

District roundup

PIROJPUR

One commits suicide over family quarrel

Dec 25: A young woman allegedly committed suicide by taking poison in Mathbaria thana Sunday, reports UNB. The victim was identified as Runu Begum (22), wife of Maharaj of Harjinalabunia village.

Family sources said long-standing family quarrel was the reason behind the suicide. A case was filed with the local police in this connection.

SATHKHIRA

Tk 6 lakh assets burnt to ashes

Dec 25: Assets worth Taka 6 lakh were burnt to ashes by two devastating fire incidents here on Sunday, reports UNB.

Fire brigade sources said shops of Zahurul Islam, Wahiduzzaman and Chitta Ranjan at Itanighi Bazar were burnt to ashes damaging assets valued at Taka 3 lakh.

The fire originated from a hotel in the early hours of the day.

Another fire incident gutted two houses at Khechurdanga village in which huge quantity of paddy and other valuable assets worth Taka 3 lakh were destroyed.

Fire brigade personnel rushed to the spot and extinguished the fire.

TANGAIL

National science, technology week concludes

Dec 25: The national science and technology week began Sunday at Saadat College campus here, reports BSS.

The programme included exhibition of science and technology projects by secondary schools, madrasahs, colleges and science clubs.

Prof Taheruddin Ahmed, Principal of Saadat College inaugurated the week.

MEHERPUR

Workshop on mango farming held

Dec 25: A day long workshop organised jointly by World Food Organisation and Agriculture Extension Department on mango production was held recently at Meherpur thana, parishad auditorium here, reports BSS.

The workshop was inaugurated by Abdur Rouf, Additional Director, Agriculture Extension Department, Jessore zone. The function was presided over by Dr Akzail Huq, an agricultural expert.

Agricultural officers from Jhenidah, Chuadanga, Kustia and Meherpur districts participated in the workshop.

JHALAKATI

Postal services poor

Dec 25: People of Timirkathi, Gohalkathi, Kandapasha and Rajakhali village in Nalchiti thana have been facing problems due to poor services of Timirkathi Branch Post Office, reports UNB.

Local people alleged that delivery of letters, money orders, and telegrams are often delayed. Many important letters were even found open and missing due to negligence of the post master.

People complained that the post master has been running his office in his residence for a long time and urged the authority to shift the post office to a market place. They also demanded immediate withdrawal of the post master as he remains absent from the station most of the time.

Local leaders urged the authorities to take necessary measures for improving the postal services of the branch.

BRAHMANBARIA

Four hurt by muggers

Dec 25: Four people including a Tahsilidar were injured, two of them seriously, when a gang of muggers stabbed them near Bithar in Sarail thana, police here said, reports UNB.

The miscreants took away Taka 1400 and a wrist watch from them. The incident took place on December 14.

Tahsilidar Abdul Hafiz (45) and peon Md Sadeque (25) were admitted to the local hospital while others were released after first aid.

A case was lodged with Sarail police in this connection.

GAIBANDHA

Dacoits kill one, stab another

Dec 25: One school student was killed and his brother sustained stab injuries when a gang of armed dacoits stormed their house at Purba Kamarnal near the town on Sunday night, reports UNB.

Police said, a gang of armed dacoits entered the house of Abdul Hossain at gun point and tied him and his wife with rope and looted valuables worth about Taka one lakh.

When two sons of the house owner school student Manik (14) and Rashid (22) tried to resist, the dacoits opened fire at Manik and stabbed Rashid mercilessly. Manik succumbed at Rangpur Medical College Hospital on the following morning while Rashid is fighting for life at Gaibandha hospital.

A case has been lodged and Police Super of the district Golam Mostafa along with ASP visited the spot on Monday morning.

Meanwhile, another gang of dacoits looted four bundles of cloths and four bicycles from four different business centres at dargahs' point at Ganshar in Sunderganj thana of the district on the same night.

JESSORE

Sarbahara party men hurt 20, loot valuables

Dec 25: More than 20 people were injured when outlawed Sarbahara Party men swooped on two villages at Lohagora thana of Narail district on Sunday, reports UNB.

The outlaws looted valuables of the villagers worth about Taka one lakh.

