

District roundup

HABIGANJ

Tk 1.5 lakh goods looted

Jan 1: At least ten people were injured and valuables worth about Taka 1.5 lakh looted in a bus dacoity near Debnan on Nabiganj thana Friday night on Sylhet-Nabiganj road, reports UNB. Witnesses said, 10 to 12 dacoits boarded the Habiganj bound bus from Sylhet in the guise of passengers and attacked the passengers with deadly weapons when the bus reached at the point. They beat the passengers mercilessly and decamped with the booty. A case has been registered with the police.

JHENIDAH

Jatiya Party organises protest rally

Jan 1: Local Jatiya Party organised a rally here Sunday to protest the arrest of party secretary Khaledur Rahman Tito, reports UNB. Presided over by local unit Vice President Akhtaruzzaman, the rally held at the Agrani Bank square was also addressed by Mohammadali Zainal Abedin and Mokarram Hossain Thandu. The speakers criticised the government for preaching democracy but practising otherwise. They said Tito was arrested to hoodwink the Jatiya Party. They demanded immediate release of the party chief HM Ershad, Tito and other JP leaders to create congenial atmosphere in the political arena. After the rally a procession was brought out in the town.

MYMENSINGH

8,481 candidates appear at junior scholarship

Jan 1: A total of 8,481 candidates including 2,908 girls appeared at the junior scholarship examination this year from Mymensingh region, reports BSS. Mymensingh region includes Mymensingh, Tangail, Jamalpur, Sherpur, Netrokona and Kishoreganj districts. An official source put the district-wise number of candidates at Mymensingh 2,767, Tangail-2027, Jamalpur-1,109, Sherpur-468, Netrokona 946, Kishoreganj-1,164.

COMILLA

Health camp concludes

Jan 1: A day-long health camp was held at Hajeepur high school premises on Saturday, reports UNB. Rotary Club in cooperation with the staff of Kashba Health Complex organised the camp. ABM Siddique, Additional Secretary of Health Ministry inaugurated the camp. Patients of the locality with various diseases were given free treatment and advice.

FARIDPUR

Licensed pistol of Atrashi peer's son seized

Jan 1: Police seized the licensed pistol of peerja Mahfuzul Haque elder son of the peer of Atrashi Sunday, reports UNB. Mahfuzul Haque was injured in a pistol fire allegedly by his younger brother Mustafa Ameer Faisal in a private jeep on the night of Dec 15. Family sources said, the bullet by which the peerzada was injured suddenly went off from the pistol kept in the hand of Mustafa Ameer Faisal. Faridpur Police Super said further investigation into the incident was on. Meanwhile, Mahfuz was released after treatment from the local clinic.

NARAYANGANJ

Holy Christmas celebrated

Jan 1: The Christian community here celebrated the holy Christmas, the memory of the birth of Jesus Christ with jubilation and enthusiasm recently. Christian men, women and children attired in their best participated at a congregation followed by a hour-long carol and prayer at Chashara St Paul Church in praise of the birth of Jesus Christ in the early morning. The inside of the church was decorated with Christmas tree and crib with a replica of mother Mary with her baby son Jesus Christ. Prayer was also offered for the peace and prosperity of the country. They exchanged greetings and picaesantries with each other saying happy Christmas.

RANGPUR

Hartal observed in protest against degree results cancellation

Jan 1: Half-day hartal was observed here Monday in protest against the cancellation of degree examination results of ten northern colleges including Rangpur Government College, reports UNB. The hartal was called by the action committee of degree examinees of Rangpur College to protest the decision of the Rajshahi University Syndicate. The Syndicate earlier cancelled the degree examination results on the basis of the reports of adopting unfair means by the examinees. Shops and business centres remained closed and all modes of vehicles excepting rickshaws went off the roads during the hartal hours. A spokesman of the action committee said the future of at least nine thousand degree examinees of the 10 colleges have been made bleak by the decision of the syndicate. The action committee regretted that instead of punishing the students who adopted unfair means, the syndicate punished all the candidates who appeared at the examinations. They demanded immediate withdrawal of the decision.

