## District roundup

B'BARIA

#### Goods worth Tk 88 lakh seized in 11 months

25: Police seized smuggled goods worth about Taka 88 lakh from different parts of the district during the last 11 months, says UNB.

According to police, the recovered goods include Indian sarces, salt, sugar, yarn, motor vehicles, spare parts, fish, ganja, wine, spices, dry fish, chilli, wood and pulses.

A total of 97 smugglers were arrested and 51 cases were lodged with the police.

Goods worth about Taka 36 lakh were recovered from sadar thana, goods worth Taka 27 lakh from Ashuganj, contrabands worth Taka 4 lakh from Akhaura, goods worth Taka 12 lakh from Kasba, goods worth Taka three lakh from Nabinagar, goods worth Taka two lakh from Banchharampur and goods worth Taka 21,000 from Sarail thana.

Meanwhile, police in a raid seized 80 pieces of Indian sarees worth Taka 72,600 from a railway crossing in the town on December 12 and they also seized 45 pieces of Indian sarees worth Taka 36,000 from a paddy field.

KHULNA.

## Women's college closed down following clash

Dec 25: The Pioneer Womens College was closed for indefinite period following a clash recently between rival groups of students that marred the annual sports of the college and left at least three injured, reports UNB.

Witnesses said JCD and BCL supporters clashed which continued till police intervened after half an hour. VP of · college students union Elija Chisti belonging to JCD was among those injured.

Rival groups accused each other of provoking the clash.

FENI

#### PM donates Tk 50,000 for uplift works

Dec 25: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has donated Taka 50,000 from her own fund to the Munshirhat Scnior Forkania Fazil Madrasha in Parshuram thana for its development, reports UNB.

Begum Halima Khatun MP formally handed over the cheque to the Superintendent of the madrasha at a function held at the madrasha premises on December 14.

The Prime Minister assured the donation to the madrasha while visiting her own electoral area in Parshuram on August 28.

Another report says: Begum Halima Khatun MP of the ruling party paid a visit to South Kautolia and Kalikapur villages of the problem-ridden Muhurirchar area on Tuesday.

At least 15 incidents of clashes between the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and Border Security Forces (BSF) men were reported stace November 27 over Muhurirchar.

The villagers informed the MP about their sufferings during the clashes between BDR personnel and BSF men over Muhurirchar area.

#### SIRAJGANJ

### Jamaat leader arrested

Dec 25: Police detained a local Jamaat leader on charge of his son's involvement in terrorism at Sayanhangara village in sadar thana on the Victory Day, reports UNB.

Police said Md Masud (18), son of local Jamaat leader Md Mattur Rahman, along with his friend Sanu forcefully took away Taka 100 and a packet of Gold Leaf eigarette from the shops of Bakul and Mukul at New Bogra Road of the town Wednesday night.

On Thursday morning. Masud and Sanu went to the shops again and demanded more money from Bakul and Mukul as tolls.

The shop keepers refused to pay the money and instead chased them with the help of local traders.

Later, Masud and Sanu along with their armed gang swooped on the shops, beat several persons including Bakul and Mukul and ransacked their shops

Local people alleged Mattur Rahman was present on the

Being informed, police rushed to the spot and found Matiur Rahman talking to his

party men there. Police arrested him while he was trying to flee.

PATUAKHALI

## Diarrhoea kills two, 100 affected

Dec 25: Two persons died of diarrhoca in Khepupara thana of this district where one hundred others were afflicted by the disease during the last fifteen days, says BSS.

Those who died belonged to the villages at Sirajpoor and Khazura. The affected unions are Latachapli, Tiakali and Khaprevanga unions.

The district civil surgeon office has been taking remedial measures asking people to take precautionary measures against the diarrhoea.

#### RAJSHAHI

### Admission of 5 students at RU cancelled

Dec 25: The Rajshahi University authorities on Wednesday cancelled admissions of five students in the first year honours of History Department in the session 1992-93. reports UNB.

The decision was taken after an enquiry committee found the students were admitted illegally in the honours

They are ANM Mozahidul Islam, SM Mahmudur Rahman, AKM Monzur Hossain Sarkar, Muksuda Mahrur and ATM Shariful Islam.