Villagers said a group of 40 to 50 armed Sarbahara activists went to Nalia and Patua villages Sunday night, asked them over microphone not to go out of their houses and started looting their valuables.

Of the injured, Dulal Sarkar (45), Sadananda Guha (62), Sanjosh Biswas (42), Mahananda Guha (38), Subash Roy (55) and Khokon Bhadra were admitted to the local clinic.

The looted goods included ornaments, televisions and bicycles.

DINAJPUR

One shot dead by BSF

Dec 25: Shajahan (25), son of Amiruddin from Molaghachi was shot dead by the Indian BSF on December 1, reports UNB.

Village sources said, Shajahan was shot by the member of BSF at Bairchuna of Bangladesh where he went to visit his relative.

Family sources said the body was also taken away by the BSF.

A housewife allegedly committed suicide by burning herself in the town, reports UNB.

The dead and identified as Fatte (28), wife of Rafiquddin of Putanipara village in the district.

It is alleged that Fatte allegedly sprayed kerosene on her body at her residence on November 25 following a family feud and burned herself to commit suicide.

She was rushed to general hospital where she succumbed to her injuries.

SIRAJGANJ

Contraband goods worth Tk one lakh seized

Dec 25: Police seized contrabands worth about Taka one lakh today (Monday) from a coach plyed at the Sirajganj Ghat, reports UNB.

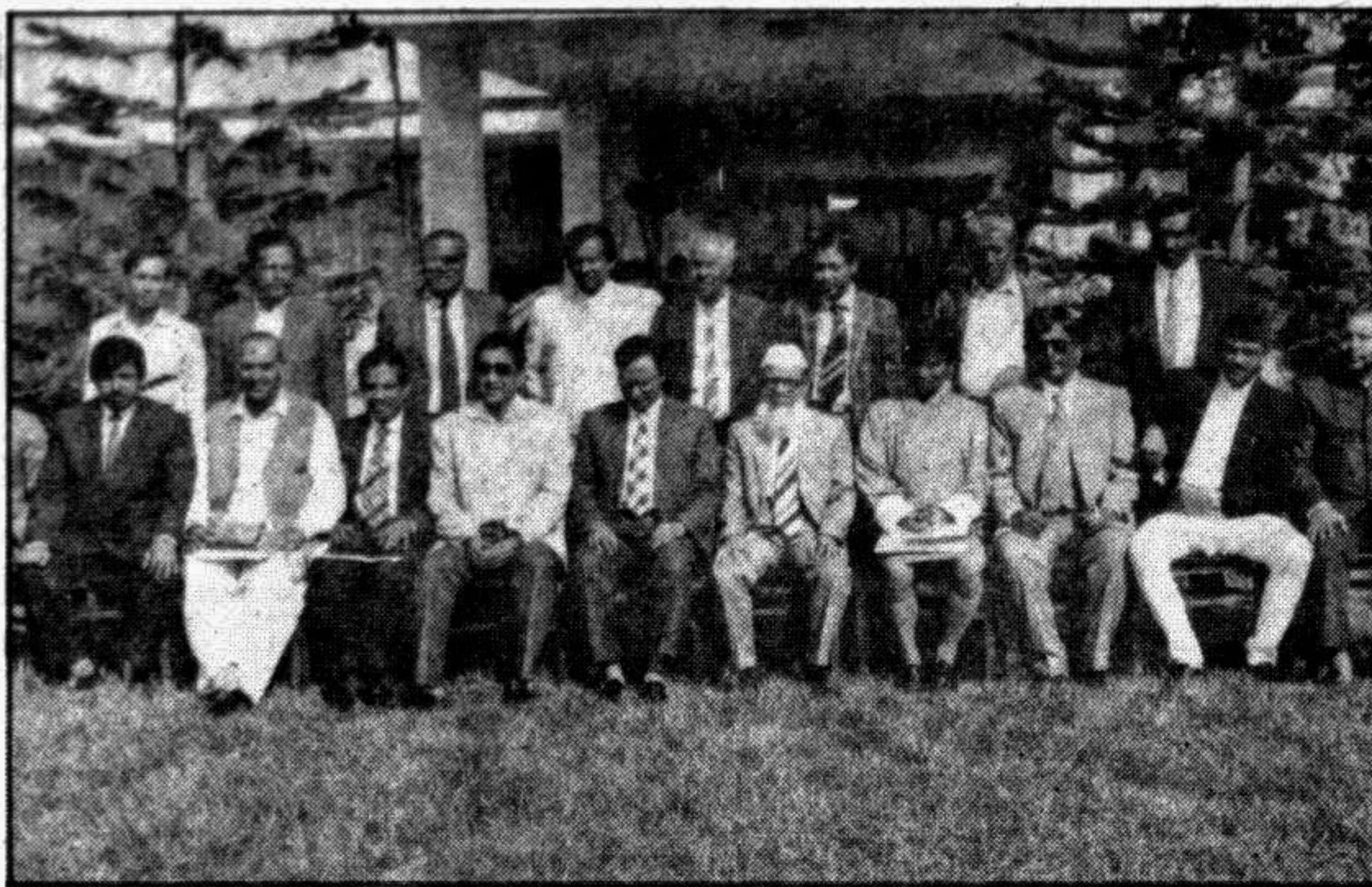
Acting on a tip, Sadar thana Officer-in-Charge M A Kafi raided the coach and recovered Indian sarees and spare parts from bags of rubbish stored on the roof of the bus.