RAJSHAHI

20 kg sulphur recovered

Jan 1: Members of Bangladesh Rifles seized two hundred kilograms of sulphur from different areas of the district on Sunday last, reports BSS. Acting on a secret information a squad of 20, rifle battalion led by Nayeab Subedar Eskander Ali seized one hundred kilograms of sulphur from Rajshahi bound passenger bus at Rajbari area while another BDR squad of Godagary border outpost led by Habildar Mohsin seized more one hundred kilograms of sulphur from Godagary rail ghat area of the district. These sulphur smuggled from India are used to make ammoniums for creating terrorism inside the country.

GAZIPUR

Bishwa Ejtema from Jan 16

Jan 1: The Bishwa Ejtema, the second largest congregation of the Muslims, will begin here on January 16, reports UNB. Arrangements have been made for successful holding of the Ejtema. At least 500 devotees have already been working at the Ejtema site rendering voluntary services. Camps and pandels with gas and water facilities have been put for Bangladeshis and foreigners. A large number of Muslim delegates are expected from various countries this year as in the previous years.

NOAKHALI

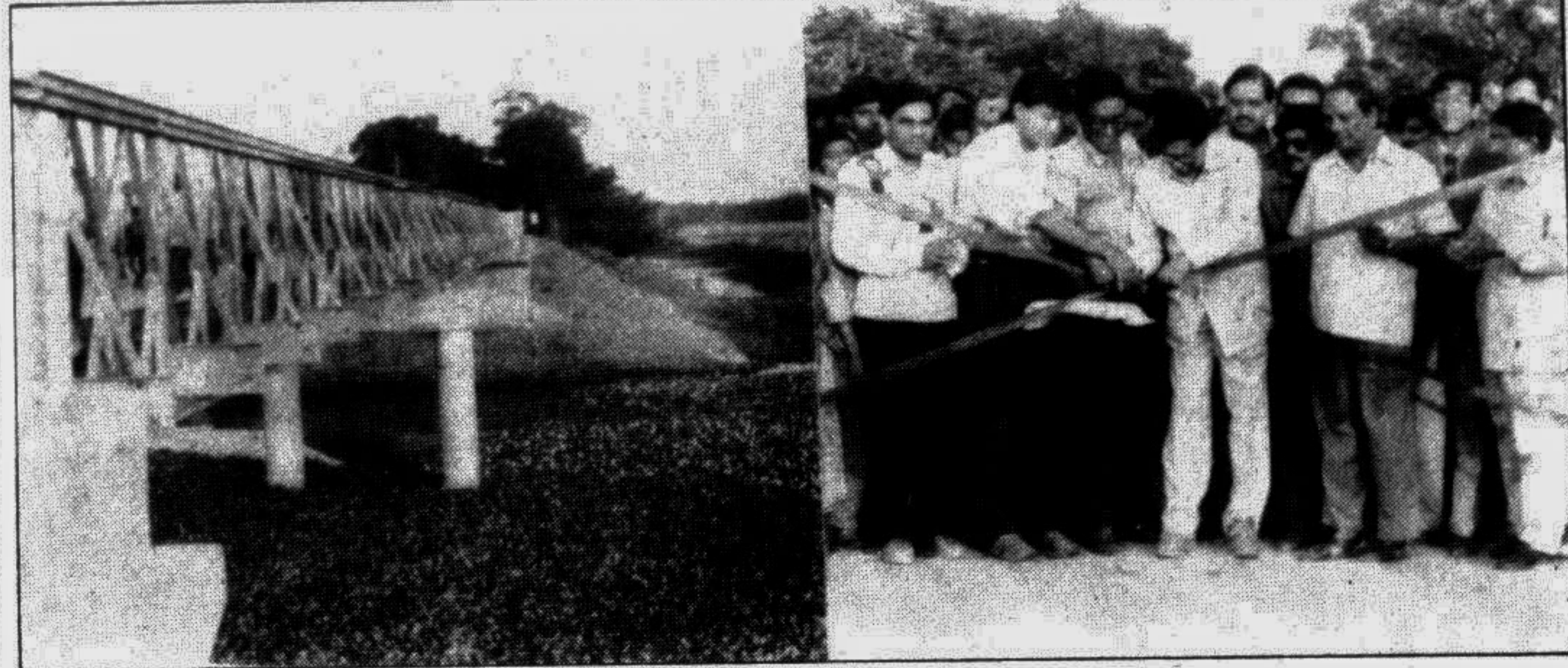
Press Club general meet held

Jan 1: The biennial general meeting of Noakhali Press Club was held at its auditorium Saturday, reports UNB. Presided over by the president of the club Rafiquddin Ahmed, General Secretary Mohiuddin Takon read out the annual report and the treasurer presented the accounts report. Rabul Huq Shahan, convenor of the internal audit sub-committee placed his report which was approved duly. The meeting also decided to hold the election on January 8 to elect the club executives for the next session.

PIROJPUR

Educationist dead

Jan 1: Eminent educationist and politician M A Satter died of heart attack on Tuesday (December 22) at the Pirojpur Modern Hospital. He was 70, reports UNB. He was laid to rest in their family graveyard at Baraibunia village. Satter was UP Chairman of Mativanga union for 25 years and former upazila chairman of Nazirpur thana. He contested the MP election in 1970 as a nominee of NAP (Mozaffar). He was also founder of several schools and colleges. The district units of Awami League, CPB and BNP, President SA Rezaul Karim and secretary Zakir, Hossain Ali of Nazirpur Press Club and former minister Mostafa Zamil Haider expressed deep shock at the death of Satter and prayed for the departed soul.



MANIKGANJ: Industries Minister Shamsul Islam inaugurated a newly completed bridge on Singair Road of the district recently. —Star photo

Fall of water level hinders irrigation, navigation

