District roundup

NETRAKONA

Poush mela, cultural week begins

Jan 18: A poush mela and cultural week began at the playground of Datta High School here ton Friday, reports BSS.

State Minister for Establishment Nurul Huda inaugurated the mela and the cultural week, the Whip of the Treasury Bench in Jatiya Sangsad, Advocate MA Karim attended the inaugural func-

Presided over by Deputy Commissioner, Netrakona, Dewan Assaruddin the function was attended among others by Musarraf Hossain MP.

Speaking on the occasion the State Minister said the present government under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia was trying to bring an end to social unrest and resist the flow of foreign culture.

He urged the people to help the government for making development programmes a

The Whip MA Karim in his speech said Shaheed President Zia had taken different programmes to highlight the spirit of our traditional culture. Under the programme Shaheed Zia established a Garo tribal cultural academy at Birisiri of Durgapur under Netrakona district, he added. Artistes of Birisiri cultural

academy presented a cultural show at the inaugural function.

BARISAL

Plan to construct 5 sluice gates taken up

From Staff Correspondent

Jan 18: Water Development Board (WDB) has undertaken a programme to construct five sluice gates with the financial assistance of Asian Development Bank (ADB) in Dashmina thana area of Patuakhali district during the current financial year.

These projects will be implemented with an expenditure of about 60 lakh taka and will be completed by June next it is expected.

After the implementation of these projects, according to official sources, about eight thousand hectares of land will be provided irrigation facili-

MADARIPUR

Drug addict youths on rise

From Our Correspondent Jan 18: The number of drug-addict youths is growing alarmingly at Madaripur dis-

Rural youths have becoming addicted to different items o intoxication like foreign made wine, country made wine, opiums, sedative tablets, drug, mirtu sanjibani sura, and other type of liquid containing alco-

According to a non-official survey, Madaripur town and its suburbs have turned into open markets of drugs. All kinds of drugs and wine are available in some medicine shops.

The survey reveals that the numbers of addicted teenagers is only six per cent and it is increasing day by day. A well organised circle has been smuggling these items of intoxication from India and sell these in Madaripur.

SATKHIRA

Three dacoities committed

From Our Correspondent Jan 18: Three dacotties were committed in different places of two thanas of the dis-

trict recently. It is reported that a gang of armed dacotts numbering 10 to 12 entered the house of one Laxmi Kant Ghosh of village Bhadra Khali under Kaligoni thana, by breaking open the door at dead of night and decamped with valuables of worth about Taka one lakh. A case has been filed with

Kaligoni PS. On the other hand, two dacotties were committed in two villages under Tala thana of the district. It is reported that dacotts looted valuables including cash worth Taka about fifty thousand from a house at village Dohar under Tala thana recently, Witnesses said, the armed dacoits entered the house of Dulal Chandra Das and decamped with the booty. The other dacoity committed at the house of Prafulla Kashart of village Tegharia of the same thana and decamped with the

Two separate cases were

lodged with Tala PS.

NETRAKONA

Annual police rally held

Jan 18: Annual police rally and athletic meet '93 were held at local police line maidan recently, reports BSS.

Additional Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Police, Dhaka Range Mudabbir Hossain Chowdhury inaugurated the rally and athletic meet, Police Super, Netrakona, Anwar Hossain Khan presided over the inaugural function.

District and Sessions Judge, Netrokona, Abdur Razzak and Deputy Commissioner Dewan Afsaruddin, political leaders, local elite and government officials attended the function.

NOAKHALI

Food department fails to purchase paddy

Jan 18: Food Department here failed to purchase any rice or paddy during the current procurement drive due to specification problems, reports UNB.

According to official sources, paddy or rice was not found as per specification set by the Government. On the other hand, paddy is being sold at the rate of Taka 240 per maund in the open market, when the rate for purchase has been fixed at only Taka 210 per maund.

Paddy production in the district is satisfactory but the farmers are facing difficulties with their produce as number of buyers in the market is quite insufficient.

In all 11 centres have been opened in the district to purchase 126 metric tons of paddy and 49 metric tons of

CHITTAGONG

Sir Salimullah's death anniversary observed

Jan 18: Quaid-e-Azam Smriti Committee observed 78th death anniversary of Nawab Str Salimullah through a discussion held at its Jamal Khan office here yesterday, a committee press release said yesterday, reports BSS.

Smriti committee Chairman SM Anisud-Daula presided over the discussion while Advocate Scraful Islam Chowdhury, Messrs Fazlus Subhan Chowdhury. Mosizur Rahman, Muhammad Yakub, MA Jalil and Abul Abbas Kaderi, all committee members, participated in it.