Among them, Monzur did not take part in the admission test while the other four failed to get required pass marks in the test.

#### CHITTAGONG

#### Two killed in separate incidents

Dec 25: Two person were killed and five others injured in two separate accident under port police station here recently, reports BSS.

According to port police, one Nurul Islam (33) died on the spot and five others were injured when a speeding tempo turned turtle near Salt Gola crossing on Patenga air port road. Five injured persons

medical centres. Police seized the tempo, but the driver and its assistant

were admitted to different

fled away. One Mamtaj Mia (35) a dock labourer died on the spot when a neavy carton of goods fell dowr on him during handling of goods at shed number eight of Chittagong Port.

The bodies were sent for post-mortem. Two separate cases were filed.

#### SATKHIRA

#### One arrested on charge of murdering wife

Dec 25: Kaliganj police ar rested one person for murder

ing his wife on Tuesday, re ports UNB. The accused, Ziad Ali o Chadipur in Derhata thana allegedly killed his wife Sunday

hiding. The cause of the murder could not be known. After interrogation police

(December 12) and went into

sent him to jail. In another incident on the same day, police recovered a body of youngman of Mashim

Mautala in Kaliganj thana. The victim identified as Abdus Salam (18), son of Jainuddin of village Mashim Mautala. The body was sent to local hospital for autopsy. The cause of his death could not be

known immediately. Abdus Salam did not return home on the night o December 13, family sources said. He was found dead the next day with his lungi and shirt on and his wrist watch

A UD case was filed with the local police.

#### BARISAL

#### Guest birds start arriving

Dec 25: Tens of thousands of guest birds have started coming to the southern districts of Barisal division with the advent of the winter season, reports BSS.

These colourful birds coming from Siberia come to our country and stay here till the end of winter season. They choose their sanctuary in the dighis, khals and char areas of the districts.

The birds are called chakha, black duck fly catcher water p.geon, pankury rajas mukhi, crane, etc.

Naturalists urged the government to enforce antipoaching laws strictly.



CHANDPUR: A monument on Liberation War, Ongikar beside a lake here in front of Hasan Ali High School ground.

- Star photo

### Ganges Kobadak Project

# Low water flow to affect farming on 3.50 lakh acres of land

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Dec 25: Cultivation on 3.50 lakh acres of land in the Ganges Kobadak Project, the biggest irrigation scheme in the country is likely to be stopped due to unprecedented low flow of water of the river Ganges this year.

The mouth of intake channel of G K Project which feed three main pumps and 12 subsidiary pumps for irrigation of 3.50 lakh acres of land in Kushtia, Chuadanga, Jhenidah, Magura and Jessore districts have already been silted up.

The project authority has started dredging work much ahead of scheduled time at an expenditure of Taka one lakh per day for maintaining the water flow to the pump house which is situated 3000 feet away from the main river Ganges at Hardinge Bridge

Last year, water level wen below the bed of intake channel and G K'Project authority could not run the pump even after dredging. As a result, farmers could not cultivate their crops. The lowest flow of the

Ganges water was recorded at 9500 cusecs in February last year. But this year, emergence of chars in the middle of the main river Ganges has diverted the water flow to the upper reaches much ahead of dry sea son causing dislocating of ferry services on Bheramara-Paksey

RAJSHAHI, Dec 25: Presi-

dent Abdur Rahman Biswas

Monday termed the population

boom as the number one prob-

lem of the country and urged all

concerned to contain it by en-

suring maximum use of the ex-

isting family planning infras-

inaugurating a seminar on

success in family planing and

future guideline' arranged here

to mark the conclusion of the

country-wide population fort-

night Monday. Health and

Family Welfare Minister

Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf

President Biswas said, de-

spite having a very small area of

land, Bangladesh occupied the

fifth and the ninth place in re-

spect of population size in Asia

coming disproportionale to in-

creasing population, obstruct-

ing the socio-economic progress

Land and capital were be-

and the world respectively.

of the country, he felt.

