

## Just for few hens!

JHENIDAH, Feb 5: An old man was killed and his wife and daughter were injured in a sadar thana in an attack by their neighbour following a dispute over poisoning hens last week, says UNB.

The victim was identified as Jamat Ali (75) of Paikpara village in sadar thana.

Some eight hens of Mofiz Ali, a neighbour of the victim, were poisoned to death by someone on January 26. Mofiz suspected Jamat for the incident.

Both the neighbours then were locked into a quarrel over the issue and at one stage Mofiz hit Jamat with a sharp weapon. Jamat died on the spot. Jamat's wife and daughter were also injured as they tried to save him from the attack.

## Demand for agri varsity at Naogaon

NAOGAON, Feb 5: People of the northern region demand of the government to immediately set up another Agriculture University in the district for catering to the needs of the region, reports UNB.

They proposed to use the two big suitable places, known as vested property, at Dubalhati village in sadar thana for the university.

Meanwhile, the Naogaon district has also become known for Barendra Agriculture Project, they argued.

The people have long been voicing for a new university in the region comprising Rajshahi and Khulna divisions.

Country's lone Agriculture University is situated in the Mymensingh district.

## Installation ceremony

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Feb 5: The installation ceremony of the Sylhet Paper and Pulp Mills Employees Union was held at the Surma View Club recently.

Azizul Haque, Director (Finance) attended the function as chief guest while it was addressed among others by the Deputy Commissioner of Sunamganj Mohammad Kamal Uddin, Police Super Jamal Uddin Al-Azad, Managing Director of the mill Abdul Baten Khan, general secretary of the union Anwar Hossain and Jaijal Abedin.

President of the union Abu Sayeed presided over the function. President of the central committee of Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal Iskandar Ali conducted the oath taking of the newly elected office-bearers.

The function was rounded off with a colourful cultural function.

## Notes from Sirajganj

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Feb 5: One Subhash Chandra Shil (16) son of Sankar Kumar Shil of village Jamtoli in Kamarkhanda thana was electrocuted and died on spot.

The victim while repairing an electric line at his residence faced the tragic end.

A case has been lodged with the Kamarkhanda police in this connection.

## Founding day observed

The 15th founding anniversary of Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal (JJD) was observed in Sirajganj district.

Day-long programmes included flag hoisting, placing of floral wreaths at shaheed minar, rally and public meeting.

With Ershadur Rahman Niru in the chair, the public meeting at Bazar Station premises was addressed by Mirza Maraduzzaman MP, TMA Mannan MP, Humayun Islam Khan and TRM Noor-E-Alam Hela.

## Four bodies recovered

Bodies of Sufia Khatun (20) of village Chagrich in Kaziপুর thana, Lavli (18) wife of Md Zinnah UP member Lebu Mia (38) of village Dhankundi in Raiganj thana and Mahela Begum (30) of village Goprekhi in Belkuchi thana were recovered during last four days.

Separate cases have been lodged with the police and two bodies were sent to sadar hospital for autopsy.

## JSD founding day

The 21st founding anniversary of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) was observed by the district unit of JSD (JNU) recently.

The programmes included placing of floral wreaths at shaheed minar, ceremonial flag hoisting, rally, public meeting at Bazar Station premises and cultural function.

The public meeting with Abdul Hai Talukder in the chair was addressed by Firoz Bhuyan and Naba Kamar Karmakar.

# Indian, banned medicines available in markets

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Feb 5: Smuggled Indian medicines and government supplied medicines have flooded the markets of southern part of the country.

As a result, local pharmaceutical companies have been facing problems. It is informed.

According to sources, most of the smuggled medicines enter the country through different borders like Benapole, Pragpur, Jhikargachha and other points of the country. Many banned items are also smuggled into the country.

The Panadur-La (Bengal penicillin) injection, Oxytetracycline (30cc) injection, Inferon (2cc) injection, Diclofenac injection and tablet, Paracetamol tablet, Furazolidone suspension and tablet, Betnovate-N ointment, Betnovate kin ointment, Tetracycline eye ointment, Chloramphenicol eye ointment, Eye drop and Ear drop, injection Berin, injection Cytamene (1000), Vitamin-B

Complex tablet and capsule, injection Nevrobion, injection Phenyl Butazole (3 cc), tablet and injection Icdal, Canestin cream and vaginal table, Phensedyl syrup, Chloramphenicol capsule, Tetracycline capsule, Eather, injection Pathedin, Catgot (stritching thread), injection whole liver, tablet Guronson, tablet and injection Dexamethason are being smuggled into the country everyday.

