

District roundup

JHALAKATI

35 projects nearing completion

Feb 15: Thirtyfive projects are nearing completion under the test relief programme taken up during the current financial year, reports UNB.

According to official sources, the projects include repair and maintenance of kutcha roads, planting of trees and clearing of bushes and water hyacinths.

Seventy-seven metric tons of wheat will be spent for the implementation of the projects.

Another message from Patuakhali adds: Five projects on flood control and irrigation are being implemented in the district.

Water Development Board is executing the projects at a cost Taka 59 lakh with the financial assistance from the Asian Development Bank.

FENI

Smuggled timber worth Tk 1.8 lakh seized

Feb 15: Bangladesh Rifles seized smuggled timber worth about Taka 1.8 lakh and arrested three alleged smugglers, police sources said here on Monday, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip, BDR jawans challenged the truck-loaded timber near Subharpur bridge on Fenil-Ramgarh road on January 29 and recovered the Indian timber.

The nabbed were identified as Tauhidul Islam of West Joya village in Mirsharai thana of Chittagong, Shaifur Rahman of Joychandpur in Chhagalnala thana of Feni and Abdul Matin of Chorua in Mirsharai of Chittagong.

They were handed over to the local police while the seized timber was deposited with local customs.

CHUADANGA

Annual prize giving ceremony held

From Our Correspondent
Feb 15: The annual prize giving ceremony of Chuadanga Islampara Pura Primary School was held at the school's premises recently.

Mia Mohammad Monzur Ali, MP was present on the occasion as the chief guest while Omar Ali Mollah, Administrator of local panchayat who is also the Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) attended the function as special guest.

Gul Mohammad, President of the school managing committee presided over the meeting.

Among others who spoke on the occasion were Anwaruddin, Thana Primary Education Officer, Ashraf Ali Khan and Waliullah Ahmed Babu.

Mia Mohammad Monzur Ali, MP donated taka two thousand and sanctioned four bundles of CI sheets for the development of the school.

PATUAKHALI

Over 1.8 lakh sets of pry edn text books distributed

Feb 15: District primary education office has distributed 170,800 sets of text books free of cost among the students of the primary schools of the district this year, reports BSS.

According to an official source, thana-wise break-up of books follows: Sadar thana 52,500 sets, Galachipa 37,000 sets, Mepupara 28,700 sets, Mirjaganj 28,500 sets and Dashedina 22,000 sets of books.

Class-wise break-up is: 62,500 sets for class one, 9,000 sets for class two, 30,700 sets for class three, 26,600 sets for class four and 22,000 sets for the students of class five.

According to another source, 111 posts of primary teachers including 43 posts of headmasters are lying vacant in the district.

BARISAL

Tk 75 lakh for kotwali thana complex

From Staff Correspondent

Feb 15: Construction works of the Barisal kotwali thana complex at Line Road is about to be completed with an expenditure of 75 lakh taka during this financial year.

Except the main building this complex includes boundary wall, sanitation and electric works which are to be completed soon.

KISHOREGANJ

Meet held on law, order situation

From Our Correspondent

Feb 15: The monthly meeting of Kishoreganj district law and order maintenance committee was held at the conference room of the Deputy Commissioner recently.

Maksudul Haque, Deputy Commissioner, Kishoreganj presided over the meeting and it was attended by Superintendent of Police, ASPs, Thana Nirbahi Officer, representatives of the educational institutions, Bar Association, Press Club and other members of the committee.

The meeting reviewed the overall law and order situation of the district and discussed various devices to control heinous crimes as murder, rape, theft, dacoity etc.

The meeting also urged all concerned to provide all-out cooperation and assistance to make the district free from crimes.

MOULVIBAZAR

Chhatra Front's founding day observed

From Our Correspondent

Feb 15: The ninth founding anniversary of Bangladesh Samajtantrik Chhatra Front was observed here recently at local Jahangir Community Centre.