The President said this while

tructures, reports BSS.

was in the chair.

route. To maintain the ferry services Roads and Highways Department had already spent huge amount of money for

dredging its routes. Paksey Paper Mills which requires huge quantity of water from the river has also, been facing problems due to abnormal low flow of water. The mill authority has also utilised dredgers as well as manual labour for water supply in order to keep the mills running.

Water and soil experts said that low flow of water has increased soil salinity in 21 districts of the country by 40 per

Experts apprehend that more than 1.20 crore acres of cultivable land in the affected districts may turn into an arid land. This has been increasingly reducing the moisture content of soil and experts termed it a sure sign of desertification. The reduction of moisture in

the soil will hamper the rabi crop production in greater Rajshahi, Pabna, Kushtia, Faridpur and Jessore districts, they The unilateral withdrawal of water of the river Ganges by

India will force us to change the usual cropping pattern in those affected districts for our sur-

vival, they added. It is learnt that a proposal

modities was increasing with

the population growth, the

labour market was shrinking

leading to gradual reduction in

year around 11 lakh new cou-

ples enter into their family

lives." Measures have to be

taken to motivate those couples

to keep their family size small,"

ment had fixed a target to in-

crease the contraceptive preva-

lence rate at 50 per cent by

1995 as against the present

rate of 40 per cent." The present

rate of population growth in

Bangladesh is 2.03 (as against

one per cent in Shri Lanka, 1.5

per cent in China and two per

must reduce it to 1.82 per cent

objective of the country's family

planning activities is to ensure

peoples welfare, improve stan-

Despite all hindrances we

The President said, the main

cent in India).

by 1995," he said.

Biswas said, "the govern-

President Biswas said, "every

the gross production level.

Help maximum use of FP method

ject for a comprehensive study to combat desertification in Bangladesh is awaiting ap-

for over Taka seven crore pro-

#### Use of fuel wood

There has been acute shortage of fuel wood and local timber for making furniture for indiscriminate use in brick fields and tobacco curing process in greater Kushtia district. On the other hand, planta-

tion of trees in private and public sectors are quite inadequate in comparison with the cutting of threes causing ecological imbalance in the area. Prices of fuel wood has

shown an abnormal rise causing difficulties to the people who use wood as their only means of fuel in the district. The on-going development works of Chuadanga and Me-

herpur require huge quantity of bricks and for that purpose more and more brickfields are coming up requiring large quantity of fire wood. Brick field owners prefer the fuel wood despite government ban. As many as 100 brick field

owners in greater Kushtia district use wood as fuel in their brickfields although coal is available.

#### Abortion cases on rise

The illegal abortions in the

stress on the participation of all

sections of people, particularly

the women to achieve the objec-

tive. In this connection the

President referred to the several

measures taken up to provide

education, employment to the

womenfolk and remove dispar-

ity between men and women in

of the world's biggest family

planning projects was now in its

implementation stage in

He referred to the World

Bank's report regarding the

project which stated that among

the developing countries,

Bangladesh is the only state

that has achieved remarkable

success in population control

sustain the success to build a

happy future," the President

"We are sincerely trying to

Speaking on the occasion,

despite adverse situations.

Bangladesh."

President Biswas said, "one

Later the NGOs stopped all

tivities due to misuse of the system. But this practise is still continuing in private clinics of

(MR) in private clinics have risen the immoral activities causing serious concern among the conscious people. About 500 women die from

name of Menstrual Regulation

pregnancy and abortion complications and about 25,000 women suffer from female disease every year in the district. A survey report of a Non Government Organisation revealed that most of the abortions were performed by the untrained nurses who apply traditional methods.

Taking advantage of the situation, most of the private clinics do abortions by taking a huge amount of money. As a result, immoral activities among the dishonest people particularly, youths have increased abnormally.

Menstrual Regulation (MR) was introduced along with other temporary methods of birth control to check population boom. The MR was first practiced in the government registered NGO clinics aimed at helping the acceptors of family planning methods in case of accidental or undestrable preg-

kinds of abortions related acthe town for earning huge money, local people alleged.