Most of these items are manufactured by Glaxo India Limited, Bayer India, Tata, Rallies companies.

A sources disclosed that about 2 thousand youngmen are involved in medicine smuggling. Most of them are connected with the pharmaceutical companies and carry professional bags. These dishonest youngmen also selling government supplied drugs to the pharmacy owners in Bagerhat, Khulna, Satkhira, Jessore, Narail, Magura, Jhenidah, Meherpur, Chuadanga and Kushtia districts.

They sell the products in rural markets.

This items manufactured by the Essential Drug Manufacturing Company at Bogra are supplied to all hospitals and family planning clinics for free distribution. But with the help of some dishonest and family planning employees, the medicines enter the markets. These products are sold between 30 and 35 per cent less price.

The source said all the items namely Paracetamol tablet and syrup, Metronidazole tablet and suspension, Co-trimoxazole suspension and tablet, Tetracycline capsule and eye ointment, Ampicillin capsule and dry syrup, Cloxacillin capsule and dry syrup, Antihistamin tablet and syrup, Benzoin-benzoin ointment, Vitamin B tablet and capsule, Ferrus Fumerate tablet, Phenoximethyle Penicilling tablet and dry syrup and other medicines are supplied to the chemists at a cheaper rate.

As a result, the pharmacy owners and village doctors are interested in buying.

Chairman and managing director of a pharmaceutical company informed that this illegal trade is being carried out and by the indirect support of the drug administration. The chairman and MD also said that they drew the attention of the authority several times but go no response.

## Newsprints price up in Jhenidah

Newsprint crisis is prevailing in Jhenidah market during last few weeks.

The students of schools and colleges who largely depend on newsprint are the worst sufferers.

Publication of "Dainik Jhenidah" "Weekly Jhenidah Barta" "Weekly Chetona" and "Weekly Chalanika" is also hampered.

Newsprint price in the market shot up to Taka 420 as against previous rate of Taka 300 per ream.

The guardians of the students have urged the government to remove the crisis ensuring smooth supply of the paper at an early date.

SAVAR, Feb 5: Sub-standard life saving drugs and contraband medicines have flooded the markets in the rural areas of Dhaka and Manikgonj districts, reports UNB.

This has been attributed to the indiscriminate growth of unlicensed medicine shops in various parts of the districts.

Many of those unlicensed pharmacies have been carrying out their illegal business and selling sub-standard and banned medicines endangering the lives of the patients.

The mushroom growth of pharmaceutical factories was also responsible for manufacturing of these substandard drugs.

It is further alleged these companies obtain certificates from the concerned authorities and market their products with attractive publicity.

A section of physicians is patronising these sub-standard medicines. It is complained that the representatives of various pharmaceutical companies

allure those physicians to prescribe their product by presenting attractive gifts.

The village quacks prescribe these medicines as these are available at a cheaper rate. The poor villagers use these medicines without any result, even in many cases with adverse effect.

Many medicine shops are running business in both the urban and remote rural areas and bazars without any licences. There is none to look after this problem, local people alleged.

The knowledgeable circles feel that no drug should be marketed without the test conducted by the concerned authorities. The monogram of the testing authorities should be inscribed on the bottles of medicines.

Local people demanded exemplary punishment to those illegal and sub-standard drug manufacturers and hoped the inspection of the drug houses would be intensified.

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# Only 400 phone connections at district headquarters

MADARIPUR, Feb 5: The existing number of telephones of the district is quite inadequate to meet the growing demand of one lakh town residents, reports UNB.

According to official sources, at present there are 400 phone connections at the town while a large number of applications for new connections have been lying pending with the local telephone office for a long time.

The demand for new lines has increased with the upgradation of the sub-division to a district, the sources added.

Local leaders have urged the authorities to take immediate scheme to enhance the capacity of the existing exchange for the benefit of the flourishing trade and commerce in the district.

Another message adds: Pye-dog menace has become alarming all over the district for the last two months.

Local people said the pye-dogs are seen in large numbers in the hats and bazars and in the town, customers can hardly avoid the contact of such dogs. Slaughter houses are seen always surrounded by these pye-dogs.

School children are the worst sufferers. Many guardians complained that their children are always scared of these dogs and cannot go to the school without the help of attendants.

They urged the authorities to take immediate steps to

eliminate the pye-dogs. The use of cowdung as fertilizer is declining fast in the district causing less productivity of land, reports UNB.

Agriculture Extension Department sources said fertility of soil depends on its organic chemical and biological ingredients which are formed from the use of cowdung.