Chhatra Front leader Badrul Hussain presided over the function and it was addressed by Moulvibazar district BSD (Khaleque) leader Moinur Rahman Moju, central leader of Chhatra Front Saifur Rahman, student leader Juned Ahmed and Kadir Newaz. After the celebration meeting a procession was brought out in the main roads of the town.

SATKHIRA

One killed in road mishap

Feb 15: A passenger was run over by a speeding bus while he was getting down from a bus at Purba Parulia on the Satkhira-Kaliganj road Thursday, reports UNB.

The victim, identified as Waliul (55), was killed instantaneously when he slipped and went under a mini bus while getting down from a bus.

Waliul hailed from Kulia in Debata thana of the district. The driver fled the scene. None has been arrested yet.

GAIBANDBA

2 JSD leaders nabbed for violence

Feb 15: Two student leaders of JSD (Inu)-backed Chhatra League were arrested Thursday evening for alleged involvement in post-election violence of Gaibandha Government College Students Union, reports UNB.

The arrested are JSD leader Tanjimu Islam Pitar and Rocket.

Supporters of Awami League and BCL (M-I) clashed with JCD and pro-JSD Chhatra League activists over the week which left at least 20 people injured including Awami League leader Pirul Islam and Chhatra Dal president Dolar.

The series of clashes between the rivals continued over the results of the election held on February 4.

MYMENSINGH

World Population Day observed

Feb 15: The World Population Day was observed here in befitting manner, reports BSS.

In this connection a colourful procession was brought out from the local town hall which paraded the main streets of the town led by Abdul Hashim, Deputy Director, Family Planning and Dr Mozaharul Haque, Civil Surgeon, Mymensingh. The procession was participated by the district level officers, elites of the town and employees of family planning department.

A discussion meeting was also held at the conference room of the Deputy Commissioner with Bimal Kumar Kundu, Additional Deputy Commissioner, General Mymensingh in the chair.

Earlier, as tall of family planning materials was inaugurated by AFM Matiar Rahman, Deputy Commissioner, Mymensingh at the local town hall premises.

Mymensingh Sadar Thana Parishad organised a discussion meeting at the premises of thana parishad.



RANGPUR: Local Jummapara Government Primary School has not yet been repaired which was damaged by a cyclonic storm recently. — Star photo

Shortage of text book acute

BRAHMANBARIA, Feb 15: Education all over the district for the new academic year is being hampered due to shortage of text books in the book shops since last January, reports UNB.

About 60,000 students of different classes of the district can not carry on their studies smoothly for want of books, local people said.

The guardians alleged that some unscrupulous book traders have created artificial scarcity to earn windfall profit. The text books in some book shops are being sold at exorbitant prices causing inconvenience to the students.

Students of the poor family are the worst sufferers. Some of them are thinking to give up the study for good as their parents are unable to purchase the books at high prices, an affected guardian added.

Meanwhile, almost all the books were available in the market last year. But this year the irregularities are found in

the distribution of the text books, a local teacher said.

Both the guardians and teachers community urged the concerned authorities to take proper steps for making available the text books in the market immediately.

Railway employee crushed under wheel of train

COMILLA, Feb 15: An employee of Bangladesh Railway was crushed under the wheels of a train at Rajapur station Tuesday (February 9), reports UNB.

The victim identified as Abdul Bari (35) was run over by a Mahanagar Express train when he was working on the line at the station at about 11 am, witnesses said.

Bari hailed from village Bagmara in Laksam thana.

A report from Pabna says: Note books are being sold with impunity in all the book stalls of Pabna and Irshudri towns and the suburbs despite government ban.

Government prohibited publishing and selling of note books up to class eight to discourage the dependence of the students on the prepared answers. But book dealers are publishing sub-standard note books full of errors and distortion of facts with fictitious names of authors and publishers. These books are being sold at exorbitant prices in different markets.

Guardians alleged that book stall owners are not selling text books without note books. They said some officials are involved in this heinous business.