#### State Minister for Relief Harunal-Rashid Sunday said that the The minister commended the services of the NGOs and government officials engaged in re-

government was making all-out efforts to compete repatriation of the Rohingya refugees at the earliest possible time, reports He said, repatriation of the refugees had already been accelerated after the Bangladesh government-UNHCR agreement and by now 51,697 Rohingya

COX'S BAZAR, Dec 25:

Myanmar. The situation was now quite favourable for repatriation of the Rohingyas as UNIICR and the Myanmar government had reached an understanding in this respect, he added.

refugees out of the total of

2,50,877 had been sent back to

The minister was inaugurating a two-day workshop on voluntary repatriation of the Rohingya refugees jointly organised by the Bangladesh government and UNHCR at a hotel

lief- and repatriation works saying, "without their active cooperation and help repatriation of a huge number of Rahingya refugees would not be possible". He doped that repatriation of the remaining refugees would be further geared up with the involvement of UNHCR in repatriation work.

Relief secretary M A Hakim, UNHER representative Canh Nguyan-Tang, relief and repatriation commissioner M Gulam Murtaza, also spoke at the inaugural session. Representatives of UNHCR and NGOs and the government officials are taking part in the workshop.

# Prices of essential items register sharp rise

Efforts underway to

repatriate Rohingyas

at the earliest

From Our Correspondent these districts in large quantity

JESSORE, Dec 25: Prices of. essential commodities have registered sharp rise in different hats and bazars of Jessore and Jhenidah districts causing much hardship to poor con-

According to sources, prices of pulses including grams and lentils, sugar, onion garlic, peeper and other vegetables have become double within few

Detailed reports received here indicate that grams now sells at Taka 28-30 per kg. It was Taka 22 a month ago. Lentils now sells at Taka 28 per kg. It was between 22 and 24 during the same period.

Potato (old) is almost out of market. New one sells at Taka 12 per kg.

Onion sells at Taka 28 to Taka 30 per kg. It was Taka 14 a month ago. Similarly, garlic now sells at Taka 50 per kg. It was only Taka 30 a month before. Salt now available at Taka eight to ten per kg. Previously it was Taka three to four.

Sugar is now a dear item in these places while four weeks ago, it sold at Taka 19 to 20 per

It is learnt that prices of all these items had gone up recently following scarcity in sup-

Many businessmen told that prices in local markets have suddenly gone up following drastic reduction in the incoming of smuggled goods from across the border. All these items used to be smuggled in to During the last two months

and openly sold at cheaper

price. Non-availability of this

goods have now been only

cause of the price hike, they

border Security Force of Indian have opened a number of subcamps along these borders with increase of troops to tighten the border, meanwhile, people of Bangladesh have been shot dead by BSF for reasons not known. This unwarranted activities of BSF, has warmed up the situation.

#### Contraband goods worth Tk 3 cr seized

DINAJPUR, Dec 25: The Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) personnel seized a huge amount of contrabands worth about Taka three crore from various parts of the region in last 10 months, official sources here said, re-

ports UNB. The BDR sources at the 15 Battalion Headquarters at Fulbari of Dinajpur said, the goods were seized during trans-border smuggling and raids conducted in different places of the bordering districts bee or assued your

The contrabands included cattlehead, hide, medicine, salt, sugar, chilly, table fan, pressure coocker, saree, luxury items and spare parts of bicycle.

They also seized two pistols and some amount of herione during the period.

## People urged to protect hard-earned democracy

DAUDKANDI (Comilla), Dec 25: Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain called upon the nationalist patriotic forces to be united to thwart any conspiracy against the process of democracy and pace of development, reports UNB.

"A vested quarter is again out to jeopardise country's hard-earned democracy which achieved after nine years of struggle and bloodshed," the minister said.

He was addressing a public

meeting at Ghoripur in Daudkandi thana of the district on Friday. Convenor of district Jatiyatabadi Juba Dal K M Khalil, vice president of district BNP Obaidul Haq and secretary of thana BNP Shamsul Haq, among others, spoke in the meeting, said an official handout.

