

**District roundup**

**JAMALPUR**  
**500 heart patients get treatment**

Dec 8: About 500 patients of cardio-vascular diseases were treated at a heart camp organised by National Heart Foundation, Mymensingh branch at Jamalpur sadar hospital recently, reports BSS.

A discussion on heart diseases was also held on the occasion. Presided over by Salehuzzaman Khan, President, National Heart Foundation, Mymensingh branch, the discussion was addressed, among others, by heart specialists Dr R K Kandakar, Dr Amanullah, Deputy Commissioner, Jamalpur, Jalal Ahmed and Civil Surgeon Dr Md Ashkar Ali.

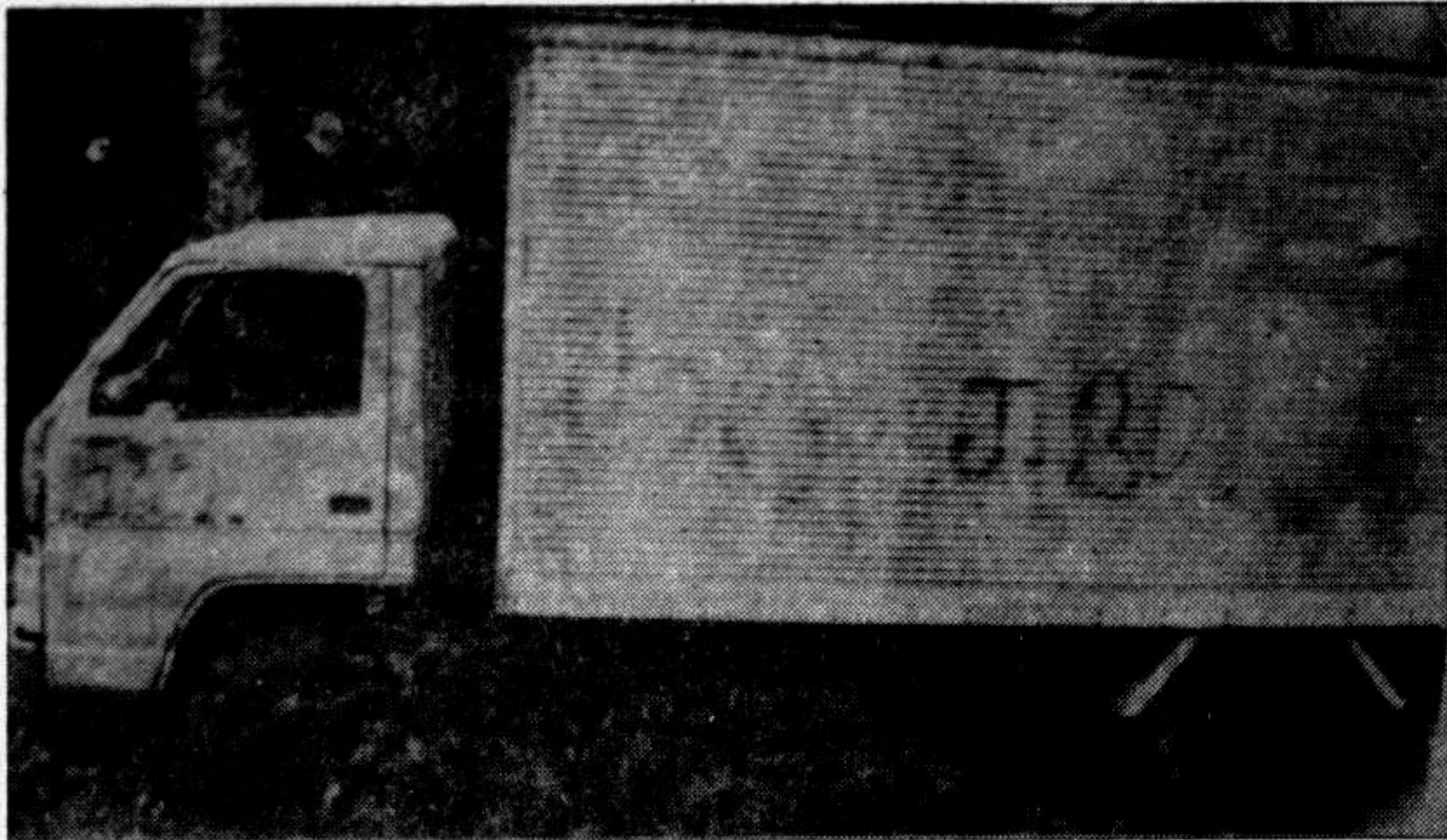
Speaking on the occasion as chief guest, Deputy Minister for Health and Family Welfare Serajul Huq said the government was working hard to reach medicare facilities to all by the year 2000.