The rampant use of chemical fertilizer has been affecting fertility of soil much. Most of

the farmers do not know how to use proportionate chemical fertilizers to their croplands.

Moreover, cultivation of same crops for years is another reason for the decreasing soil fertility.

The affected thanas are sadar, Kalkini, Rajior and Shibchar, the source added.

Local agri experts suggested that soil fertility can be improved by using cowdung and other natural manures in the croplands and training in this regard is necessary for the ignorant farmers.

Another report says: Kutcha latrines are posing a threat to public health in Kalkini thana of the district.

Almost all the inhabitants of this thana use kutcha latrines out of their ignorance. Even in the thana town people show an apathy towards using sanitary or sealed latrines.

Thousands of kutcha latrines have been set up on the side of rivers, canals and even ponds in rural areas which help breakout of diarrhoeal diseases.

The thana Public Health Engineering department sources said they had adequate stock of rings and slabs for sanitary latrines but people were least interested in taking supply of them.

It is alleged that the health department did not initiate any motivation programme to create public awareness about the hazards of the kutcha latrines.

As per the government decision, the Food Department began its aman, procurement drive in the district since November 15 last.

As many as 21 purchasing centres were opened in 11 thanas of the district to purchase 500 metric tons of paddy during the current season.

According to reports, the farmers failed to sell their paddy to these centres as the authority prefers to buy paddy having 14 per cent of moisture.

Many farmers alleged that most of the paddy have 16 per cent of moisture.

The middlemen and small traders are less interested to sell paddy or rice to these centres as the purchasing rate is not satisfactory.

The purchasing price of paddy was fixed at Taka 210 per maund in these centres where as paddy is being sold between Taka 195 and 210 in the open market.

There is no possibility of

achieving the procurement target as the purchasing will continue upto March next.

An official source informed this correspondent that government's procurement drives 'did not become successful during the last few years in this region.

Another report says: The Deputy High Commissioner of Britain in Bangladesh, John Nichols has said that, the existing friendly relations between Bangladesh and UK would strengthen further in the future.

For achieving self-reliance, Bangladesh should ensure congenial atmosphere for attracting more foreign investment, he said.

He was addressing a gathering of the executive committee members of Sylhet Chamber of Commerce and Industries and elite of Sylhet town held at the Chamber Building recently.

It was also addressed among others by Neil Sample, Trade and Industry Section, and Syed Mamunur Murshed, Senior Commercial Officer of the British High Commission in Dhaka.

M A Salam Chowdhury, President of the Sylhet Chamber of Commerce and Industries presided over the meeting.

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COMPETITION TO WIN: Children are in a bid to collect more straw. These would be used as fuel.— Photo by Enamul Haq

## Govt pledge bound to ensure equal rights

RANGAMATI, Feb 5: The Communications Minister, Oli Ahmed on Wednesday said, the government was pledge bound to ensure equal rights for and dispense equal justice to everybody, reports BSS.

He was addressing a public meeting after inauguration of the newly built district judge court building here.

The minister formally handed over the key of the district judge court building, constructed at a cost of 68 lakh taka with a floor space of 6,000 square feet, to the Deputy Commissioner who is also the district judge of the hilly district.

Oli Ahmed, who is also the convenor of the special committee on Chittagong Hill Tracts, said, peace and stability are two main prerequisites for development.

He said, the government of Begum Khaleda Zia was deter-

mined to pulsate every nook and corner of the country with development activities.

The minister said, it is none but we have to solve our own problems.

There is no instance in the world, the minister said, where arson and firearms could give any solution to any problem.

Presided over by district BNP chairman, Alhaj Nazimuddin Ahmed, the meeting was also addressed by local Government Chairman Parijat Kusum Chakma, Syed Wahidul Alam MP, Municipality Chairman, Moni Swapan Dewan, and BNP general secretary Zahir Ahmed.

Earlier, the Communications Minister addressed a workers' rally at Kaptai and a public meeting at Langadu under Rangamati hill district.



Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury, Deputy Leader of the Parliament distributing prize to one of the best workers of the family planning in Sree Nagar, Munshiganj during the observance of 'Family Planning Fortnight' recently.

## No purchase of paddy during procurement drive

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Feb 5: The Food Department has failed to purchase even a kilogram of rice or paddy during the current procurement drive from any thanas of the district, it is reported.

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## District roundup

SYLHET

### Two killed, 3 hurt in road mishaps

From Our Correspondent

Feb 5: A rickshaw puller was crushed under the wheels of a speeding truck Friday afternoon while his parents in law travelling in the same rickshaw were injured seriously.

