

## Just for few hens!

JHENIDAH, Feb 5: An old man was killed and his wife and daughter were injured in 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 Moiz Ali, a neighbour of the victim, were poisoned to death by someone on January 26. Moiz suspected Jamat for the incident.

Both the neighbours then were locked into a quarrel over the issue and at one stage Moiz 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 Kushtia 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 Surya 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 Jaiyal 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 Judo 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 Nir 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 Helal.

## Four bodies recovered

Bodies of Sufia Khatun (20) of village Chargirish in Kazipur 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 Belukuchi 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 Hafiz 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 being smuggled into the country.

Most of these items are manufactured by Glaxo India Limited, Bayer India, Tata, Rallis 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, Jessor, Narail, Magura, Jhenidah, Meherpur, Chaudanga and Kustia districts.

The Panaudur-Las (Bengalathin penicillin) injection, Oxytetracycline (30cc) injection, Imerfon (2cc) injection, Diclofenac injection and tablet, Paracetamol tablet, Furazolidone suspension and tablet, Betnovate-N ointment, Betnovate kin ointment, Tetracycline eye ointment, Chloramphenical eye ointment, Eye drop and Ear drop, injection Berin, injection Cytameni (1000), Vitamin-B

Complex tablet and capsule, injection Nevronion, injection Phenyl Butazol (3 cc), tablet and injection Incidal, Canestin cream and vaginal tablet, Phensedyl syrup, Chloramphenical capsule, Ester, injection Pathedin, Catgot (stritching thread), injection whole liver, tablet Guonson, tablet and injection Dexamethason are being smuggled into the country everyday.

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, Benzoil-benzoin ointment, Vitamin B tablet and capsule, Ferrus Fumerate tablet, Phenoximethyle Penicillin 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.

Newspaper price up in Jhenidah

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

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

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

Newspaper 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.

## Sub-standard life saving drugs flood markets

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.

The knowledge 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 bazaars 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 affected thanas are sadar, Kalkini, Rajor 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 a result, the traders passing through the route have to take much trouble in loading and unloading goods.

At least five Dhaka-bound

and eight Barisal-bound

trains touch the Ilisha launch

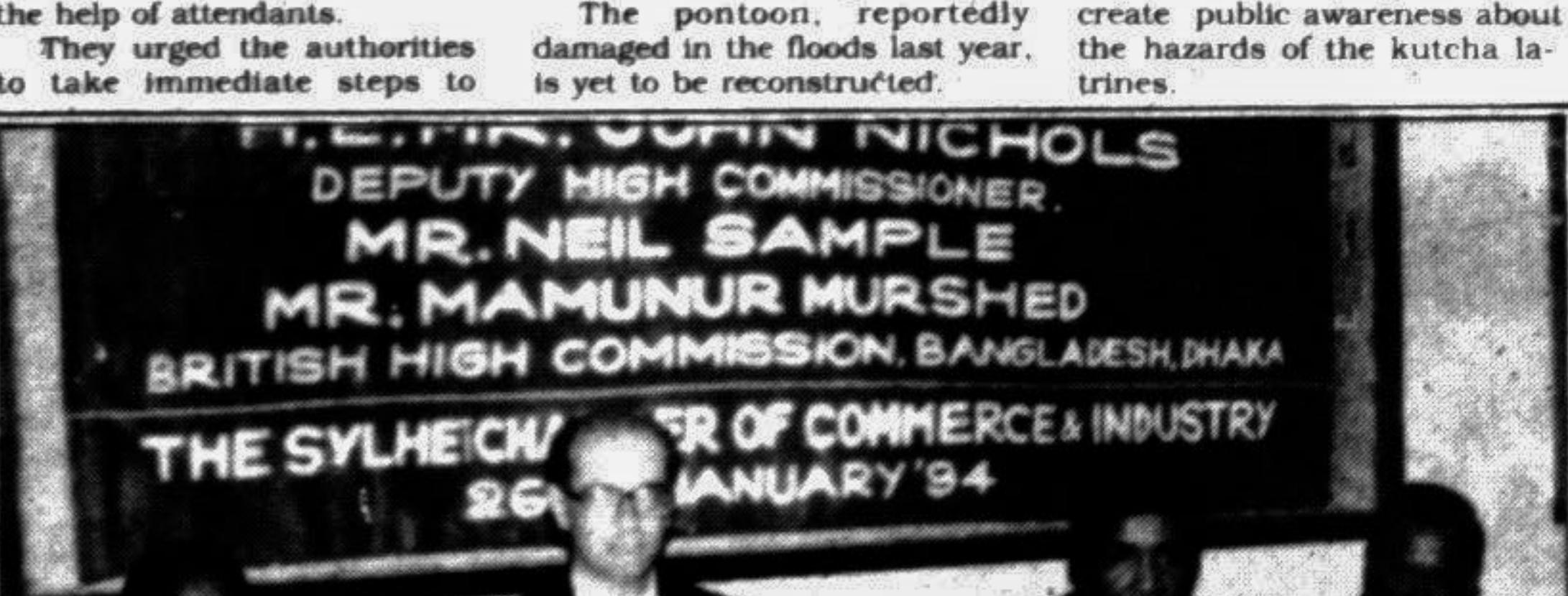
ghat which is operating for a

long time without a pontoon.

The pontoon, reportedly

damaged in the floods last year,

is yet to be reconstructed.



SYLHET: The Sylhet Chamber of Commerce and Industry accorded a reception to John Nichols (2nd from left), Deputy High Commissioner of Britain to Bangladesh recently.

— Star photo



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.

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 Swapnil Dewan, and BNP general secretary Zahir Ahmed.

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.

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.

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