

District roundup

NARSINGDI

100 cataract patients operated upon

Feb 6: At least 100 cataract patients were operated upon in the week-long eye camp at Satirpura Kali Kumar High School organised by the Rotary Club of Narsingdi, reports UNB.

Deputy Commissioner, Abdus Samad Mallik formally inaugurated the eye camp which was concluded on January 18.

Camp sources said 1500 other patients with eye complications were treated at the centre.

Dr Altaf Hossain, President of Rotary Club of Narsingdi, presided over the opening session while it was addressed, among others, by Firoz Salahuddin, TNO Narsingdi Sadar, Hossain Ahmad Khandakar and Abdur Rahim. Spectacles were distributed to the operated patients free of cost.

Dr Abdul Awal and Dr Abdul Karim of Mazharul Haq BNSB Eye Hospital conducted the operation.

RAJSHAHI

Plan to observe Ekushey Feb taken up

Feb 6: Bangla Academy here has chalked out elaborate programme to observe the forthcoming historic Ekushey February with due solemnity, reports UNB.

To mark the day, it will arrange a painting competition for children on February 19 and hold discussion meetings on newly published books regarding "Amor Ekushey" from February 19 to 21.

The academy will also hold a discussion meeting highlighting the significance of the glory of February 21.

Besides, it has made arrangement to sell books on concession rates at its sale centres.

Another report adds: Three people were injured seriously after a thunderbolt struck two dwelling houses during a heavy downpour at Shyampur village in Matihar thana on Monday night.

SIRAJGANJ

20 hurt as BNP, JSD, JP clash

Feb 6: BNP and JSD supporters clashed with Jatiya Party activists at Shahjadpur thana Sunday night, leaving at least 20 injured in the post-election violence, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the trouble erupted following tension after JP candidate Hasibur Rahman Swapan beat JSD (Inu) and BNP nominees in the pourashava election on Saturday.

Houses of Jatiya Party workers at Barabil village and Dariapur bazar were allegedly attacked by the rivals.

At least 20 cocktails were blasted during the clashes in which five dwelling houses were reportedly damaged.

Of the injured, Azhar (35), Rowshan (26) and Ali of Jatiya Party and Mozammel were admitted to Shahjadpur health complex with serious wounds.

JHENIDAH

59 armed activists nabbed

Feb 6: Police arrested 59 armed activists and recovered 10 arms, 35 rounds of bullets from different places of the district during the last one week, reports UNB.

Among the recovered arms nine are pipeguns and one single barrel gun.

The arrested were reportedly identified as members of the outlawed Sarbahara Party.

Case have been filed with the local thanas.

BRAHMANBARIA

Minor girl meets tragic end of life

Feb 6: A minor girl met the tragic end of her life when mistakenly took poison instead of honey at Bangaj village in Akhaura thana, police said here January 28, reports UNB.

Family sources said, Jahera Begum (13), daughter of Abdul Latif took insecticides Saturday kept by her father to use in the crop field.

She was rushed to the Akhaura health complex where the doctors declared her dead.

A case was lodged with the Akhaura police.

BARISAL

Workshop on Dev Assoc, Management concludes

Feb 6: A two-day workshop on 'Development of Associations and Management' was held at the Caritas auditorium premises with Abdul Wahab Hawlader, Executive Director, Agriculture Club, in the chair, reports BSS.

The workshop was inaugurated by M A Rashid, Divisional Commissioner, on Wednesday the workshop was conducted by Kamal Sengupta and Z I Farook.

A total of 40 representatives from different NGOs took part in the workshop.

FENI

41 smugglers held with contraband goods

Feb 6: Bangladesh Rifles recovered a huge quantity of contrabands and rounded up 41 alleged smugglers during December 20 to January 19 from different parts of the district, reports UNB.

The contrabands included sugar, sarces, timber, clothes, current net, blade worth about 10 lakh.

The arrested people were handed over to the local police and the goods to the Customs Department.

RAJBARI

Businessman crushed under wheel

Feb 6: A young businessman was crushed under the wheel of a speedy bus in front of the Pourashava office here on Thursday, police said, reports UNB.

Abul Kalam (26), a businessman of the area, died instantly when the bus crashed on a rickshaw he was riding from the backside at about 8 pm.

Rickshawpuller Mohammad Hanif was admitted to the Sadar Hospital with serious injuries.

Police arrested the driver and seized the bus in neighbouring Faridpur district. A case has been lodged.

KHULNA

National Population, Welfare Day observed

Feb 6: National Population and Family Welfare Day was observed here on Tuesday as elsewhere in the country with a call to bring down the birth rate to one point eight per cent, reports BSS.

