News snaps

Move to ease traffic jam in Munshiganj

MUNSHIGANJ, Dec 24: The construction of a 1.3 km by-pass road from the district collectorate to the poura supermarket crossing has been undertaken at an estimated cost of Tk 51.99 lakh with a view to easing traffic congestion in the one-way Munshiganj town, reports BSS.

According to official sources, the 24 feet wide by-pass is the part of Tk 5.56 crore medium-size town infrastructure development programme sponsored by Asian Development Bank (ADB) with the aim of improving infrastructural facilities in road communication in Munshiganj pourashava.

New executive body of Madaripur AL

MADARIPUR, Dec 24: The executive committee of Madaripur district unit of Awami League (AL) for 1997-2000 period was formed at a meeting held here last week, reports BSS.

Alhaj Ferdaous Jamader and Uddipan Sikder were elected president and secretary respectively of the 63-member executive committee. The committee has been approved by the party chief and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

CHT accord to preserve people's rights

KHAGRACHHARI, Dec 24: LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman said here that the peace agreement on Chittagong Hill Tracts would not work against the interest of the Bangalees rather it would play a strong role in preserving the basic rights of the Bangalees and tribals living here, reports

This accord would also further consolidated independence, sovereignty, integrity and progress of the nation, he said. The meeting was addressed, among others, by chairman of tribal refugee repatriation committee Kalparanjan Chakma MP and local Bangalee and tribal leaders.

11 LLB examinees expelled

TANGAIL, Dec 24: Eleven LLB examines were expelled from Kumudini Government College LLB examination centre for adoption of unfairmeans in the examination last week, reports

A total of 111 examinees appeared at the preliminary and final examinations in this centre this year.

Contraband phensidyl seized

COMILLA, Dec 24: Comilla CID police seized 215 bottles of contraband phensidyl syrup worth Taka 30,000 from Batisha bus stand under Chowddagram thana on December 20, reports

A case was lodged with Chowddagram thana. One person was arrested in this connection.

Ban on anti-social activities sought

JHALAKATI, Dec 24: Various anti-social activities including gambling and obscene dances have been going on over a month at different parts of the district in the name of Jatra, reports

Local people said the Jatra is being held in Dapor of Sadar thana and Dapdapia of Nalsity thana for about one and a half months causing deterioration of law and order. Housie is being played from evening to mid-night and after that the organisers start various gambling like three cards, charka, batua, char ghuti, six ghuti to cheat the people. The local peace-loving people have urged the authorities to impose ban on anti-social activities in the name of Jatra.

Massive lentil farming programme

RANGPUR, Dec 24: Lentil will be cultivated on 41,380 hectares of land in 16 northern districts in the current season. reports BSS.

According to the Agriculture Extension Department, the target of production has been fixed at 33,000 metric tons. Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation will supply fertiliser, improved variety seeds and insecticides at a fair price to the lentil growers for successful implementation of the programme.

Concern over burning of trees in brickfields

SIRAJGANJ, Dec 24: Trees are being felled indiscriminately in the district for use in brickfields defying government ban. reports UNB.

According to witnesses, a huge number of trees are being burnt in hundreds of brickfields in the district with the onset of the winter season. Thousands maunds of trees are ready for use as firewood in every brickfields. Violating government ban the owners of the brickfields are carrying the firewood from remote areas before the nose of the law enforcing agencies. The owners have started burning bricks with the help of firewood instead of coal. Godowns of trees have been made in some places by the owners of brickfields

Youths renovate road voluntarily

COMILLA, Dec 24: Local enthusiastic youths have set an example by renovating a road on voluntary basis in Kachua

thana of the district, reports UNB.

Over a hundred youths with the help of Bijoypur Human Welfare Organization reconstructed the Kachua-Kazipara road under the project of FPAB Comilla unit. After the completion of the road, a function was held on November 22 which was attended by President of FPAB Prof Delwar Hossain and Abdul Halim Sarker, Mostafizur Rahman and Fasiar Rahman.

