

## District roundup

## LALMONIRHAT

## 20 hurt in rival groups clash

Dec 26: At least 20 students were injured, two seriously, in a clash between the supporters of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and Chhatra League (M-I) at Government Degree College here Tuesday, reports UNB.

Police sources said the clash erupted following the parking of a bicycle at government high school in the early morning.

As a sequel to the incident three BCL activists were assaulted by the rival group on the government college campus at about 11 am. Later the supporters of the two student organisations locked in a bloody clash that lasted for about two hours.

At one stage Belayet and Abdul Hai, two JCD activists who took shelter in the Principal's office room were assaulted by the rival group. They were admitted to Rangpur Medical College Hospital with severe head injuries.

Police resorted to lathicharge to bring the situation under control.

Both BCL and JCD brought out separate processions in the town in the evening chanting various slogans.

Tense situation was prevailing in the town.

## RAJBARI

## Law, order situation reviewed

Dec 26: The law and order situation in Rajbari district was reviewed Wednesday at a meeting at the conference room of Deputy Commissioner, reports UNB.

State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahannara Begum presided over the meeting.

The meeting underscored the need for maintaining peace and law and order at all cost upholding the country's tradition of communal harmony.

Besides, the meeting instructed concerned officials to take all preparatory measures to make the coming municipal elections a success.

## KUSHTIA

## Urs Mubarrak on Dec 31

Dec 26: The holy Urs Mubarrak of Sultanul Hind Babu Khawja Moinuddin Chishti Hasan Sanjari (R) will be observed at Arifpur graveyard in Pabna on December 31 and at Jammat-e-Sunnati Pak Darbar Sharif at Bheramara in Kushtia on January 1.

Peer Shahib Khawja Nazmul Huda has urged all ashkan and muridan to attend the functions.

## CHITTAGONG

## 6th National Rovers Moot begins on Jan 1

Dec 26: The week long sixth National Rovers Moot will begin at the Chittagong port stadium here on January 1, reports BSS.

According to an official source here, more than 2,500 rovers scouts will take part in the moot.

Meanwhile, a meeting of the sub-committee for communications and vehicles held at Chittagong Metropolitan Police head quarters with the Deputy Police Commissioner (Traffic) in the chair discussed measures to be taken for controlling traffic during the moot. Owners of private vehicles were present at the meeting.

## SATKHIRA

## CID police recover Indian wine

Dec 26: CID police recovered Indian wine from old bus stand area in the town Wednesday (December 23) evening, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip, police challenged two persons at the old bus stand and seized 20 bottles of alcohol from their possession. The smugglers from the Ghona border area, however, fled.

Police later handed over the alcohol bottles to the local Narcotics Control Department. A case was filed with the police in this connection.

## HABIGANJ

## One arrested in connection with UZ chairman murder

Dec 26: Police have arrested Ali Almas Khan an accused in the murder case of Abdus Samad Chowdhury, former upazila chairman of Lakhal, reports UNB.

Acting on secret information, police raided the Uttar Sangar village and arrested Almas on Monday.

Abdus Samad was stabbed by some miscreants in the Gullistan area of Dhaka in July last when he was going to his elder brother's house at Mirpur. He died later.

A case had been filed with the Motijheel thana which submitted chargesheet against 8 persons, including Almas.

## BARISAL

## Bus knocks rickshaw van, one killed

Dec 26: One person was killed and two others were injured seriously when a passenger bus knocked a rickshaw van from behind near Gopherhat under Nalchitti thana on Bahisal-Patuaikhat Highway this afternoon police said, reports BSS.

According to report, the passenger bus, belonging to Hasan-Hashi Paribahan, while approaching from Patuaikhat to Barisal knocked a rickshaw van at about 2 pm. Three rickshaw van passengers were injured seriously and were rushed to Sher-e-Bangla Medical College where Syed Abu Bakar (60) one of the victims succumbed to his injuries.

A case has been lodged in this connection.

## PABNA

## Chhatra League sweeps college union polls

Dec 26: The student union election of Ishurdi Degree College held Thursday peacefully, reports UNB.