**SATKHIRA**  
**BDR seize 82 Indian cows**

Dec 8: Acting on secret information, the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) personnel seized 82 Indian cows worth about Taka four lakh from Abaderhat and Parulalhat under Satkhira district recently, reports BSS.

According to an official source, 18 persons have been arrested in this connection. Cases have been lodged against them.

The BDR personnel also seized Indian sugar and spare parts from Aptkheghata area under Tala thana recently. The value of the smuggled goods was estimated at about Taka one lakh.



**MANIKGANJ:** The van worth Taka 14 lakh of Jessor Haor Fishery Project lying in front of the local fishery office for four years. The front glass of the van was damaged during an accident four years back. — Star photo

**Appropriate steps can help produce 2 m tons potato**

**From Our Correspondent**

**DINAJPUR, Dec 8:** The farmers of the country can produce about two million tons of potato annually if concerned authorities take necessary steps to remove the problems of the cultivators.

Potato is the only crop that can help us to satisfy our demand for food partially which is also cheaper than rice. At present, potato is being sold at Taka five per kg whereas coarse rice is being sold at Taka 12 per kg.

Now, the total production of potato all over the country is near about one million tons. The rate of per acre yield of potato is about 80 metric tons only. The production may be 120 metric tons per acre.

The production cost of potato per hectare is very high in comparison with other crops. But it is also observed that potato cultivation is more profitable than other crops.

The fields of potato cultivation in different zones of the country is still in backward position though the farmers of the zones have been producing the crop by their own resources and abilities.

It has already been proved that the soil condition and climate of northern zone of the country are not less suitable for potato cultivation than other parts of the country.

In the year 1978-79, an experiment was conducted by the respective authority at Debiganj thana in Panchagarh district where the yield was 96 metric tons per acre.

Another similar experiment was made at Ishwardi thana in Pabna district in the same year which presented the same result.

After the experiment, it was hoped that a prospect for potato cultivation in the country has been awaiting. Fifteen years have already been passed after the experiment, but still local varieties of potato are being used by the peasants in the country instead of high yielding varieties of seeds.

The potato cultivators are willing to cultivate High Yielding Variety seeds — Kardinal, Mutta, Patronics, Dizari etc which are not supplied by the concerned authorities. Some of the cultivators are cultivating those High Yielding Variety by their own abilities.

On the other hand, the seed which is supplied by the authorities is not being directly imported here.

However, for better yield, water supply is essential in potato fields. But it is painful that irrigation facilities are insufficient. Far want of irrigation facilities, potato cultivators are unable to cultivate High Yielding Variety qualities of potatoes.

At the very beginning of potato cultivation, growers were keen to cultivate the Holland variety.

During 1991-92, some 3,10,000 acres of land were brought under potato cultivation in all over the country and the total production were estimated at 14 lakh tons.

During the current season, some 3,15,000 acres of land have been brought under potato cultivation in the country. Of the total land, some 1,90,000 acres of land have been brought under High Yielding Variety while some 1,25,000 acres of land have been brought under local variety of potato cultivation.

However, the total target of production in the country has been fixed during the current season at 14,60,000 tons. Of them, 10,70,000 tons of High Yielding Variety and 3,90,000 tons of local variety.