None was arrested in this connection.

Police recovered two Indian bicycles worth about Taka 5,000 from Sirajganj bazar railway station Saturday and arrested a man in this connection, reports UNB.

Police seized the contraband goods from a mail train after it had reached the station. They detained Mokdesur Rahman of Balarampur village in Jamalpur district along with the bicycles.

Mokdesur bought the bicycles from Mothrapurhat in Kushtia district. A case has been filed with the police.



Prof. M Anisur Rahman, Vice-Chancellor, RU is seen with the participants of 6-week SAARC course on International Postal Services held at postal academy, Rajshahi recently. Officers from Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh attended the course.

— Star photo

Emergence of char lands hinders navigation

PABNA, Dec 25: Rapid fall of the water level and emergence of chars in the major rivers have affected the navigation in the northern districts of the country, reports UNB.

Innumerable chars have surfaced at different points of the Jamuna, Ganges, Teesta, Dhara, Brahmaputra and other rivers affected by Farakka withdrawal.

Water Development Board sources said 15 feet of silts had been deposited in the river Brahmaputra at Bahadurabad and the Jamuna at Jagannathganj Ghat.

About Taka one lakh would have to be spent daily to maintain navigability of those rivers, they said.

Another reports says: Election campaign has gained momentum at Sadar, Bera and Ishurdi thanas after the announcement of the date of pourashava polls.

The prospective candidates have started visiting their respective areas to enlist support before filing nomination papers. Door to door campaign has also been started in these regard.

Former poura-chairman and some new faces are likely to be in the contest in the Pabna pourashava. Majority of the candidates for the post of

chairman and commissioners are expected to be from the youth community.

Another report says: Journalists of the district organised a meeting at Pabna Press Club on Sunday protesting the attack on Sirajganj Press Club by some armed miscreants on Thursday.

The meeting, presided over by former secretary of the club A B M Fazlur Rahman, was addressed, among others, by Sayed Murshad Subhani, Akhtaruzzaman Akhter, Abdul Majid and Yasin Ali Mridha.

They demanded immediate arrest of the miscreants and exemplary punishment to them.

They also condemned the attack on Abdul Hamid Khan Hira, Editor of 'Jaha Balibo Satya Balbo'.

Valuables and cash worth about Taka 1 lakh were looted by armed dacoits from a hosiery factory in the town on Tuesday night.

Police said a band of 8 to 10 armed dacoits wearing masks entered Alif Lam Hosiery factory at Mandipara by breaking its main gate and looted hosiery products and cash worth about Tk 1 lakh.

They also tied owner of the factory Jaynal Abedin and

workers and beat them up during the dacoity.

A case was filed with the police and one Pannu was arrested in this connection.

Another report adds: At least 15 people, including two policemen, were injured in a clash between police and cattle traders at Pushpamara hat beside the Pabna-Nagarbari highway.

Among the injured Anil, a constable of sadar thana, was admitted to the police hospital here with serious injuries.

Witnesses said the clash ensued when the sadar thana police seized 100 cows from the cattle market, suspecting those as smuggled Indian cows.