Chhatra League (M-I) bagged seven posts including General Secretary and Assistant General Secretary while Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal secured 5 seats including Vice-President.

Nefar Rahman Raju of JCD and Serajul Islam Badal of BCL (M-I) was elected VP and GS respectively.

The other student organisations who took part in the elections were Bangladesh Chhatra Union and JSD (Inu) backed Chhatra League.

## MAGURA

## Girl raped, killed

Dec 26: A young girl was raped and killed by some miscreants at Ghosial in Sreepur thana, police sources said, reports UNB.

The dead was identified as Noorjahan Begum (14), daughter of Mokhes Ali Sheikh of the same village.

Police said Noorjahan was kidnapped from her house by some miscreants on December 17. They tortured and raped her for five days and later slaughtered her brutally.

The beheaded body of the victim was recovered by the police from a field on Tuesday.

A case has been filed with the police.

## SIRAJGANJ

## 150 passengers of Padma Express stranded

Dec 26: About 150 passengers were stranded at Sirajganj ghat yesterday as they failed to catch the Rajshahi bound Padma Express train due to suspension of ferry services, railway sources said, reports UNB.

Railway authorities suspended the ferry service between Sirajganj and Jagannathganj ghats on Wednesday because of the low level of water.

The passenger coming from Dhaka, Mymensingh and Jamalpur reached here from Jagannathganj ghat by boats after the mail train had left for Rajshahi, the sources added.

Meanwhile, railway employees alleged that the serangs of MV Suhrawardy stole 100 barrels of fuel worth about Taka two lakh and sold it in the local market leaving the vessel in Konabari Char on December 21.

They demanded proper enquiry into the matter and urged the Railway authorities to take proper steps to mitigate the sufferings of the passengers.



SYLHET: Deputy Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad Humayun Khan Panni speaking as chief guest at the inaugural session of the second day inter-city meeting of Rotary clubs hosted by the local Rotary Club at the Lackatoora Golf Club recently. — Star photo

## Teestamuk-Bahadurabad rly ferry

## Siltation hampers services

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Dec 26: Railway ferry services between Teestamuk-Bahadurabad ghats have been seriously affected due to siltation causing frequent disruption of the Rail link with northern districts.

Innumerable small and large shoals have emerged at different points of Brahmaputra basin as the deposition of sand and sediment have been taking place round the year. In lean period, water level at different locations along the channel felt by six feet causing immense trouble to the movement of atleast six feet draft ferry boats.

According to sources, widespread erosion of river is the main reason of siltation. During rainy season, eroded sand and sediment are deposited on the bed of river channel.

At present, the main stream of the river Brahmaputra has

been divided at Kalasana Char some eight kilometre away from Teestamuk ghat. About 70 per cent of the main stream run along the eastern tributary and remaining 30 per cent water flowing through western tributary where Teestamuk Ghat is situated.

This season, the authority declared the eastern stream abandoned as the entering point has become silted up.

All the ferry boats now ply through down ward channel and it takes about three to four hours to reach Teestamuk ghat from Bahadurabad ghat.

As a result, the connecting trains on both the sides cannot run in time causing trouble to the passengers.

Earlier, it needed only 45 minutes time to cross the distance between Teestamuk and Bahadurabad ghats. But due to rapid siltation it takes more than three hours to reach the

destination.

During the last fortnight, several cargo and ferry boats run around at different points and detained for hours together. As a result, Rail communication remained disrupted for long time.

Experts opined that dredging of silted channel may ensure smooth running of ferry services which ultimately improve the Railway communication with the northern districts.

Meanwhile, the authority suspended the railway passenger ferry services between Sirajganj and Jagannathganj ghats due to channel trouble in the Jamuna caused by emergence of shoals.

The Railway authority has stopped through booking of passengers, parcel and luggage traffic via these two ghats with immediate effect, the press release added.

## 18 misappropriation cases lodged

KHAGRACHHARI, Dec 26: Anti-Corruption Bureau of Khagrachhari hill district has lodged 18 cases on misappropriation of foodgrains allocated for different projects, reports UNB.

The cases were lodged against government officials and public representatives during the last five months, the sources said.

