

## District roundup

### NETRAKONA

#### Muktijoddha Chhatra Command unit committee formed

Jan 23 : A 13-member Muktijoddha Chhatra Command of the district unit has been formed at a local Muktijoddha office with Mrinal Kanti Ray in the chair, reports UNB.

Prashanta Ray and Md Sajedul Karim have been made Convener and Member Secretary of the committee respectively at a meeting held recently.

Convener of the central committee Kamal Pasha attended the meeting as chief guest. Among others, Samira Sarker, former VP of Netrakona Government College, student leader Tuhin spoke on the occasion.

### CHITTAGONG

#### Zia's birthday observed

Jan 23 : BNP and its front organisations here on Tuesday observed the 57th birth anniversary of late President Ziaur Rahman through discussion and cultural functions, reports BSS.

Chittagong North district BNP leaders headed by its General Secretary Gulam Akbar Khondakar placed floral wreath at the first mazar of President Zia at Zia Nagar. It held a discussion on the life and activities of the late President at the party's Nasim Bhavan office. Gulam Akbar Khondakar was the chief guest at the discussion while Uday Kusum Barua, Shajahan Seraj and M A Kalem—local leaders took part in it.

Jatitobadhi Chhatra Dal city unit also held a discussion in front of the Nasim Bhavan on the occasion with the Dal Leader Abu Sulian in the chair. Jatitobadhi Samajik Sangskritik Dal held a cultural function at Lalkhan Bazar on the occasion.

Bandar Sramik Dal held a discussion on the life and activities of the late president at its office near the port here in the afternoon.

### DINAJPUR

#### Press Club executives

Jan 23 : Biennial general meeting and election of Dinajpur Press Club was held at the office premises on Friday with outgoing President Nurul Amin Chanda in the chair, reports UNB.

Advocate Al-haj Abdul Mazid (New Nation) was elected as president and Sadakat Ali (Sangram) as general secretary of the new committee. Other office bearers are : Besharuddin Ahmad and Abdul Wahed Sarker—vice presidents, Habibur Rahman—joint secretary, Maniruzzaman Haba—organising secretary, Anwar Hossain—treasurer and Golam Mowla—office secretary.

### CHAPAINAWABGANJ

#### Mohananda Bridge to be completed by June

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Jan 23 : Mohananda Bridge would be completed by June this year at the cost of Tk 52 crore of which 35 crore will be assisted by the Chinese Government, reports UNB.

Besides about Tk. 10 crore would be spent for development maintenance and widening of nine roads of the district including Rajshahi-Chapainawabganj highway. This was revealed by the Communications Minister Oli Ahmad at a public meeting held Sunday at the Chapai Hifzul Madrasah ground.

The Minister said, "BNP is pledged to stick to the politics of peoples' welfare. It did never betray with the interest of the people, nor it will".

Oli Ahmad said the bridge will be constructed as pledged by late President Ziaur Rahman.

Among others Syed Manjur Hossain MP, Sultanul Islam Moni, Golam Zakaria, Abdul Wahed addressed the meeting.

### BARISAL

#### Programme of Khey Ali group theatre begins

Jan 23 : A monthlong programme of the Khey Ali group theatre began at the Aswini Kumar town hall premises recently to mark the silver-jubilee of the organisation, reports BSS.

### KHULNA

#### Diarrhoea situation reviewed

Jan 23 : An emergency meeting was held Monday at the conference room of the Deputy Commissioner to review the latest situation arising out of the outbreak of diarrhoea in the district, reports BSS.

The meeting was presided over by Kazi Reazul Haq, Deputy Commissioner, Khulna. It was attended among others by concerned officials.

The meeting reviewed the latest situation of diarrhoea in the district and measures taken to prevent further spread of the diseases and to reach medi-care to the affected people.

The meeting was informed that so far over one thousand people were attacked with diarrhoea in various thanas of the district. At least twentytwo people died of this disease. The meeting was also informed that adequate medicines and salines were available in all the thana health complexes in the district.

The district administration has been monitoring situation, two separate control rooms have been opened at the offices of the Deputy Commissioner and Civil Surgeon.

Medical teams with adequate medicines and salines were sent from Khulna and Bagerhat to Hironpoint, Siddique point and Dublar Char in Sundarbans areas where bawales and fishermen were reported to have been affected by diarrhoea.

