

District roundup

SATKHIRA

Dacoits loot valuables

Jan 6: Dacoits looted valuables including cash worth Taka one lakh from a house at Bhadrakali village in Kaliganj thana on Sunday night, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the armed dacoits numbering 10 to 12 entered the house of Laksmi Kanto Ghosh by breaking the door and decamped with the booty.

A case has been filed with the local police.

NAOGAON

BCI depositors stage token hunger strike

Jan 6: The BCI depositors of the district including some women have staged a 10-hour token hunger strike at Lyton Bridge in the town to press home their demand of returning money amounting to over Taka four crore, reports UNB.

On Dec 29, as part of country-wide hunger strike by the BCI depositors, the depositors of Naogaon staged the strike beginning from 7 am.

People from all walks of life including political leaders and journalists expressed their solidarity with the striking BCI depositors.

NETRAKONA

Seminar on uplift of socio-economic condition

Jan 6: A seminar on development of socio-economic condition of rural people and rights of women in the eye of law was held here recently, reports BSS.

Organised by Sabalambi Unnayan Samity, a local Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), the seminar was presided over by Begum Rokeya, Director of the organisation. Ataur Rahman Saki, presented a paper at the seminar.

About 600 filed-workers of the NGO, local elite and journalists were present at the seminar.

MANIKGANJ

Cold wave claims 2 lives

Jan 6: Severe cold wave claimed two people at Daulatpura thana of the district during the last two days, reports UNB.

According to family sources, Fauzia Begum (34), wife of Ayub Billal of Jyantpur died on Sunday night and Akkas (3), son of Sahar Ali of Bogota village died on Saturday night due to shivering cold prevailing in the country.

Local leaders have urged the authorities to provide the poor and floating people with warm clothes for the sake of humanity.

MAGURA

20 passengers hurt in road mishap

Jan 6: At least 20 passengers were injured, three seriously, when a speeding bus suddenly plunged into a roadside ditch near Arpara bridge in Saltikha thana on Magura-Jessore road Sunday night, reports UNB.

Witnesses said while the Jessore bound bus was overtaking a speeding truck on the point the driver lost its control and met the accident.

The three seriously injured passengers were rushed to district hospital while the rest were released after first aid. A case has been filed with the police.

KHULNA

Workshop of journalists on children dev concludes

Jan 6: A nine-day workshop of journalists on children development jointly organised by the Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) and the UNICEF concluded Monday at Management Development Centre here, reports BSS.

A total of 15 journalists from different districts participated in the workshop.

Muktadecr Chowdhury, Divisional Commissioner, Khulna, distributed certificates among the participants at a function on the concluding day. Shahabuddin Ahmed, President, Khulna Press Club presided over the function.

RAJBARI

Students urged to build happy country

Jan 6: State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahan Ara Begum recently called upon the students to devote themselves to efforts for building a happy and prosperous country, reports BSS.

She was addressing a student rally here organised by Rajbari district unit of Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal to celebrate its 14th founding anniversary. District Chhatra Dal leaders also spoke on the occasion.

The State Minister said that the present democratic government was pledge-bound to maintain peace and discipline at the educational institutions. She called upon the Chhatra Dal workers to carry forward the ideals of shaheed president Ziaur Rahman.

Prof Jahan Ara Begum lauded the role of students during the '90 mass upsurge against the autocratic rulers. She called upon them to uphold the traditional image of the student.

AGRI-VARSITY

Shapla Drama Society executives

Jan 6: The executive committee of the Shapla Drama Society of Teacher-Student Centre of Bangladesh Agricultural University for the sessions 1992-1993 and 1993-94 has recently been formed with A K M Abdul Kuddus Mian, Head of the Department of Anatomy & Histology, Dr M Ataur Rahman of the Department of Microbiology & Hygiene and Krishnendu Saha, a 4th year BSc Fisheries (Hons) student as its President, Vice-President and General Secretary respectively, says a press release.

Other office-bearers of the committee include the Students' Welfare Officer as treasurer, Kabirul Islam and Shanaz Begum as assistant general secretaries and Prof. A M Farook, Assoc Prof M Muttakinur Rahman, Deputy Controller of Examinations Mrs Jhasina Barua, Arif Iqbal, Rezaur Rahman (Sabuj), Rezaur Amin, Jahangir Alam (Tito), A K M Hafiz Akhtar, Shahjadi Nasrin Sultana (Jhuma), Siddiqueur Rahman and the cultural secretary of BAUCSU as its members.

