

District roundup

MANIKGANJ

Woman passenger kidnapped, seduced

Dec 30: One woman passenger was allegedly kidnapped and seduced by some unidentified miscreants at Daulatdia Ghat area of the district on last Friday, passengers and local people said, reports UNB.

Reliable sources said rampant anti-social activities are on at Aricha-Daulatdia ghat by a group of miscreants. It is alleged that they are doing so recklessly amidst police presence.

According to local people and the passengers, the ghat authorities and the police on duty do not take any action against the miscreants.

JHENIDAH

Chhatra Dal wins college union polls

Dec 30: Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) Monday swept the student union election of Mahtabuddin Degree College winning 14 seats out of 16, including VP, GS and AGS posts, reports UNB.

College sources said Islami Chhatra Shibir bagged one seat while an independent female candidate won the rest one.

Awami League backed Chhatra League could not capture any post in the election. Israeli Hossain, Rashidul Hasan and ALIM Bazul Hossain have been elected as VP, GS and AGS respectively.

SYLHET

Miscreants loot Tk two lakh valuables

From Our Correspondent

Dec 30: Valuables worth about Taka two lakh were looted by a gang of miscreants from a house of Shahi Edgah area of Sylhet town recently.

At about 5am the armed miscreants numbering about 5 to 6 attacked the house of Pavel Ahmed who lives abroad. They beat the inmates of the house mercilessly and snatched away the valuables.

A case had been registered with the Kotwali police station. But no arrest has yet been reported.

SATKHIRA

One receives burn injuries

Dec 30: Archana Sarkar, 25, Bhadrakhal village in Kaliganj thana received burn injuries when a neighbour threw acid on her body Friday, reports UNB.

Her husband Subodh Sarkar told police that Sonu Paramanik threw acid on her at their house out of a previous enmity.

She was admitted to the Kaliganj health complex in a critical condition. A case was filed with the police in this connection.

KUSHIA

Wheat farming plan taken up

Dec 30: A massive wheat cultivation programme has been taken up in greater Kushia district during the current season, reports UNB.

A total of 38,600 hectares of land has been brought under wheat cultivation programme, of which 20,200 hectares are in Kushia and 9,200 hectares each in Chuadanga and Meherpur district.

Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation will supply high yielding variety seeds, fertiliser, pesticides and other necessary inputs among the farmers at fair prices to make the programme a success.

MYMENSINGH

Course on health edn concludes

Dec 30: A month long training course on EPI, diarrhoeal diseases control, malaria control and health education for newly recruited female health assistants of Mymensingh district began recently at Mymensingh Civil Surgeon's Office, reports BSS.

A total of 147 female health assistants are participating in seven batches in this training course.

The course was jointly sponsored by the UNICEF and district health department to improve the quality of service rendered by the health assistants.

NETRAKONA

National science, technology week begins

Dec 30: The 16th national science and technology week began at Netrakona Government College here on Saturday, reports BSS.

Deputy Commissioner, Netrakona Dewan Asfaruddin inaugurated the week and Kazi Abul Kashem, Principal of the college presided over the function.

The programme of the week included an exhibition of science and technology projects and seminar and discussion on matters relating to science and technology.

A total of sixty science and technology projects produced by students of different schools and colleges and members of

JAMALPUR

Torture on JP secretary general condemned

Dec 30: The district unit of the Jatiya Party (JP) on Sunday condemned the alleged torture on JP Secretary General Khaledur Rahman Tito, reports UNB.

The condemnation came following the arrest of JP Secretary General Khaledur Rahman Tito Thursday.

On the day, the district unit of the party arranged a protest-rally in Jamalpur town where speakers demanded immediate release of Tito and other JP leaders including deposed President Hossain Mohammad Ershad.

Earlier, they brought out a procession which paraded the main thoroughfares of the town.

Jatiya Party organised countrywide protest-rally Sunday to condemn the arrest of Tito and putting lock at its central office in the capital.