The theme of this year's Population and Family Welfare Day is to bring the newly wed couples under family planning service.

A day-long programme was chalked out by various social welfare organisations to observe the day in a befitting manner.

National Population Day celebration committee, Khulna, arranged a discussion meeting on this occasion.

Divisional Commissioner, Khulna, Abdul Mukhtar Choudhury was the chief guest and Deputy Director, Divisional Family Planning MA Rahman was the special guest.

A colourful procession was also brought out in the city in this connection and documentary film on family planning was exhibited in the city.

A day-long programme was also chalked out by the family planning association Khulna branch which included discussion meeting and rally.

Advocate Enayet Ali, President of Khulna unit of Family Planning Association was the chief guest while Honorary Assistant Secretary General of Bangladesh Family Planning Association, Central Committee, Principal Mazharul Hannan was special guest at the discussion.

JAMALPUR

Oath taking ceremony held

Feb 6: Oath taking ceremony of newly-elected executive committee of district bar association was held at its office on Monday, reports BSS.

Seventeen-member executive committee of the association was elected on January 28 with Zahid Anwar as President and Md Anwarul Karim Sahjahan as General Secretary.

Azizur Rahman Talukder, election commissioner of the bar administered the oath. Later, a discussion meeting was held with out-going president Advocate Nazrul Islam in the chair.

Primary education situation far from satisfactory

From Md Iqbal Siddiquee

SYLHET, Feb 6: The primary education situation in the district of Sylhet is in a precarious condition due to the absence of minimum number of teachers, dilapidated condition of school buildings, acute scarcity of minimum furniture, absence of administrative control and corruption of both education officials and teachers.

According to reports, a large number of school buildings which were damaged by the devastating floods, cyclonic storms over the last few years have not yet been repaired. There is no plan to do so at an early date, said an official source. Though a very few schools are being chosen for repair or reconstruction, the quality of work is anything but satisfactory, according to the reports from different areas.

The shortage of teachers and accommodation have aggravated the situation. It is found that classes are being taken under the open sky. During the rainy season, the sufferings of the children goes extreme.

In the rural areas, most of the schools have no tubewell and latrine.

According to some official source, there are 1069 government primary schools, 116 registered non-government primary schools and 75 unregistered primary schools in the 11 thanas of the Sylhet district. These include, 117 government and 20 non-government schools in Sylhet sadar, 86 government and 8 non-gov-

ernment schools in Gowainghat, 41 government and 8 non-government in Jaintapur, 100 government and 12 non-government schools in Biswanath, 107 government and 7 non-government schools in Jakiganj, 113 government and 13 non-government schools in Beanibazar, 139 government and 10 non-government schools in Golapganj, 92 government and 9 non-government school in Kanaighat, 32 government and 14 non-government schools in Companiganj, 36 government and 2 non-government schools in Fenchuganj, and 146 government and 10 non-government schools in the Balaganj thana.

It is reported that, more than 70 per cent schools in 11 thanas of the district had been facing difficulties to accommodate the rising number of students. Most of the schools are in dilapidated condition. The shortage of teachers and furniture have made the situation worse.

The total number of existing boy students is 1,43,173 and 1,33,352 girl students in the district, the source informed.

