

District roundup

NAOGAON

Orbis authorities urged to include Rajshahi under world service

Jan 25: People of the northern region urged the Orbis authorities to include Rajshahi in their around the world service programme, reports UNB.

Project Orbis — a flying hospital for eye patients by an international humanitarian organisation, visits Dhaka once a year and treat the eye patients.

Surgical operations were conducted by highly trained ophthalmic surgeons in the aircraft's modern and well equipped operation theatre.

Coming to Dhaka for the people of northern area is costly and time consuming and as medical and surgical facilities are inadequate in Rajshahi, the Orbis service should be extended to the area for the greater interest of the people, said some local cite.

Orbis is also a mobile teaching institution, it could play an important role in transferring and training ophthalmological knowledge and techniques to the doctors and medical students of Rajshahi Medical College, they added.

BRAHMANBARIA

One killed, 100 hurt in clash

Jan 25: A man was killed and over hundred others injured in a clash between the people belonging to two villages, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, about 4,000 people of Char-chatala and Shohagpur villages were engaged in a 6-hour long clash following the teasing of a school girl in the sports competition of Raushan Ara Girls' High School, Ashugonj thana, by some youths of January 14.

Following the incident Dhaka-Sylhet road communication remained suspended for about 3 hours. On information, police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

Deputy Commissioner and Superintendent of Police visited the area. A contingent of police was deployed in the affected area.

A case was registered with the Ashugonj Police Station in this connection.

SIRAJGANJ

Bail petition rejected

Jan 25: Sadar Thana Magistrate Court on Saturday rejected the bail petition of one of the accused in Khashem murder case and granted bail to two others, reports UNB.

Khashem, a Jamaat activist, was killed during a clash with Nirmul Committee on May 13, 1992.

Fifty-one people were charged on September 9 in connection with the killing. Of them, 35 were earlier enlarged on bail.

Sadar Thana Magistrate court on Saturday rejected the bail petition of Monjurul Alam Shahin, General Secretary of pro-JSD (Inu) Chhatra League and sent him to the jail hazat.

The court, however, granted bail to Monjur-e-Khoda, a local leader of JSD (Inu) and Monjur Hossain Bakul, VP of Sirajganj Government College.

MADARIPUR

Nine held for involvement in anti-social activities

Jan 25: Police arrested Tuesday nine people including one woman from Madra village in Zhaudi union in the district for their alleged involvement in anti-social activities, reports UNB.

Police said they were arrested on the basis of complaints by the local people. According to complaints they were the terrors of the area.

They were sent to jail hazat and further investigation is going on.

Another message from Shariatpur district adds: A man was killed and another seven sustained injuries in a clash between two rival groups at Charkanda Bokulikandi village in Vcdorganj thana on Wednesday.

The clash ensued over a petty matter of cutting a leaf of a banana tree from the demarcation area of plot of land which later took a serious turn. At one stage Nur Islam (50) was beaten to death by the rival group while returning home from the local mosque.

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

TANGAIL

Children's cultural contest ends

Jan 25: A two-day district-level children's cultural competition sponsored by Tangail branch of Bangladesh Islamic Foundation concluded here yesterday, reports ISS.

The competition included kerat, azaan, recitation from selected poems and essays. 320 school and madrasa students participated in the competition.

Abu Hena Mostafa Kamal, Deputy Director, Islamic Foundation, Tangail distributed prizes and certificates among the winners.

SATKHIRA

Smuggled goods worth Tk 2 lakh seized

Jan 25: The Task Force of the district seized smuggled goods worth Taka two lakh from Uzirpur bazar in Kaliganj thana on Tuesday, reports UNB.

They also arrested an alleged smuggler, Siddique Shahuluddin and recovered Indian spare parts from his possession.

The contraband items are being sold at the Uzirpur bazar for long time before eyes of the law enforcing agencies, local people alleged adding they urged the authorities time and again to stop this malpractice to save the local industries from ruin.