The participants said that Nawab Sir Salimullah's contributions towards awakening Muslims and founding Muslim League in 1906 would be remembered for ages. It was Nawab Salimullah who had helped unite the Muslims to achieve their political rights in those days, they added,

CHUADANGA

Chhatra Oikyo sweeps Darsana College union polls

From Our Correspondent Jan 18: Election of the students union of Darsana Government College was held peacefully recently.

Members of the Chhatra Otkyo panel formed by Chhatra League (M-I) and Chhatra League (B-K) won 18 posts out of total 19 posts including VP and GS, Jatyotabadi Chhatra Dal got no post in the election while Islami Chhatra Sibir got the only one post of Assistant Reading Room Secretary.

SM Zakaria Alam of Chhatra League (B-K) was elected Vice-President while Abu Sayed Mohammad Hasan of Chhatra League (M-I) was elected General Secretary of the students union.

COMILLA

Workshop on insemination held

Jan 18: A workshop on artificial insemination, sponsored by Artificial Insemination Centre, Comilla was held on Friday, reports UNB.

Livestock officers and workers from greater Comilla participated the day long workshop.

Presided over by Dr Badal Kanti Mitra, Deputy Director, Directorate of Fisheries and Livestock, the workshop was addressed, among others, by Mominul Hug Chowdhury and Shamarendra Kumer Sarker.

The speakers discussed problems of catering artificial insemination services in field level and suggested way and means to overcome those.



BOGRA: This road on which the two kids are standing has been constructed on the bed of the once mighty river Karotola. - Star photo by Samudra Haque

Siltation hampers irrigation to 15 lakh acres of land

From Our Correspondent

tion and pisciculture in the re-

gion. But the execution of the

plan remained stopped for the

Liberation War and still it is a

In every year, the govern-

ment is spending a huge quan-

tity of wheat and rice for the

execution of Food and Work

Programmes which is inade-

quate to accelerate irrigation

and pisciculture programme in

During the last fiscal year,

the union parishad chairmen

and members approached to

the higher authorities for the

execution of the earlier plan to

gear-up irrigation facilities in

the region but no response has

A meeting of the Awami

League was held at

Neshbetgoni about three miles

off the town, strongly de-

manded immediate construc-

tion of a memorial at the site

of the mass slaughtering at

Neshbetgoni as a mark of re-

spect to the hundreds of sha-

heed who were slaughtered

there by the occupation army

of Rangpur Cantonment during

ing gave a strong warning to

IBS, EC academics likely

tended four seminars at SOAS,

Oxford and Cambridge

Few months back, a proto-

Recently, IBS Director

Professor Mahmud Shah

Qureshi visited Paris, on an in-

vitation from French

Government where he deliv-

ered three lectures. He was as

sured of closer cooperation

with the University of Paris

Dauphine, particularly National

Institute of Oriental Languages

(INALCO) and the University of

Paris-Sorbonne and its Centre

for the Study of the History of

that INALCO President hold

It may be mentioned here

Contemporary Islam.

col of exchange with the

University of Triar in Germany

Universities.

was signed.

The speakers of the meet-

Liberation War in 1971.

not yet been received.

in the areas.

the region.

RANGPUR Jan 18: At least 15 lakh acres of land in 16 districts of the northern region are almost out of irrigation facilities.

As a resulting the country is deprived of increased production of different crops worth Taka 500 crore annually.

With the siltation of the beds of at least 1000 canals, beels, haors and tributaries of different rivers, the irrigation facilities from these water sources have been stopped for long past causing a serious problem in providing usual irrigation to the standing crops during dry seasons.

Besides cultivation of crops, the siltation in these water bodies also causing serious setback in pisciculture. Several hundred fishermen have be-

Police officer hurt in road accident

COMILLA, Jan 18: A police officer was injured seriously and his two months old daughter died on the spot in a road mishap at Autpara in Chauddagram thana on Dhaka-Chittagong Trunk road January 11, reports UNB.

Shahidul Islam, Additional SP. Chittagong, sustained injuries and his daughter Champa met the tragic end when the driver of their jeep lost its control and fell down from the road. Shahid along with his family was coming

RAJSHAHI, Jan. 18: The

Institute of Bangladesh Studies

(IBS), Rajshahi University has

already made a place in the in-

ternational community of

scholars with 70 PhD and M

Phil, dissertations, extensive

research activities and numer-

ous publications to its credit,

pluridisciplinary research cen-

tre for advanced studies in the

country. Supported by a Ford

Foundation grant in the initial

years, the IBS had several

American academics as teach-

this Institute conducted ad-

vanced research on Kazi Nazrul

Islam at School of Oriental and

African Studies (SOAS),

University of London. He at

Last year, Dr P K Mitra of

This is, in fact, the only

says a Press release.

ers in the past.

come jobless and acute crisis the administration to switch of fishes have been persisting on construction of a memorial at the mass slaughtering field at Neshbetgonj by March 28, In 1969, the Fishery the day on which thousands of Department undertook à gigantic master plan for re-excavillagers from surrounding arvation of these silted water eas with lathis, axes, arrows and swords in hands gheraoed bodies in a bid to revive their lives for boosting food producthe Rangpur Cantonment.