NAOGAON

Attempt to lift minor girl foiled

From Our Correspondent

Dec 30: Two unidentified youngmen attempted to lift the only minor daughter, Emy, daughter of Mozammel Haq Khan, while the baby was on walk with her mother, Arina Nasrin Khan were stroking near Naogaon district council park after Magreb Prayer, on December 25.

The miscreant caught hold of the hand of the girl and lifted her to the entrance of the south-east gate of the park.

When her mother raised hue and cry, the miscreants fled away leaving the girl.

A general diary has been filed with the local Police Station by the guardians in this connection.

NARAYANGANJ

Dacoits loot cash, gold ornaments

Dec 30: Dacoits looted gold ornaments and cash worth about Taka 1.40 lakh and a rifle from the residence of a businessman at West Deogh of Patulia thana here, reports UNB.

Witnesses said a gang of armed dacoits entered the house of Ali Ahmed at about 3 am with the help of a local night guard, who was forced to knock the door of Ali Ahmed.

They beat the businessman, his mother and the night guard mercilessly and decamped with the booty.

A case has been filed with the police.

BARISAL

Peace procession held

Dec 30: People from all walks of life brought out a peace procession in the town recently under the auspices of All Party Communal Harmony Parishad, reports BSS.

The procession started from Aswini Kumar Town Hall premises paraded sadar road, hospital road, Barisal college road and Kalibari road, and ended at the office premises of the Five-Party Alliance.

The processionists demanded reconstruction of the Babri Mosque in its from at its old place. They also demanded exemplary punishment to those involved in spreading communal sentiment in the country.

The meeting was addressed among others by Advocate Mujibur Rahman Talukder, Abdul Kader, Prof. Abdus Sattar, Anwar Zahid, Abdul Hye and Amirur Rahman.



AGRI-VARSITY: The newly elected office-bearers of Research Project Employees' Association of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) taking oath in an installation ceremony held recently at the horticultural gallery. The Vice-Chancellor Prof M Ashraf Ali Khan attended the ceremony as the chief guest. — Star photo

Govt taking steps to achieve socio-economic emancipation

BOGRA, Dec 30: State Minister for Finance Mojibur Rahman said here that the BNP government was endeavouring hard to achieve socio-economic emancipation of the people through carrying out balanced development programme in the country, reports BSS.

He was addressing a public meeting at Khanpur High School premises under Sherpur thana of the district on Friday.

The State Minister said the present government was committed to increase production in fields and factories as BNP believed in the politics of development.

Criticising the past governments for their deeds, he said that they did not take steps for the development of the lot of the masses, rather exploited them. He called upon opposition political parties to shun the politics of hoodwink and practice the politics of pragmatic approach to consolidate the hard earned democracy in the country.

Turning to the Anti-Terrorism Act, Rahman said those who were not involved in terrorist activities should not be afraid of the law.

Mujibar Rahman said the democratic government under the leadership of Begum

Khaleda Zia was taking necessary measures in phases to materialise the hopes and aspiration of the people. He urged the people irrespective of opinions to take part in nation building activities spontaneously.

The meeting was addressed, among others, by Golam Muhammad Siraj MP, BNP Vice-President of Bogra district Mahbubur Rahman, Headmaster of Khanpur High School, Dabiruddin, BNP President of Sherpur Thana, Mahabubur Rahman, BNP President of Khanpur Union and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal President of Bogra district, Ali Haydar.

Hundreds of girls unmarried for high dowry demand

From Our Correspondent

COX'SBAZAR, Dec 30: The marriages of 11,000 thousands girls in Moheshkhali thana of the district are yet to be solemnised due to the demand of dowry by the bridegrooms.

According to a report, there are nearly 11 thousand young girls in nine unions under

Moheshkhali thana. Most of them belong to poor farmers families who are facing obstacles because of the excessive demand of dowry.

