan, the Ittefaq, Mr Dilip Das Dewan, the Sangbad.

The meeting was also addressed among others by Prof Md Hossain Khan, Principal Khorsedul Islam, M A Mahbub, SP, Mr Yakub Ali, DC, Dr M A Rashid and Dr M A Gafur.

Problems hamper primary education

MAULVIBAZAR, Jan 27: Universal Primary Education Programme is facing problems in six upazilas of the district due to shortage of staff, accommodation and other essential inputs, reports UNB.

Classes are being held under the sky as most of the primary school damaged by natural calamities last year are yet to be reconstructed, officials said.

Shortage of teachers and educational appliances remain chronic, they added.

Besides, price-hike of educational materials, including papers and books, forced many students from poor families to discontinue their studies.

Meanwhile, local people alleged that quota of teachers in the primary schools were not being maintained properly and this was one of the main hindrances in implementing the programme.

Hundreds of children in six upazilas of the district have been attacked with intestinal and skin diseases.

Social workers of the district said about 60 per cent of the victims live in Barlekha, Kulaura, Kamalganj, Rajnagar, Sreemangal and Sadar upazilas.

They suffer from malnutrition and other diseases due to parents' lack of knowledge about basic health care.

Doctors also said consumption of adulterated food and taking of impure water were the main reasons behind the outbreak of the disease.

In the absence of traffic checking mechanically defective vehicles are also plying on the roads risking the lives of the passengers as well as pedestrians.

Gaibandha hospitals lack facilities

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Jan 27: The medicare facilities in different hospitals of the district are inadequate for which hundreds of patients have been suffering.

There are seven upazilas in the district. Of the seven, five upazilas have health complex but there is no X-ray machine in Sadullapur and Gobindganj upazilas. Besides, the X-ray machine at Palasbari upazila is lying out of order for the last two years. Moreover, shortage of X-ray plate has been continuing for the last two months.

In Fulchari, upazila health complex is yet to be erected. According to an official source health complex building in that area could not be constructed for the delay in selecting location at the upazila headquarter as the erosion of river Brahmaputra threatened the existence of the town area.

The health complexes in Sunderganj, Palasbari and Gobindganj upazilas were provided with ambulance facilities but the vehicles are rarely found in good condition.

Meanwhile, government directed to set up Gaibandha Sadar upazila health complex at Ramchandrapur, six kilometre away from Gaibandha town which is yet to be started at the site where there is a 15-bed hospital.

A total of 36 union health centres is now in operation in the district but the physicians posted in those complex are not attending regularly. In many of such centres compounders are performing the duties of physicians.

Gaibandha modernised hospital can not cope with the increasing of patients due to accommodation problem. Only 50 beds are quite inadequate to the requirement. Many of the patients are found on the floor with major and critical ailments. The hospital authority could not supply standard diet due to fund constraint.

Although the hospital possesses blood transfusion apparatus but there is no blood bank in the hospital. In Surgical Department there is no specialist for anaesthesia during surgical treatment. Surgical Department often face problem for want of alternative consultant.

Moreover, many posts of specialist like bone, skin, heart, nose and throat, still lying vacant. The authority although brought a dental clinical chair which is yet to be set up in the hospital. As a result, patients are to face untold suffering. The concerned authorities have been urged to take steps to mitigate the sufferings of the patients.

Wheat for vagrant women misappropriated

COMILLA, Jan 27: A total of 6,031 kilograms of wheat allotted for distribution among vagrant women has been allegedly misappropriated by the chairman of Mokam Union Parishad in Burechang upazila, reports UNB.

According to a source, the chairman took delivery of 6,031 kilograms of wheat on November 27 last year for distribution among vagrant women.

But he allegedly sold in the black market about 1,926 kgs of wheat and stored about 4,105 kgs in the union parishad office depriving 193 VGF (Vulnerable Group Feeding) card holders from their monthly quota of wheat.

On a complaint by a VGF card holder, upazila Magistrate and an officer of the Anti-Corruption Bureau investigated the matter and found that the wheat was misappropriated by the chairman.

A case has been registered with the local police in this connection.

