

## Catching, sale of fish fry going on unabated

From Our Correspondent

DINAJPUR, Jan 1: Defying the government order, the fish fry are being caught indiscriminately in different parts of the district.

It is reported that some fishermen in Chiribandar, Biro, Parbatipur, Kotwali, Birganj and Bochaganj thanas of the district had been catching fish fry of ruhi, katla, mrigal, magur and silvercuff from rivers, canals and haors.

Everyday a huge quantity of different varieties of fish fry are being sold in different markets, hats and bazaars of the district. It is learnt that some of the fishermen had been using current nets for catching these fish fry.

The government has banned the catching of fish fry below nine inches to implement its open water fish production programme.

It is alleged that law enforcement agencies are often play a silent role to take any stringent action against the illegal catching of fish fry.

If indiscriminate fishing goes on unabated, the fish production in the district will be definitely abnormal.

## Only 15 pc get health care facilities

FARIDPUR, Jan 1: The 12th founding anniversary of Dr Ziauddin Memorial Shishu Hospital, Faridpur was observed here recently, reports BSS.

Addressing a meeting at the hospital premises, Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Khan Yusuf stressed the need for setting up of private hospitals to extend health care facilities to people of the country. Under the present condition only 10 per cent to 15 per cent people get health care facilities in the government run hospitals, the minister added.

The minister urged the private entrepreneurs to come forward to set up hospitals like our neighbouring countries to ease the prevailing health care situation. He further said, that government was ready to extend all kinds of assistance to such entrepreneurs.

The minister lauded the service given from the shishu hospital to the children of this area. He also assured enhancement of government assistance for the hospital which is getting Taka five lakh per annum.

The 30-bed hospital since its inception treated 36,181 outdoor patients, 9304 indoor pa-

tients. It also treated 21,008 patients through mobile units, immunised 40,933 children.

The present annual expenditure of the hospital is Taka 32 lakh. The expenditure is met from donations.

The anniversary meeting was addressed among others by Dr Makhtarruzzaman, Professor of Cardiology, Dhaka Medical College, Professor Dr Enayet Kabir, Principal of Faridpur Medical College and Abul Bashar Mia, President of Dr Ziauddin Shishu Hospital. It was presided over by KM Nurul Huda, Deputy Commissioner of Faridpur.

The inaugural session was followed by a seminar on "child health and breastfeeding". Among others, Prof. MOK Talukdar, eminent child specialist and Project Director of Institute of Child and Mother Health, Dr AKM Lutful Kabir, Associate Professor of the institute, Dr M Shahidullah and Dr M Qamrul Hassan of the same institute participated in the seminar.

Speakers described breast feeding as the most important factor for keeping the babies in good health.

## Migratory birds decreasing for want of food, security

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Jan 1: The winter migratory birds have started crowding the beels, canals, chars and haors of greater Khulna zone.

These migratory birds were abundantly found in Khulna, Bagerhat and Satkhira districts during the winter season in the past.

The different types of birds like digharti, kaldiharti, stork, kyun, heron, hanhuk, kalkuth, mathavanga, madantak, bali-hanh and kora were found in the beels and haors.

Fish and insects are the main food of these birds. Now their number is gradually decreasing as there is scarcity of fish in the beels, haors, canals, ditches and lakes. Now-a-days, only a small number of birds is found in these areas.

Most of the birds come from Siberian region to avoid the biting cold that starts from the month of November and lasts till February. With the advent of spring these birds return to their homeland. The movement of the birds from one beel to another looks very beautiful.

According to the experts about 600 varieties of birds are found in Bangladesh of which

200 species of winter birds migrate from Siberia region.

It is informed that hunting and scarcity of fish are the main reasons for gradual decrease of migratory birds.

The shots from the guns terrify the birds and make difficult their stay there. The traps catch birds day and night.

Many poor people catch birds in this way and earn money by selling them in the markets.

High officials of the government and influential persons who have licensed guns are found killing the birds disobeying the government prohibition order.

A section of people are interested to hunt birds and hire guns and cruelly kill birds out of joy.