Some union parishad chairmen, municipal commissioners and businessmen were included among those who misappropriated foodgrains worth more than Taka five lakh and cash amounting to Taka 1.1 lakh, the sources added.

A total of 72 dwelling

houses, three shops were gutted and 5 Fire Brigade personnel received burn injuries when a devastating fire broke out at a colony in Reserve bazar.

Official sources said property gutted by fire were worth more than Taka 50 lakh.

Fire Brigade sources said the fire originated from a shop. Fire Brigade could not control the fire immediately as the affected area was thickly populated.

The injured were admitted at the local hospital.

Local army and the district unit of Red Crescent Society distributed immediate relief among the fire victims and the

Deputy Commissioner visited the spot.

At least 67 pisciculture project proposals have been submitted for approval of the authorities, according to an official source here.

The projects relating to socio-economic development in Rangamati Hill district were submitted on behalf of the Local Government Council of Rangamati Hill district, the sources said.

The monthly meeting of the Council chaired by its chairman Parizat Kishum Chakma held on December 14 appealed to the central authorities to expedite the approval of the project proposals.

## Winter vegetables prices up

MANIKGANJ, Dec 26: Prices of various winter vegetables registered an upward trend in the local markets of the district causing inconveniences to the people, reports UNB.

Prices of potato, beans, tomato, cabbage and cauliflower have shot up while the price of turnip, laishak and spinach remain steady.

A kilogram of potato is being sold at Tk 14 while beans per kilo at Taka 12 and tomato at Tk 16. A pair of medium sized cauliflower is selling at Taka 20 while cabbage at Taka 20 and a medium size pumpkin at Taka 20.

Short supply of the vegetables is the main cause behind sharp rise in the prices.

Severe cold wave claimed one life at Aricha ferry terminal here on Tuesday night.

The dead was identified as Arzoo Icpari (65) of Lapur in Daulatpur thana of the district.

Scores of poor people in the terminal area have been suffering badly due to biting cold as they cannot afford to buy warm clothes.

Social workers have urged

the authorities to distribute winter clothes among poor and distressed people of the area.

## Valuables looted

Valuables worth Taka 1.50 lakh were looted and at least eight passengers injured in a bus dacoity near Silampur in

## Tk one cr power bills lying outstanding

RANGAMATI, Dec 26: Electric bills over Taka one crore were lying outstanding at the Kaptai 132 KV sub-station till July 92, officials said, reports UNB.

The sub-station authorities detected 184 cases of overdue bills amounting Taka 1.25 crore.

They said that despite exemption of interest on the arrear bills no significant response from consumers were found.

The sources said measures have been taken to disconnect the unauthorised connections and regularise those where needed.