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

AGRI-VARSITY

Installation ceremony held

Jan 25: The installation ceremony of Isha Khan Hall Students Union of the university was held at the Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin auditorium on Jan 15, reports UNB.

State Minister for Establishment Md Nurul Huda attended the ceremony as chief guest while it was presided over by the Provost of the hall Prof Nur Mohammad Talukdar.

Vice Chancellor Prof M Ashraf Ali Khan and the Member of Jatiya Sangsad Group Capt (Retd) Saiful Azam were present as special guests.

The State Minister in his speech, advised the students to uphold the image of the university by maintaining congenial academic atmosphere on the campus.

He assured that the government would solve the problems faced by the Krishibid (Agriculturists).

The Editor of the daily Telegraph Reazuddin Ahmed, BAUCSU Treasurer M Mahfuzur Rahman, General Secretary of BAUCSU S H Chanchal, Vice President of the hall students' union Abdul Alim, GS Abul Kalam Azad and Joint Secretary Shamsul Alam spoke on the occasion.

BARISAL

UPE programme faces setback

Jan 25: Primary education is facing set back due to shortage of teachers shattering the prospect of the Universal Primary Education, reports UNB.

According to informed sources, 215 post of teachers have been lying vacant for a long time in different schools of the district.

Of them 117 posts of Headteacher and 98 posts of Assistant teacher are lying vacant in 10 thanas of the district.

Moreover, many schools damaged during the last devastating cyclone and other natural calamities are yet to be repaired. As a result students are to sit in the open to take their lessons.

Local leaders have urged the authorities to recruit teachers against the vacant posts and take immediate schemes to reconstruct the damaged schools.

MAGURA

Police arrest 2 miscreants with pistol

Jan 25: Police arrested two alleged miscreants Monday from the town area and recovered one pistol from their possession, reports UNB.

The arrested were identified as Alauddin of Faridpur and Zinnat Ali of Barisal.

Police said they were held while suspiciously moving near the residence of Police Super. A case has been filed with the police in this connection.



NARSINGHDI: Labour and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiya is seen inaugurating Pali Bidyut Supply Programme under Pali Bidyut Samity-2 at Joynagar Union Parishad under Shibpur thana of the district recently. — Star photo

Shantibahini killed 132 last year in hill dists

From Our Correspondent

RANGAMATI, Jan 25: The atrocities stepped up by the tribal insurgents have so far killed 132 people and injured more 400 during the last year. More 500 people were also abducted during the period.

The victims were included both tribals and non-tribals. The figure in details as available from the concerned officials and local public leaders were as follows: The Shantibahini outlaws killed 9 bamboo-cutters of Karnafuli Paper Mills (KPM) with brush-fire at Farua of Belaichari thana in the district on January 2, 1992 while they were extracting bamboos. KPM has got an area of 240.0 square miles bamboo-growing area in the least forest of Chittagong Hill Tracts. On January 6, 1992, one person was killed during exchange of fire between the insurgents and security forces in Dishinala of Khagrachhari hill district. Six people including a forest officer were killed by the Shantibahini in Fatkehari on January 11, 1992. Fourteen people were killed and 12 others sustained grievous injuries with the explosion of a high-powered time-bomb planted by the insurgents on a passenger-carrying water-carrier. ML Akhtar in Mahilla of Langadn thana of the district on February 2, 1992. On February 26, 1992, six people were burnt alive and 7 hagar were burnt to ashes at Nagor Alitila of the same area in the dead of night by the insurgents.

On March 4, 1992, two in-

surgenes were killed in an exchange of fire in Manikchhari of Khagrachhari hill district and 4 members of the outlaws were killed in Zurschhari of Rangamati Hill District on March 30, 1992.

Six construction-workers were gunned down on the spot at RKM road near Rangamati on April 6 and on April 11, 1992, eleven people were killed and 9 injured in Panchhari of Khagrachhari hill district with the spraying of bullets by the outlawed Shantibahini.