The target of production in one acre of land has been fixed at 5.3 tons for High Yielding Variety and 3.8 tons for local variety.

The target of potato production in 16 northern districts of the country has been fixed at around six lakh tons during the current season. Some 1,25,000 acres of land have been brought under potato cultivation in these 16 districts. Of them, 78,685 acres of land under High Yielding Variety while 46,315 acres of land were brought under local variety of potato cultivation.

Ideal potato cultivators opined that if concerned authority takes necessary measures to remove problems of potato cultivation, the farmers of the country can produce about one million tons of potato per annum easily.

**KUSHITIA**  
**Shishu hospital soon**

Dec 8: A 25-bed shishu hospital will be set up at Kushtia soon. It was decided at a meeting held at the Deputy Commissioner's conference room on Friday, reports BSS.

Presided over by Deputy Commissioner Abul Khair, the meeting formed an eight-member committee for the implementation of the project.

The Deputy Commissioner urged all to cooperate with the committee for the establishment of the child hospital.

Oath taking ceremony of Bangladesh Medical Association, Kushtia branch, was held Friday at the medical school auditorium.

Dr M A Majed, President of the Bangladesh Medical Association was the chief guest and conducted the oath taking ceremony.

The meeting was presided over by Dr Alauddin Mohammad Alamgir, newly elected president of the Kushtia unit.

**RANGAMATI**  
**7-day eye camp ends**

Dec 8: A seven-day eye camp at the Kaptai thana health complex has conducted 28 cataract operations, reports UNB.

A few hundred others were given ophthalmic treatment at the camp which was sponsored by the Kaptai Army region.

On the concluding day November 28, Brig Anisur Rahman, the Regional Commander visited the operated patients and distributed medicines and cash.

The thana administration arranged a function on the occasion chaired by the Thana Nirbahi Officer Nazrul Islam.

It was disclosed at the function that more camps would be organised at the Belachhart thana, Zurachhart and Razasthali for treatment of the poor eye patients in these areas.

**CHUADANGA**  
**Deplorable condition of roads**

Dec 8: The people of the three unions of the district have been suffering badly for long due to deplorable condition of Dingadah-Darshana Road, reports UNB.

A 15-kilometre long road with one bridge and two culverts has been damaged at several points. Some parts of the road and two culverts have been repaired but still the bridge on the river Chitra at village Jalshuka has been left unrepaired causing suffering to the 2 lakh people of the village.

The villagers are also facing problems in moving with their agricultural tools and fertilizers using carts and rickshaws.

Sugarcane is the main economic crop of the district but the farmers of the area cannot sell their products to the Darshana Sugar Mills due to dilapidated condition of the roads.

**KISHOREGANJ**  
**Hats, bazars in pitiable conditions**

Dec 8: Almost all hats and bazars of the district are in pitiable condition causing immense sufferings to the people, reports UNB.

Lack of proper maintenance of the concerned authority is the main reason behind the gradual deterioration of its condition, local leaders alleged.

These markets were set up at local initiatives but no expansion and renovation works were taken up by the government so far. The bazars have no drainage system at all. The situation becomes worst during the rainy season when the hats and bazar areas go under the knee-deep water.

Accommodation problem, toll extortion and lack of pure drinking water facilities, absence of urinals and latrines added more to people's trouble. Garbage are piled up here and there threatening public health.

Local leaders demanded immediate steps to improve the situation of the bazars and hats of the district.

**MADARIPUR**  
**One killed by mother-in-law**

Dec 8: A young man was beaten to death by his mother-in-law at Baitpur village in Rajoir thana of the district, police said, reports UNB.

Family sources said, Sonavan Bibi wife of Chandu Matbar picked up a quarrel Monday with her son-in-law Shamsul Haq (18) over money transaction. At one stage Sonavan got furious and beat Shamsul mercilessly.

Later, Shamsul was taken to Madaripur Sadar Hospital in a critical condition where he succumbed to his injuries.

A case was filed with the police and Sonavan was sent to jail hajjat, sources said.

