

District roundup

KUSHITIA
Anandamela begins
 Jan 30 : A month-long Anandamela has begun on Wednesday at Kushitia stadium here, reports BSS.
 The district administration organised the Anandamela to collect fund for humanitarian purposes.
 The fair comprises jatra, circus, puppet show, magic show, variety show and other entertaining items.

SATKHIRA
Kidnapped housewife rescued
 Jan 30 : Police rescued a house wife, kidnapped few days back from Khulna Railgate Colony on Wednesday, reports UNB.
 Kinu Bibi, mother of two children, of village Najirer Ghat in Debhata thana was kidnapped by some miscreants when she came out from her house at night.
 Debhata police recorded a case and found her during the investigation.
 One Liaquat was also arrested in this connection and sent to jail hayat.

SIRAJGANJ
One to suffer three yrs RI for demanding dowry
 Jan 30 : A person was awarded three years imprisonment for demanding dowry in a judgement delivered here Thursday, reports UNB.
 Akbar Ali of Digripara village was awarded the sentence by the Sadar thana Magistrate Abdul Malek after examining records and witnesses of the case.
 According to the case, Akbar Ali took Taka 5,000 as dowry when he married Wajeda Khatun (18) of Vatiari village of Sadar thana last year.
 Soon after Akbar demanded Taka 10,000 more as dowry and when refused he tortured Wajeda and turned her out of the house.
 Later, Wajeda filed a case with the local thana on January 24.
 Advocate Ashraf Ali appeared in favour of the complainant while Advocate Sanwar Hossain defended the accused.

RAJSHAHI
Bangladesh Bank club unit executives
 Jan 30 : The installation ceremony of newly elected office-bearers of Bangladesh Bank club, Rajshahi, was held on Tuesday at local Monibazar auditorium, reports BSS.
 General Manager of the bank Didarul Islam attended the function as chief guest.
 Mr Abubillah and Md. Nazrul Islam were elected president and general secretary respectively of the club for the session 1993-94.
 A musical soiree was held on the occasion.

CHITTAGONG
Pro-AL Chhatra League calls hartal in Ctg Feb 2
 CHITTAGONG, Jan 30 : Awami League-backed Chhatra League has called for an eight-hour hartal in the port city on February 2 as part of a week-long protest programme against the killing of its leader Abdul Momin, reports UNB.
 Momin, who was among those who suffered bullet wounds in the shootout on Awami League leader Sheikh Hasina's public meeting at Lalidighi Maidan on January 24, succumbed to his injuries at Chittagong Medical College Hospital Wednesday night.
 BCL city unit observed "black-badger day" Thursday by wearing black badges and hoisting black flag at its office at Andarkilla.
 Other programmes include Quran khwani, protest rally, mourning procession, submission of memorandum to the police administration. None has been arrested in connection with the shooting.

SCOUT RALLY
Scout rally held
 Jan 30 : A three day-long district Scout rally was held at Nibanagar Pilot High School ground amid much enthusiasm, reports UNB.
 Secretary of LGRD Ministry Moshfiqur Rahman attended the function in the concluding day Monday as chief guest while it was presided over by Nabinagar Thana Nirbahi Officer Mohiuddin Ahmed.
 Among others, Abdul Aziz, Khairuddin Ahmed, Mohasin and Abdul Jalil addressed the function.
 A total of 200 scouts from different educational institutions attended the rally.

JHENDAH
Miscreants loot double-barrel gun
 Jan 30 : A double-barrel gun was looted from the residence of local Awami League leader in the town by some unknown miscreants Wednesday night (January 27), reports UNB.
 Police said the miscreants forcibly entered the residence of Advocate Abdul Wahed Jauhar, a local Awami League leader and former UP chairman, at Beartapara in the town and took away the gun at gun point.
 A case was filed with the police in this connection. None was arrested yet.

DINAJPUR
Housewife commits suicide
 Jan 30 : One housewife allegedly committed suicide at Kotwali thana in the district on Sunday, reports UNB.
 According to police, Bilkis Ara Begum (24) wife of Mozaffar Hossain of Nainpur allegedly committed suicide by taking poison. She took poison following a family feud.
 The body was sent to morgue for autopsy.
 A case has been registered with the police.