From Our Correspondent

KURIGRAM, Jan 1: At least 15 rivers in the northern region of the country have dried up following continued fall in the water level during this dry season hampering irrigation and navigation. Innumerable chars and shoals emerged on the rivers bed hampering navigation. Another report says: The treadle pump, a two cylinder foot operated pump, designed for small scale irrigation is made of steel and PVC cup seal. A treadle pump can be used in any depth of static water and an acre of land can easily be irrigated. It is 12 to 5 feet in length. The pump was developed in the northern region of the country in 1980 by Rangpur-Dinajpur Rural Service (RDRS). A simple bamboo structure is built over the tubewell. The piston rods are attached to privated bamboo poles which are moved up and down by the operator using a walking action. The water flows from the spout of the cylinder as the piston rods move up and down. The twin cylinder and alternate piston action give high output and smooth flow. More than fifty thousand treadle pumps are now in use in the country. Treadle pump is designed and recommended for irrigation purpose. With 50 feet PVC pipe and filter, a pump set costs approximately Taka 1,150 including the installation charge. The pump can be installed with bamboo pipe and filter where a well depth is less than 50 ft. With the some length of pipe a bamboo tubewell cost about Taka 750. A bamboo tubewell lasts 2 to 4 years depending on the quality of the bamboo. A typical farmer will get a return on his investment greater than the cost of the tubewell in the first season of use. Using PVC pipe and filter, the treadle pump installation is on an one and half inches well drilled to 30 and 100 feet depending on the depth of the aquifer. Using bamboo pipe and filter, the treadle pump installation is on a three and half inches well causing in a four and half inches well drilled to between 30 and 50 feet depending on the depth of the aquifer. Water enters through PVC or bamboo screen. In soft alluvium soil three men can install a pump upto 80 feet depth in less than six house with locally made simple hand tools. Under normal operation, the treadle pump require very little maintenance. The parts are few and simple and can be replaced by hand with the help of a locally made screw-driver. The foot valve flap is made of inner tubes, always available in village market. The treadle pump PVC cup sea is interchangeable with the cup seal in the number-6 had pump, so they are inexpensive and always available. Water output of a treadle pump varies with the depth to the water table like other manual pumps.