### NAOGAON

#### College student crushed under wheels

Jan 23 : A college student was crushed under the wheels of a speeding truck in the town on Saturday, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, the victim Nurul Huda Rubel, student of Naogaon college, while going to his residence riding on a motor cycle was run over by the killer truck. He died on the spot.

The students of the college brought out a procession protesting the incident. They damaged three buses, several trucks and jeeps and clashed with the police.

Several students including the Thana Officer-in-charge Ferdous Ali were injured in the clash.

### FENI

#### 8 personalities die of heart attack last month

Jan 23 : At least 8 important personalities died of heart attack in the town last month, official sources said, reports UNB.

They are : Khajj Ahmed, former East Pakistan Provincial Assembly Member, Md. Idris Miah and Abu-Bakar Siddique, former Feni pousarava chairman, renowned businessmen A Wadud and Nurul Islam Mojumder, educationist Al-haj Jalal Uddin Ahmed, Sirajul Haq, Postmaster, Durgapur Post Office and wife of late Rajab Ali Mojumder, an eminent social worker.

### MYMENSINGH

#### Govt urged to formulate national science, research policy

Jan 23 : The scientists and researchers urged the government to formulate a national science and research policy on priority basis, reports UNB.

The call came at a seminar on "National Research System for Agriculture Development in Bangladesh" held at the Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin auditorium of Bangladesh Agricultural University on Friday. Organised by the Mymensingh Chapter of the Bangladesh Association of Advancement of Science (BAAS), the seminar was attended by a good number of scientists and researchers of the country.

The plenary session of the seminar was presided over by Prof A J Sarker of the department of Microbiology and Hygiene.

It was also recommended in the seminar to regularise the monitoring system in the concerned ministries, inclusion of BAU research system in the NARS, allocation of 10 per cent national revenue budget for the research and technology sector and consolidation of efforts of concerned institutes in order to promote alternative agriculture development model under the leadership of the BAAS.



AGRI-VARSITY: The office-bearers of Isa Khan Hall Union of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) taking Oath in a ceremony held at the Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin auditorium recently. The function was attended by the State Minister Md Nurul Huda as chief guest and the Vice-Chancellor of BAU Prof M Ashraf Ali Khan and Group Capt. (Retd) S Azam, MP as special guests. — Star photo

## 5400 shallow, deep tubewells lying inoperative in two dists

DINAJPUR, Jan 23: About five thousand shallow tubewells in three northern districts of Panchagarh, Thakurgaon and Dinajpur have gone out of order.

Under different special credit programme, branches of loan giving agencies had sold about 15,000 shallow tubewells (STWs) and Low Lift Pumps (LLPs) in the districts among the farmers on credit during the last five years.

There was an agreement between the STWs drilling Contractors and the borrowers. As per agreement, the contractor would supply spare parts at the time of delivering the STWs and give post sale service. But they do not do the job rather drew servicing bills from the bank officials, debiting the loan accounts of the borrowers.

At present, out of 990 Deep Tubewells in these three districts, most of the DTWs are inoperative. These DTWs were sold out to the Grameen Bank. But in the face of strong resistance by the farmers, the Grameen Bank could not take possession over the DTWs. As a result, about 15,000 STWs have been sold by the traders

### From our Correspondent

to different thanas of the mentioned above districts.

Besides, the Low Lift Pumps which had been supplied, a few years back on credit are also out of order due to non-availability of spare parts.

Our Sirajganj correspondent adds: About 400 deep tubewells, installed by Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC) in four thanas have been lying inoperative since long past causing damage to the machineries worth about Taka 20 crores.

Consequently realisation of rent amounting to Taka four crore have turned uncertain incurring revenue loss of the government.

It is gathered that BADC installed 480 deep tubewells in Sirajganj sadar, Ullapara, Raiganj and Kazipur thanas under Sirajganj Integrated Rural Development Programme (SIRDP) from 1980 to 1982 creating new era of irrigation in the areas. The deep tubewells came into operation from 1983 under supervision of BADC (Irrigation). Then BRDB took up the operational responsibilities of the deep tubewells paying rent to BADC. Thus rent

amounting to Taka 4.5 crore became outstanding upto 1988. In mid-1988, the government decided to sell the deep tubewells to the co-operative societies of BRDB in condition that the arrears of rent will be paid. Only 80 tubewells were sold in this scheme.