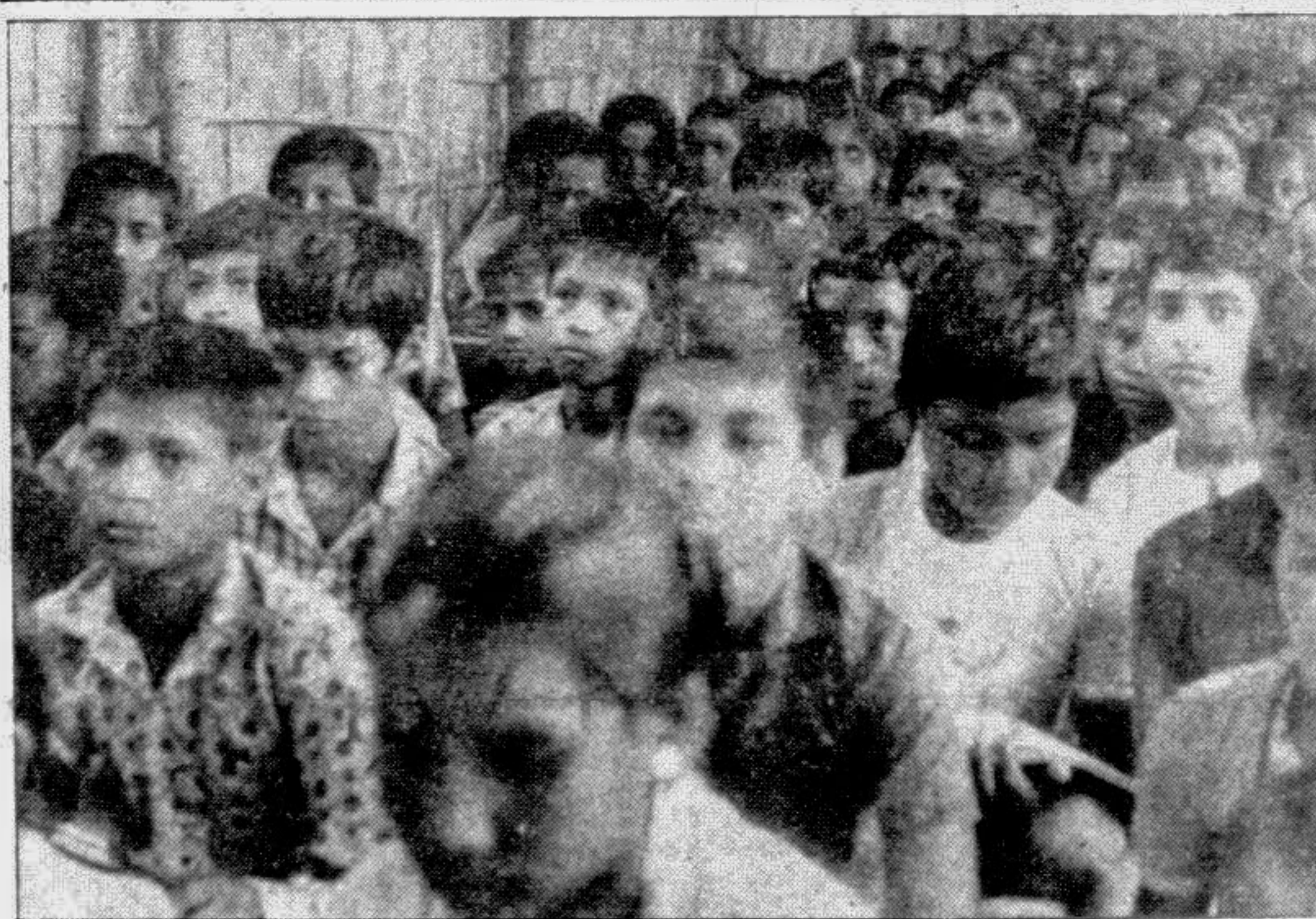
There are 1045 posts of headmaster and 2444 posts of Assistant-teacher in the 11 thanas of Sylhet district. Of these, 511 posts had been vacant. It includes, 111 posts of Headmaster and the rest 400 of Assistant Teacher. In a village school

Headmaster is the leading man to run the institution as well as to manage the academic side. Out of 11 posts of Thana Education Officers five posts had been lying vacant while the number of vacant posts of Assistant Thana Education Officers stand at 25, against a total sanctioned posts of 63 in 11 thanas of the district as many as 62 posts of other employees out of 132 are vacant.

It is informed that most of the teachers do not go to the schools and some attend for only an hour or two. They manage the classes by entrusting the senior students with the task of teaching the lower classes. Most of these are engaged in other business or professions, it is observed.

The Compulsory Primary Education Programme is also facing a setback due to lack of information about available facilities and incumbent children in the different thanas of the district. An official source when contacted could not give any satisfactory reply in this regard. The source claimed that arrangements would soon be completed to sent about 90 per cent children between the age-group of six and ten to the schools.

It is observed that the children of the underprivileged classes are not at all provided with the primary education. The number of slum area children is usually large as the parents do not take any family planning programme.



CHILDREN AT SCHOOL: A overcrowded class room of a primary school. — Star photo

Plan to distribute 4.88 lakh saline packets in Barisal Div

BARISAL, Feb 6: Barisal Development Society (BDS), a non-governmental organisation, has undertaken a programme to distribute 4.88 lakh packets of oral saline in diarrhoea affected areas of the division during the current season, reports BSS.

Voluntary Health Services Society (VHSS) is arranging the saline. UNICEF has been providing 14,000 US dollars for the oral saline, a BDS source said.

Meanwhile, BDS has distributed 40,000 packets of this saline through 20 NGOs in Barisal district, 2,000 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 2 NGOs in Barguna and 18,000 packets through 9 NGOs in Patuakhali district.

BSS report adds: A high level meeting held here on Saturday with Divisional Commissioner Mohammad Abdur Rashid in the chair, decided to demarcate the inter-district boundaries of Bhola, Barisal

and Patuakhali on the basis of the revision survey (RS) maps, official sources told BSS here on January 23.