Three persons were killed on May 12 in Rangarh of Khagrachhari hill district. The Shantibahini outlaws gunned down 4 villages including chil-

dren in Langadn thana of Rangamati hill district on May 15, 5 in Panchhari of Khagrachhari hill district on May 20 and on May 25, 5 in Dishinala of the same district. In these cases, the insurgents stepped up their atrocities on the shipping villages at the dead of nights. On May 30, four were killed and is injured in Rangamati by them.

Four people were killed in Baghaichhari of Rangamati hill district on June 5, 1992 by the tribal insurgents.

On July 28, the insurgents killed 4 people in Manikchhari of Khagrachhari hill district.

Prior is declare the unilateral ceasefire by the Parbatya Chattagram Jono Sanghali Samity (PCJSS), the mentor of the outlawed Shantibahini, one person was killed in Rangamati on August 28.

About one hundred houses were set ablaze in Kankhali, Baghaichhari, Borkal thana of Rangamati, Panchhari, Rangarh, Manikchhari in Khagrachhari hill district by the tribal insurgents during 1992.

More 500 people were abducted in 1992. Majority of them were released on payment of ransom. A few of them were killed for non-payment of the ransom and more than one hundred abducted people are still in the captivity of the tribal insurgents, officials and local public leaders said.

During the so-called unilateral ceasefire of PCJSS, the tribal insurgents violated it for more 26 times, the source added.

Strike paralyses stone quarries in Chhatak

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Jan 25: An indefinite strike paralysed all stone quarries of Chhatak from today.

The strike was called by the Stone Labourers Association and Barki Boat Labourers Union in protest against government decision to import stones from India.

The indefinite strike call was declared earlier at a joint meeting of the stone merchants and stone collection labourers at Chhatak on Saturday, which also called upon the government to withdraw its decision.

Opposition urged not to misguide people in public utterings

MOULVIBAZAR, Jan 25: Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman said Wednesday government of Begum Khaleda Zia turned ruined national economy of past autocratic regime into a stable one capable of augmenting sustainable development in all sphere, reports UNB.

He refuted the allegation of the opposition, specially Awami League, that BNP did nothing for economic development.

The Minister was addressing a big public meeting at Chowmuhuna public square of the district town organised by the district BNP.

Presided over by Vice President of BNP district unit Zuned Ahmed, it was also addressed by former pourashava Chairman Sazzadur Rahman (Patul), General Secretary of district BNP Advocate Abdul Khaleque, Advocate Syed Abdul Matin and Advocate Sunil Kumar Das.

Saifur Rahman said the country's annual development size has stood at Taka 8,650 crore in the 1992-93 fiscal year.

He said according to International Monetary Fund

(IMF) and World Bank reports, Bangladesh export recorded 31 per cent and import 21 per cent higher than the corresponding period of last year.

The foreign currency reserve is all time high amounting to Taka 8,000 crore which