The number of birds is also decreasing for the construction of embankments to protect the crops from flood water. The areas along the embankments become dry with the advent of winter.

Modern methods should be adopted which are in practice in Russia and other developed countries to protect these birds, experts said.

## Apparatus, books for 5 university colleges

Jan 1: Government has sanctioned Taka 3,50,00,000 for purchasing scientific apparatus and Taka 1,00,00,000 for purchasing books of the colleges.

Meanwhile, all arrangements have been made for implementing the projects, the source added.

Each of these colleges will get Taka 50,00,000 for purchasing scientific apparatus and Taka 20,00,000 for purchasing books.

Another report says: The Annual General Meeting and the election of the Barisal press club was held at the press club premises of Agarpur road Saturday with SM Iqbal, President of the club, in the chair.

Md Ismail Hossain Nagabani, General Secretary of the club, read out the report of 1993 and a number of resolutions were adopted in the meeting.

According to an official source, of the total Taka 2,50,00,000 will be spent for

## Unfair action

CHANDPUR, Jan 1: Chandpur Pourasava plunged into darkness since Wednesday night after PDB snapped all electric connections in the poura area to realise its outstanding electric bills, reports UNB.

Official sources confirmed the news saying that the action has been taken to realise PDB's outstanding electric bills of Taka 2.85 crore from the pourasava.

They alleged that despite repeated reminders the pourasava authority failed to clear the bills outstanding since 1985.

The pourasava authority meanwhile has paid a portion of the dues amounting Taka 11.5 lakh, but it was not satisfactory, the PDB officials said.

The residents of the pourasava of about 1.5 lakh are going through immense inconvenience following the power switch off.

They alleged that stealing is on the rise taking advantage of the darkness.



NOAKHALI: Barrister Moudud Ahmed, JP leader in parliament speaking as chief guest at the biennial conference of the local unit of party held recently at the poura auditorium. The conference was presided over by Abu Sufian where Anowar Hossain Monju, presidium member of JP also spoke. Moudud criticised the BNP government for keeping Ershad in jail under Special Powers Act.

## Wastes of dying, yarn factories polluting environment

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Jan 1: Chemical wastes of dying factories and yarn factories have been polluting the environment of Firoza colour, dying factories are still being set up in the handloom oriented villages.

It is further gathered that poisonous chemicals like caustic, nitric acid, hydroxide, bleaching powder and naphthal are widely used in these dying and mercerising factories.

Most of the factories are situated in the densely populated areas.

Chemical wastes of these dying and mercerising factories are dumped in the nearby ditches and ponds in an unplanned method creating bad smell and even polluting tubewell water.

During last rainy season, poisonous water from these factories affected other ponds causing epidemic of fish. The wastes are so poisonous that trees and plants near the dumping areas have also dried up. People of

the adjacent areas of dying and mercerising factories have been suffering from gastro-intestinal diseases. Local people have repeatedly requested the factory owners to dump the wastes at distant and isolated places but they did not pay any attention to their calls.

Meanwhile, people of the affected areas have applied to the health authorities for proper actions. A team from Sirajganj Civil Surgeon's office recently visited a factory in Chala under Belkuchi thana.

The affected people of the locality have urged the higher authorities to take positive steps in keeping the environment clean and save the people from health hazards.

### Dairy farmers need facilities

Prospect for dairy farming in the district has been gradually

ruined due to non-availability of necessary medicines as well as quality cows.

There are about 425 private dairy farms, including 50 at the town area. All these farm owners are encouraged who get necessary bank loans.

During a visit to a dairy farm at Mirpur in the municipal area, it was found that 40 to 50 litres of milk is produced everyday earning a profit of Taka 250 to Taka 300 everyday. Hafizur Rahman Khan, the owner of the farm, told The Daily Star that he was given Taka two lakh as loan from the Sonali Bank. Referring to the problems he and other owners face he said supplying medicine for the cows at fair price is urgently required.

Besides, import of cows including Friesian, Jarsee and Shahiwal variety are also necessary for production of more milk.