MADARIPUR
JCD founding anniversary
 Jan 30 : Madaripur District Chhatra Dal held a discussion meeting at Al-haj Amin Uddin High School in observance of the 14th founding anniversary of the organisation, reports UNB.
 Chaired by district JCD president Jahander Ali Jahan, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Khondker Kamrul Hassan, Nazrul Islam Mithu, Mizanur Rahman and Mortuza Dhali.
 The speakers vowed to materialise the ideals of late president Ziaur Rahman, founder of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, to establish a society free from exploitation.
 Another message adds : The election of the district 4th class government employees union was held recently amid much enthusiasm.
 Md Akter Hossain and Md Borhan Uddin were elected president and secretary respectively.

MANIKGANJ
Local people are fishing in Mirkir Beel under Daulatpur thana of the district.
 — Star photo



Over one lakh ponds need renovation in S-dists

BARGUNA, Jan 30: Over one lakh derelict ponds in southern districts remained uncultivated throughout the year due to lack of renovation and proper maintenance, reports UNB.
 According to an official source, of the total, 35,20 per cent ponds are under joint ownership, 20.10 per cent under khas land, 10.5 per cent under vested property and remaining 30.59 per cent ponds are lying with single ownership.
 Ponds under joint ownership pay little interest on fish cultivation due to long standing ownership crisis. The co-owners also do not take initiative on fish cultivation and even they could not form co-operative society.
 The officials said due to the lack of proper assessment of concerned department could not take possession of many of the ponds on khas and vested lands. Such ponds went under the possession of the local influential quarters for a long time.
 According to an official record, at least 15,589 ponds are lying on government khas land but only 2,832 ponds are being owned by the government. The influential quarters have taken possession of maximum ponds by preparing fake documents. It has now become difficult to recover those ponds.
 The sources said the huge fish could produced on these derelict ponds if the government take initiative to recover the dispossessed ponds and prepare a master plan for pisciculture.
 The functioning of Barguna Government College has been facing a serious set back for a long time due to shortage of teachers.
 According to college sources, 27 teachers have been working against 49 posts of teachers in the college. Many departments of the college are understaffed.
 Absence of auditorium, library, administrative building and residential accommodation for principal and teachers have caused enormous problems for the smooth functioning of the college, local people informed.
 Most of the teachers of the college are trying hard to be transferred elsewhere due to lack of accommodation. The principal is residing in a deplorable tin-shed quarter facing a lot of problems.
 Shortage of classrooms is another problem for the students. Benches, tables and other furniture of the college are also inadequate. The laboratory of the college is facing acute shortage of furniture, necessary appliances and water supply.
 In the absence of boundary wall of the college, goats and cattle are found grazing in the campus freely.

JAMALPUR, Jan 26: At least 17 people were injured, two seriously, in an attack launched on a public meeting of Awami League at Bogabaid in the town today, reports UNB.
 Witnesses said a gang of miscreants suddenly raided the meeting while the Awami League MP Mirza Azam was addressing it at about 12 noon. Awami League leader Kader Siddiqui was also present at the meeting as chief guest.
 Of the injured two Chhatra League (M-I) leaders Naim' Rahman and Mirza Kabir were admitted to a city clinic with serious wounds.
 Later in the afternoon Awami League held a protest meeting at the local Shahid Minar where Kader Siddiqui blamed the local BNP activists for the attack.
 It is alleged that the bank-loan sanctioned to the fishermen is quite inadequate and most of the genuine fishermen cannot to avail the loan due to complicate procedures.
 Local fisheries department failed to take any proper measure to solve the problems of the fishermen community.
 Moreover, rampant catching of fish fry and massive siltation in the rivers and ponds are accelerating the fall in the fish production in the region.
 The fishermen of the district urged the authorities to provide them with soft loan so that they can continue their profession.

Attack on AL meet in Jamalpur: 17 injured

SIRAJGANJ, Jan 30: Three people were killed, two on the spot, when a loaded truck with fertilizer tumbled into a road side ditch near Chandaikona village on the Bogra-Nagarbari highway Sunday night, reports UNB.
 The victims were identified as Shahidul (32), Gafur (18) and Aynul (27), succumbed to his injuries on way of Rayganj health complex.
 Police and witnesses said the accident occurred at 11 pm when the Sherpur bound truck lost control and fell into the ditch near the village at Rayganj thana. Shahidul and Gafur died on the spot.

