

National

Pabna PDB office gheraoed, ransacked

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Jan 21: Local people gheraoed and ransacked the power supply office here on Saturday to protest the erratic power supply and random load-shedding.

Some 300 youths attacked the office and manhandled the resident engineer. The angry youths demanded regular supply of electricity.

Dwellers said life has become miserable in the town during the current months of holy Ramadan due to frequent power disruption and high price of LP gas.

The angry people complained that the town plunges into darkness after sundown most of the day and in the absence of power they have been facing immense suffering during the time of 'Iftar' and 'Sehri'.

A number of power consumers said, on an average, they have to suffer 12 hours of load-shedding causing endless hardships. The SSC and HSC examinations are also worst sufferers.

Officials of the local electricity supply department, 18 mw power supply is required for the consumption of the town dwellers daily but instead only 5 mw is being supplied at present.

The dwellers also alleged that taking advantage of the situation some dishonest dealers are selling LP gas cylinders in the black market and consequently per cylinder is being sold between Tk 490 and 520 as against its fixed rate at Tk 210.

Construction of KU Women's hall starts

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Jan 21: Construction work of Women's hall of Khulna University at a cost of Tk four crore 50 lakh has started on one acre of land with a provision for housing the female students.

The first phase of the work for accommodating 128 students is expected to be completed by January 1998, said an UNB press release.

There will be a garden, playground, conference room, dining hall and gymnasium in the hall premises.

Villagers block Dhaka-Sylhet road for 2 hours

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Jan 21: Traffic on the Dhaka-Sylhet highway remained suspended for two hours as the angry villagers put up barricades near Lalabazar, about 8 kilometres from here this morning following the death of a woman in a road accident.

Bachon Bibi, 50, wife of one Wazif Ali of village Buna Khal of Sadar thana was crushed under the wheels of a speeding microbus at about 9 am. The driver managed to escape with his vehicle.

The body was sent to the Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College for autopsy.

The road was cleared by police after two hours.

Body yet to be returned by BSF

From Staff Correspondent

FENI, Jan 21: The body of a Bangladeshi farmer who was shot dead on Friday evening by Indian Border Security Force could not be recovered till date, reports UNB.

Imam Hossain, 24, son of Abul Hashem of Shahebnagar in Porshuram thana of the district, was killed by BSF men when he went to bring cows from a frontier field near his village.

After the incident, Bangladesh Rifles contacted the BSF several times, but got no response.

A GD was registered with Porshuram police by the victim's family.

17,000 cft timber seized in Rangamati

From Staff Correspondent

RANGAMATI, Jan 21: Members of the security force seized nearly 17,000 cft timber of different varieties worth about Taka 50 lakh from Langudu Saturday, reports BSS.

The timbers, which were alleged to have been procured illegally from the reserve forest, were being carried under bamboo shades in the lake area here.

The members of the security force on a tip-off launched a drive in the lake and recovered the timbers, concerned sources said. The seized timbers were handed over to the forest department.