The farmers of the deep tubewell areas later installed at least 2000 shallow tubewells to irrigate lands. A considerable number of spareparts of the deep tubewells have been stolen and as lying inoperative under open sky, machineries worth about Taka 20 crore are being damaged gradually.

On the other hand, 120 mechanics of the inoperative deep tubewells are passing days without any work. Amount paid as their salaries are now going in unproductive sector. Sale of 400 inoperative deep-tubewells and realisation of rent amounting to Taka four crore have turned uncertain with passage of time.

Knowledgeable sources have urged immediate steps to save properties worth scores of taka for the greater interest of the country.

## Notes from Agri-varsity

AGRI-VARSITY, Jan 23: The Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) Prof M Ashraf Ali Khan while speaking as chief guest in a day-long seminar on 'National research systems for agricultural development in Bangladesh', underscored the necessity to strengthen the National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) in order that the country's land and water endowments could be converted into wealth.

Arranged by the Bangladesh Association for the Advancement of Science (BAAS), Mymensingh chapter, the inaugural session was held at the Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin auditorium of BAU on January 14 morning.

### Installation ceremony

The installation ceremony of the Isa Khan Hall Union of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) was held at the Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin auditorium on January 15. The ceremony was presided over by the Provost of the hall Prof Nur Mohammad Talukdar, while it was attended by the State Minister of the Ministry of Establishment Md Nurul Huda as the chief guest. The function was also attended by the Vice-Chancellor of BAU Prof M Ashraf Ali Khan and the Member of National Parliament Group Capt (Retd) Saiful Azam as the special guests.

Besides, the Editor of the Daily Telegraph Reazuddin Ahmed, the treasurer of BAUCSU M Mahfuzur Rahman and General Secretary of BAUCSU S H Chanchal attended the function as the guests of honour and spoke on the occasion. Others who spoke in the function included Abdul Alim, Abul Kalam Azad and Shamsul Alam, the VP, GS and Joint Secretary of respectively of the hall union.

### Silver jubilee function from Feb 4

In order to celebrate the 25th year of establishment of the H S Suhrawardy Hall of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU), the day-long silver jubilee festival will be held at the hall premises on February 4.

The registration fee for the old and new students of the hall has been fixed at Taka 150/- per head. The registration will commence at 3 pm on February 3.

The festival programmes include colourful rally, photo exhibition, get-together cultural function and so on.

### Inter-varsity games conclude

The final games of the inter-university table tennis and badminton competitions were held at the gymnasium of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) on January 14.

The Dhaka University (DU) team bagged the glory of championship in Table Tennis (Male) by defeating the Jahangir Nagar University team in the final game by 3-0 sets. The DU teams emerged as champions in TT (Female), Badminton (Male & Female) competitions also, while the Rajshahi University teams became runners-up in those competitions.

The Students' Affairs' Advisor of BAU Prof M Rafiqul Haque Bhuiyan distributed trophies among the winners.

### Ladies Club's annual prize giving ceremony

The annual prize-giving ceremony of the Ladies' Club of BAU was held at the university club premises on January 13.

The ceremony was presided over by Prof Hosne Ara Khan, President of BAU Ladies' Club, while it was attended by the Vice-Chancellor of BAU Prof M Ashraf Ali Khan as the chief guest. Others who spoke on the occasion included Prof Lutfun Hossain, Vice-President of the Ladies' Club and Asiya Zoha, General Secretary of the club.

Mukti Mahfuz bagged the glory of championship by securing highest points in the in-door games of the club for the year 1992.

This was followed by an attractive musical soiree participated by Fahmida Khatun, a renowned artiste on Tagore, and Tasalli Mahboob.

## 5 killed, 20 hurt in road mishaps

CHUADANGA, Jan 23: Five persons were allegedly killed and seven others injured in a road accident on Monday night at Kazipur under Gangni thana, reports BSS.

Eye witnesses said the victims were identified as Mahiuddin (28), Obaidullah (17), Haresh Ali (18), Chand Mohammad (33) and Entaj Ali (30). They were the labourers of betel fields.