> In reply to this attack, the occupation army, well equipped with sophisticated weapons fired on the mob causing instantaneous death of hundreds of persons on the spot while several hundreds others were severely injured.

The meeting, in view to keep in memory the highest sacrifices of the innocent villagers of the locality, strongly demanded for the construction of a memorial there.

Fake captain held at Khulna

son named Sakhawat was ar-7. reports UNB.

Identifying himself as a Captain and sometimes as volved in collecting money people for a long time.

special reception for Professor

Qureshi who was, in mid-six-

tics, the first Bengali lecture of

Bangla there and presented

him a commemorative medal.

He would also send students to

IBS for studies on Bangladesh.

visited the institute of Inter-

ethnic and Inter-Cultural

Studies of the University of

Nice, France and Institute of

Human and Social Sciences in

Venise, Italy. On November 3,

he met Dr Willam Radice of

the SOAS, London in view of

It is expected that manifold

academic exchanges would

take place between Rajshahi

University and the academic

circles of the European

Community in near future.

renewing old contacts.

Professor Qureshi further

KHULNA, Jan 18: One perrested by Khulna Metropolitan Police Detective Branch from Shahid Hadis Park on January

Police source said he was arrested on charge of misappropriating money with a false identity of a military officer.

some officials of the district and police administration are also engaged in this illegal from the police and other hunting. Closer contact between

killed One grocer Ahmed Ali (55)

of Kadamtala Bazar under Satkhira Sadar thana was brutally killed by a young miscreant recently.

Grocer brutally

Notes from

Satkhira

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Jan 18

Satkhira thana police recov-

ered a body of a 15-year-old

boy from canefield of Nulkura

and ascertained the cause of

his murder, police sources

said. The body was sent to the

Satkhira morgue for autopsy. A

case was lodged with Satkhira

One succumbs

to injury

lage Noakati under Tala thana

died at the hospital recently.

One Dabiruddin (65) of vil-

It is reported that

Dabiruddin was seriously

wounded when a group of man

of the same village hit him

with lethal weapons and later

he was admitted to the hospi-

Killing of guest

birds unabated

dreds of migratory birds ev-

eryday at different beels of the

district violating government

vent of winter thousand of

guest birds are flocking at the

marshes and water bodies of

beel Dakatta, Ellabchar beel,

beel Binerpota and beel Norar

Char. But a section of greedy

hunters and catchers are en-

gaged in the hunt of these in-

It has been alleged that

nocent birds.

Witnesses said, with the ad-

Hunters arts killing hun-

tal with serious head injuries.

None identified the body

under Sadar than recently.

It is reported that the killer Rcja (20) son of Abul Khair of Thanaghata village under Satkhira Sadar thana came to Ahmed Ali's shop and wished to take shelter there. Ahmed Ali gave him shelter and while he was sleeping at dead of night killer Reja hit Ahmed Ali with sharp into his belly. He was take to Satkhira hospital where he succumbs to his injury. Police arrested Reja and sent him to jail. A case was lodged with Satkhira PS in this

Housewife commits suicide

One housewife committed suicide here by taking poison recently.

It is learnt that Nurunnahár (18) wife of Mousur Ali Gazi of village Paishkhli under Shyamnager PS took potson and later died on the spot. Family trouble is the cause

of her suicide, it is learnt.

Govt urged to fulfill demands

MAIJDEE COURT, Jan 18 Noakhali Unnayan Bastabayan Parishad expressed deep concern at the silence of the government over their 10-point demand on the over all development of the district, reports

A memorandum demanding establishment of a medical col lege, a cadet college, an agriculture college, a university, a division comprising the districts of greater Noakhali, digital telephone system, proper drainage facilities and expanded electrification network was submitted to the government a month back.

in a recent the meeting the

Cottage industries face setback in Chuadanga From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, Jan 18: Due to high prices of raw materials. want of fund and patronisation the cottage industries in Chuadanga district have been facing setback for a long time.

A good number of people of Chuadanga district-possess the skills of making different articles with bamboo, cane, jute and other raw materials. Wo-. men are not too lagging behind. Their excellent tapestry and embroidery works deserve appreciation.

Many of them have taken it as their profession and try to earn their livelihood.

But the prices of raw materials for the industry have now increased much and for want of fund they cannot work in full capacity.