Notes from Kurigram

From Our Correspondent

KURIGRAM, Jan 1: The district annual police meet '92 was held at the local stadium ground recently. The programme of the district annual police meet included sports, police rally and cultural function. Muhammad Salam, DIG of police, Rajshahi Range was present as chief guest. The formally inaugurated the meet and gave away prizes to the winners. Abdul Hakim Khan, SP of Kurigram presided over the prize giving ceremony. Constable Rafiqul Islam of Kurigram Sadar thana became the champion in sports competition.

BDR men seize 16 cattle

The BDR men of Kurigram seized 16 cattle from the possession of smugglers from Ramkhana border area of Nageswari thana of the district recently. It is learnt that while the smugglers were carrying the cattleheads, the BDR men challenged them, and the smugglers went away leaving the cattleheads on the spot. The seized cattleheads valued at nearly Taka one lakh thirty eight thousand were deposited in the customs department.

Drama festival

A 7-day long drama festival '92 organised by Kurigram Shilpakala Academy was held recently at the local Shaheed Minar Campus with much enthusiasm. During the festival seven dramas were staged by Kushakri Sangsad, Dstihari Sangsad, Roots Paribar, JASAS, Udichi, Lalita Kala Academy, and Samprotk of Kurigram. The drama festival was formally inaugurated by Shaful Islam, DC Kurigram as chief guest. The inaugural ceremony was addressed, among others, by Abdul Hakim Khan, SP, Pran Ballav Karanjai, Alok Karanjai while Aman Ukil presided.

Anti-Corruption officer faces defamation charge

LALMONIRHAT, Jan 1: A defamation suit has been filed against the District Anti-Corruption Officer at the court of first class magistrate of Sadar thana, reports UNB. Lalmonirhat Press Club General Secretary Sultan Ahmed filed the case on Sunday on behalf of the club. According to the complaint, the said officer Shaful Islam shouted at the top of his voice and passed derogatory remarks on the journalists for publishing reports of his corruption and misuse of power.

Defalcation case

A report from Sirajganj adds: Anti-Corruption authorities filed a defalcation case of Taka 3.75 lakh against an Insurance Company executive here, sources said. The executive allegedly withdrew insurance client's deposit money amounting to Taka 3.75 lakh from Pubali Bank. Company authorities sacked the executive and moved the Anti-corruption authorities.