Three killed in Sirajganj truck mishap

Feni, Jan 30: A student of Feni Government College was electrocuted recently, reports UNB.
 Witnesses said Naderuzzaman, a 2nd year student of the college, came in touch with a live wire when he was playing badminton. He died on the spot.

College student electrocuted at Feni

JAMALPUR, Jan 30: Khelower Kalyan Sanmita moved into final beating Narikelly Club by 3-0 goals in the first district semi final at Jamalpur stadium on January 18, reports UNB.
 The District Sports Association organised the tournament. The Jagaranti Club and Bhatara Club will face each other in another semi final Tuesday.

Soccer tourney

CHITTAGONG, Jan 30: Four daring dacoities were committed in Sadar thana in the last three days, police said here on January 21, reports UNB.
 A gang of armed dacoits numbering 5 to 6 knocked the door of the Badal Mistry's house on Tuesday at Farpapara on the plea of pourashava polls campaign, entered the house forcibly and decamped with household articles worth about Taka 50,000.
 On Monday a gang of dacoits numbering 30-35 stormed the house of Shaher Ali of Noornagar village, looted the valuables for two hours and decamped with the booty. On the same they also tried to commit a dacoity at Dingadaha bazar, but the attempt was failed due to resistance of the local people.
 On Sunday dacoities were committed 'in the houses of Rafiqul and Mozibur Rahman, of the same thana.
 Cases were filed with the police but none was so far arrested in this connection.
 UNB report from Dinajpur writes: Fourteen traders were wounded and valuables worth about Taka six lakh were looted Monday in two separate dacoities in the town and suburban area on Monday.
 According to police, a gang of dacoits entered the residence of Sree Baiddanath Mondal of Barabondar in the town and looted valuables worth about Taka 70,000 including eight tolas of gold, at gun point.
 In another incident 25-30 armed dacoits stormed the Binnakuri hat and decamped with valuables worth about Taka 3.30 lakh injuring 14 traders.
 Two seriously injured traders were admitted to local hospital while the rest were released after first aid.
 Two cases have been filed with the police.
 UNB report from Patuakhali states: A daring dacoity was committed in a passenger launch near Sowdegarpapa in Kalapara, thana of the district on Thursday.
 According to the passengers, about 12 dacoits armed with sophisticated weapons boarded the M L Taktir in the guise of passengers and attacked on them while the launch crossed Sowdegarpapa station at about 6 pm.
 The miscreants snatched away the belongings of the passengers at gun point and escaped safely with the booty at Bogi.
 The beat the passengers and injured seriously the ticket clerk Rabin Nath with a sharp weapon.
 A case has been filed with the police.
 UNB report from Gaibandha adds: Armed dacoits raided a house at David Companypara in the town on Friday evening and looted valuables worth about Taka two lakh.

Debt-ridden farmers selling crops in advance

From Our Correspondent
NETRAKONA, Jan 30: Farmers of 10 thanas of the district are compelled to sell their crops to the money lenders at a nominal price for buying agricultural inputs for cultivation.
 According to sources, the exorbitant rates of interest are Taka 25 to 30 per cent per month. The method of lending is so tricky that the borrowers have no way out to escape from clutches of the money lenders.
 A large number of farmers have been passing their days in hardship. Often they sell their utensils and domestic animals to pay off the debt.
 These unscrupulous money lenders have rendered 2 hundreds of peasants and small traders landless.
 Our Correspondent reports: Agriculture Department in Barhatta under Netrakona district has under taken a special plantation programme to minimise the vitamin deficit as well as to balance to ecology.
 According to Shafigur Rahman, Extension Officer, a total of 70,000 saplings of Kazi Payara, 85,000 date seeds, 45,050 different fruit bearing plants, 12,000 jack-fruit plants have been distributed during the year among 15,550 students of 80 primary, madrasa and high schools of the upazila.