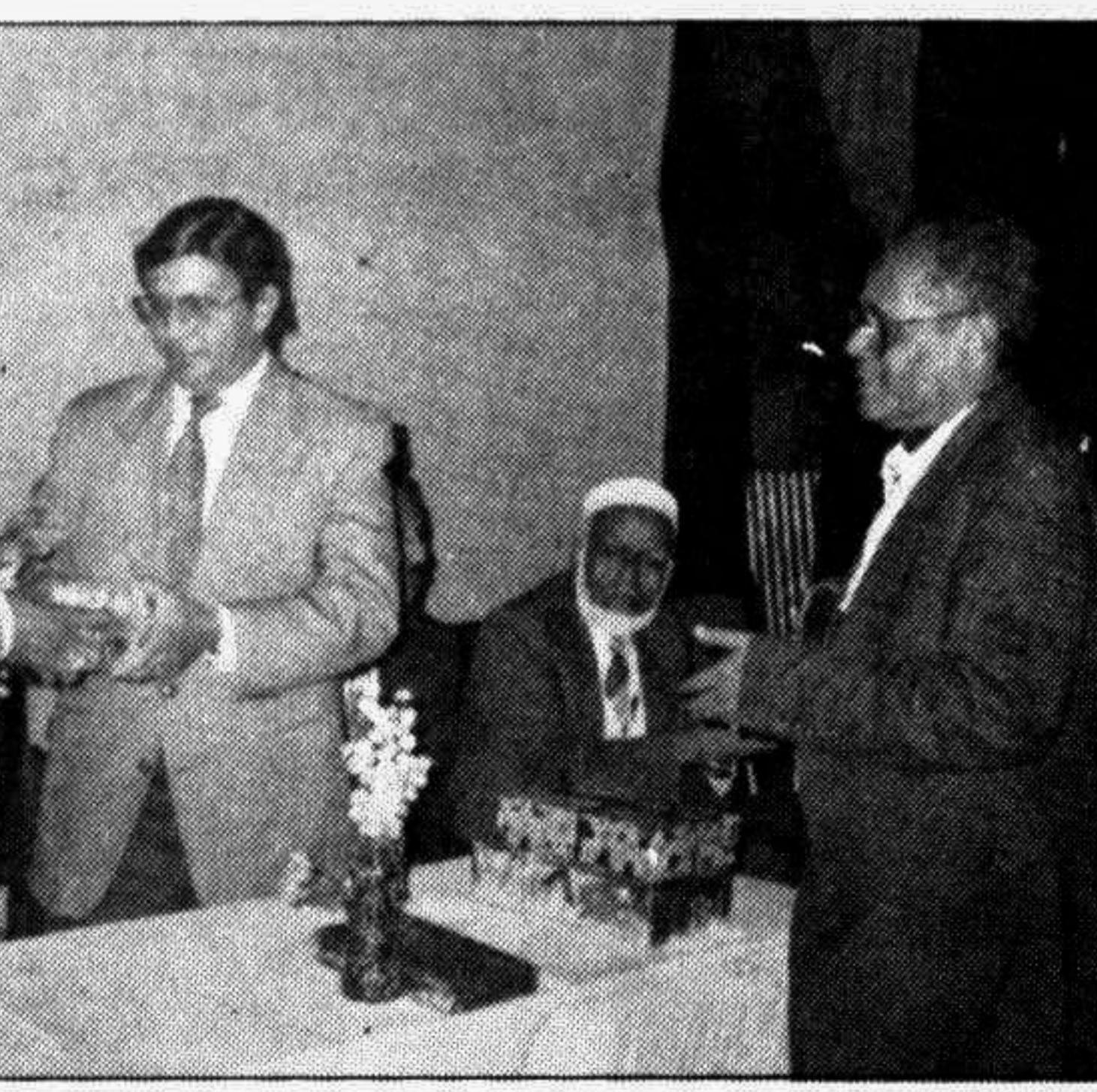
A total of 73 persons committed suicide in Gopalganj thana, out of which 40 persons took poison, 14 persons were hanged and 19 persons died through other means, according to police sources.

A total of 73 persons committed suicide in Tungipara thana, out of which 31 persons took poison, 14 persons were hanged and 19 persons died through other means.

A total of 42 persons committed suicide in Kotwali thana, out of which 27 persons took poison, 11 persons were hanged and 4 persons died through other means, according to Kotwali thana police sources.

A total of 19 persons committed suicide in Tungipara thana, out of them 15 persons took poison, 2 persons were hanged and 2 persons died by other means, according to police sources.

Police records say that chronic abdomen pain was responsible for maximum suicide incident, which is considered to be number one reason for the suicides.



CHANDPUR: A reception was accorded to Md Abdul Khaleque, Principal of Chandpur Government College, for his outstanding service in promoting education. In the picture, prizes being handed over to him by Khaled Anwar, Deputy Commissioner (DC), Chandpur at a function held here recently.

— Star photo

236 committed suicide in Gopalganj last year

From Our Correspondent

Tungipara thana police sources.

A total of 49 persons committed suicide in Mukundpur thana, out of them 30 persons took poison, 17 persons were hanged and 2 persons committed suicide by other means, according to Mukundpur thana police sources.

A total of 53 persons committed suicide in Kasiani thana, out of which 31 persons took poison, 14 persons were hanged and 8 persons committed suicide through other offences, according to Kasiani thana police sources.

The victims include a good number of children and old men and women and young men.

Police records say that chronic abdomen pain was responsible for maximum suicide incident, which is considered to be number one reason for the suicides.

Police records also show that about four fifth of the total suicide cases took place largely due to poverty, discord between married couples, failure in love affairs and physical torture carried out by guardians.

A woman of Malati Rani aged about 70 of village Rangunathpur under Gopalganj thana told The Daily Star correspondent that she had attempted to commit suicide because her only son did not provide her with food and clothing.

A senior police officer of the district when asked to give his view on increasing number of suicide cases in Gopalganj said, dowry was one of the major reasons of higher number of such incidents. He further said, this is a social problem. In many incidents the cases of suicide are not mentioned as parents tend to hide facts.

'Save Betna from death'

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Jan 21: The dredging of the river Betna is essential for smooth flow of water during the monsoon and for the plying of boats, launches and for irrigation purposes during the dry season.

The river Betna was once the blessing for the people of the district providing communication, fishing and irrigation facilities and navigation was smooth. But all these are now remiss.