**DINAJPUR**  
**Foundation of BDRCS hospital laid**

Dec 8: Sayed Shahidul Haque Jamal MP Chairman Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) laid the plaque of Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Red Crescent Hospital Sunday, reports BSS.

Speaking at the function the BDRCS chief said that the construction of a modern building for the 50-bed Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Red Crescent Hospital would start in January next.

He sanctioned Taka five lakh for the operation theatre and renovation work of the present hospital building.

He said 20 maternity and child welfare centres would be set up in the northern part of the country. Besides, some flood protection centres and community development projects would be taken up in the region.

The BDRCS Chairman laid the foundation stone of Red Crescent Dinaipur Unit office and visited the construction work of red crescent maternity and child welfare centre at Sherpur under Parbatipur thana and handed over a cheque of Taka one lakh for the development of the centre.

**COMILLA**  
**Rabi crop farming plan**

Dec 8: A scheme has been taken up to bring 1.80 lakh hectares of land under rabi crops including boro cultivation the district during this winter season, reports UNB.

According to Agriculture Extension Department, other crops to be cultivated under the programme are maize, sweet, potato, vegetable, mustard seeds, different varieties of pulses and ground nuts.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation has been supplying high yielding variety seeds, fertilisers, pesticides and other necessary inputs among the farmers at fair price to make the scheme a success.

The target of production has been fixed at 6,53,903 metric tons, the sources said.

**Four get life-term for murder**

**FARIDPUR, Dec 8:** Three people have been awarded life-term imprisonment for committing a murder here, reports UNB.

The convicts are: Torap Sheikh, Afzal Fakir and Tofazzel Fakir of Boalmari thana of the district. Three others in the case were acquitted, court sources said.

The case, in brief, was that the accused attacked that house of Tarapada Paul at Barankula village in Boalmari thana on the night of July 17, 1990 following previous enmity.

While Tarapada's neighbours came out of their houses to help him, the attackers killed one of them on the spot and injured three others grievously.

Later, a murder case was filed with Boalmari police and police after investigation submitted charge sheet against six people.

After examining witnesses and records the Additional District and Sessions Judge Abul Munsur awarded the punishment on November 30.

A report from Rajbari says: Six persons have been given prison terms ranging from 5 years to life in two separate cases of dacoity and murder.

District and Sessions Judge A K M Fazlur Rahman in his verdict on November 26 said Kased Ali of Joshai village in Pangsha thana had an altercation over sharing of paddy seeds with his sister-in-law Razia Khatun on April 24 this year.

At one stage Kased Ali hit Razia with a spear which killed her instantly. Razia's husband Ayub Ali filed a case with the local police.

After examining the evidence and witnesses, the judge awarded Kased Ali life-term and fined Taka 2,000 and another three months rigorous imprisonment, in default. The trial was held in absentia.

In another case, the court **Certificate lost**

Md Ali Azam lost his SSC certificate bearing Roll No Chow 580, Comilla Education Board, 1966 while he was travelling by a bus recently.

The person who have got the certificate is requested to communicate with Md Shelim, The Daily Star.

awarded five persons five years rigorous imprisonment each with fine of Taka 5,000 and three months imprisonment, in default. The accused committed armed dacoity in the house of Chittaranjan Sikdar of village Patta of Pangsha thana on January 18 last year.

The convicts are: Rezaul Haq, Abdul Azz, Rahmat Mia, Ishaq and Hatem Ali.

The other five accused were acquitted.

Another report from Sirajganj adds: Two people in two separate cases were awarded prison term by the Special Tribunal Judge here Wednesday.

According to the court sources, Amir Hossain of Kunkunia villages in Kazipur was awarded 10 years rigorous imprisonment for mercilessly torturing and driving out his wife Kohinur Khatun for dowry from his house.

The court also fined the accused Taka 10,000.

In another case one Abdul Hannan was given 6 years rigorous imprisonment for attempting to violate a minor school girl Mabin (9) daughter of Korban Ali of Ullapara thana.