Consequently, 80 per cent of the total people of this profession can not afford to purchase raw materials at an exorbitant price. They always borrow money from the affluent people at a high rate of interest.

In the face of such problems, many of them are being forced to giveup their traditional profession and the village-oriented cottage industry faces closure. By this time, many of them have become unemployed and are now passing their days in utter mis-

It is opined that the Bangladesh Cottage Industry Corporation (BSCIC) can help these people by providing loans at an easy term with a view to saving the age-old rural industry of Chuadanga district from extinction.

One hundred and fifty four schemes were implemented under Test Relief Programme in four thanas of the district recently.

A total of 261 metric tons of rice was utilised for the pur

Of the total, schemes, 42 schemes were implemented in Chuadanga Sadar thana, 47 schemes in Alamdanga thana, 45 schemes in Damurhuda thana and 20 schemes in Jibannagar thana.

Current net use helps decrease in fish output

MADARIPUR, Jan 18: Current nets are being used extensively for fishing in different waterbodies of the district shattering the prospect of fish production, reports UNB.

A huge quantity of fish fry are being sold in different markets of the district at a comparatively cheaper rate before the eyes of the law enforcing agencies. Local people complained

that despite government ban, the fishermen are catching the fry below nine inches from rivers, haors, beels and ponds every day. The local fishery department plays no effective role to check the menace. Madaripur was once famous

for fish production and the fish were available abundantly throughout the year. But now the fishermen have been passing hard days for want of fish in the river and other waterbodies of the district.

Local people have urged the concerned authorities to take effective steps against the use

of current nets and indiscriminate catching of fish fry by the dishonest fishermen. Unauthorised power con-

sumption throughout the dis-

trict is going on mounting system loss and irregular electricity supply, some local elite complained. Sources said at least 500 unauthorised electric connec-

tions could be detected in the town and other areas if proper enquiry is made by the concerned authorities. A section of PDB men were involved in underhand deals with the unscrupulous con

sumers for regular pay-offs,

they alleged. On the other hand, a num ber of electricity consumers complained that they were not getting their electricity bills in time for payment without surcharge.

> Local leaders urged the au thorities to take action against the dishonest consumers and officials to stop this malprac-



RANGPUR: Sheema Bhowmik, a popular artiste rendering Nazrul song at local Radio Station premises on the occasion of the 22nd founding anniversary of local Radio Station recently. - Star photo

Influx of beggars causes inconveniences to people

MAGURA, Jan 18: Influx of beggars at the district headquarters has increased abnormally causing much inconveniences to the dwellers in the town last few months, reports Beggars mostly floating

people affected by the natural calamities are pouring into the town in large scale from the rural areas of four thanas with the hope of earning their livelthood. Most of the beggars are

women and children. Finding no other alternative, these destitute women have taken up begging as their means of earning. But many of them having failed to earn their bread are resorting to antisocial activities, local people Local people urged the dis

trict administration to take necessary steps to rehabilitate the destitutes so that they can engage themselves in income generating occupations. Another report adds

Bangladesh Rifles seized 14 Indian cattle worth about Taka 1.68 lakh from a truck at Sadar thana on Magura-Jhenidah Highway on Thursday.

'Ghani' on the verge of extinction in Magura

the traditional oil factory is on the verge of extinction due to fund constraint, lack of patronisation and introduction of oil mills, reports UNB. Comparative low prices of

MAGURA, Jan 18: "Ghani".

mill crushed oil and high prices of bullock and necessary inputs the ghani owners have compelled to leave their ancestral profession.

A "kulu" (otlmen) needs at least Taka 10,000 to run his business smoothly which he can hardly manage. As a result, about 2000 families dependent on the factory are passing their days in great hardship.

Local oilmen urged the government to take necessary steps to save the age-old factory from ruination.

Parents with marriageable daughters are getting worried as they can not arrange marringe for the girls due to growing demand for dowry.

"The anti-dowry act remains confined to law books only affecting the low income group guardians," said Shahidul Islam, father of two marriageable daughters of Burirchar village of Sadar

More than 50,000 marriageable girls, most of them belonging to farmer families, remained unwed due to the excessive demand for dowry. sources said. Marginal farmers have to

fertiliser or other necessary agri inputs, prices of which have increased manifold, said some local farmers. Local people urged the au-

choose between dowry for

their daughters and chemical

thorities to enforce anti-dowry act to help facilitate marriage, of the girls.

RAJSHAHI: Professor Francois de Labriolle, President, National Institute of Oriental parishad urged the govern-Languages (INALCO) presenting a commemorative medal to Professor MS Qureshi of IBS, ment to fulfill their demand Rajshahi University. without further delay.