The victim, Abdul Hamid, 30 died on the spot as his rickshaw was crushed under the wheels of a truck number (Sylhet-TA-4266) at Shibganj Gonarpura at 3-30 pm.

The driver, Sona Mia have been arrested while police seized the truck.

An UNB report from Feni adds: A minor-boy was killed and three other people were injured in two separate road mishaps here Friday afternoon, police sources said Friday, reports UNB.

Police seized the truck from the spot but the driver of the vehicle managed to escape the scene.

On the same day three auto-rickshaw passengers were wounded, one of them seriously, on the same spot at 3-50 pm. The injured were identified as Maksudur Rahman 35, Nasir Uddin 35 and Abul Hossain 15. All of them were sent to Feni sadar hospital for treatment.

NAOGAON

### School in poor shape

Feb. 5: Katscha-Raninagar government primary school, established in 1910 in Raninagar thana of the district, is facing shortage of class rooms, teachers and educational apparatus, reports UNB.

The old school, in an area of 300 bighas of land was the first private school in Raninagar thana. It was nationalised in 1973.

The residents demanded of the government that a new building should be constructed to replace the old one which is in deplorable condition.

The old school building has no door and windows, they said and rain water always drip down the roof. There is no tube-well at the school also.

Construction of the boundary wall of the school is immediately needed.

More teachers should be appointed in view of the ever increasing students in the school.

They urged the government to look into the matters and take steps to solve the problem to pave the way for success of the mass education programme.

JHENIDAH

### 272 schemes implemented

Feb 5: A total of 272 projects have been implemented in six thanas of the district under Test Relief Programme in the current season, reports UNB.

Over 500 metric tons of wheat were used for the successful implementation of the programme.

Of the total projects, 55 were implemented in Jhenidah sadar, 52 in Shailakupa, 50 in Harinakunda, 37 in Kaliganj, 33 in Kotchadpur and 45 in Mohepur thanas, officials said.

The project works included repairing and maintenance of educational and religious institutions and earth filling of different hats and bazars in the district.

RAJSHAHI

### Tk 7 crore for road extension project

Feb 5: The road from Kalpana Cinema Hall to Ration Karkhana in the city will be expanded at a cost of Taka seven crore, reports UNB.

Meanwhile, the government has allocated Taka four crore for implementing the project, said an official handout on Thursday.

State Minister for Land, Kabir Hossain inaugurated the extension works of the road on Thursday. Rajshahi Development Authority will complete the works of the 1,500 metre long and 12 metre wide road by the next year.

Later, addressing a function on the occasion the state minister said, the present government had laid emphasis on the development of communication system to ensure the country's overall development, including industrialisation.

PATUAKHALI

### Programme to prevent spread of diarrhoea

Feb 5: Community Development Centre (CODEC), a Non-Government Organisation has taken up a programme to prevent diarrhoea in the coastal areas of the district, reports UNB.

As part of their programme, CODEC has distributed 750 ring slabs in the coastal belt areas at nominal prices where the fishermen community live in.

Mentionable that diarrhoea takes a lot of lives of the people in the coastal belts every year. CODEC has also extended their voluntary activities to create awareness among the people in Galachipa, Kalapra and Taltali thana of the greater Patuakhali district.

The organisation also motivated over 1500 fishermen to adopt preventive methods against the disease.

This year, they planned to distribute more than 5000 packets of oral saline, last year they distributed 7000 packets free of cost.

COMILLA

### Tk 2.22 lakh Indian sarees Seized

Feb 5: Bangladesh Rifles seized Indian sarees worth Taka 2.22 lakh from a village at Chandina thana last week, says UNB.

Acting on secret information, BDR jawans raided the house of Dipak Kumar Shaha, son of Gopal Chandra Shaha at mid-night and seized 683 pieces of costly Indian sarees.

Sensing the jawans arrival, Dipak Kumar Shaha, an alleged smuggler of the area, managed to escape.

The sarees were deposited with the local customs office. A case has been filed with the police.

Meanwhile, smuggled Indian contrabands including sarees, blouse, pieces, cosmetics, spares, utensils, sugar, fertilizers, medicines etc are being sold in different markets of the district before the nose of the law enforcing agencies.

Local leaders urged the concerned authorities to take strict action against the smugglers and stop selling of the contrabands in the markets to save the local products.



SYLHET: The Sylhet Chamber of Commerce and Industry accorded a reception to