They urged the concerned authorities to take stringent action against the publishing of the note books without further delay.

260 non-govt high schools to be nationalised soon

BAHISAL, Feb 15: More than 260 non government high schools will be nationalised soon.

Meanwhile, necessary steps have already been taken with the approval from the concerned authority regarding this matter.

According to a highly placed source, decision may be announced from the Ministry of Education regarding this matter.

It may be mentioned here that the government earlier took decision that at least one high school from each thana area would be recognised as

nationalised.

Following this decision, at least fifty secondary schools have already been turned into government schools in first phase.

A least of about 365 high schools has been prepared and was sent to the concerned higher authority from the Education Ministry for final approval. About one hundred schools were deducted after several scrutiny and the rest were finalised for recognition as nationalised high schools.

Under the Compulsory Primary Education Programme more than 3,850 low cost 3-

room primary school buildings will be constructed in different places of the country.

According to the concerned authority, construction works of these school buildings have already been started and expected to be completed by the year 1995 next.

Asian Development Bank (ADB) and World Bank are providing financial assistance to these projects which will be implemented through compulsory primary education project and observation committees in the district and thana levels.

Mosquito menace turns alarming

GAZIPUR, Feb 15: Mosquito menace has assumed an alarming proportion in and around the district making the life of the people miserable, reports UNB.

Mosquitoes in swarms buzz around and make it difficult for students to prepare their lessons at night. Doctors, nurses, lawyers, journalists and shopkeepers who are to work at late night are the worst sufferers.

It is also difficult to work in offices in day time due to mosquito bite. The ditches and derelict ponds filled with dirty stagnant water and hyacinths, silted up drains, pucca and semi-pucca service latrines are the ideal breeding grounds of mosquitoes.

Moreover, garbage are dumped in roadsides and bazar areas causing health hazards. The drainage system in Gazipur town is extremely bad.

Shortage of doctors

The overall activities of

Kaliakotr thana hospital of the district are being hampered for shortage of doctors, medicine and other requisite appliances for quite a long time.

There is no blood bank in the hospital. Lack of X-ray machine and shortage of technicians have been hampering the proper treatment of the patients, local people alleged.

Lack of required beds is a common feature in the hospital. A large number of patients of the locality have to go back disappointed for want of beds and proper treatment, they said.

It is difficult to find the doctors on duty as they most of the time remain busy with their private practice. Moreover, instead of taking proper care of the patients the doctors suggest the patients to consult them at their private chambers, it is alleged.

The patients especially the indoor ones have to buy

medicine from outside at an exorbitant price.

Water supply is so irregular that most of the time the patients and the staff of the hospital are forced to use impure water.

Local people urged the concerned authorities to take proper steps for the smooth functioning of the hospital immediately.

Dowry demand

Poor guardians in the district are facing serious economic hardship in settling marriages of their wards due to excessive dowry demand.

According to the existing law, dowry is illegal and punishable under the civil procedure.

At present dowry become a marriage contract which must be paid during the ceremony at any cost. If the father of the girl fails to meet the demand of the dowry then ultimately the marriage contracts break down.

Notes from Manikganj

MANIKGANJ, Feb 15: The inaugural ceremony of reconstruction of Jaforganj High School of the district was held here recently.

The assembly member Harun-Ur-Rashid Khan (Monnu) inaugurated the construction as chief guest. The inaugural function was presided over by chairman of the managing committee of the school Advocate Abul Kashem. It was addressed among others by Md Alzal Hossain, Abdul Kader, Abdul Baten, local UP Chairman Abdul Hai and Abdul Hamid, head master of the high school.

Lawyers assoc unit executives

The biennial election of Manikganj district Lawyers Association was held at the bar library recently.

Former State Minister of Jute Advocate Moslemuddin Khan was elected President and Mohammad Ali Ratan as General Secretary of the new committee.