The accident occurred when the truck carrying them fell into a ditch. The driver of the truck is absconding. Three of the injured persons

were sent to Kushtia Sadar hospital for treatment. A case has been registered with Gangni thana in this connection.

Our Gazipur Correspondent adds: At least 14 people were injured, three of them seriously when a bus and a truck met in a head-on collision in front of Tongi Medical Hospital near the Railway station.

The three seriously injured are: Mosharraf Hossain (25), the bus driver; and two passengers Naizatun Begum (45) and Mosharraf Hossain (35).

## 20,000 children suffering from malnutrition

BARGUNA, Jan 19 : More than 20,000 children have been attacked by various diseases due to malnutrition in rural and urban areas of five thanas of the district.

According to a survey conducted by some welfare activists, numerous children are being attacked by dysentery, diphtheria, jaundice, tetanus, polio, skin diseases, whooping cough and pneumonia. These poor children between the age group of one month to 12 months have been suffering for want of vitamin deficiency and proper treatment.

The survey revealed that most of the fathers of those ill-fated children are day labourers, landless and unemployed farmers.

Preventive measures and supply of necessary medicines are quite inadequate in the different thana health complexes of the district.

Child specialists are hardly available in the district hospitals. As a result, many children die without proper diagnosis and treatment, the survey report added.

Ignorant and illiterate poverty stricken parents cannot provide nutritious food for their kids while the mothers also do not get balanced diet. As a result, their children are

deprived of breast milk. With the passing of days both the mothers and kids fall prey to various diseases.

### RU situation tense

RAJSHAHI, Jan 23: A tense situation prevailed on the Rajshahi University campus today (Monday) following Saturday night's clash between rival student groups, reports UNB.

But there was no report of any untoward incident during the day, sources in the campus said.

Panic-stricken students had already left their dormitories fearing further clash. Activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir reportedly left all the halls they had occupied on Saturday, but they have taken position in Zoha, Amir Ali and SM Halls.

The university authorities formed a three-member committee headed by Prof AN Shamsul Haq to investigate into the Saturday night's clashes. Other members of the committee are: Dr Kaisar Rahman Chowdhury and Prof Sirajul Arefin.

## Development of communication infrastructure stressed

MUNSHIGANJ, Jan 23: Food Minister M Shamsul Islam said here on Saturday that the present government was committed to expedite the national development process and ensure proper marketing of agri-products by building up the communication infrastructure in the country, reports BSS.

The minister was inaugurating two newly constructed bridges on the Munshiganj-Tongiari main road in Munshiganj district.

Presided over by Deputy Commissioner of Munshiganj Md Abdul Haque the meeting was also addressed by Deputy Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Abdul Hai and Chief Engineer of Local Government Engineering Department Quamrul Islam Siddiqui.

Referring to the different development progress initiated

by present government. The minister said development of communication infrastructure was essential for promoting a self-reliant economy.

Constructed at a total cost of Taka 32 lakh, the two bridges at Kewara and Shatanikhil will provide improved transportation facilities to more than two lakh people of nine unions of Sadar and Tongiari thanas in the district.

Another BSS report adds: State Minister for Establishment Mohammad Nurul Huda said here on Saturday that the government is contemplating to accommodate the unemployed agriculturists into government service by conducting special BCS examination at the earliest possible time.

He was addressing the installation ceremony of Isa Khan Hall students' union of Bangla-

desh Agricultural University (BAU) at university auditorium here.

The function was also addressed, among others, by Group Captain (Retd) Saiful Azam MP, Vice-Chancellor of BAU Professor Dr Ashraf Ali Khan and Reazuddin Ahmed, Editor of Daily Telegraph.

The government had given special emphasis on agricultural development we need the services of our agriculturists to help implement agriculture boosting projects," he added.

The state minister, said the government has already taken up the matters relating to recruitment and promotion of BCS (Veterinary and Animal Husbandry) Cadre.

He called upon the students to build up their career with professional zeal so that toiling masses can get better service from them.

## Four persons to die for killing UP chairman in Barisal

BARISAL, Jan 23: Four people have been awarded death sentence Tuesday by the Additional Sessions Judge for murdering a union parishad chairman, reports UNB.