Besides, the Deputy Commissioners of Barisal, Bhola and Patuakhali, the meeting was attended by the director of survey Mazharul Islam as a special guest.

Authorities urged to renovate bar assoc building

KHULNA, Feb 6: President of Khulna bar association Advocate Yunus Ali urged the authorities concerned to reconstruct the century-old dilapidated building of the bar association immediately, reports BSS.

Addressing a press conference Monday he expressed the fear that the building may collapse at any moment.

The press conference was addressed, among others, by secretary of the bar Advocate A M Ahmedullah and Public Prosecutor Advocate Gazi Abdul Huri.



The Chief of Naval Staff Rear Admiral Muhammad Moheimul Islam taking salute at the Graduation parade of a batch of Midshipmen of the Bangladesh Navy at the Naval Academy Parade ground at Patenga in Chittagong recently. — ISPR photo

Notes from Brahmanbaria

From Our Correspondent

BRAHMANBARIA, Feb 6: A badminton competition organized by Zila Sports Association held here at local industrial school ground recently.

Additional district Judge Shah Alam inaugurated the competition as chief guest.

A total of 28 teams in two groups participated in the competition. In boys group 16 teams and in girls group 12 teams took part in the competition.

Discussion meet on academic problems

A discussion meeting on various academic and administrative problems and proper educational systems of the head masters of non government high schools of the district held at Niaz Mohd High School recently.

Secretary, Comilla Board Prof Kazi Haroon-Al-Hoque, School Inspector Mohd. Abu Taher, Deputy Examiner Zahirul Hoque and Secretary Zila Teachers Association Humayun Kabir spoke in the meeting.

Jubodal Kasba unit meet held

A meeting of the Jatiyabadi Jubodal, Kasba thana unit of the district held here recently.

Miah Abdullah Wazed MP presided over the meeting. Later a 31-member committee formed with thana JCD president Islam as convener and Basir Ahmed Chowdhury, Shariful Emran, A Rakib and Rafiqul Islam as joint conveners.

Zila Scout convention ends

A three-day long zila scout convention concluded at Nabinagar Pilot High School ground recently.

State Minister for Shipping Advocate Alhaj Harun-ur-Rashid inaugurated the scouts convention attending as chief guest. Begum Asia Rahman MP was present as special guest while the President of Zila Scouts and Deputy Commissioner Khabiruddin Ahmed was in the chair.

It was addressed among others by Zila BNP Secretary Hamidul Hoque Tuku, Thana Nirbahi Officer of Nabinagar Mohiuddin Ahmed, Member Secretary Mohd. Shahidul Haque and Commissioner Zila Scouts Nazmul Hoque Nagu.

Two hundred and twenty five scouts from seven thanas of the district in 21 groups participated in the convention.

Jamiat-e-Ulema unit meet held

A meeting of Jamiat-e-Ulema Islam district unit held here at the Jamea Yunusia Madrasa Mosque of the town recently.

Hazrat Moulana Nurul Hoque presided over the meeting. Secretary General Jamiat-e-Ulema Islam of Bangladesh and former State Minister for Religious Affairs Moulana Mufti Mohd Wakkas was present as chief guest while Member Secretary of Islam Okkajoti Mohd. Zahirul Hoque Bhuiyan attended the meeting as special guest.

Two shops gutted

Two shops were completely gutted in a devastating fire recently at Nabinagar Bazar under Nabinagar thana of the district.

It is learnt that two shops named as Golap Garments Store and Khair Traders were burnt to ashes. The origin of the fire could not be ascertained immediately.

Another fire incident took place at near Sitarampur Kheaghat under Nabinagar thana. Two tea-stalls were gutted in this fire incident.

RU authorities ban rallies, processions on campus

RAJSHAHI, Feb 6: Rajshahi University authorities today enforced a temporary ban on all meetings, processions and use of microphones on the campus till February 7 as part of their efforts to restore normalcy in the campus, reports UNB.

The decision to impose the ban was taken at an emergency meeting of the administrative council on Monday.

The meeting discussed the prevailing volatile situation in the campus triggered by violent clashes between Shibir and other student organizations on January 15.

It was also decided at the meeting that Masters final examination and tests for admission into first year honours will be held on schedule.

The Council asked the concerned authorities to take action against those arrested from different residential halls on January 16, following the clashes.



MYMENSINGH: Prof. Monawar Ahmed, Director of Bangladesh Agricultural University Research Education System (BAURES) speaking as chief guest in the concluding session of a three-week-long training programme on communication and transfer of technology held at the GTI dormitory recently. Eminent journalist Gias Kamal Chowdhury, P N Mathur, Prof. Mustafizur Rahman and Prof. Ameer Hossain also seen in the picture. — Star photo

Cattle lifting rampant

COMILLA, Feb 6: Cattle lifting has become rampant in Choudhagram thana creating panic among the farmers, report UNB.