Other office-bearers are: Vice President—Zahirul Alam Khan, Joint Secretary—Mizanur Rahman Hojrat, Library Secretary—Md Azizullah, Sports and Cultural Secretary—Azad Hossain Khan, Treasurer—ATM Shahzahan and Mozammel Hoque and members: Dilara Begum, Bellal Hossain Biswas, Gopal Chandra Bashak, Kamruzzan Kabir, Md Azizul Hoque, Md Abul Hoque and Atoar Rahman Nannu.

Shibalaya thana annual sports

The 22nd Bangladesh National School and Madrasa Sports of Shibalaya thana of the district was held at Shibalaya Government Pilot High School ground recently.

Eleven educational institutions of Shibalaya thana participated in the sports competition. Utholy A G S High School became champion.

Thana Nirbahi Officer of Shibalaya Md Shazahan Ali Mollah was present as chief guest.

The participants schools were Shibalaya Government Pilot High School, Utholy A G S High School, Aricha Belayet Hossain High School, Teota High School, Jaforganj High School, Nalt K C High School, Shakrull Shohid Smriti High School, Rupsha High School, Barongal G C High School, Utholy Girls' High School and Mohadebpur Girls' High School.

Meet held on law, order

The monthly meeting on law and order situation of the district was held at the conference room of the Deputy Commissioner recently.

Presided over by Mortuza Hossain Munshi, Deputy Commissioner of Manikganj while the meeting was attended by the SP Hasan Farid Ahmed, A S P circle Md Abul Kalam, Officer-in-charge of all seven thanas and other elites of the district.

Akhaura Bara Bazar Merchants' Assoc installation ceremony held

From Our Correspondent

BRAHMANBARIA, Feb 15: The installation ceremony of newly elected office-bearers of Akhaura Bara Bazar Merchants' Association was held at the Akhaura Bara Bazar of the district on February 7.

The function was presided over by Anwar Ahmed, Union Parishad Chairman, Akhaura (South) while Mohd. Abdul Wadud, acting Thana Nirbahi Officer and thana magistrate was present as chief guests. M A Taher, President, thana BNP, A M Mohd Ishaque Bir Pratik, Principal of Shaheed Smriti College, Akhaura, Shahidul Hoque and Abul Hussain, Rural Development Officer attended the function as special guests.

The function began with recitation of Holy Quran by Moulana Abdur Rakib. It was addressed among others by Rafiqul Islam, Abu Ahmed, Al-haj Habibur Rahman, Al-haj Hashem and Yousuf Sarwar.

The oath taking ceremony of the newly elected office-bearers was administered by Union Parishad Chairman Anwar Ahmed while Al-haj Mahbul Huda, district correspondent, the Daily Star conducted the function.

Dacoits loot cash, valuables in Magura

MAGURA, Feb 15: Armed dacoits raided a house and looted cash and valuables worth Taka 75,000 at Sachlapur in Sreepur recently, police said, reports UNB.

Witnesses said a group of armed dacoits numbering about 20 to 25 entered the house of Nanda Kumar at midnight last week.

Potters passing hard days for fund crisis

PABNA, Feb 15: The potters of the district are passing hard days due to price hike of raw materials and shortage of funds, reports UNB.

According to a local survey conducted by some social welfare activists, there are about 65,00 potters in Bera, Santhia, Sujannagar, Ishurdi, Atgharia, Chaitmoher, Vangura, Faridpur and Sadar thanas. They are engaged with the occupation from generation.

While contacted some potters said the price of raw materials has increased manifold while the demand for the products declined considerably in the market. They said previously there was a great demand for the earthen wares and production of the same on commercial basis was a lucrative one. But with the introduction of modern utensils the

demand for their product has come down to an alarming proportion.

They also alleged they cannot send their products to other districts due to lack of marketing facilities and bad communication system. As a result, many of their products remain unsold every year and get damaged with the passing of days.

The potters urged the concerned authorities to patronise their products with proper financial assistance and marketing facilities to save the age-old occupation under a specific scheme.