The river Betna was deep and wider, but due to heavy siltation the river has been gradually losing the depth and changing the course.

people of the district have urged the authorities concerned to take effective measures for dredging of the river.

One roasted alive in tragic fire mishap

PATUAKHALI, Jan 21: One person was roasted alive and four others were injured in a devastating fire that broke out in Telikhali bus stand in sadar thana on Wednesday night, reports BSS.

The fire gutted four shops.

According to local people, the fire burnt one college student Alamgir Hossain, 22, to death on the spot and injured five others seriously.

Local sources said, the fire originated from electric short circuit from a shop, burnt two grocers' shops, one laundry house and one pharmacy.

The victim, Alamgir Hossain was a second year honours student of Patuakhali Government University College. He was asleep in a shop during the fire and could not come out of the room.

The fire brigade personnel and the local people rushed to the spot and extinguished the fire.

Tragic indeed

JHENIDAH, Jan 21: Being unsuccessful in the examination, a school girl of Baparipara in the town, allegedly committed suicide, police said today, reports UNB.

Family sources said Sumita Rani, 14, daughter of Kali Prasad Biswas of Jhenidah Government Girls High School who failed to secure promotion from class nine to ten for the third time in the current academic session committed suicide by hanging herself at her residence on January 10.

An unnatural death case was filed with the police.

Another report from Satkhira says: A boy died and his sister is in serious condition after having endrine mixed food last week.

Family sources said Liaquat of Howalkhali village under Sadar thana kept the endrine mixed food at a certain place of his house for killing rats.

His ill-fated son Polash, 6, and daughter Tanjila, 4, unknowingly took the food. As a result, Polash died instantaneously and Tanjila is still fighting for life at a local hospital.

15 hurt in clash over land dispute in Barisal

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Jan 21: At least 15 persons were injured, 4 of them seriously, during a clash between two groups of villagers at Sakaria under Banaripara thana this morning. A dispute over land was the cause of the clash.

Witnesses and police said a group of people led by one Mansur Majhee went to the disputed land for taking its possession. Their rival group, led by one Manna Majhee resisted their attempt to take possession of the land. Two of the injured were women.

The seriously injured Manan Majhee, 50, Siddique, 32, Kulsum, 45 and Ruma, 21, were admitted to the Banaripara Thana Health Complex.

Khulna shipyard burdened with Tk 21 cr loan

KHULNA, Jan 21: The Khulna Shipyard is carrying a loan burden of Tk 21 crore, and is now unable to pay the salary and allowances of the workers and employees, according to informed sources, reports UNB.

About 650 labourers and employees of Khulna Shipyard have not received salary for two months.

A source said some organisations including the Khulna Newsprint Mills, Mongla port, Bangladesh Railway and Water Development Board owed a large sum of money on account of various work done by the Shipyard.

The Shipyard itself had to take a loan of Tk 12 crore from the bank 10 years back. The amount has since inflated with cumulative interest added to the principal amount.

Moreover, the organisation did not get any new work nor any repair work because of alleged management inefficiency and bureaucratic complication.

Local leaders apprehended that the modern shipyard capable of building and repairing ocean-going vessels would have to be wound-up soon.

Workers of 2 mills protest selling shares

NATORE, Jan 21: Employees, labourers and sugarcane growers of Natore Sugar Mills and North Bengal Sugar Mills jointly held a protest rally Monday against the recent announcement of the government to sell 49 per cent shares of the two mills, reports UNB.

The protest meeting was held in front of the main gate of Natore Sugar Mills with the president of Natore Sugar Mills Employees Association M Ataur Rahaman in the chair.

Among others, the meeting was addressed by general secretary of the association and Bangladesh Sugar Mills Employees Federation President MA Jall Panna, local leaders Abul Kashem, MA Karim and cane growers.

The speakers demanded immediate cancellation of the decision to sell 49 per cent shares of the two mills in the district through Dhaka Stock Exchange. Because the two mills exceed targets and earned the highest profit in every crushing season out of 14 sugar mills of the country.

They also threatened to go for tougher action programmes to protect the mills and safeguard the interest of the employees and cane growers.

Two murderers get life-term

SYLHET, Jan 21: The district court here has awarded life-term for two people in a murder case lodged 20 years ago with Bishwanath police station, reports UNB.

But most of the students or their guardians are having bad luck, that is, the agent is usually missing with the money and the document.

Sources said the agents who act as middlemen for money were organised in groups and exert pressure on the unwary document seekers. Sometimes they extract money by force.

Complaints has been lodged with the Board recently by 15 victims, but the Chairman of the Board is reported to have forwarded some names to police for action against 'cheating'.

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