The grants-in-aid of

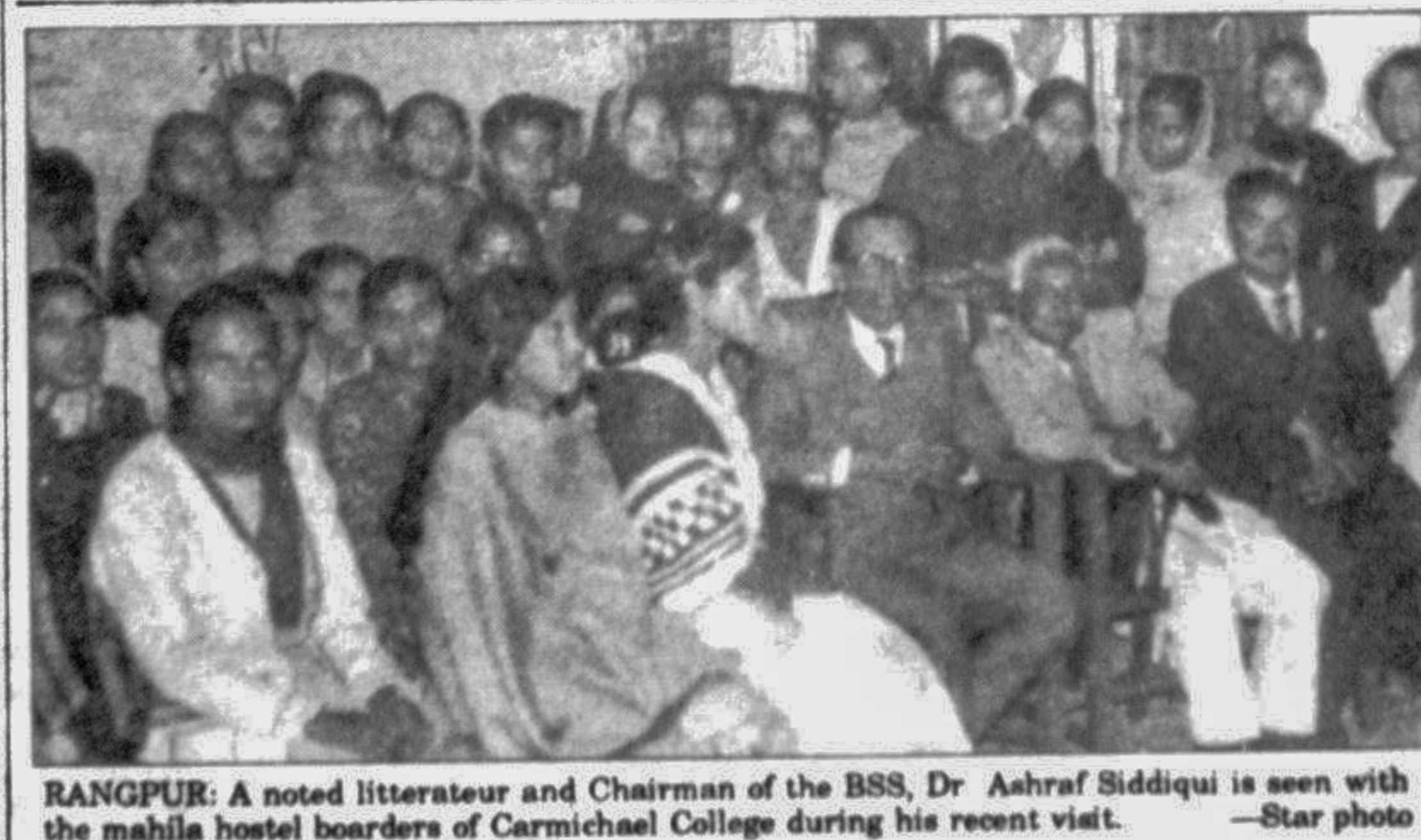
Bangladesh Jatiya Samaj Kalyan Parishad have been distributed among 47 registered social welfare organisations of the district.

Kazi Farid Ahmed, Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) distributed the cheques among the organisations at a function held at the Deputy Commissioners' office on January 22.

The ADC in his speech called upon the office bearers of welfare organisations to come forward with missionary zeal and render social services to the down-trodden.

The function was presided over by Rokeya Begum, Deputy Director, Samaj Seba Department, Comilla and was addressed, among others, by Shahidul Haque Swapan, Organiser, Pathikrit Samaj Kalyan Sangatha, Abu Taher Majumder, President, Bahergara Surja Tarun Sangha.

An unidentified woman has allegedly committed suicide by throwing herself under the wheels of a goods train at Comilla Railway Station.



RANGPUR: A noted litterateur and Chairman of the BSS, Dr Ashraf Siddiqui is seen with the mahila hostel boarders of Carmichael College during his recent visit. —Star photo