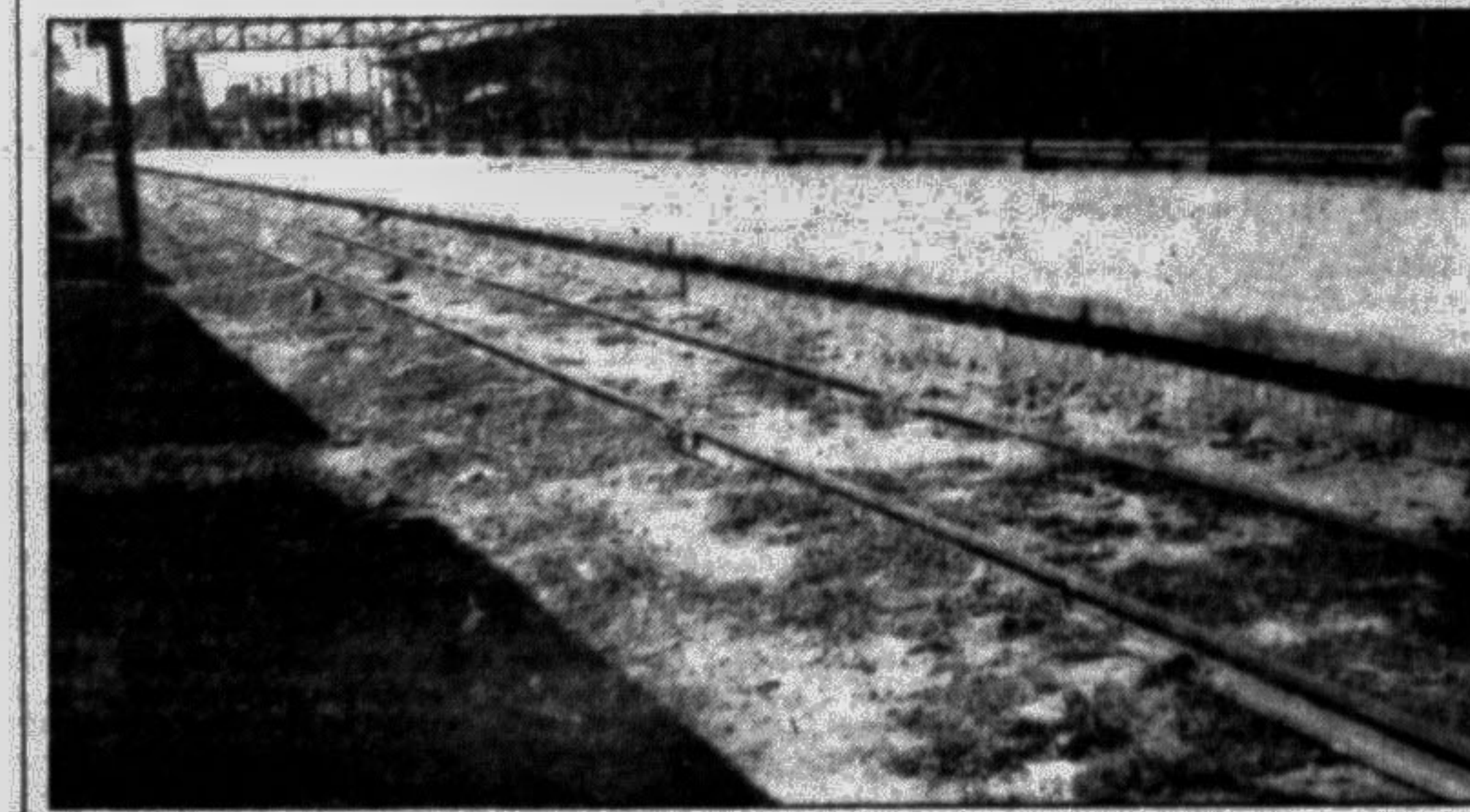
Cold wave claims 13 lives in Jamalpur

JAMALPUR, Jan 25: Thirteen people of Jamalpur region have so far been died due to shivering cold wave which intensified further sending mercury down to below seven degree celsius Friday, reports UNB.

Of the victims, eight died in Jamalpur and five in Sherpur districts.

Homeless people of the Sharihabari and Madarganj thanas have been hit hard by the severe cold wave.

The lowest temperature recorded in Jamalpur was below seven degrees celsius while the mercury dropped below five degree celsius in northern parts of Jamalpur and Sherpur districts.



SYLHET: Rail lines in Sylhet in a pitiable condition for a long time which needs immediate improvement for smooth running of trains. — Star photo

Notes from Brahmanbaria

From Our Correspondent

BRAHMANBARIA, Jan 25: Abu Taher, officer-in-charge (OC) Akhaura thana and Assistant Police Inspector Nurul Alam in raid seized 840 kg Indian Rui fish. Acting on a tip, police recovered the said fishes from Sonal bill near Akhaura-Kendua road. The price of the recovered fishes approximately Taka 67.2 thousand.

Later they handed the said fishes to Akhaura Custom office. In this connection a case has been filed in Akhaura thana. Another report adds: Assistant Police Inspector of Sadar Thana Niranjan Roy in a raid arrested the absconding accused Siddique Miah from village Darma recently.