Meanwhile, the executive committee of Science Club of TSC, BAU for the above sessions has also been formed with Prof. A M M Tareque, Prof. M Akhtar Hossain and Ashraf Ali Mian (Habub) as its president, vice-president and general secretary respectively.

FENI

One killed in clash

Jan 6: A man was killed in a clash at Ahmedpur village of Sonagazi thana of the district on Tuesday, reports UNB.

Police identified the man as Mofiz (55).

According to police while Mafiz was cutting a palm tree from a disputed land his relative Balumia raised objection.

At one stage Mafiz was beaten mercilessly and was rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital where the doctors declared him dead.

A case has been lodged with the police.

Angry people caught three notorious dacoits while they were decamping with the booty after committing dacoity at Rajnagar village of Sadar thana, police said here recently.

According to witnesses, the dacoits stormed the house of Gafur Member on December 24, beat the inmates including the house owner and looted valuables worth about Taka 1.50 lakh.

MYMENSINGH

Training on farm research concludes

Jan 6: The concluding session of a three week-long training programme on 'Farming Systems Research' was held at the Graduate Training Institute (GTI) of Bangladesh Agricultural University on December 24, says UNB.

A total of 12 scientific officers including officers from Bidhan Chandra Krishi Biswabidyalaya of West Bengal took part in the course. The training course was organised by the GTI while the session was presided over by Prof Md Musaffizur Rahman and Prof A M Shamsuddin was present as chief guest.



JAMALPUR: Narcotics and Liquor Department, Jamalpur recently seized about 15 maunds of ganja plant from Dewanganj thana of the district. — Star photo

One thousand acres under ganja farming in Jamalpur

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Jan 6: Ganja plantation in different villages of Dewanganj, Islampur, Melandah and Jamalpur sadar thanas has increased to a great extent for the last two years.

A reliable source said that about 100 acres of land are now under illegal ganja cultivation in 86 villages of Durgdaha, Hatibandaha, Bahadurabad, Pannamrampur, Bagachar and Char Amkhuya union in Dewanganj thana, Degree Char, Chinaduly, Pathashi, Goalcher unions in Islampur, Durmut, Kulla and Nangla in Melandah, Ghoradap, Lughkipur and some char areas of Jamalpur sadar thanas during the current year.

The source said that four kg of ganja is produced from a plant and per kg of ganja is selling at Taka 2,500 to 3,000 in the thanas.

Ganja is being transported to Dhaka, Mymensingh, Bogra, Dinajpur, Rangpur, Sirajganj, Pabna, Tangail, Rajshahi, Khulna, Chittagong and other parts at the country. Women and unemployed youths are used as carrier of the ganja to different places.

The Narcotics and Liquor Department, Jamalpur, recently seized about 15 maunds of ganja plants with a cart from Dewanganj thana.

Local people informed that the ganja cultivators have been paying money regularly to the staff of the Narcotics Department and are continuing the illegal cultivation in a large-scale.

Illegal sale of liquor is going on in different areas at the district town and other places at the thana of the district.

A number of stationary and grocery shops in the town and different market areas at the

district are selling ganja and liquor illegally, it is learnt. Some consumers alleged that the sellers of ganja and liquor are charging exorbitant prices. A good number of gentlemen customers are found waiting in corners to procure the same and there are so called waiters to supply the goods.

The number of such unauthorised wine and ganja shops is increasing in the town areas giving rise to anti-social activities.

Recently, a powerful task force headed by Jalal Ahmed, Deputy Commissioner was formed to control and eliminate the ganja plantation in the district.

The elite of the district have urged the concerned authorities to enforce the anti-drug law to halt the consumption of ganja and liquor without any delay.

Meanwhile, the number of drug addicts is on the rise in the district resulting in further increase in anti-social activities.

The number of addicted youth both male and female has reached to 3000 affecting others youth in the district. It is gathered that male addicts between the age group at 15 to 28 are considered to be vulnerable while the percentage at female addicts is rising and many of them are married too.

It is alleged some MBBS doctors are doing addicted in Jamalpur General Hospital and other thana health complexes.

The unemployed youths due to frustration get addicted. Besides, a large number of transport workers, small shopkeepers, restaurant owners, male and female college students and even a section of

teachers and government officials and employees have become addicted to drugs, it is alleged.