## 102 die of diarrhoea, similar diseases in one year

SIRAJGANJ, Jan 1: A total of 102 people died of diarrhoea and other water-borne diseases in the district in 1993, official sources said, reports UNB.

More than 20,000 people were attacked by the diseases in nine thanas of the district during the period.

Unofficial sources, however, said the death figure might have stood at 140 and some 25,000 people were attacked by the diseases.

The accident occurred when a Dhaka bound truck overturned after colliding with another truck coming from the opposite direction.

Police seized the truck but the driver managed to escape.

Another report says: BDR patrol party arrested two persons and seized huge quantity of smuggled goods worth about Taka 81,750 from a night coach at the junction of Comilla by-pass and Kotbari road last week.

The epidemic situation was checked by effective measures taken by the authorities, the sources added.

About 7.50 lakh people of

ten thanas of Sirajganj and Pabna districts have been suffering from various diseases including intestinal ones due to existence of excessive iron in drinking water, reports UNB.

### 2 heroin addicts arrested

Police arrested two heroin addicts from a house at Soyabindhu area in the town on Tuesday night.

The arrested, identified as Anwar Hossain and Alam Hossain of the area, are heroin addicts for a long time.

Anwar was given money to buy some medicines for his mother who was fighting for life in Sirajganj General Hospital.

But instead of buying medicines he bought heroin with the money and was arrested by the police while taking the drug with his accomplice, Alam.

Sensing police arrival the house owner, Zahiruddin, an alleged heroin seller, managed to escape.

## Rainfall in Rajshahi rises by over 10 inches

RAJSHAHI, Jan 1: Rainfall in Rajshahi region has increased by over ten inches in the last eight years despite adverse effect of Farakka.

Local people alleged that UP chairman Shahidul Islam misappropriated government goods allocated to the union for development activities.

The UP members also brought allegation of misbehaviour against him. They said the chairman misbehaved with them when they wanted to know on the issue.

The members have appealed to the Deputy Commissioner and the Thana Nirbahi Officer (TNO) to take necessary actions against the UP chairman.

Due to adverse effect of Farakka, environment and ecological problems are arising hampering the economic growth and creating health hazards in the region.

To overcome the situation, official sources said, different government, semi-government, non-government organisations and others have undertaken a massive afforestation programme in the region as per directive of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

Official sources told BSS that over one crore various saplings have already been planted for protecting the desertification process as well

as maintaining ecological balance in the region. Besides, it would help adequate rainfall for the benefit of the people.

### RCC mayor election

Election campaigning for the post of mayor and 30 ward commissioners of the Rajshahi City Corporation is continuing in full swing.

Seven candidates for the post of mayor, including BNP nominated candidate Mizanur Rahman Minu, visited different areas of the city Tuesday and exchanged views with the voters.