Akhaura thana annual sports held

The 22nd Bangladesh National schools and madrasa sports of Akhaura thana of the district held at Devagram Pilot High School ground recently.

Seven educational institutions of Akhaura thana participated in two-day long sports competition. Devagram Pilot High School became champion scoring the highest.

Thana Nirbaht Officer of Akhaura Anwarul Karim was present as chief guest on the opening day while Mohd Younus Miah, Head Master, Devagram Pilot High School presided the function.

The participants schools were Mogra High School, Tulaishmul High School, Hirapur Shaheed Nowab High School, Nasreenabi Girls High School, Sathura Chandpur High School, Gulhar Junior High School and the host Devagram Pilot High School.

Science, technology week concludes

A three-day long 16th science and technology week 93 concluded at Brahmanbaria Government College recently.

Deputy Commissioner Khabiruddin Ahmed inaugurated the science and technology week. Vice-Principal Mukleshur Rahman presided over the inaugural function while Iqbal Hussain, member secretary, science and technology performance committee spoke at the function.

Fifteen educational institutions science club including Brahmanbaria government college took part the programmes include debate competition and cultural function.

Science building inaugurated

The inaugural ceremony of science building of Brahmanbaria Government Women's College held here recently.

State Minister for Shipping Advocate Alhaj Harun-ur-Rashid inaugurated the science building as chief guest. Advocate Abdus Sattar MP, Begum Asia Rahman MP, Deputy Commissioner Khabiruddin Ahmed and Police Super Habibur Rahman were present as special guests in the inaugural function while the function was presided over by principal of the government women's college Prof. M Amanullah. It was addressed among others by prof. Mohd Habibur Rahman and Easmin Aktar Lipt.

Red crescent camp held

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society zila unit organized a three day Youth Red Crescent Camp '93 of Chittagong division held here at the local PT Institute in the district recently.

The secretary of LGRD ministry Musfirur Rahman inaugurated the three day red crescent camp as chief guest.

The function was presided over by Deputy Commissioner Khabiruddin Ahmed while Police Super Mohd Habibur Rahman was present as special guest. It was addressed among others by General Secretary, Red crescent unit Obidul Hoque Tukku.

Meet held on JCD founding day

Zila Jatiyabadi Chhatra Dal organized a discussion meeting in the town on the occasion of 14th founding anniversary of JCD recently.

The discussion meeting was held in the local town club. JCD Zila President Zahurul Haque Khokan was in the chair. Advocate Abdus Sattar MP was present as chief guest.

It was addressed among others by zila BNP General Secretary Hamidul Hoque Tukku, Joint Secretary Zillur Rahman, Organizing Secretary Abdullah Al Baki, Hafizur Rahman Mullah, Advocate Shafiqul Islam, Heblul Bari, Hasina Israil, Golam Sarwar Khokan, Ahsanul Haqib, Sirajul Islam, Anisur Rahman Monju, Nazir Ahmed, Apel Mahmood, Masudul Islam, Noman Ahmed, SK Mohd Azim, Masimul Hussain Chapal, Nazmul Islam. The function was rounded off with a musical soiree.

Pourashava lacks civic amenities

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Jan 25: Bajitpur pourashava of the district is beset with manifold problems depriving the dwellers of basic civic amenities.

The poura area in plagued with the problems like deplorable condition of roads, inadequate street lights, absence of proper drainage system, shortage of accommodation, lack of proper sanitary arrangements, mosquito menace, frequent power failure and absence of recreational facilities.

Roads in the pourashava area are too narrow and uneven. Cracks and pot-holes have developed at many points

causing problems to pedestrians and vehicular movement. These roads become muddy and slippery after a slight rainfall.

Moreover, the drains and roadside ditches are not cleaned regularly. These are the ideal breeding centres of mosquitoes.

Mosquito menace has made the life of the town dwellers miserable and it is impossible to work at night, students are the worst sufferers.