**Notes from Comilla**

**COMILLA, Dec 8:** Procurement of aman rice and paddy has been nil so far since it started on the first week of this month, according to food department sources, reports UNB.

No seller arrived at the purchasing centers with paddy, they said.

The growers were reluctant because of this complicated system of payment through banks against weight, quality, and certificate which needs time and energy to encash. Growers prefer cash to any other mode of payment, sources said.

The other cause of reluctance is the lengthy process of receiving the grain at the purchase centers, they said.

Meanwhile, rice is selling between Tk 8 and 10 per kg in the open market here which is below the production cost.

**Two held with pipe guns**

Bangladesh Rifles rounded up a man with 2 pipe guns and 5 rounds of ammunition at Khareru border in the district on Saturday.

The arrested man was identified as Shafilek Mia of Murabari village in Burichang thana.

Another report said a BDR patrol party from 29 battalion, acting on secret information, raided the Jafarganj and Kasba areas and recovered Indian sugar, pulses and ruhi fish worth about Taka 30,000 on the same day.

The goods were handed over to the customs authority and cases have filed with the police.

**Husband sued**

A newly married woman sued her husband at Shbrampara village in Brahmanpara thana for concealing the fact of his first marriage.

Aruna Khatun filed a case against her husband Mafizul Islam in the court of the thana magistrate on Saturday.

Mafizul Islam married Aruna Khatun some months ago without telling her that he had another wife and a child. When she came to know about it she went to her father's house and instituted the case, sources said.

Police arrested Mafizul Islam and sent him to jail hajjat.

**Eight smugglers arrested**

Bangladesh Rifles arrested eight alleged smugglers and recovered a huge quantity of contraband worth about Taka 3831,480 from the border outposts last month, official sources said.

The goods seized while being smuggled into Bangladesh were worth about Tk 38,16,168 while those seized when being smuggled out of the country were valued at about Tk 15,312.

The goods were handed over to the customs authority and cases were filed with the police.

**Initiative to award medals to FFs hailed**

**JAMALPUR, Dec 8:** Bir Pratik Munshi Zahurul Huq expressed his heartiest congratulation to Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia for the initiative to ceremonially award medals to the celebrated freedom fighters of the War of Independence, reports UNB.

Mentionable that the government has decided to award medals to the Bir Uttam, Bir Bikram and Bir Pratik title holders of 1971 War of Independence on the occasion of the Victory Day December 16.

Zahurul Huq who was awarded with the title of 'Mritunjoy Bir Pratik' for his valiant role in the War of Independence in 1971, is now passing miserable days due to financial stringency. He appealed to the Prime Minister for his early rehabilitation so that he can lead a respectful life.

Zahurul Huq, an inhabitant of Chanrabaj village in Sreebordi thana, said that he did not get any financial help and even sympathy from any quarter so long.

**One slaughtered to death**

**SATKHIRA, Dec 8:** A young man was slaughtered to death at Jealanalta village in Tala thana of the district on Saturday, reports UNB.

According to police, on the fateful night, some miscreants called Apurba Saha (25) of the village out of his house and killed him in a nearby field.

Family sources suspected that previous enmity might be the reason behind the gruesome murder.

The body was sent to Satkhira general hospital for autopsy.

A case was filed with local police.

**Historic Babri Mosque demolition protested**

**BRAHMANBARIA, Dec 8:** Thousands of people came out of their houses and brought out separate processions Monday in the district town and thana headquarters protesting the demolition of historic Babri Mosque in India by Hindu militants, reports UNB.

The processionists paraded different roads and chanted slogans to maintain peace. No untoward incident took place. Separate rallies were held in different areas in which speakers urged the people to maintain communal harmony.

Meanwhile, Deputy Commissioner of the district, Khabiruddin Ahmed, held a meeting with political leaders, local elite and religious leaders at Circuit House and discussed measures to maintain peace in the wake of demolition of 16th century Babri Mosque in India.