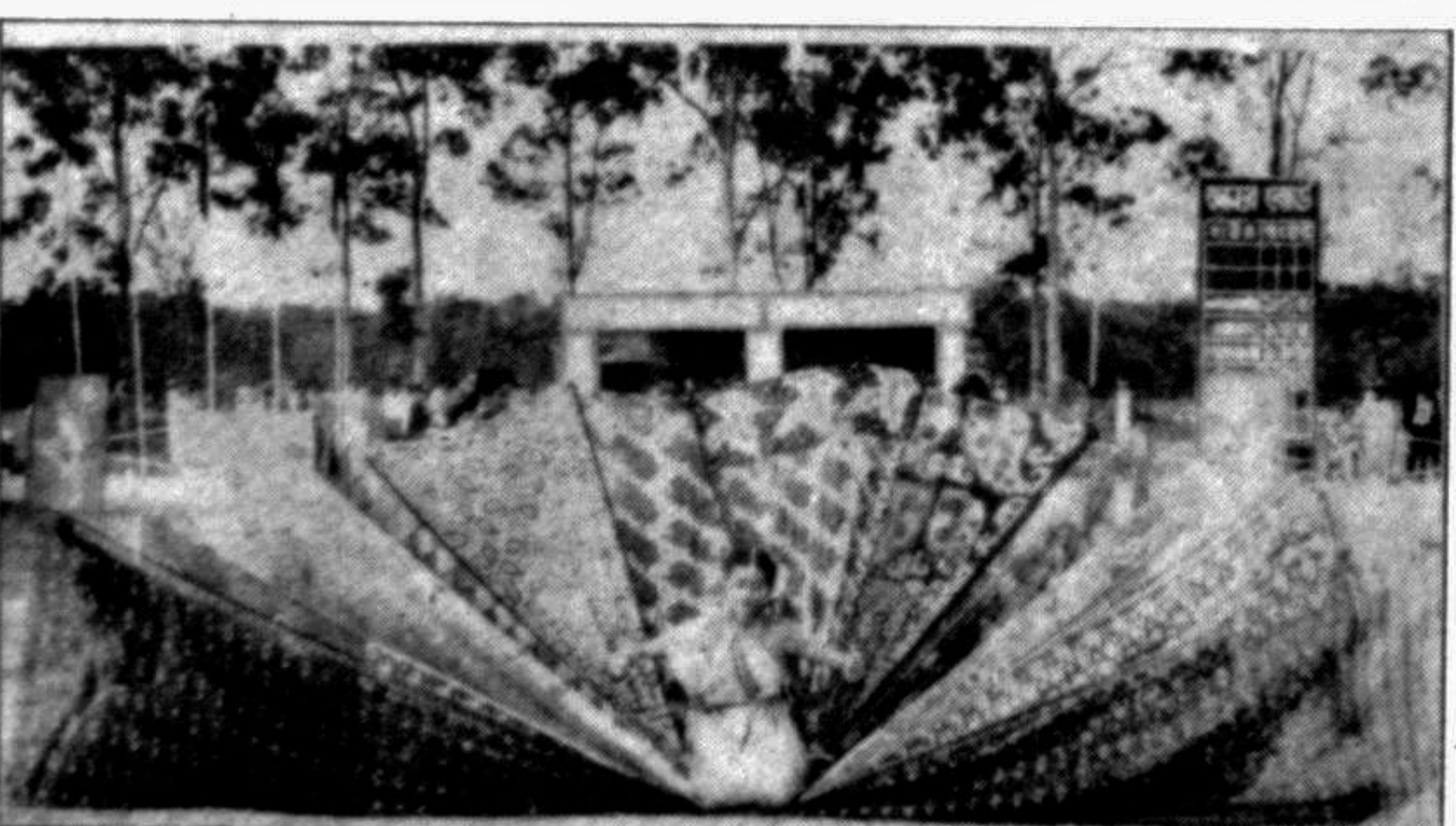
## New ferry

A new ferry of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) was commissioned from Aricha ghat here.

The ferry, Bir Shreshtha Jahangir, was built at Narayanganj with local and Dutch technology at a cost of Taka 28 crore provided by the Dutch government.

The BIWTC sources said the Ro Ro (roll on roll off) ferry can operate in shallow water.

The Bir Shreshtha Jahangir started its trial journey from Aricha to Nagarbari ghat at 2 pm today with 20 trucks and about 900 passengers aboard.



BOGRA: Students of local Cantonment Public School and College performed Sharee Nrittya (Sharee dance) during annual sports held here recently. — Star photo

## Rotarians urged to help build prosperous society

by Iqbal Siddiquee

SYLHET, Dec 26: Deputy Speaker of Jatiya Sangsad, Humayun Khan Panni has called upon the Rotarians to come forward with more effective projects with a view to building a prosperous society.

Rotarians had already made a laudable success throughout the country by implementing a number of schemes in different nation-building activities like mass education, tree plantation, health and family planning and others, he said.

The Deputy Speaker was speaking as chief guest at the inter-city meeting of Rotary Clubs organised by the Sylhet Rotary Club of Sylhet Thursday morning.

The two-day occasion held at the Lackakatoora Golf Club was attended by about 400 Rotarians and their family members from 37 Rotary Clubs of the country.

Presided over by Dr Manjurul Haque Chowdhury,

President of the Jalalabad Club, the inaugural function was also attended by the District Governor of Rotary Club LK Siddiquee, MP, Iqbal Ansari Khan, Mostafa Zaman Abbasi, Magfur Uddin Ahmed, Mosharraf Hossain and Toufique Aziz Khan, Chairman, District Inter-City and Fellowship Committee.