The ganja and other drugs are available in the shops within the municipal areas, surrounding areas of the cinema halls, bus terminal, bus stand areas, and different hats and bazars.

Being failed to procure money from other sources, these addicts takes shelter under 'gurus' of the localities who easily recruit and train them as thieves, robbers and dacoity.

It is informed that the whole process is continuing under the patronage of the members of law enforcing agencies and political parties.

When criminals are arrested, the political leaders rush to the police station and arrange their release. If any police officer refuses to comply, he is given threat of transfer which some time proved to be true. Guardians of such mastans approach the police and other administrative authorities to detain their wards in prison to isolate them from their associates.

A renowned social worker at Jamalpur informed that the police personally known almost all the drug addicts, mastans, gurus, and big and small liquor traders and smugglers but they hardly touch them. He also said that in Jamalpur town alone, there are 15 illegal liquor shops within the knowledge of the police but no legal actions are taken against such illegal traders.

Local people urged the higher authorities to take necessary action against them who involved in illegal activities.

Teacher shortage hampers UPEP

PATUAKHALI, Jan 6: Universal Primary Education Programme (UPEP) is being hampered as 111 posts of teachers including 43 posts of headmasters have been lying vacant in the district for a long time, reports UNB.

According to official sources, 10 posts of headmasters and one post of assistant teacher are vacant in the Sadar thana, 10 posts of headmasters and 7 posts of assistant teachers in Bauphal thana, 8 posts of headmasters and 21 assistant teachers in Galachipa, 4 posts of headmasters and 19 assistant headmasters posts in Kalapara, 5 posts of headmasters and 11 posts of assistant teachers in Mirzaganj and 9 posts of headmasters and 6 posts of assistant teachers in Dashmina thana.

Mentionable that another 225 registered non-government primary schools set up in seven thanas of the district to provide education to the children are also plagued with various problems.

Local people urged the authorities to fill up the vacant posts to make universal primary education a success in the district.

Interest free loan of Taka 1.79 lakh was distributed among the 195 distressed families of the locality by Betagi Thana Samajseba office under its population programme.

The organisation, distributed a number of sanitary latrine sets for use of the rural

Indian clothes seized at N'ganj

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Jan 6: Customs officials today recovered Indian clothes worth Taka 16 lakh from Azahar Super Market here. The recovered clothes include, 1468 pieces of cotton saree, 807 pieces of katan बनारसी saree, 40 pieces of wrapper, 15 pieces of muller, 19 pieces of sweater and 13 pieces of three-piece clothes.

A professional diver and boatman met the tragic end of his life while searching a wrist watch in a river near Muradia union of Dumki thana.

It is reported that Abdur Rashid Munshi (50) of village Chargaardi village dived into the Boga river in search of a wrist watch and met watery grave.



BOGRA: The Christian Juba Sangha organised a youth conference here recently. Muzammel Haque Lulu, Editor of the local daily Karotoa attended the conference as chief guest while Rabin Barandi presided over. — Star photo

Across the country

Jessore: Legends of glory and human excellence

From Atiar Rahman

JESSORE, Jan 6: Replete with legends of glorious tradition, coupled with events of socio-political upheavals and supplemented by excellence of human endeavour, Jessore district remains nucleus in contemporary history of the country for reason more than one from time immemorial.

During the hey-day of British rule in Sub-continent, distinguished foreign visitors to Jessore carried back rich impression about this district. They have later spoken very highly of it in their works which are being treated as authoritative source for reference in research, by the posterity.

The Annals of Rural Bengal by W W Hunter can be referred as an example. The author in the book, while describing the anthropology of the region, has remarked that Jessore was one of the few districts where people from different directions came to settle in the early days. He has also remarked in the same book that Jessore was noted for rapid progress in culture and education.

Jessore is also too well-known to need any introduction for its predominant role in the origin, progress and development of newspapers and journalism since the nineteenth century.

First fortnightly newspaper

The newspaper that was first to come out from the district was the fortnightly 'Ammrto Probahini.' It appeared simultaneously with the beginning of the Indigo Revolution. There is no denying the fact that Ammrto Probahini acted as an inspiration of this revelation right from its start until the victory.

Since the publication of this fortnightly over fifty newspapers including dailies, weeklies, fortnightlies and monthlies have been published from the district.

In course of time, five of them were upgraded to daily from weekly while three others were published as dailies however, only five dailies and two weeklies are in existence.