The meeting was addressed, among others, by Maulana Sirajul Islam, Maulana Mufti Nurullah, Advocate Ali Azam Bhuiyan, Hamidul Haque Tukku, Advocate Aksir M Chowdhury and Sumesh Ranjan Roy.

Another message from Madaripur adds: Hundreds of people brought out several processions in the town protesting the demolition of Babri Mosque and chanted various slogans.

District administration deployed police in temples and other parts of the town to avoid any untoward incident, sources said.

**15.5 tons of foodgrains misappropriated**

**KHAGRACHHARI, Dec 8:** Some 15.5 metric tonnes of foodgrains has been misappropriated from Ramgarh thana food godown, according to official sources, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip, the District Controller of Food Khagrachhari Hill District along with the Food Officer of Khagrachhari sadar thana conducted an enquiry on November 22 and found 14 tons of wheat and 1.5 tons of rice short in the stock.

The officer-in-charge of the godown was also found absconding. The enquiry team sealed the godown and seized the documents.

A case was lodged with Ramgarh police in this connection, the sources said.

The Local Government Council of Khagrachhari Hill district has allocated 3,350 maunds of foodgrains for renovation and repair of religious institutions in the district.

About 2,500 maunds of wheat and 1,050 maunds of rice will be distributed soon to different religious institutions through the elected councilors of the respective areas of the district.

The allocation was made out of the special allotment of 800 metric tons of wheat and 500 metric tons of rice received from the Relief and Rehabilitation Directorate recently.

The religious institutions include four Hindu temples, six mosques and 11 Buddhist temples, the sources said.



**CHUADANGA:** A veteran educationist, Asaduzzaman speaking at a discussion meeting arranged recently to observe the death anniversary of Maulana Bhasani. — Star photo

**Emergence of charlands hamper navigation**

**BARISAL, Dec 8:** Many charlands have emerged in different riverine routes in the southern region of the country during the current winter season, reports UNB.

Navigation has been particularly affected on river Kirtankhola, Meghna, Tetulia, Sandhya and Kalabadar.

Unnumerable shoals on the Barisal-Dhaka, Bhol-Dhaka, Barisal-Khulna and Patuakhali-Barisal routes are hampering smooth plying of river transportation.

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority meanwhile chalked out programmes for dredging Padma, Meghna, Kirtankhola and some other rivers.

Poultry and cattle diseases have broken out in the southern districts of Barisal, Bhol, Borguna, Jhalakathi and Patuakhali.

According to an informed source, about six lakh poultry birds and about a lakh cattle have been attacked by various diseases.

About 120 cattlehead have perished in Barisal, 72 in Bhol, 64 in Patuakhali, 70 in Jhalakathi and 148 in Borguna, local sources said.

**Poor men to get winter cloths in Khagrachhari**

**KHAGRACHHARI, Dec 8:** The Local Government Council of Khagrachhari hill district has decided to buy winter garments for distribution among the poor and the destitute of the district with the fund allocated for the celebration of the third anniversary of the council, reports UNB.

The decision was taken in an extra-ordinary meeting held in the conference room of the council on November 28 presided by its chairman Samiran Dewan.

Winter garments worth Taka 3.38 lakh would be procured considering the poverty of the hilly people and their inability to buy winter garments to protect themselves during the severe cold. Nurul Afsar, the chief executive of the council said.

Priority would be given to those affected the Shantibahini terrorists and those who returned from the Indian camps, he said.

Work is in full swing on the construction of Khagrachhari stadium at a cost of Taka 3.25 crore.

Taken up by the Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board, the land development work of the stadium has already been completed at a cost of Taka 5 lakh. Tarun Kumar Bhattacharya, the general secretary of the district sports association said.

Besides making provisions for indoor/outdoor games, the stadium will have a shopping arcade of 60 shops.

There will be sitting arrangement for about 20,000 spectators in the pavilion.



**GAIBANDHA:** A meeting was arranged here recently to motivate the people in eradicating illiteracy from the district. — Star photo