The function began with the recitation from the holy Quran by Rotarian MA Karim from Sirajganj Rotary Club while the club invocation was readout by Rotarian Iqbal Ahmed, from the Rotary Club of Dhaka Downtown.

In the second session, a seminar on 'Building better Bangladesh' was held in which as many as three papers were read out.

On the second day, the participants visited the different sight seeing areas of Sylhet, and held fellowship meetings.

## Three including woman killed in road mishaps

JAMALPUR, Dec 26: Two persons including a woman were run over by trains in Jamalpur sadar thana recently, reports BSS.

Eye witnesses said an unidentified old man was crushed under the wheels of 251 up train at Pyarpru railway station.

In another incident in 18-year old woman, Chikha, was run over by a train at Kampapur railway crossing by inter-city Teesta train.

Separate cases were registered with sadar thana in these connection.

Another UNB report from Chapainawabganj says: A social workers Abdur Rouf was crushed to death under the wheels of a speeding minibus on Chapainawabganj-Rajshahi highway Sunday.

Witnesses said Abdur Rouf, an organiser of CCDB, was knocked down by the bus (Raj Ba-1846) as he was going to the office on a motorbike.

He died on the spot.

Police arrested the helper of the bus while the driver managed to flee along with the bus.

A case was filed with Nawabganj thana in this connection and the body was sent to the morgue for autopsy.

Another UNB report from Dinajpur adds: A youngman was killed in a clash over a land dispute at Badarganj thana in Rangpur district Thursday.

The dead was identified as Bakul (25) of Parbotipur thana.

Sources said Bakul was killed in a clash between 'lathials' of his father and his uncle. The two parties confronted each other at Helarchalk in Badarganj thana. At one stage Bakul was allegedly attacked by his uncle.

He was rushed to hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

A case has been filed with the local thana.

## Sale of smuggled goods free in Choumuhani

MAJDEE COURT (Noakhali), Dec 26: Smuggled Indian goods are being sold freely at Choumuhani and Majdee Court markets, reports UNB.

Local leaders said women with headloads of Indian saris were also seen engaged in door-to-door sale.

Goods available in the markets include saris, hair oil, cosmetics, blades, bulbs and matches.

Local leaders appealed to the law enforcing agencies time and again to step up drive against the actual smugglers but no action has yet been taken against them.

Local businessmen have urged the authorities to take immediate steps to nab the real smugglers to save the local industries from further ruination.

Charjabber Health Complex has been unable to function to its full capacity due to shortage of doctors, nurses, medicine

and medical equipment, according to local leaders.

The building itself has remained incomplete since long ten years and the present structure is also feared to be damaged due to lack of proper care and maintenance, they said.

Out of the sanctioned posts of seven doctors and five nurses, only one doctor and two nurses were working at the complex at present. Some important sections were not functioning for lack of electricity.

Charjabber Health Complex had been established in 1982 to extend facilities to the coastal belt people of the district including Char Jubilee, Char Amanullah, Char Bata, Char Wapela and Char Clerk.

A procession of the local people handed over a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner recently demanding urgent steps to remove the manifold problems of the complex.

## Tk 3 lakh valuables, gun looted in dacoities

DINAJPUR, Dec 26: Valuables worth some Taka 2 lakh and a double-barrel gun were looted in a spree of robberies and hijacks in Birganj thana Wednesday night, reports UNB.

Police and villagers said dacoits swooped on three houses late Wednesday night and decamped with booties. Three inmates were injured when they tried to resist the dacoits armed with firearms, rods, sticks and handbombs.

At Kajal village in Birganj union, a gang of 15-20 dacoits attacked the house of Mokul Hossain and broke into it by cutting down the mud wall. They beat the inmates mercilessly and took away about Taka 50,000 and a double-barrel gun.

In Nijpara union, dacoits swooped on the house of late Zarajat Ali at village Babypur around 2 am. They exploded cocktails while entering the house after breaking the door open.

