

## District roundup

## SATKHIRA

## BDR men seize 20 Indian COWS

Jan 2: Bangladesh Rifles seized 20 Indian cows and 90 pieces of spare parts worth Taka two lakh from Apeper hat and Dadkangabell border areas on Tuesday, reports UNB.

BDR jawans also arrested one Shahidul of Nebakhali in this connection.

The goods were later handed over to the customs authorities and a case has been filed with the local police.

Mentionable that the Apeper hat is known as the market of smuggled goods where contrabands of various types are sold at cheap prices.

Local leaders time and again urged the authorities to take action against selling of smuggled goods in the market but no action has yet been taken.

## JHENIDAH

## Jessore Board HSC exams begins from June 17

Jan 2: The Higher Secondary Certificate Examination 1993 under the Jessore Board will begin on June 17 next year, official sources here announced, reports UNB.

Examinees are asked to fill up their examination form on or before February 18. The last date for filling up the forms with fine, has been fixed on March 10.

However, private candidates under the board, have been asked to apply on or before January 2.

Meanwhile, the Jessore Board authority has sent necessary instructions and information to all the colleges under the board in this regard.

## CHANDPUR

## 20 injured as JP, JCD activists clash

Jan 2: At least 20 people were injured as Jatiya Party men and ruling party's student activists clashed today near the local town hall, reports UNB.

Among the injured, 12 were admitted the Chandpur General Hospital and later released.

The clash erupted when a procession of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal was passing by the town hall where JP was holding its district conference.

Both sides accused each other of blasting cocktails near the hall, which forced JP to cancel its district conference.

Former Minister M Shamsul Huq and Razia Faiz were expected to attend the conference.

## CHITTAGONG

## Youngman shot dead by gunmen

Jan 2: A young man was shot dead on Thursday by unknown gunmen at Fakirhat in Raizan, police said, reports UNB.

The victim was identified as Emdadul Haq (20), an activist of Awami League backed Chhatra League.

Police and witnesses said a group of armed men fired at Emdad and his friend Abul Mansoor when they were talking at Fakirhat at about 10-30 am. They were rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital where Emdad was declared dead while Mansoor was admitted in a critical condition.

BCL brought out a procession in Chittagong city to protest the killing of Emdad. The protesters accused activists of National Democratic Party for the killing and demanded punishment to them.

Police said tension was prevailing in Fakirhat but additional force was sent their to ward off clash.

None was arrested till late this (Thursday) evening.

## KHULNA

## Half-day hartal observed

Jan 2: A half-day hartal called by pro-Awami League faction of Khulna Motor Sramik Union was partially observed in the town on Thursday, reports UNB.

The faction led by Munnunul Sultan, called the hartal to protest the politicisation of the Motor Sramik Union office by the ruling party activists.

Some vehicles were seen plying on the roads and a portion of shopkeepers kept their shutters down during the dawn to noon hartal. No untoward incident took place.

A group of leaders and workers of the faction continued their indefinite hunger strike at Shahid Haidi Park for the sixth day to realise their demand.

## CHUADANGA

## 6 lakh text books for distribution among pry students

Jan 2: Chuadanga district primary education office received six lakh text books from national curriculum and text book board for distribution free of cost among the primary school students, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the text books will be given to the students of 257 government and 48 non-government primary schools under the Universal Primary Education Programme of the government.

## FARIDPUR

## Deaf camp held

Jan 2: A two-day deaf camp to examine the possibility of speaking of the handicapped children was held here last week, reports UNB.

Organised by High Care Society, a NGO, working for the handicapped people, the camp was the first of its kind in the district.

A total of 50 handicapped children with hearing problem were examined and treated free of cost in the camp on December 24.

Later a discussion meeting was also held at the Zahed Memorial Shishu Hospital auditorium.

A noted social worker and founder of the society Shamsul Huq attended the meeting as chief guest.

It was addressed among others by district Civil Surgeon Kazi Syed Ahmed, Principal of High Care School A Salam, local Press Club President and President of Lions Club.

## FENI

## Rival groups clash leaves 12 hurt

Jan 2: At least 12 people were injured in a clash between two rival groups at Tulatoli village in Sonagaj thana of the district Saturday, reports UNB.