According to informed sources, two bullock worth about Taka 20,000 belonging to farmer Sona Mia of Chandiskara village and another milch cow of Shamsul Haq of the same village were stolen on Tuesday night.

Meanwhile two cattle lifters were caught and handed over to the police by the villagers while lifting cattle from Dhorkara village on Sunday. They were identified as Alar Ali of village Birchandra Nagar and Moklesur Rahman of village Kalishar.

A case has been lodged with the police.

Another report adds: A residence of a contractor a Talpukurpur in the town was ransacked by some youngsters of the locality.

According to witnesses a group of armed youngsters on Friday stormed the residence of the Anwar Hossain in his absence and damaged his private car.

Previous enmity was the reason behind the attack. Local people alleged that a gang of hoodlums are active in the area for a long time. They were involved in collecting tolls from the businessmen and contractors of the area.

Local elite have urged the authorities to take action against collecting tolls and harassment to the people of the locality by the mustans.

1250 grams Indian ganja seized in Patuakhali

PATUAKHALI, Feb 6: Police recovered about 1250 grams of Indian-Montipuri Ganja from Galachipa town on Friday, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip, police raided the place where the ganja was kept and recovered the contraband item. Sensing police arrival the owners of ganja managed to escape.

Police also arrested eight ganja addicts during the raid. It is reported that the number of addicts is increasing alarmingly in the town day by day.

Local people alleged that some influential persons are involved in the heinous business. They urged the authorities to nab the real culprits and give them exemplary punishment.

Another report adds: A meeting on law and order situation was held at Dumki thana Saturday at the instance of the district Police Super to curb the criminal activities in the area.

The meeting was largely attended by the elite, teachers, students and local people. The teachers of the Dumki Janata College and AK High School, dwelt at length on the deteriorating law and order situation in the thana and suggested ways and means to check the menace.

The speakers assured the administration of their all out support and assistance to root out violence and criminal activities from the thana.

They also urged the administration to arrange visit of high officials in the thana and hold meeting with the members of the public which will help minimise crime in the area.

The administration assured speedy disposal of the cases without fear or favour.

Proper use of modern technology stressed

RAJSHAHI, Feb 6: Speakers

at a seminar on development challenges of 21st century: Bangladesh perspective organised on the occasion of the 37th convention of the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh stressed the need for proper application of modern technology for boosting industrial and agricultural production in the country.

"Without which we shall not be able to solve the problem of unemployment and make the poverty alleviation programmes a success", they said, reports BSS.

The keynote paper was presented by Engineer SM Al-Husainy. The seminar was presided over by Dr Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, President, IBE.

Amjad Hossain Khan, former chairman Bangladesh Water Development Board presented a paper on water challenge of 21st century: Bangladesh perspective.

About one hundred papers of various subjects will be read out in the four-day long convention being held here at local engineers institution.

Speakers said to meet the challenge of 21st century for our survival and also for our future generations well-being development of science and technology was essential through proper utilisation of human resources.

They said that the population is growing at the rate of about three per cent every year which means that the present figure will be 140 million by 2000 AD.

Amjad Hossain Khan informed that there are about 230 rivers in Bangladesh of which 54 have common borders with India and three with Burma.

He said the variation in temporal and spatial occurrence of rainfall is a major constraint to the development of agriculture which dominates the national economy. The excess of water during the monsoon causes wide-spread flooding and restrict cropping alternatives. On the other hand scarcity of water during the dry period hampers irrigation, he added.

Marriage non-registration leads to divorce

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Feb 6: Non-registration of marriage deeds is one of the main causes of women oppression including physical torture and divorce.

In a random spot survey by this correspondent in some rural areas of the district, it was found that marriages in most of the poor families were not registered.

As a result, the victims could not take any legal action against the unscrupulous husbands.

Besides defying the government restriction, many people marry more than once in the rural areas without the written permission of the first wife.

The survey showed that rural marriages often fail to ensure the rights of the wife due to the absence of the legal protection provided by the deed.

As a result of this, divorce has become a common feature in the rural areas. The victims of these divorces mostly live in utter despair. Sometimes they are forced to indulge in immoral activities for mere survival.

It is alleged that many marriage registrars in the rural areas charge higher registration fees than the officially fixed rate.

Observers believe the government should fix a token fee for registration of the marriages with a mohana of below Taka 25000 to encourage marriage registration in the rural areas.