Shahjahan Ali Biswas, former chairman of Atakula Union and president of the hat committee, alleged the police regularly collected toll from cattle traders at the hat every Thursday.

About today's clash, he said police became furious on refusal of toll and seized the cows, which led to the clash.

Trading in the hat stopped as panic-stricken people ran helter and skelter.

When contacted, Pabna sadar thana confirmed the trouble. ASP of the sadar circle Akhter Ali went to the spot to enquire into the incident.

Notes from Chandpur

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, Dec 25: Hilsa, the king of fishes has now gone beyond the purchasing capacity of the common man due to short supply and high price.

The short supply of hilsa fish in different markets of the district has pushed the prices very high. A small size of hilsa fish is sold at Taka 50 to 60. So, the common people in unable to purchase it. The consumption of hilsa has become luxurious.

It is reported, large scale catching of undersized hilsa is mainly responsible for short supply in the market.

Sale of notebooks unabated

The sale of notebooks is going on unabated in the district town and in different thanas. Notebooks are being sold in most of the book shops in town and in different thanas despite government ban.

It is reported that same unscrupulous traders are publishing sub-standard notebooks with fake name and addresses. These note books are full of errors and distorting facts. It is alleged that these books are being sold at an exorbitant price. It is further reported, most of the owners of the book stalls do not sell text books without notes.

Bijoy mela held

A colourful Bijoy Mela was organised at Chandpur Hasan Ali School ground on the occasion of Victory Day from December 8. The mela has concluded on December 17. The mela was arranged by 'Muktijuddha Sangsad' in co-operation with different social organisations. About one hundred stalls participated in the mela. In this connection, seminar, symposium were held daily. Different social and cultural organisations arranged cultural function and dramas. A large number of people witnessed the mela.

Law and order situation reviewed

The law and order situation in the district reviewed at a meeting held at the conference room of the Deputy Commissioner, Chandpur recently.

Yakub Ali, DC, Chandpur presided the meeting of law and order committee. The meeting expressed that the overall situation in the district have improved.

Hats, bazars in pitiable condition

Most of the hats and bazars in seven thanas are now in a pitiable condition.

These bazars are puran bazar, Haimchar, Nilkamal, Chandra bazar, Baghra bazar, Munshirhat, Matlab, Haziganj and Kachua bazars.

It is reported that these markets were set up at the local initiatives when the population of the respective areas were very thin. But now the population has become double in the area but there is no extension of the areas. Due to shortage of accommodation people cannot move properly in the markets. Besides, paucity of drinking water and lack of public latrine common, people are facing trouble.

Unhygienic hotels, restaurants

Mushroom growth of hotels and restaurants in Chandpur headquarters and other seven thanas is posing health hazard to the inhabitants of the area. With the increase of population and development of towns these hotels and restaurants have been constructed beside the roads and lanes. It is reported that most of these hotels are dirty and uncleaned. Food is prepared in unhygienic condition. Most of the hotels and restaurants have no licences.

3-month-long vocational training begins

RANGAMATI, Dec 25: A 3-month-long vocational training course, sponsored by the Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board with a view to making the tribals self-reliant, has begun at the Local Technical Training Centre here, reports UNB.

About 100 tribal youths, male and female, are taking part in the training on subjects like sewing, masonry, carpentry and electrical work.

The Board, with the help of UNICEF, had earlier organised another training course on the same trades and imparted training to 461 tribals.

A Board member and UNICEF project director here told UNB that the Board was also organising motivational campaign on health care for the tribals.

Belal leaf, tea producing area beset with problems

MAULVIBAZAR, Dec 25: Baralekha thana, famous for belal leaf and tea production, is beset with manifold problems, reports UNB.

Baralekha, with 304 villages and a population of 2,15,000, lacks educational facilities, pure drinking water, medical care, proper maintenance of hats and bazars and an adequate communication network.

The communication of the thana is in deplorable condition with the roads mostly damaged by floods.

With 35 per cent of the existing tubewell lying out of order, crisis of pure water in the area has deepened, a survey report said. People were forced to use water from canals, ponds and ditches causing health hazards, the report said.