They beat and injured Ali's two sons — Sanaul Islam and Sonu Mohammad — and also assaulted his wife. They were admitted to Dinajpur General Hospital.

Earlier at around 7:30 pm, a bicycle rider and his companion were waylaid and robbed near Kodomtala bridge on the Birganj road. The hijackers snatched the cycle and Taka 20,000 of Ansar and gold ornaments of Kulsum on the same road. Muggers snatched

Taka 70,000 and his bike.

They beat the rider severely. He was sent to the same hospital in a serious condition.

Three separate cases were filed.

Another report adds: Dacoits looted cash and valuables worth over Taka one lakh from the passengers of a Aricha bound mini bus at Srirampur in Dhamria thana last night (Tuesday).

Police said a band of dacoits numbering 7 to 8 travelling in the guise of passengers suddenly attacked the passengers at about 8-30 pm and looted their valuables at gun point.

The dacoits stabbed the driver and helper and beat up many passengers of the bus when they tried to resist them.

Driver Shamsul Haq and helper Abul Kalam Azad along with five other passengers were admitted to the Manikganj Hospital with serious injuries.

A case has been filed with the Savar thana in this connection.

Another dacoity was committed at Savar bank colony early this morning.

According to police, a gang of dacoits entered the house of one Atiqur Rahman by breaking the gate and tied up the inmates of the houses. They took away cash about Taka 35,000 and other valuables worth about Taka one lakh.

A case has been filed with the police.

## Notes from Maulvibazar

From Our Correspondent

MAULVI BAZAR, Dec 26: Two students were injured in a clash between two rival groups of students at Kulaura college of the district recently.

The injured were identified as Suman Mitra and Doyamay Debnath, who were admitted to Kulaura thana health complex. All of the injured were the supporter of Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU).

The clash ensued when the Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) activists attacked on the workers of BCU who were engaged for posting at college campus.

BSU Kulaura unit registered a case with police and later Kulaura thana police arrested Mizan an ICS worker. According to police, ICS had also registered a reciprocal case against BCU.

R&H employees termination protested

Workers and employees of Roads and Highways Department brought out a procession to protest the government order of termination of the workers and employees of R and H across the country.

The processionists paraded the main streets of the town and chanted various slogans in favour of their demand.

Later, the leaders of the employees union submitted two separate memorandums to the Deputy Commissioner and the Executive Engineer of R and H.

At the end of the procession, a protest rally was held at the R and H Sub-division Office premises with Arun Datta in the chair. Speakers of the rally criticized the government programme to termination of the R and H employees and demanded for withdrawal of the government decision.

Railway Shramik League unit confce

The annual conference of Bangladesh Railway Shramik League, Kulaura unit was held at Kulaura railway club recently.

Atiqur Rahman Chowdhury, Central leader of Railway Shramik League (RSL) presided over the conference and it was addressed among others by Abdul Muktar, Idris Ali and Azizul Haque.

Paribahan Shramik Union polls held

The biennial election of Sarak Paribahan Shramik Union of Maulvibazar district branch was held recently.

Nurul Alam Chunu and Kazi Miah were elected as president and secretary respectively.

About 1200 transport workers elected the executive committee by direct vote.

Health field workers office-bearers

The installation ceremony of the newly elected office-bearers of health workers association of Health Department was held at local Janamilan Kendra recently.

Mujibur Rahman Majumder, president of the organisation, while Dr Nurul Alam, Civil Surgeon, Maulvibazar and Matabbar Harunur Rashid, general secretary of central body of the organisation was attended as chief and special guests respectively and it was addressed among others by Dr Abdul Matin, Dr Bastrul Alam and Abu Hanif.

## Husband kills wife for dowry

MANIKGANJ, Dec 26: A pregnant housewife was allegedly killed by her husband for dowry at Kalabaria village in Shivalaya thana of the district Wednesday, reports UNB.

Police said Chunu Rani Sarker (22) of Chakgata of Haripur thana got married with Nilkamal Sarker 10 months ago. Soon after the marriage Nilkamal began torturing Chunu to bring Tk 5,000 from her father as dowry.

On the fateful day Nilkamal picked up a quarrel with her over a trifling matter and strangled her to death.