Narayan Chandra Pal, a potter of Singa village in Sadar thana said without proper assistance from the government thousands of potters families of the district will face bankruptcy in near future.

Feasibility of township in Rupganj under study

The government is examining the feasibility of establishing a township at Yusufganj in Rupganj thana of Narayanganj district to resolve the housing problem in the capital city, reports UNB.

This was disclosed in parliament yesterday by Works Minister Rafiqul Islam Miah during question hour.

Replying to a question from Rashed Khan Menon of Workers Party, the minister said the scheme includes 25,000 to 26,000 residential plots. He did not give any timeframe for starting the project.

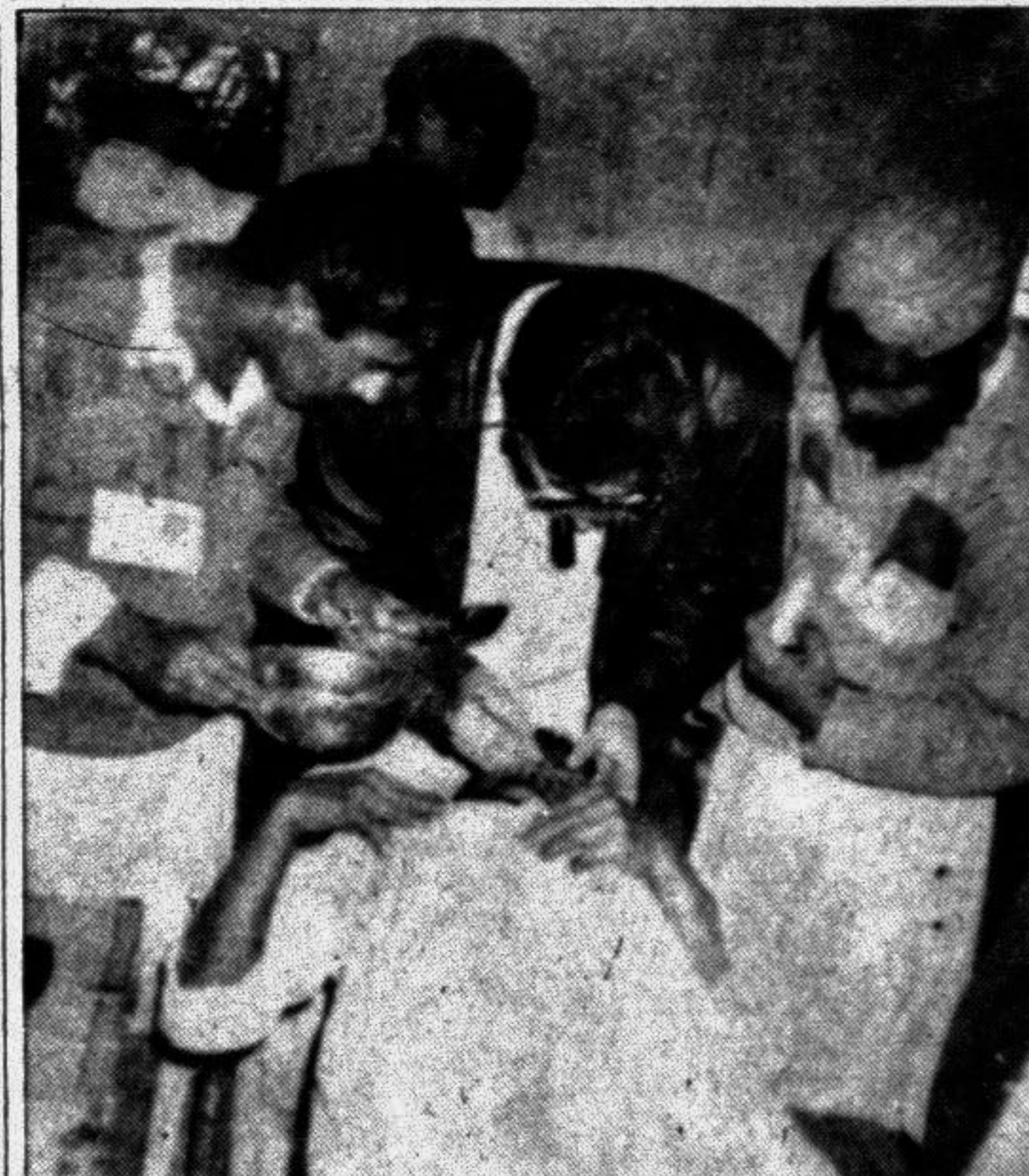
He further said that on completion of development work on 100 acres of land in Mirpur now underway with financial assistance of Asian Development Bank (ADB), plots will be allocated to low income group people.