Hartal observed in four thanas of Sylhet

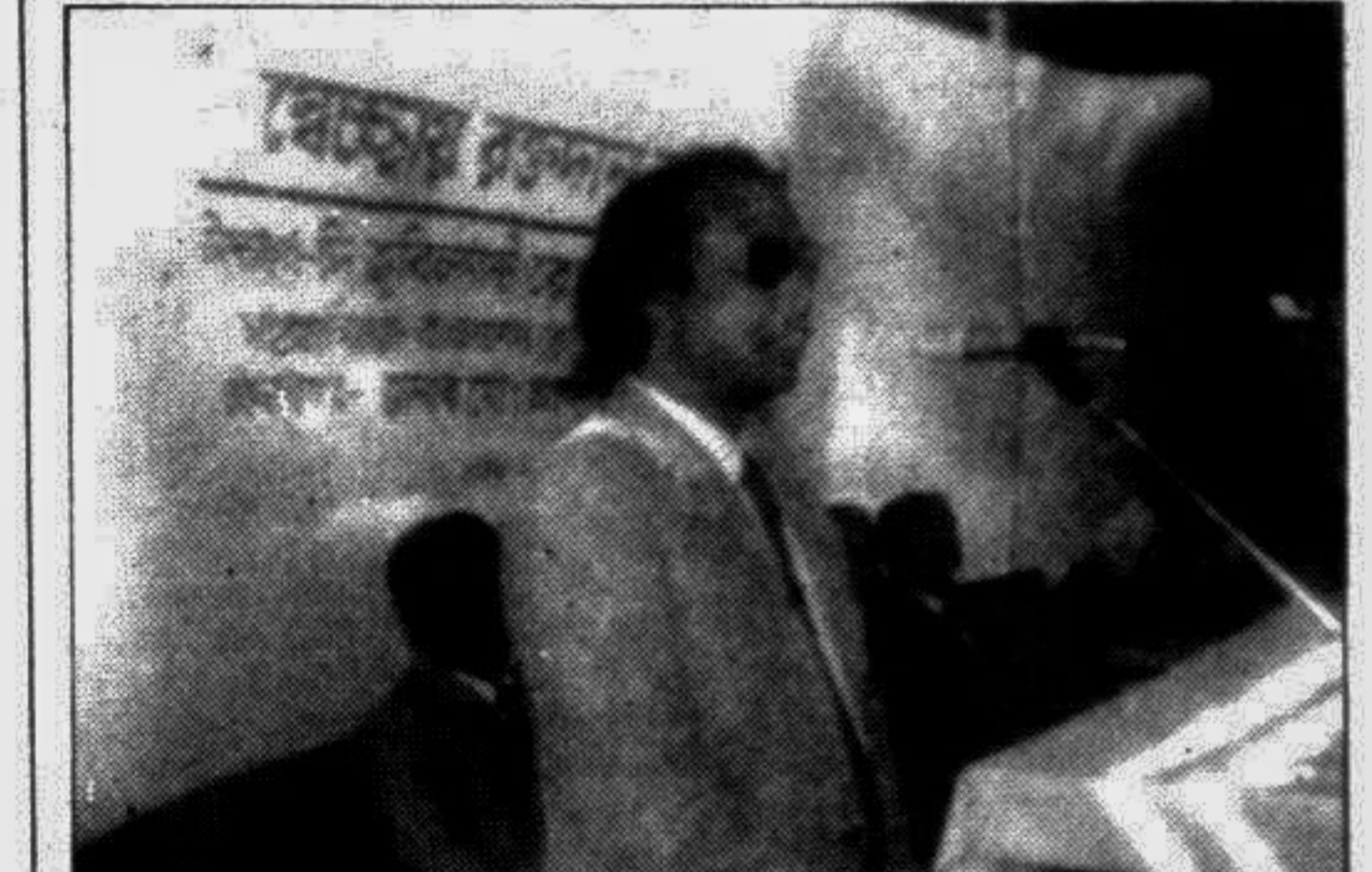
From Our Correspondent SYLHET, Jan 1: A dawn-to-dusk hartal was observed today in four thanas — Jainatapur, Kanaighat, Companyganj and Gowainghat to press for 11-point demands. The hartal call was given by the Jainta Zila Bastobayon Parishad. The demands include, formation of a new district with the said four thanas, immediate reconstruction of Sylhet-Tamabil road, establishment of ceramic industries in Jainta and others.

Police rescue 13 people from traffickers

DINAJPUR, Jan 1: Police rescued 13 people including six women from a local hotel in the town who were illegally leaving the country for Pakistan, police sources here said, reports UNB. The rescued are Rashid, Afsar Ali, Abul, Fatema, Hazera, Meenara, Shon Ali, Kashem Ali, Ahad Ali, Aziz Ismail, Morwara, Anwara and Asma. All of them are the inhabitants of village Khatunganj in Chittagong. Sources said Shamsu of Rajanpathar area in Chittagong, brought them at the residential hotel 'Rehan' and assured these people to provide job in Pakistan. Shamsu and his associates went to the bordering area Birol of the northern district to send them to Pakistan through India, it added. Acting on a tip, the police raided the hotel and rescued them. But nobody was arrested in this connection. Another report adds: One teen-aged girl reportedly committed suicide by hanging herself against a tree at village in Parbotipur thana of the district, local people said. The victim was identified as Shabana Begum (15), daughter of Shahabuddin of Bhadrapur village. Sources said Shabana committed suicide after a quarrel with her sister over a petty matter recently.