Moreover, mosquito menace added to the misery of the rural poor. Water hyacinth,

stagnant water and ponds used for dumping garbage are the ideal breeding centres of mosquito.

Situation in the health complexes was even worse. Hundreds of people were returning home unattended due to acute shortage of medicines in the complexes.

Local people complained of frequent power failure especially after sunset which, they say, have increased anti-social activities in the area.

The children were deprived of recreational facilities and in absence of public toilets, the environment gets polluted that is hazardous to health.

The people of the area urged the authorities to construct new roads and repair the existing ones and take immediate steps to solve the other problems facing the prospective thana of the district.

BADC installs 508 deep tubewells in Chuadanga

CHUADANGA, Dec 25: The Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) has so far installed 508 deep tubewells in four thanas of Chuadanga district, reports BSS.

According to an official source, of the total deep tubewells 139 have been installed in Chuadanga Sadar thana, 58 in Alamdanga thana, 250 in Damurhuda thana and 61 in Jibannagar thana.

An official sources said 123 acres were distributed among 528 landless families of Chuadanga Sadar thana, 77 acres among 615 families of Alamdanga thana, 255 acres among 715 families of Damurhuda thana and 65 acres among 349 families of Jibannagar thana.

Following the installation of the deep tubewells in the district over 30,000 acres of land will come under irrigation network.

Productions of Irri-boro



KURIGRAM: Foundation laying ceremony of Kurigram Red Crescent Market.

— Star photo

Wild animals migrating to safer places

RANGAMATI, Dec 25: Wild animals have started migrating to the safe sanctuaries across the country being driven out of their abode in this hilly region by organised groups of unscrupulous people, reports UNB.

Local leaders said groups of law violators were seen poaching into the forests to catch or kill birds and animals with nets, bows, arrows and firearms regularly. Some of them even spray poison with food to get hold of the valuable species, they said.

Added to this is the continuous deforestation by illegal extraction of trees and burning of jungles for cultivation which are forcing the wild elephant, deer, boar, bear, monkey, wild fowl, tiger and the other rare species of animals to look for safer sanctuaries in the dense forest of neighbouring India.

A section of tribal hunters have become very much active in hunting in the hamlets adjacent to the Khagrachhari town.

They are hunting deer and fowl which fetch good price and easy market.

Meanwhile, migratory birds from the north and north-west which started settling in the hill region are being caught at random. These are sold openly at Nantarehari, Kachhalong

and Bilachhari in Rangamati district, Mohalchhari, Dighinala and Luxmichhari in Khagrachhari district and Naikhiogghhari, Lama, Alikadam and Roangchhari in Bandarban district.

Local leaders said law enforcing agencies appeared to be inactive in stopping the systematic destruction of wild life in the hill tracts.

Pregnant woman kidnapped

SIRAJGANJ, Dec 25: A seven month-pregnant woman in village Natunpara of Kapirpur thana was missing since Monday (December 21), reports UNB.

Villagers feared that she might be killed by her lover Osman Gani of the same village.

Osman Gani who had an illicit affairs with Rozifa refused to marry her when she consequently became pregnant, family sources said.

Osman, however, gave Taka 5,000 as compensation for his offence to her uncle Nurul Haque without the consent of Rozifa.

But when Rozifa came to know about the deal she was allegedly kidnapped by Osman.

Procurement of aman rice, paddy negligible

FENI, Dec 25: Procurement of aman rice and paddy in five thanas of the district has so far been negligible, official sources said, reports UNB.

The programme had started on December 1 but the sellers were not coming to the purchasing centres, opened in different areas of the district.

Source said the sellers were not interested as the payment process is complicated. They wanted cash money.

Work is to start next month on the reconstruction of the flood control embankment along the Muhuri river of the district.

About Taka 70 crore would be spent during the current financial year to build 70 kms of embankment on both sides of the river from Belonia to Rajunia under Pourashadram, Phulgazi and Chhagolnaya thanas.

At least 60,000 acres of land will be saved from inundation and erosion after the project is completed.

Source said the fire originated from the katcha house of Abdur Razzak and soon engulfed the adjacent area. Houses, goats, cows and household materials were destroyed in the fire.



CHANDPUR: Orphan boy scouts arranged a man-made bridge on the occasion of Victory Day rally held here at local stadium recently.

— Star photo