The convicted are Total Sarder, Motz Sarder, Malek Sarder and Mokhesur Rahman.

According to prosecution story, in brief, Khanjapur union parishad chairman Alauddin Mia while going to his village home was obstructed at Iuhar bus stand and killed on the spot by the convicted people on October 20, 1989.

A case was filed and police after investigation submitted chargesheet against five people.

The court acquitted Alamgir

Hossain. Another report says: Barisal Development Society (BDS) has distributed 88,000 packets of oral saline through 42 non-government organisations in six diarrhoea affected districts of the division.

The districts are Barisal, Bhola, Patuakhali, Barguna, Jhalakati and Pirojpur.

At least 40,000 saline packets were distributed through 25 NGOs in Barisal, 2000 packets through one NGO in Bhola, 18,000 packets through 7 NGOs in Pirojpur, 6,000 packets through 3 NGOs in Jhalakati, 4,000 packets through two NGOs in Barguna and 18,000 packets through 9 NGOs in Patuakhali to check the spread of diarrhoea.

BDS distributed oral saline packets with the assistance of Voluntary Health Services Society (VISS), a national co-ordinating organisation of the NGO, working in health sector. Hundreds of workers of 42 NGOs were engaged in diarrhoea prevention programmes, a BDS press release said.

Our Staff Correspondent adds: Armed pirates committed dacoity at least on about 12 fishing trawlers in the Bay of Bengal during last one week.

Pirats, during dacoities looted away wealth about sixty lakh taka including cash, fishes, fishing nets, engine parts and other fishing articles injuring at last 25 fishermen on board.



COMILLA: General Secretary of local Engineers Ladies Club handing over a DC Counts instrument to Dr. Zobaida Hannan, Director of the Comilla Diabetic Centre recently. — Star photo



CHITTAGONG: Omar Khan Afridi, Secretary, Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Pakistan is seen with H M Hakim Ali, President, International Hotel Association of Bangladesh in a reception party held in Islamabad recently. — Star Photo

## Three housewives commit suicide in Magura

MAGURA, Jan 23: Two housewives allegedly committed suicide in a day in the district, police said on Thursday last, reports UNB.

According to family sources, Bulbul Khatun (20), wife of Momin Uddin of village Budhorpara in Sadar thana committed suicide by taking poison Monday.

Another woman, Kulsum Begum (35), wife of Alimuddin of village Parla of the same thana allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself.

Family feud and poverty were the reasons behind the suicide, it is learnt.

The bodies were sent to morgue for autopsy and two cases were filed with the police.

Another message says: A young house wife allegedly committed suicide by taking poison at Zakrartek village in Sadar thana recently.

Villagers said Saleha Khatun (22), wife of Obaidur Rahman of the village, took away her life following a family feud.

A case was filed with the local police in this connection.

UNB report from Madaripur adds: A young man took his life by taking poison at Chhatmahji village in sadar thana recently, police said.

The dead was identified as Haider Ali (25). The cause behind the incident could not be ascertained.

## 227 ponds on govt. khas land lying unutilised

GAIBANDHA, Jan 23: About 227 ponds on government khas land in 17 unions under Gobindaganj Thana of the district lying uncultivated for the last eight years.

According to an official source, in 1984 government directed concerned department for transferring ponds on khas land below 12 bighas span under concerning union parishad on condition that the parishad would not dispose it under lease to the private concerned. But for want of adequate fund, union parishad could not bring the ponds under cultivation. As a result, government incurred loss of Taka 13.60 crore during the period.

Our Correspondent adds: A programme has been undertaken by the concerned department for excavation of six

canals in Gaibandha district during this current fiscal year.

Total 537 metric tons of wheat allocated for the implementation of the programme. The programme included 3,506 meter area of Salna canal under Fulchari Thana, 4,167 meter area of Mathair Kharia under Gobindaganj Thana, 6,375 meter area of Lenga canal under Sunderganj Thana, 2,440 meter area of Bhatrechar under Sadullapur Thana, 3,287 meter area of Naleyta canal under Palashbari Thana and 3,500 meter area of Kalapani canal under Shaghata Thana will be re-excavated.

According to an official source, allotted wheat will be used for the fifty per cent of total excavation work and remaining will be done under self help basis.