The financial condition of the guardians of the unfortunate girls has deteriorated to a large extent since the inde-

pendence as the governments have increased different taxes on the farmers.

The governments have also increased the prices of agricultural inputs which have now gone beyond the purchasing capacity of the farmers. On the other hand, the price of agricultural products has gone down. The price of chemical fertilizers exceeded 32 times than of the pre-liberation period. A shallow tubewell is now selling at Taka 40,000 against Taka 10,000 a few years back.

The economic backbone of the farmers has been shattered. One Abul Kalam of Matar Bari union told this correspondent that he could not arrange marriage of his daughter because of bridegroom's high dowry demand. Many men of the Moheshkhali thana said the same problem.

The government has introduced Anti-dowry Act which remain confined within law books. Its effectiveness is not seen anywhere, it is informed.

The authorities should take necessary steps to enforce the Anti-dowry Act so that the guardians of young girls can get rid of this social evil.

Guardians now at stake because of bridegroom's high demand of dowry.

Help expand education for building nation

NARSHINGDI, Dec 30: Labour and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan on Friday called upon all, including the teachers community, to help expand the educational facilities for building an illiteracy-free nation, reports BSS.

The Minister was addressing as the chief guest the biennial conference of the Bangladesh Teachers' Association's Shibirpur Thana branch under Narshingdi district.

State Minister for Education Principal Md Yunus Khan addressed the conference as the special guest. Dr Moin Khan, MP and Abdul Ali Mridha, MP also addressed the conference.

The Minister said the present government under the

dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia had laid stress on the expansion of education and taken various pragmatic programmes in this regard. In this connection, he referred to the compulsory primary education and mass education programme of the government.

He called for making all-out efforts in materialising the government's programme of universal education system in the country.

Later, the two ministers addressed a public meeting at Mastampur union.

The Labour Minister also inaugurated a newly constructed road from Shipur to Jallapur.

Repair work of 20 pry schools will start soon

FENI, Dec 30: Work is to start soon on rehabilitation of 20 primary schools in Sadar thana of the district, reports UNB.

Government has sanctioned Taka 30 lakh under cyclone rehabilitation programme for the purpose.

Local Government and Engineering Bureau will implement the project.

Meanwhile, Education Ministry has sanctioned Taka one crore for development and repair of five government colleges of the district during the current financial year.

The colleges are Feni Government College, Sonagazi

Government College, Chhagalnaila Government College, Fulgazi Government College and Feni Teachers' Training College.

Work on the project is expected to start next month.

Miscreants hijacked one lakh Taka from a businessman at Feni-Majdi Road in the district recently.

Witnesses said that a group of armed people attacked Ibrahim a businessman in the night on December 17 and snatched Taka one lakh and wrist watch at gun point while he was on way to Feni town.

Local people alleged that hijacking and mugging occurs

very often in the area.

They urged the concerned authorities to take step to improve the law and order situation in the area.

Local Power Development Board (PDB) has realised about Taka 50 lakh as outstanding bills during the current month.

Official sources said that the target of realisation has been fixed at Taka one crore.

The PDB authorities are taking steps to realise the rest 50 per cent target of outstanding dues.

They have also started disconnecting the unauthorised connections in the district.



KHULNA: Principal Md Mazharul Hannan, Honorary Assistant Secretary General FPAB speaking at a seminar on Bad effect of early marriage and teenage pregnancy' at Pachani Primary School, Rupsha recently. —Star photo

Notes from Sirajganj

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Dec 30: A week-long drama festival concluded at Sirajganj Bhashani Milanayatan recently.

The festival was held under the auspices of local Rupak Natya Gosthi.

The drama "Dyasher Manush" by Abdullah-Al-Mamun was staged on the inaugural day on Dec 8. Performance of the participants under the direction of Mustafizur Rahman Bablu and Raseel Ahmed Shiplu drew attention of the spectators.