12 newspapers published during British period

A record reveals that twelve newspapers were published during the British period, sixteen during the Pakistan period and rest in post liberation days.

Six of those came out from rural areas, four from thana headquarters and the rest from district town. Strangely enough, the first newspaper of the district was published from a for lung village one and a quarter century ago. This English daily is now published from Calcutta in India and one of the leading dailies of that country.

Ammrto Bazar

Publication of first newspaper Ammrto Probahini, dates back to 1862 from the editors home village Dohar Magura (Ammrto Bazar) under Jhinkergacha thana in Jessore. Editor Sishir Kumar Ghose was an eminent landlord and philanthropist. He himself was simultaneously the editor, printer, publisher, reporter, compositor, make-up man and pressman at the initial stage of

the daily. Sishir Kumar Ghose, before start or the paper, got his training from elsewhere. His press was also the oldest one in the district.

However, Ammrto Probahini came to an abrupt end when the courageous and outspoken views of the editor enraged the powerful British establishment.

Sishir Kumar Ghose,
Editor of Ammrto Bazar

But Sishir Kumar Ghose was an adamant person. He never lost confidence. He brought out the Weekly Ammrto Bazar Patrika edited from the same place on January 2, 1868. From next year it was made bilingual—English and Bengali versions started to be published.

Both the newspapers denounced the British government in the strongest possible language. To protest the persecution, tyranny, oppression and torture of the government was the policy of the paper. Ammrto Bazar Patrika was the first newspaper in the country to publish the history of the Indigo Revolution in its May 22 issue of 1874.

Sishir Kumar Ghose left for Calcutta to settle there in 1871. Despite all this publication of Ammrto Bazar continued. It became a full-fledged English weekly after the Vernacular Act came into effect on March 21, 1878. It became a daily in 1891.

Monthlies Kolyani, Eslam, Ansar, Alok, Shariate

Monthly Kolyani, edited by Upendra Nath Roy was next to be published from the district town after Ammrto Probahini and Ammrto Bazar Patrika.

Monthly Eslam edited by Mohatabuddin, was published in 1901, Hindu Patrika and Boisha Barojibi, edited by Raz Bahadur Jagannath Majumder were published in 1919, and 1921 respectively. These were followed by Jessore Patrika edited by Ananda Chowdhury in 1925. All were published from the district town.

Monthly Ansar, edited by Wahed Ali Ansari started its publication from the editor's village home Goripur under Chowgacha thana in 1935, Jessore Gazette a weekly edited by the same person was published in 1941.

Monthly Alok, edited by Lal Mohammad, came out in 1949, Monthly Imam, by Motiur Rahman in 1943 and Monthly Al-Amin by Dr Moklesur Rahman, in 1945.

Monthly Shariate-Islam edited by Moulana Ahmed Ali Enayetpuri was published in 1948. Monthly Ishara by Lal Mohammad, followed by monthly Satadal by Aysha Sarder in 1952, Monthly Mojum by Dr Syed Maroof Hussain in 1956. Monthly Nakive by Ahmed Ali Shahityaratna in 1958, Monthly Jana Kalyan from Zilla Board in 1960, Monthly Mukul by Nasiruddin, Weekly Notun Desh by Mahmudul Haq in 1963, Monthly Samabadd by Moklesur Rahman in 1964, Weekly Ganadabi by Nasiruddin in 1970, Weekly Matribhumi by Abdus Salam, Weekly Mukti by Ahmed Rofik, Weekly Biploy by Khan Tipu Sultan, Weekly Eshara by Ahmed Rofik in 1970, Weekly Chasi by Moklesur Rahman and Weekly Jugur Dak, Marked the Pakistan period. A group of

Pitiable condition of hats and bazars

MOULVIBAZAR, Jan 6: Hats and bazars of all the six thanas of the district are in pitiable condition causing inconveniences to both the buyers and sellers, reports UNB.

Shopkeepers said, most of the hats and bazars have had drainage system and the situation become worse during the rainy season.

Absence of public toilets in hats and bazars in the rural areas causing suffering to the people.

Moreover, filths and garbages are being dumped in the bazar areas emitting bad odour and helping bulk breeding of mosquitoes.

Unplanned building of shops in the bazars has been causing untold sufferings to the sellers and buyers, informed sources said.

Local people and shopowners have demanded development and proper maintenance of the markets immediately.

The number of young drug addicts is increasing alarmingly throughout the district causing grave concern among the guardians.