In the absence of recreational facilities, the youths are crowding at the street corners in the evening much to the annoyance of pedestrians.

Private tuition — now a commercial practice

MANIKGANJ, Jan 25: Private tuition has become a commercial practice in the town and different places of seven thanas of the district, reports UNB.

Teachers of both the government and non-government schools and colleges were engaged in private tuition to earn extra money.

The guardians informed that the teachers do not teach the students sincerely in the classroom. As a result, they are compelled to engage private tutors for their words.

They complained that private tuition has now become a regular practice particularly to the teachers of science and commerce group. The teachers collect a large number of students for coaching in batches.

Poor students who cannot afford private tutors are the worst sufferers. They alleged that the teachers are not duti-

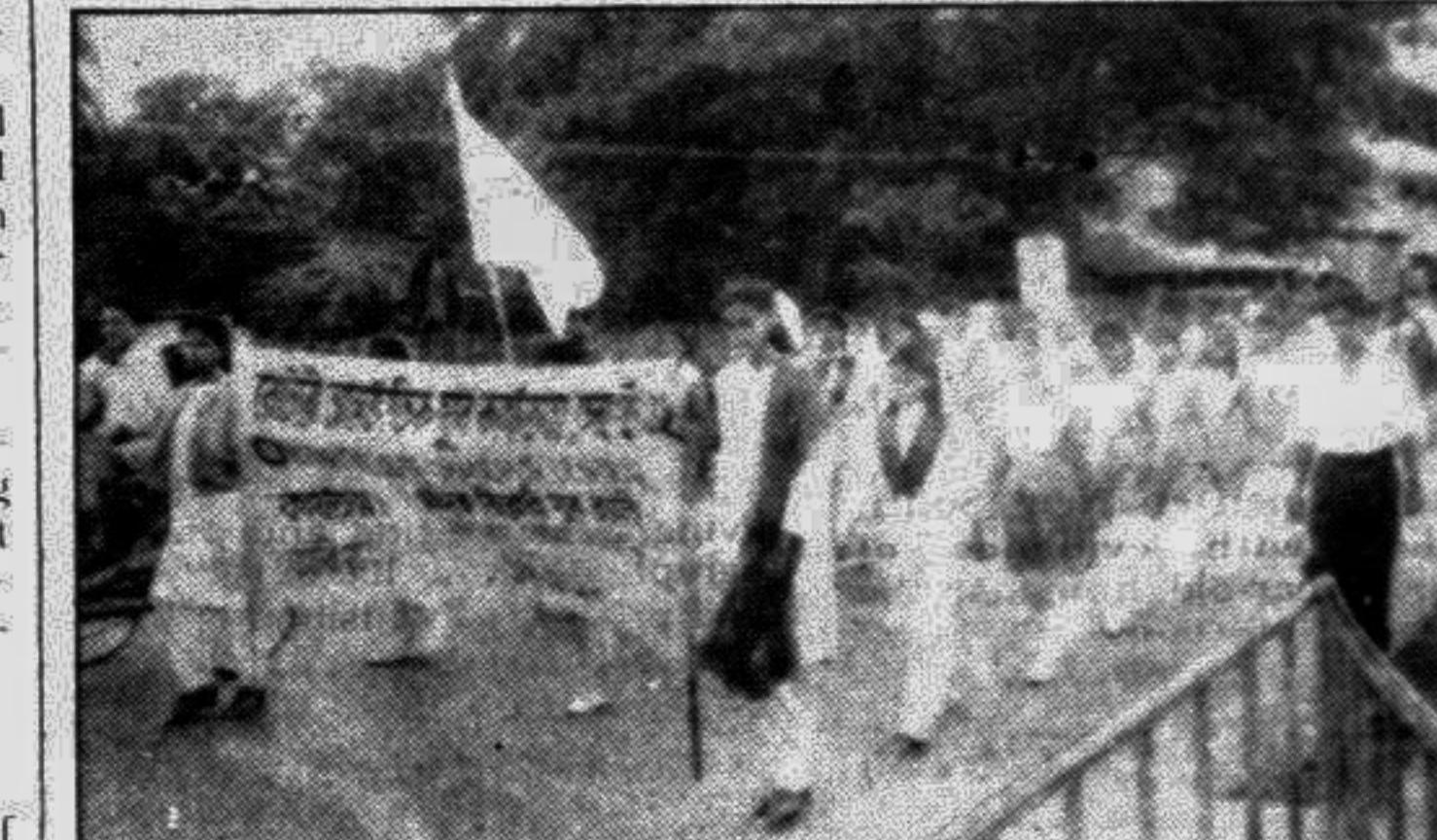
ful in the classrooms and many a time they advise the students to come to their residence for private coaching.