The clash ensued over cutting a tree on a disputed land. One group led by Shorab Hossain of the village while trying to cut the tree, other group led by Ruhul protested them. At one stage both the groups attacked each other with lethal weapon.

Police arrested four people in this connection.

Seriously injured Shorab and Ruhul were admitted to the Chittagong Medical College Hospital and Sonagaj health complex respectively. The other injured were released after first aid.

A case has been filed with the local thana.

## SIRAJGANJ

## Cold wave claims 3 lives

Jan 2: Cold wave claimed the lives of three people in three thanas of the district recently a local Union Prasthad member said, reports UNB.

The dead people were identified as: Gulnoor (57), Rahamat Ali (48) and Khokon Miah (39).

According to unofficial estimate, the total number of death from a current cold wave rose to 16 in the 6 northern districts of Sirajganj, Pabna, Rangpur, Panchagar, Dinajpur, Rajshahi.

The villagers said the dead people were mostly day labourers and poor men without proper shelter and warm clothing.

## CHAPAINAWABGANJ

## Substandard drugs flood markets

Dec 2: Low quality life saving drugs have flooded the markets all over the district, reports UNB.

According to a leading citizen, fungus and flies are often seen in many containers including those of saline and injection.

Local leaders said drug manufacturers have set up laboratories most of which are unauthorised and producing sub-standard drugs.

Some physicians were patronising these low quality medicines, they alleged.



CHANDPUR: Nurul Huda, State Minister for Establishment, addressing the students of Chandpur Government College recently. — Star photo

## Kala-Azar kills 12, attacks 200 in Pabna

PABNA, Jan 2: Kalaraj, a deadly disease, claimed 12 lives and affected over 200 others in five thanas of the district during the last fortnight, unofficial sources said here on Thursday, reports UNB.

The dead were identified as Hafizuddin (30), Nowser Ali (40) and Tummudin (22) of Faridpur thana; Golam Ali (18) and Saikat (24) of Bhanga thana; Rasul Khan (44) of Iswardi thana; Marzina Khatun (30), Ledu Mia (35), Bireh Majumder (45) and Zamilia Bibi (55) of Chatmohar thana; Akhtar Ali (28) and Shahidul Islam Alo (35) of Aigharia thana.

Official sources, however, confirmed only four deaths and 88 others were attacked by the disease.

Villagers alleged that medical facilities are scanty in the affected areas while official sources claimed 25 medical teams have been working since

the outbreak of the disease.

They also alleged that vital medicine of the deadly disease Stebatin injection is not available at the district reserve store.

Another report says: Four policemen including a Sub-inspector were put under suspension Sunday for their negligence of duties and collecting tolls.

The suspended cops are Sub-inspector Shahajul Islam, Saiful Islam, Reazul Islam and Abdus Sattar constables of Sadar thana.

Police authorities said disciplinary actions are being taken against the accused for collecting tolls on December 24 from the cattle traders of Puspapara hat.

Another report says: Four rooms of house and a wayside petrol sale shop were burnt and three people injured in a devastating fire at Rabdanagar in the town on Wednesday.

Chanchal (18), Masum (5) and Baby (15) were rushed to the Sadar Hospital with burns. The condition of Chanchal was stated critical.

The fire originated from electric shortcircuit at the petrol shop and grabbed nearby. 'Sarkar Bari' Firefighters rushed in and tamed the blaze.

Another report adds: Two day labourers suffered burn injuries in a fire that gutted 10 houses at village Khalishpur in the district on Thursday.

Yasin Ali (42) and Ishaq Korbani (32) were injured in the fire which spread when five day labourers were warming up the igniting straw.

Shariful Islam, Chairman of Bonarinagar Union Parishad, said property worth about Tk 3 lakh was damaged by the fire.

The UP Chairman in a letter urged the Deputy Commissioner to extend all possible help to the affected people.

## Notes from Satkhira

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Jan 2: The number of teen-aged rickshawpullers has been increasing day-by-day in the town causing sufferings to the people of the town.

It is learnt that these ill-fated boys have to take up this job in the wake of stringer economic condition.