Besides, the minister said, another project of allocating 9,390 housing plots on 200 acres of land to people from low income group is also under active consideration of the government.

Miah said housing settlement directorate will soon allocate 986 plots at Rupganj in Mirpur.

To resolve the housing problem of government employees in the city, the Public Works Department has started a project to build 120 flats for third and fourth class employees in West Palashi area.

In addition, he said, the government is also actively considering to construct 1,000 residential flats for government officers and employees in different parts of the city. Besides, 96 flats will be constructed for government officers at Banani.



SATKHIRA: Dr Ali-Al-Razi, Eye Specialist of Saudi Arabia is seen examining a patient in an eye camp jointly organised by Isra Islamic Foundation and Rabeta Alam-e-Islami held here at Moslema-Kindergarten premises recently. — Star photo

42 hurt as BNP, AL activists clash

FARIDPUR, Feb 15: At least 30 people, including three cops, were injured as ruling BNP and opposition Awami League activists clashed today at Alfadanga bazar, 45 miles from here, reports UNB.

Police said the trouble erupted after a brawl between Boarice UP Chairman Mokibul Hasan Potu (AL) and Alfadanga UP Chairman Akram Hossain at a reception of Awami League MP Abdur Rouf at Alfadanga School premises.

Later, some BNP activists allegedly ransacked the shop of Potu and seven other shops at the bazar.

The clash spread to the town. Crackers, rods, stones and hockey sticks were used during the two-hour battle.

Police fired in the air six shots to disperse the militants. Of the injured, OC of Alfadanga thana Nil Utpal Dey, two constables and 12 others were admitted to Alfadanga Health Complex with serious wounds.

A UNB report from Pabna adds: At least 12 students were injured as activists of two rival student groups clashed in Ishurdi on Thursday and Friday.

Witnesses said the clash ensued when activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) allegedly hurled crackers on an anti-terrorism procession of Awami League-backed Chhatra League at Ishurdi Government College on Thursday morning.

Supporters of BCL counter-

attacked the JCD activists who also took out a procession on the college campus protesting terrorism. At least six people were injured in the clash.

Activists of the two student groups clashed again on Friday with lathi, hockey sticks and stones and blasted bombs at Ishurdi bus stand leaving another six people injured.

Of the injured, Habib (22), Ramjan (24), Liton (24), Sohrab (22), Khashru (24) and Ilamid Ali (22) were admitted to Ishurdi Health Complex. Others were given first aid.

5 sluice gates to be constructed

PATUAKHALI, Feb 15: Water Development Board will construct five sluice gates in Dasmina thana of the district during the current fiscal year, reports UNB.

Official sources said about Taka 59 lakh will be spent for implementing the project. Asian Development Bank will provide financial assistance.

About 7000 hectares of land will be brought under irrigation network after completion of the project by June next.

According to another report, 16 projects will be implemented in Bauhal thana of the district in this financial year under 'Food For Works' Programme.

A total of 425 metric tons of wheat will be spent for implementing the projects.



CHANDPUR: Nurul Huda, State Minister for Establishment is addressing the members of Chandpur Press Club recently. — Star photo