JCD sweeps college union polls

The students union polls of Sirajganj Government College students union held here recently.

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) bagged 16 posts including General Secretary and Gonatantrik Chhatra Okiya (GCO) bagged two seats including Vice-President. Manjor Rahman Bakul and Rashedul Hasan Ranju were elected VP and GS respectively.

Red Crescent AGM held

Annual conference of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, Sirajganj district unit was held recently, at local Bhashani Milanayatan.

Presided over by acting Chairman Makbul Hossain Chowdhury, General Secretary Saiful Islam Shishir presented annual report. Among others Mirza Muraduzzaman, MP and TM A Mannan, MP spoke on the occasion.

Election of book sellers', publishers' assoc held

The bi-annual conference of Bangladesh Book Publishers' and Sellers' Association held here recently at Sirajganj Press Club with GM Haider Ali in the chair.

GM Haider Ali and Shadhan Chandra Podder were elected President and General Secretary respectively of the association.

Masters' course introduced

Masters' degree course in Bengali and Honours' course in Political Science and Accounting have been introduced in Sirajganj university college.

With Principal Golam Mostafa in the chair, among others Mirza Muraduzzaman MP, BNP leader Humayan Islam Khan, JCD leaders Saidur Rahman Bacchu, Sohel Rizvi Raju and Saiful Alam Dolal spoke on the occasion.

Needs be mentioned that the government have recognized Sirajganj college as University College on December 6.

Suhrawardy's death anniversary observed

The 29th death anniversary of Hossain Shaheed Suhrawardy was held in the district town recently.

District Awami League arranged milad mahfil and discussion meeting at the party office with Motahar Hossain Talukder in the chair. Besides, different socio-cultural organisations took up programmes to observe the day.

Husband gets life-term for killing wife

Md Abdul Hakim Mandal, Additional District and Sessions Judge and Special Tribunal Judge-2, Sirajganj, in a judgement delivered recently, awarded life-term rigorous imprisonment and fine amounting to Taka 5000 in default more one years' rigorous imprisonment to one Abdus Salam (32) for killing his pregnant wife. Other five accused persons were acquitted of the charge.

According to the prosecution, victim Tara Banu (20) was married to convicted Abdus Salam of village Baromohan in Ullapara thana only two years ago. Following continuous torture in demand of dowry Tara Banu came to her father's house and lodged a case with the court of Ullapara Thana Magistrate under Women's Oppression and Anti-dowry Act. On the night of April 4, 1991, accused Abdus Salam killed wife Tara Banu who was conceiving for seven months.

After examining the witnesses and evidences, the learned judge awarded aforesaid punishment to Abdus Salam. The other five persons were acquitted of the charges.

Diarrhoea kills 3, attacks 15 in Dinajpur

DINAJPUR, Dec 30: Diarrhoea claimed at least three lives and attacked 15 others in Bochaganj during the last week, reports UNB.

Of the dead, two were children and one woman.

The affected persons are being treated in local health complex.

Local leaders alleged no preventive measures have been taken to stop the spread of diarrhoea in the area.

Obscene film shows in clubs regular

CHUADANGA, Dec 30: Obscene films are being displayed at various clubs freely in the district causing moral erosion of the youths, reports UNB.

Local leaders said a section of unscrupulous member of the club were showing pornos openly to earn money.

Teen-aged school students are the main viewers of these films.

They are often engaged themselves in unsocial activities after witnessing these films, it has been alleged.

The leaders urged the authority to take necessary steps

to stop exhibiting of such films.

The district primary education office has received six lakh books from National Curriculum and Text Book Board.

These books will be distributed to 257 government and 48 non-government primary schools for the next year.

According to official sources, these books will be distributed free of cost among the primary students and the distributed is expected to be completed within January next.

Poura polls campaign picking up in dists

COMILLA, Dec 30: Campaign for next month's pourashava elections is picking up in the municipal areas of the district following the announcement of the polls schedule, reports UNB.