Another report adds: Hectic campaign for the Manikganj Pourashava polls is gaining momentum as the election date is coming nearer.

According to official sources, four candidates for the post of chairman and 44 candidates for 9 posts of commissioner are contesting in the polls scheduled to be held on January 30.

Tea stalls, markers and commercial centres are the main campaign points. Many camps have also been set up to gear up campaign. Postering and wall writings are going on to draw the attraction of the voters. All the candidates are moving door to door seeking votes.

A total of 26,751 voters are enlisted under 13 polling centres of the pourashava.



CHANDPUR: The youths of the local Rotary Club brought out a procession on the occasion of International Youth Day recently. — Star photo

Problems hamper college academic activities

MADARIPUR, Jan 25: Academic activities of the reputed Barhamgonj Government College is being hampered due to various problems, reports UNB.

Founded in 1964, the college has now only 16 teachers for about 2,000 students. Both the teachers and students are suffering from residential problems. There is no hostel for the students of the college and no residential accommodation for the principal.

After the nationalisation, 12 teachers of the college have been transferred to other places. As a result most of the department of the college are facing set back.

Moreover, the students are suffering from acute shortage of classrooms, benches, books, sports materials and other necessary appliances.

Cracks have been developed

in the roof of the 2nd floor of the college building.

The guardians have urged the authorities to look into the matter and solve the problems to ensure smooth education of the college.

Another report adds: The local launch terminal has been facing numerous problems inflicting sufferings on the long route travellers.

Local people complained that absence of a clean waiting room in the terminal is causing severe inconveniences to travellers particularly the women and children.

About 3,000 passengers travel every day through the station.

The waiting rooms are always overcrowded and the sweepers do not clean them regularly due to authorities' negligence, they alleged.

Work on five development projects in progress

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Jan 25: Five development projects are being implemented under Public Works Department (PWD) with an expenditure of about Taka 4.50 crore during the current financial year in the district of Barisal, Gopalganj Madaripur and Saraiapur.

These projects are being implemented with the financial assistance of Asian Development Bank (ADB).

These projects include construction of 3 modern hostels and 4 women hostels.

These projects are now nearing completion and expected to be completed before June next.

Another report says: Barisal Development Society (BDS) with the help of Voluntary Health Services Society (VISS) has already distributed 88 thousand oral saline packets through 42 NGOs of six districts under Barisal division.

These oral salines have been distributed to combat the last spreading diarrhoeal diseases in the districts of Barisal, Pirojpur and

Patuakhali.

It is learnt that 40,000 ORS have been distributed through 20 NGOs of Barisal, 2,000 through one NGO of Bhola, 18,000 ORS through 7 NGOs of Pirojpur, 6,000 ORS through 3 NGOs of Jhalakathi, 4,000 ORS through 2 NGOs of Borguna and 18,000 ORS through 9 NGOs of Patuakhali.

It is also learnt that so many health workers of these NGOs are working in the diarrhoea affected areas of these districts.

Another report adds: Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BK) Barisal region has disbursed a sum of Taka 23.69 crore, through 191 branches of the bank in eleven southern districts till January 7, reports ISS.

According to an official source, target of loan disbursement among the farmers has been fixed at Taka 69.22 crore for the current fiscal year.