Four killed in incidents

SHERPUR, Jan 30: One construction worker was killed when a supporting wall of a culvert at village Jangurpara in Sreebordi thana of the district collapsed Saturday, reports UNB.
 The victim was identified as Hurjaz Ali (38).
 Witnesses said Hurjaz met the tragic end while he was working on the culvert. The culvert was being constructed by some workers.
 Later, police recovered the body from the rubble and a case has been filed in this connection.
 Report from Magura says: A boy was killed and another four people were injured in a rice mill hot water drum blast at Talkhora village of Salikha thana.
 The victim was identified as Nur Mohammad (7).
 Witnesses said the incident took place Tuesday while rice was being boiled killing Nur Mohammad on the spot. The injured were admitted to Magura Sadar Hospital in a critical condition.
 Police alleged that the victim died by suffocation. But the Sadar hospital doctors said they did not find any sign in favour of police allegation.
 A case was filed with local police in this connection but none was arrested yet.

Dacoits loot Tk 8.5 lakh valuables in dists

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NABANAGANJ (Dhaka): 'Ratanti Kalipuja' held at the residence of late Dr. Bamapada Saha Chowdhury of village Matabpur under Nabanaganj thana of the district on January 21. This puja held in this village every year for the last two hundred years. Hundreds of devotees from far-flung places attend this festival. The youths of this village also arrange jatra during the time.

Khulna City Corporation to implement 289 development projects

KHULNA, Jan 30: Khulna City Corporation has undertaken 289 development projects including 254 projects on road development at a cost of Tk 10 crore during the current fiscal year, reports UNB.
 Corporation sources said the projects include renovation of drainage system and construction of culverts and development of bazars.
 An amount of Tk 7.89 crore will be spent for construction of roads, Tk 23.95 lakh for construction of drains and culverts, Tk 47 lakh for developing hats and bazars, Tk 33 lakh for setting tubelights and bulbs, Tk 27 lakh for setting street lights and Tk 47 lakh for developing slaughter houses.
 Another report said the corporation has started disbursing loans among the slum dwelling women for the period of two years with a view to making them self-reliant.
 Sheikh Talyabur Rahman, Mayor of the corporation, disbursed Tk five lakh among 244 slum dwelling women on Tuesday.
 The constructions works on footpaths, drains, dustbin besides sinking shallow and deep tubewells at the slum areas in the city are on, the sources added.
 Police recovered 16 hand bombs and rounded up eight people during the last two days.
 The arrested are Khokon, Kamal, Babul, Motaleb, Harun Jamil, Jabir and Bablu.
 Meanwhile, police on Monday arrested local JCD leader Mirza Masud on charges of his involvement in damaging vehicles and snatching of a revolver.
 Masud is the newly elected General Secretary of the Students' Union of Khulna S M City College.
 BSS reports add: A review meeting of the district canal digging and test relief coordination committee was held here today at the deputy commissioner's conference room with Jatiya Sangsad Whip Ashraf Hossain in the chair.
 The meeting was attended, among others, by Salahuddin Yusuf MP.
 The meeting was informed that the progress of food for work programmes in the rainy season was quite satisfactory. The meeting also reviewed the progress of canal digging programmes and discussed the solution of water stagnation, problem of Beel Dakatia and strengthening of afforestation programme and its proper care.
 Vice-Chancellor of Khulna University Professor Golam Rahman impressed upon the educated and the intellectuals sections of the society to play their pioneering role in saving the youths of the country from rutination.
 The Vice-Chancellor was speaking at the first-annual conference of the advisers, patrons and moderators of Bangladesh debating society held at the senate hall of the university Saturday.
 Dr Rahman expressed the need for whipping out terrorism from the educational institutions and urged the teachers and guardians to come forward and play their due role towards making a terror-free society and campus.
 The conference was addressed among others by advocate Enayet Ali, Mrs Tayeba Khatun, Mohiuddin Gora, Professor Anwarul Kadir, A H M Jamaluddin, Shaikh Saiful Azam and Shirendra Sakhkar Shikder. Advisors and moderators of at least fifty debating societies were present on the occasion.
 The conference decided to hold inter-school, college and university level debates during the current year.
 A meeting of the district canal digging and relief coordination committee was held on Monday at the conference room of the Deputy Commissioner, Khulna with Whip of Jatiya Sangsad Ashraf Hossain in the chair.
 Salahuddin Yusuf MP and concerned officials attended the meeting.



RAJBARI: Local Member of Parliament Keramat Ali inaugurating canal digging programme recently. — Star photo