"A political party which killed democracy when it was in power through destroying freedom of press, snatching away people's right and creating one party rule of 'BAKSAL' against multi-party system instead of materialising the spirit of Liberation War has again been hatching conspiracy to foil the process of heardearned democracy." the Energy Minister said, adding "the party is always engaged to divide the nation and mislead the people through making non-issues into political issues and thereby creating obstacles in the process of development." Referring to the demand of

neutral government in holding the next parliamentary election Dr Mosharraf said, "there is no provision of neutral goverriment in the constitution. He said, the demand of neutral government was a total disregard to the sacred constitution, the minister added.

"Election will be held on schedule according to the constitution". Mosharraf reiterated saying "BNP will always abide by the constitution".

# Patients suffering for want of medicine

SATKHIRA, Dec 25; Scarcity of medicine in different hospitals and health complexes in the district has been causing suffering to the patients for a

long time.

It is reported that life saving drugs are not available in the health complexes at all. Even common medicines like dettol. paracitamol, metrazal tablets are not available in all most all the thana health complexes.

Shortage of doctor is another problem. Some thana health complexes are running without doctors for a long time. In the absence of physicians, compounders and other staff are engaged in malpractices. The doctors posted to the ru-

ral areas are reluctant to dis-

charge their duties and they are

found busy to get transfer else where in town areas. Every day, a good number of patients coming from for flung areas to the thana health com-

From Our Correspondent plexes for treatment are to go back home disappointed due to lack of proper treatment and medicare facilites.

> It is complained that doctors without attending the patients at the health complexes are found busy with their private practice. **Guest birds**

Guest birds have started coming to the seven thanas area of the district.

According to the experts, with the advent of winter, different types of birds locally known as dighari, pankouri, balihash, sarils, diggar, kaira, kalighari visit Bangladesh every year from cold countries especially Siberia to escape biting

About 300 species of such winder birds usually throng different water bodies of Assassuni. Shyamnagar, Kaliganj. Kalaroa, Debhata, Tala and Sadar thanas.

#### the Health Minister appreciated dard of living and help overall The President observed that ised the seminar. the present 50 per cent contraprogress of the nation. He laid although the demand for comto death



BRAHMANBARIA: Safiqui Islam, Managing Director, Zia Fertilizer Factory, Ashugani (5th from left, standing) as seen with the participants of 3-day long cultural function arranged on the occasion of Victory Day. 'Sanglap', a cultural body of the factory people arranged the function where recitation, chorus, drama, short film show and exhibition of handicrafts were - Star photo held.

#### ceptive prevalence rate in Raishahi Division which is the highest in the country. Referring to the activities in

the family planning field, he said, "in spite of all difficulties population control programme was a success in Bangladesh.' "But we have no scope for complacence as population remains the biggest threat towards all our development efforts," he

State Minister for Land Kabir Hossain, State Minister for Establishment Aminul Haq. Deputy Minister for Health, Sirajul Haq, Mayor of Rajshahi Mizanur Rahman, Commissioner of Rajshahi Division Aminul Islam, Director General of Family Planning A K M Rafikuzzaman and Honorary Secretary of Family Planning Association of Bangladesh (FPAB) Kazi Anisur Rahman also spoke at the function.

Family Welfare Ministry and Family Planning Department in collaboration with FPAB organ-

## 29-day old baby poisoned

DINAJPUR, Dce 25: A cruel father allegedly poisoned his new born baby to death at Birampur thana on December 6. reports UNB. Police said Faridul of Joy-

purhat district married Ruk

shana Begum (19) of Natun Bazar in Birampur thana of Dinajpur district two and a half years back. Since marriage, Faridul was reluctant to have a child and during pregnancy period he repeatedly tried to convince his

wife for abortion but failed. At

last a male child was born at

his in-laws house. On the fateful day, Faridul came to his father-in-laws house and in the early morning poured poison into the mouth of the 29 days old baby. When the baby was crying loudly his mother got alarmed and found Faridul fleeing leaving behind the bottle of poison.

Police arrested Faridul after two days of the incident and a case was filed.