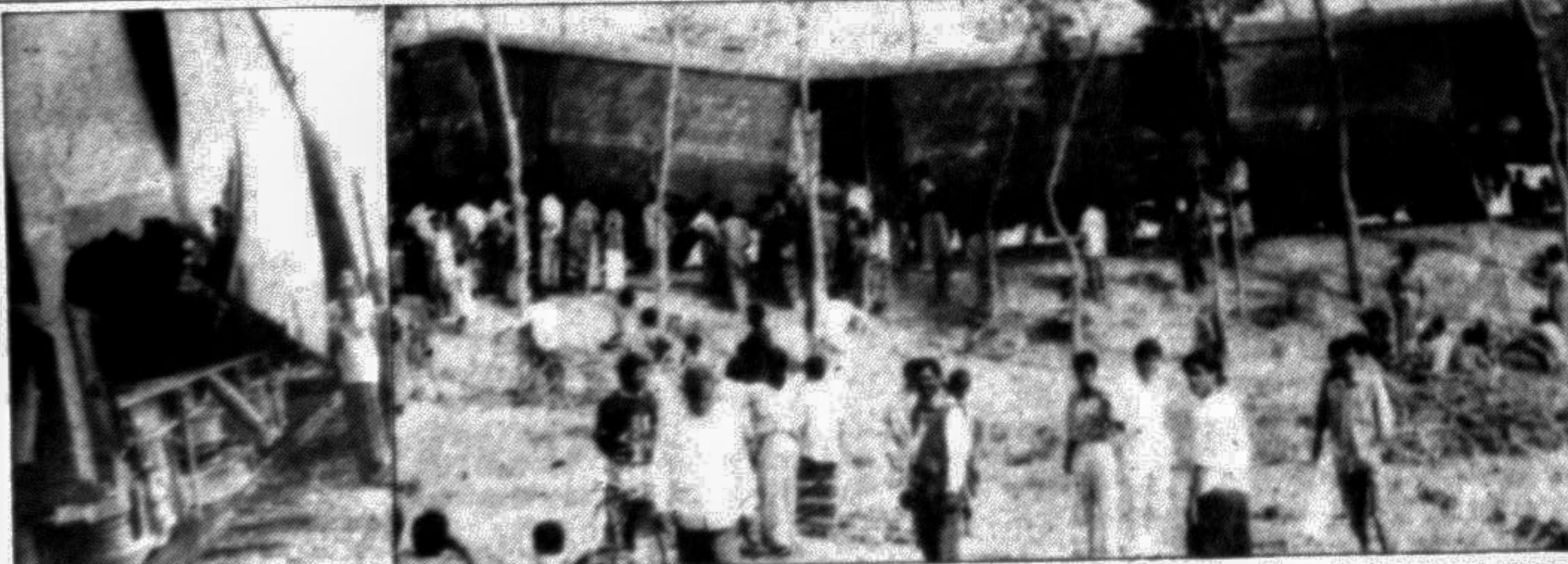
The speakers at the meeting held on Dec 20 said, Dorji was falsely implicated in a murder case by some interested groups.

The murder was committed on Dec 16 at Sayna village in sadar thana. They said, some miscreants attacked Dorji, ransacked his house and looted valuables worth about Taka 1.75 lakh on the following day.

Presided over by district JCD secretary Nazrul Islam Litu, the meeting was also addressed by organising secretary Jahander Ali Jahan, former VP of government N College students' union Md Qayum Miah, former GS Mizanur Rahman Murad and former AGS Martuza Alam Dhali.

They said, the attackers were moving freely but no step was taken as yet to recover the stolen goods.

Shaikh Razzak Ali asked the students not to indulge in the politics of chaos and confusion.



CHUADANGA: The Khulna-Goalunda train which was derailed at Darshana Halt point recently where four persons were killed on the spot.

Star photo

Jan 1: At last pisciculture has been started at Muhuri Irrigation Project after nine years of commission, says UNB.

## District roundup

### PIROJPUR

#### BCL wins college union election

Jan 1: Bangladesh Chhatra League (M-I) swept the Kaukhali College Students' Union election with Shahidul Islam Liton and Aminur Rashid as Vice President and General Secretary respectively, reports UNB.

Chhatra League (M-I) bagged all the 16 seats in the election held last week.

Rakibuddin was elected Assistant General Secretary of the union.

Another report adds: The election of Pirojpur press club was held recently with Goutoan Roy Chowdhury (Banglar Banil) and Alamgir Hossain (Inglab) as President and General Secretary.

Fasul Alam Bachu was elected Vice President.

### PATUAKHALI

#### 12 injured in groups clash

Jan 1: Twelve persons were injured, five of them seriously, in a clash between two rival groups of villagers of south Aragachhia under Mirzaganj on Friday, says BSS.

The clash ensued when the rival groups were trying to harvest paddy on a disputed land.

The five seriously injured persons have been admitted to Mirzaganj hospital. They are, Sohrab, Salim, Jalil, Abdul Hakim and Habib.

A case has been registered with Mirzaganj police.

### SIRAJGANJ

#### Four JCD activists injured

Jan 1: Four Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists were injured, one seriously, in an attack by the rival group of students at village Rasulpur in Kmrankhund thana on Monday night, says UNB.

Seriously injured, Papon Islam (17), 1st year student of Haji Korap Ali Degree College, was shifted to Dhaka for treatment. He received serious head injury.

Police said, Bangladesh Chhatra League