Cold wave claims 22 lives in N-dists last week

PABNA, Jan 1: Severe cold wave that sweeping over and northern region reportedly claimed 22 lives including three children and two women in six districts during last 12 days, reports UNB. Unofficial sources here said three people died in Pabna, three in Sirajganj, five in Rangpur alone, three in Panchagarh, three in Dinajpur and three in Rajshahi districts. The victims were from poor class including beggars and floating people. At least two lakh poor people who cannot afford to buy winter clothes are the worst sufferers in these districts, social welfare activists said. The poor are compelled to keep themselves indoors till 10 am due to dense fog and biting cold. River transportation is also facing setback due to this natural calamity. At least 10 people feared killed and 12 others sustained injuries when two engine boats collided and capsized in the midstream of Padma near Shujanagar thana due to dense fog on Tuesday morning. Local people alleged that second hand warm clothes were being sold in exorbitant prices. They urged both the government and non-government organisations to distribute warm clothes among the poor for the sake of humanity.



GOPALGANJ: Abdul Motaleb Mia, Deputy Commissioner, Gopalganj, addressing a function during a voluntary blood donation programme organised by Jubilant association held here at local stadium recently. —Star photo

Miscreants raid house in broad day light, loot valuables

COMILLA, Jan 1: A gang of miscreants raided a house in broad day light Friday at village Dighirpur in Kasba thana and looted valuables worth about Taka 38,000, reports UNB. According to witnesses, the miscreants entered the house of Abus Sattar, a security guard of Comilla Education Board and ransacked the house in front of many people. Local people alleged that the local mastans are engaged in terrorist activities in the area for a long time. They threatened the people for dire consequences in case of complaints lodged against them with the police. Local elite also alleged that in spite of repeated appeals no action has yet been taken against the miscreants. Police have arrested an injured bus dacoit from Gouripur Rural Health Centre where he was undergoing treatment. The dacoit, identified as Abdur Rashid, was admitted to the health centre with serious bullet wounds on December 15. He was wounded in an exchange of fire with police while trying to commit a dacoity at Patua on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway on the same night. The demands include issuance of new drug licence, training facilities for the pharmacists, reduce the drug licence fee, measures to stop illegal toll collection.

Pabna Chemist, Druggist Assoc to observe half-day strike

PABNA, Jan 1: Local unit of Bangladesh Chemist and Druggist Association will observe a half day strike in all medicine shops here on January 2 (Saturday) as per the decision of the central committee, reports UNB. Kafee Sarker, President of Pabna unit of the association, said the central committee in its annual general meeting on November 16 took the decision to observe the country-wide strike on Saturday to press home its five-point demand. The demands include issuance of new drug licence, training facilities for the pharmacists, reduce the drug licence fee, measures to stop illegal toll collection.

Tk 21 lakh property gutted in fire incidents

SIRAJGANJ, Jan 1: Two minor boys were injured and property worth about Taka 18 lakh was gutted in a fire at village Chawikanadumur in Raiganj thana of the district, hospital sources said, reports UNB. The injured are: Salm (5), and Abul Kalam (6). Both of them are sons of Jaina Bepari of the village. At least 30 tin-shed houses, 21 cattleheads, 300 maunds of paddy were gutted in the fire, which originated from the kitchen of Jaina Bepari. Villagers, however, brought the fire under control after two hours. Another UNB report from Rangamati adds: Properties worth about Taka three lakh were gutted in two separate fire incidents in Kankhali thana of the district on Thursday night. According to Fire Brigade sources, 14 shops were gutted in Kankhali bazar and two houses charred at Poapara village. The fire service personnel brought the fire under control with the assistance of the members of the security forces and local people. The fire in both the places were originated from the ovens. The Commander of Rangamati region Brigadier Abhan Nazmul Amin visited the spots and distributed relief in cash and kind to the affected people.