Walls of various private and government building are gradually being covered with colourful posters, pictures and slogans in favour of different candidates.

The candidates and their supporters have already started to visit different area and canvass to mobilise support in their favour. The tea stalls are humming with election gossip.

According to official sources, there are about 74,572

voters in the Comilla pourashava of which 39,958 are male and 34,614 are female.

In Laksham pourashava, there are 24,643 voters including 13,142 male and 11,501 female.

Campaign for the pourashava election schedule to be held on January 23, 1993, has started in the town.

The active supporters and workers of the probable candidates have become busy prior to submission of the nomination papers. The probable candidates for the post of Netrakona poura chairman and their supporters have already started holding meetings.



KURIGRAM: Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) seized sixteen cattle here recently. — Star photo

Jute worth several lakhs taka gutted at town

SHERPUR, Dec 30: Jute worth several lakh taka was gutted in fire at two godowns in the town, reports UNB.

Witnesses said fire raged in the godown of Abdul Alim Bepari in Khorampur this evening, partially destroying its stock. The godown had a stock of about 300 maunds of jute, the owners said.

Earlier at 1:30 pm a blaze burnt several bales of jute in the Haridas Saha Godown at Tinanibazar.

The flames were tamed by local firefighters. The causes of the fire were not immediately known. No case was filed yet.

Police have recovered a huge quantity of Ganja plants from Hatibandha union in

Dewanganj thana. Abbas Ali, ex-member of the union parishad was arrested in this connection on December 15.

A case has been filed with the local thana.

In another operation at Sadar thana one maund of Ganja was recovered from Ryer Char village.

A committee has been formed with Dr Hatem Ali, a retired civil surgeon, as president and Shahnewaj, a former MP as treasurer.

An amount of Taka two lakh has already been collected from different philanthropists for the purpose.

Construction of 20-km road starts

JAMALPUR, Dec 30: The construction work of 20-kilometre metalled road stretching from Dewanganj to Sanandabari was formally inaugurated by LGED Executive Engineer on Monday, reports UNB.

With the financial assistance of Asian Development Bank, the project was taken up by LGED under rural development project at a cost of Taka 4 crore.

Work on first phase of five and a half kilometres road of the project is going on in full swing.

With the implementation of the project a long felt demand of the local people will be met.

The government has sanctioned Taka 12.50 lakh for construction of a truck terminal at Jamalpur town in the current fiscal year.

An official source said the project under the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development will start soon.

The work of the project is scheduled to be completed by June next.

Work on the construction of twenty-kilometre long pucca road from Dewanganj to Sanandabari at a cost of Taka four crore was inaugurated Monday.

Project taken up under rural development project was aided by Asian Development Bank. In the first phase five and-a-half kms from Dewanganj side is being constructed.

Jamalpur Municipal Authority has postponed its decision to enhance the municipal taxes on the demand of the local people.

The district Awami League brought out a procession protesting the increase and about 500 traders in a joint statement had urge the authority to revise the decision.

They alleged that new taxes were fixed too high and without proper assessment.

Two former UP members brutally killed

JHENIDAH, Dec 30: Two former members of Chandpur union in Sadar thana of the district were brutally killed by unknown assailants last night (Tuesday), report UNB.

Police sources said a gang of miscreants numbering 25 to 30 called out Sirajul Islam and Abul Hashem from their houses at about 11 pm and slaughtered them in the nearby paddy field.

Sirajul Islam was also a local leader of Awami League, District Awami League con-

demned the killing and demanded immediate arrest and exemplary punishment of the miscreants.

The reason behind the killing could not be known immediately.

Highways throughout the district have been blocked by different shopkeepers creating traffic jam.

Whole sale vegetable markets used to sit twice in a week on Jhenidah-Jessore and Jhenidah-Kushitia roads present a dismal look.