## Two commit suicide

Two housewives committed suicide by taking poison in two separate incidents recently.

It is reported that one Nurjahan Begum (20), of village Patihali under Shyamnagar thana in Satkhira district committed suicide by taking insecticide recently. She has been suffering from a disease for a long time, it is learnt.

The other incident occurred at village Khanpur of the same thana where a housewife Moksuda Khatun (18), wife of Mujibur Rahman following family troubles took poison and died on the spot.

## Smuggled cattle seized

The BDR personnel of Satkhira recovered 70 cattle-heads worth Taka 2,50,000 from Keshabpur in Jessore district recently.

Acting on a secret information, the BDR personnel launched drive and was able to seized the smuggled cattle-heads, it is learnt.

## Case filed against brickfield owners

A total of 19 cases have so far been filed against the brickfield owners of the district on charge of burning the bricks with fire wood recently.

Tariqul Islam, Magistrate, Satkhira has filed these cases with respective courts, it is learnt.

## Wine recovered

A total of 192 bottles of Indian wine were recovered by Narcotics Department, Satkhira from two shops of Hagachha Bazar under Satkhira town recently.

It is reported that acting on a secret information Magistrate Tariqul Islam, Magistrate Abdul Latif and Inspector Narcotics and Drug Control—Satkhira—circle launched the drive and was able to recovered the said wine. The recovered wines include phensydil syrup, mritu-sanjibani syrup, three-x, Ramm etc. Two persons named Hasan of Garekanda and Rajab Ali of Batke Khali both of Satkhira town were also arrested in this connection.

Two separate cases were filed with Satkhira PS.

## Fish disease breaks out

Fish disease has broken out in seven thanas of the district, according to a local fishery officer of the district.

The disease known as 'ulcerative syndrome' affected different varieties of fish, he said.

Local fishermen said, the demand for fish decreased abnormally in the local market as the news spread in the community. Fishermen and owners of ponds, beels and haors urged the concerned authorities to take necessary steps to control the disease.

## Armed forces to be modernised, says Khaleda

RUMA (Bandarban), Jan 2: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said here today that various development and welfare oriented programmes were under implementation for the overall expansion and modernisation of the country's armed forces, reports BSS.

Addressing the jawans and officers of the armed forces at Ruma Cantonment, the Prime Minister said, our armed forces have a glorious tradition. She said they have worked as the friends of the people during the natural disasters and earned goodwill at the international arena for their services to the humanity. Begum Zia hoped that all the members of the armed forces would work together for upholding this glorious tradition.

The Prime Minister said we believe in the policy of peace and this belief has been reflected in our foreign policy. Because of this, the Prime Minister said, Bangladesh has given priority to peaceful negotiations in solving the Rohingya problem. She said we believe talks are proper and best way to solve any complex problem.

The Prime Minister said our independence did not come as a gift. We have fought for every inch of land. So, there is no question of compromise in the case of independence and sovereignty, she said. In this respect our policy and commitment are clear.

## Two persons stabbed to death in Gaibandha

GAIBANDHA, Jan 2: Two persons were stabbed to death in separate incidents in Sundarganj thana of the district in the last three days, reports UNB.

In once incident a village police was stabbed to death at village Dharmapur on Tuesday when he went there on duty.

Police, Abdul Gafur being informed that two suspicious persons were residing at the house of Abdul Kashi of the village rushed to the spot. He was stabbed when he challenged one of the accused Gulzar Alias Satter.

The villagers caught Gulzar with a batagun but the other managed to flee. The policemen succumbed to injuries on his way to the hospital.

Deputy Commissioner and Police Super of the district visited the spot Wednesday.

In another incident a villager of Maltala in the thana identified as Abul was stabbed to death during a clash over a land dispute Wednesday.

Another report adds: Miscreants beat up district correspondent, of Aker Kagoj, Jannatul Ferdous Jewel while he was taking a photograph of a clash between gamblers and dwellers.

A group of gamblers caught Jewel and after locking him in a room, beat him mercilessly. They snatched his camera, wrist watch and some cash money.

Local people later rescued him and sent to the hospital.

A case has been filed with the police in this connection.