According to a survey conducted by some social welfare

activists, most of the drug addicts are students who are addicted to drugs like liquor, opium, morphin, sedative tablets, 'mrita sanjibanis sura' and other types of alcohol.

It is learnt that most of the addicts visit pharmacies and medicine shops after sunset to procure intoxicants.

Taking advantage of the situation, some dishonest medicine traders have been doing brisk business by selling drugs to the young men without prescriptions.

Local people alleged the district town and its adjoining areas have turned into open markets of illegal drugs mainly smuggled from India by well-organised gangs.

Another message adds: One person was killed and 3 others sustained serious injuries in a clash between two rival groups over the possession of a piece of land in village Masajan in Rajnagar thana of the district Wednesday.

According to witnesses, the clash ensued over the possession of a disputed plot of land in which Alema Begum (60) wife of Nanu Miah received stab injury.

students of Chowgacha Shahadat High School in Jessore, with blessings from poet Ahmed Ali Sahityaratna initiated to bring out a paper 'Aka Baka.' But it could not survive due to financial constraints.

Tabloid newspapers after Liberation War

In the wake of Liberation War, good number of tabloids appeared in series. Weekly Spulingo edited by Abdus Sattar, blessed by Mowlana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani, came out within 48 hours of liberation of Jessore town on December 7, 1971. It was upgraded to daily on July 31, 1976.

Monthly Sanglap edited by Abul Ehsan Chowdhury, was published in 1972 along with the Weekly Noya Jug and Desh Hitoyshi, edited by Nurul Alam. Out of all the three, Desh Hitoyshi became daily from June 19, 1991.

Weekly Gram Bangla, edited by Monjurul Huda and Kapadakk edited by Abdur Rahman came out from Jhinkergacha in 1973 and 1974 respectively. Weekly Sabuj Somabai, edited by Abdus Satter and Thikana by Abul Hussain Mir appeared in 1974. Weekly Gana Manush and Fortnightly Jessore Barta were published in 1978.

Thikana became daily from August 1, 1978. Later it was shifted to Faridpur on July 29, 1991 wherefrom it is published as a daily.

Weeklies Bonni, Samachar

Weekly Bonni, edited by Begum Salina and Mujahid by Mostanur Rahman and Patriot by Begum Monjura Rahman, came out in 1979. Patriot was an English fortnightly. These are now defunct. Two newspapers were published in 1980. One of these was the Runner and the other Weekly Saturday. Runner was daily from the beginning. Saturday, edited by Daud Hussain ceased shortly after. Runner editor, Golam Majid was arrested on March 26, 1982 two days after promulgation of Martial Law on March 24, 1982 for his adverse criticism of Martial Law on Independence Day issue. He was convicted and sentenced for two years but was released six months after. But again, he was taken into custody and imprisoned for three years.

Weekly Samachar Somkha, edited by Abdur Haabib and Weekly Purabi by Mostuddin came out in 1981. Purabi became daily from 1986 while Samachar Somkha ceased to exist. The Kolyan then appeared as daily edited by Ekramuddoula in 1985. It is going on despite many bottle necks.

Last year, two newspapers were published. One is the Daily Telegram, edited by Binoy Krishna Mullik and the other Weekly Jessore edited by Zahid Hasan Tukun. The Daily Telegram was published in June, 1991 and Weekly Jessore in August 1991. Publication of the Daily Telegram is suspended since August last.

Number of dailies now coming out from Jessore is five. These are the Kolyan, the Runner, the Spulingo, the Purobi, and the Desh-Hitoyshi while the two weeklies Gono Manush and Weekly Jessore.

Dacoit stabs dafader to death

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDBHA, Jan 6: One Abdul Gafur, 55, a Dafader (village watchman) was stabbed to death by armed miscreants at village Dharmapur under Sunderganj Thana last night.

Local people caught a member of the miscreants and recovered a cut rifle from his possession Tuesday evening.

Members of Dharmapur Club of the locality got information that some dacoits took shelter in the house of one Abdul, a butcher.

The victim, Abdul Gafur rushed to the spot before the members of the club and caught hold of one of the dacoits who stabbed him to death with a dagger.

On hearing the hue and cry local people came to the spot and caught one of the miscreants and recovered a cut rifle from his possession.

Abdul, the owner of the house remained absconding.

Deputy Commissioner and Police Superintendent visited the place of occurrence.