Massive wheat cultivation plan in 16 northern districts

From Our Correspondent

BOGRA, Jan 1: A massive scheme has been taken up to bring 3.50 lakh hectares of land under wheat cultivation in 16 northern districts during the current season. The districts are: Bogra, Jaypurhat, Pabna, Sirajganj, Rangpur, Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, Nilphamari, Gaibandha, Rajshahi, Noagaon, Natore, Chapainawabganj, Dinajpur, Thakurgaon, and Panchagarh. According to an estimate from Agricultural Extension Department, 6.66 lakh metric tons of wheat will be produced in the districts if the scheme is implemented. The arca-wise target is as follows: Sirajganj—cultivation 40000 hectares, target 76000 metric tons, Thakurgaon—cultivation 35200 hectares, target 66880 metric tons, Pabna—cultivation 35200 hectares, target 66880 metric tons, Rajshahi—cultivation 28350 hectares, target 53770 metric tons, Noagaon—cultivation 21900 hectares, target 41610 metric tons, Natore—cultivation 12500 hectares, target 23750 metric tons, Chapainawabganj—cultivation 12200 hectares, target 23180 metric tons, Jaypurhat—cultivation 6900 hectares, target 13110 metric tons, Rangpur—cultivation 24500 hectares, target 46550 metric tons, Gaibandha—cultivation 18300 hectares, target 34770 metric tons, Kurigram—cultivation 20500 hectares, target 38980 metric tons, Lalmonirhat—cultivation 7000 hectares, target 13300 metric tons, Nilphamari—cultivation 14200 hectares, target 26980 metric tons, Dinajpur—cultivation 38500 hectares, target 73150 metric tons, Panchagarh—cultivation 22100 hectares, target 41990 metric tons, and Bogra—cultivation 13500 hectares, target 25650 metric tons.

Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC) will supply seeds, fertilizers, insecticides and other necessary inputs to the farmers for achieving the target.

Boro cultivation

An extensive boro cultivation plan has been taken up in the northern region. According to Agricultural Extension Department, cultivation target of boro in the 16 northern districts during the current season has been fixed at 7.70 lakh hectares of land and production target has been fixed at 21.63 lakh metric tons. District-wise breakup is as follows: Bogra—cultivation target 1,71,800 hectares, production target 4,48,770 metric tons, Jaypurhat—cultivation target 43,200 hectares, production target 1,14,480 metric tons, Rajshahi—cultivation target 35,100 hectares, production target 90,415 metric tons, Noagaon—cultivation target 88,400 hectares, production target 2,29,060 metric tons, Pabna—cultivation target 42,900 hectares, production target 1,11,085 metric tons, Sirajganj—cultivation target 93,000 hectares, production target 2,42,550 metric tons, Chapainawabganj—cultivation target 17,500 hectares, production target 45,075 metric tons, Gaibandha—cultivation target 63,100 hectares, production target 1,64,615 metric tons, Rangpur, production target 1,57,030 metric tons, Nilphamari—cultivation target 15,600 hectares, production target 40,950 metric tons, Thakurgaon—cultivation target 18,000 hectares, production target 47,310 metric tons, Dinajpur—cultivation target 56,500 hectares, production target 1,49,465 metric tons, Panchagarh—cultivation target 55,000 hectares, production target 1,42,000 metric tons, Lalmonirhat—cultivation target 14,000 hectares, production target 36,500 metric tons.



BOGRA: Sajjad Hossain, Deputy Commissioner, of the district distributing gifts among the disabled Freedom Fighters and near relatives of the Shahid Muktiyoddha on the occasion of Victory Day. —Star photo