Local journalists condemned the attack and demanded punishment of the culprits.

## Hill dists people urged to maintain peace

KHAGRACHHARI, Jan 2: The Special Committee on Chittagong Hill Tracts has called upon the people of the hill districts to maintain peace to accelerate the peace of development in the region, reports UNB.

There should not be any difference over a number of nationally important issues, said the members of the high powered committee, comprising MPs, while addressing a meeting at Mohalchhari today (Sunday).

They said the people of the hill districts irrespective of caste and creed, and party affiliation should act unitedly for the cause of the nation as well as the region.

Communications Minister Oli Ahmed, who is also Chairman of the Committee, told the meeting that act of terrorism could only breed terrorism, and would never solve the problems bedeviling

the hill districts.

'We must shun terrorism, come up with pragmatic ideas and involve in the development process', he said.

The Minister reminded that much time had been spent in fruitless exercise. This should not be prolonged, he said adding 'it is time to make a great leap forward'.

Presided over by Bindu Kumar Khisa, the meeting was also addressed by committee members Kalpa Ranjan Chakma MP, Shahjahan Chowdhury MP, Mohammed Shajahan MP, Local Government Council Chairman Samiran Dewan and local leaders Usha Pru Choudhury, Adi Shankar Khisa and Dewan Abul Kalam.

Members of the Parliamentary Committee on Chittagong Hill Tracts Syed Wahidul Alam MP, Mustaque Ahmed Chowdhury MP and Barkatullah Bulu MP were present.



RANGPUR: Md Afzal Hossain, Deputy Commissioner, Rangpur inaugurating new office of the Progati Insurance Company at local central road recently. — Star photo

## Road mishaps take 3 lives

MAGURA, Jan 2: A man was killed in a road accident near Belnagar in Sadar thana on Magura-Kamarkhali road Tuesday, reports UNB.

The victim was identified as Hafizur Rahman (22), a truck helper of Hashimpur village in Jessore district.

According to witnesses, one speeding truck while overtaking the other hit the helper Hafizur killing him on the spot.

The driver of the killer truck, however, managed to flee with the vehicle.

The body was sent to Sadar Hospital for autopsy and a case has been filed with the police.

Another report from Rajbari says: An old man was killed when a passenger bus run over him on Rajbari-Balikandi road Saturday night.

Police said Fuat Ali (70) was run over by the bus (Raj 4100) near Ray bridge, about 9 kilometres from the town, while

he was crossing the road. He died on the spot.

Police seized the bus, the driver managed to flee away.

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

Another UNB report from Satkhira adds: A young man was killed in a bus mishap at Alipur on Kaliganj-Satkhira road on Sunday.

According to witnesses, the victim Babu (19) of Khulna Rail colony was crushed under the wheels of Satkhira bound minibus from Kaliganj while he was trying to board the speeding bus.

The driver, however, managed to escape with the vehicle.

To body was sent to morgue for autopsy and a case has been filed with the police.

## 122 registry offices in dilapidated condition

From Our Correspondent

DINAJPUR, Jan 2: Some 122 registry offices in the 16 northern districts of the country under Rajshahi Division are in dilapidated condition and have become unfit for keeping documents inside the offices.

Most of these offices are housed in abandoned and rented pucca or semi-pucca buildings all over the division. Due to lack of proper maintenance works, cracks and pot-holes have developed in these houses. As a result, rain waters easily enter into rooms causing damages to the valuable documents and a great inconvenience to officials and staff members on duty.

Besides these, due to lack of adequate accommodation, the documents and books have

been preserved haphazardly in these offices. But in absence of proper care and spraying of insecticides, valuable documents and books are being damaged by the rain waters and insects.

The Philburi Registry Office in Dinajpur district is also in bad shape. The building of this registry office is about a century-old. Public Works Department (PWD) declared it unfit in 1987 after holding a survey and immediate reconstruction was suggested.

A scheme for the construction of new Registry Office at Philburi was approved about three years back and a preliminary fund of over Taka ten lakh was sanctioned by the government towards its construction.



KURIGRAM: Navigation hampered due to siltation of the rivers and continued fall in the water level in the rivers of northern region. — Star photo