Tk 6cr school construction project taken

RANGPUR, Dec 24: The Education Department has taken up a number of projects at a cost of Taka 6.12 crore for construction and re-construction of 125 school buildings in the district in the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

According to the Local Government Engineering Department, construction and re-construction of the buildings are now in full swing. The government has taken another project for supplying furniture to 147 schools of the district at a cost of Taka 1.10 crore in the current fiscal.

Landless farmers on rise

NOAKHALI, Dec 24: The number of landless farmers in Senbag thana of the district is increasing day by day due to abject poverty, reports UNB.

A survey conducted by a non-government organisation revealed that 50 per cent of the farmers have no bullocks, 30 per

cent have one bullock each and the rest are cultivating their land on share basis. With the unusual price hike of necessary seeds, fertilizer, insecticides and other inputs, the farmers are forced to go to the bank for necessary capital. As the poor farmers are mostly illiterate, they are receiving loans giving a certain percentage to the corrupted bank officials.

Valuables worth Tk 50,000 looted

JHENIDAH, Dec 24: Valuables worth about Tk 50,000 were looted from the passenger of a bus by a gang of dacoits on Dhaka-Khulna Highway near the town recently, reports UNB. Police said eight armed men, in the guise of passengers, took control of the bus when it reached at Haur in Magura. They beat the passengers indiscriminately and looted valuables including ornaments. The dacoits got down from the bus at Isakanda, 16

Discussion on AIDS Day

km off the town and decamped with the booty.

COMILLA, Dec 24: A discussion meeting to mark the World AIDS Day was held on November 4 at the district health office here, reports BSS.

Organised by the health department the meeting was presided over by the Deputy Commissioner, Comilla, Chowdhury Golam Maula.

Superintendent of Comilla Medical College Hospital Dr Abdul Halim Bhuiyan, Civil Surgeon Dr Tariqul Islam, Dr Golam Shahjahan and Dr Shahabuddin, among others, took part in the discussion. About 60 officers of different government departments and non-government organisations were present in the meeting.

Discussion on Human Rights Day

JHALAKATI, Dec 24: A discussion meeting on the occasion of World Human Rights Day was held here at the local press club on Wednesday, reports UNB.

Organised by the district Human Rights Commission, the meeting was presided over by commission president Shamsul Islam Chand. It was addressed, among others, by Chittaranjan Dutta, Hamayetuddin Himu, Shaymol Chandra Sarkar. Bimol Kumar Shaha and Ali Hyder Talukdar.

Crimes on rise

BOGRA, Dec 24; Crimes are on rise in the district causing concern among the peace-loving people, reports UNB.

According to an official statistics, some 1,059 crimes including 65 murders, 15 daring dacoities and 20 kidnapping incidents were committed during the last nine months. A total of 2.112 cases have been filed with the police and some 2,321 people were arrested during the period. According to police, these crimes were recorded from January to October this year which is higher than the corresponding previous year. Some 885 crimes were recorded during the period in 1996.

Post-polls violence: One killed in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Dec 24: Postpolls violence reportedly left one person killed at Isapur Bazar of Mekhal union under Hathazari today, local people

The victim was identified as Munshi Meah, 18. They said that Munshi succumbed to bullet wounds during a clash at 11 between the supporters of two rival member candidates defeated in the union parishad election held there

Some others were injured in the clash. When contacted, police and district administration officials could not confirm the in-

yesterday.

cident.

Cold claims 2 more in Lalmonirhat

LALMONIRHAT, Dec 24: Cold spell claimed two more lives in two thanas of the dis-24 hours till 8 pm trict in Tuesday, raising the death toll in the district to five, reports

Tuesday's victims were identified as Ujir Mahmood, 72, of Hatiabhanda thana and Morjina Begum, 70, of Sadar thana, according to unofficial sources.

Hashem Education Fund stipend awarded

From A Correspondent JHALAKATHI, Dec 24: Eight meritorious students of Jhalakathi district received the first instalment of A K M Hashem Memorial Education Fund stipend at a simple ceremony held at Jhalakathi circuit house on December 20. Begum Shahzadi, chairper-

son of the fund presided over the stipend handing over ceremony, while Ferdous Mollah, ADC (gen) was the chief guest.

A K M Farooq, chief patron of the fund and eldest son of late A K M Hashem spoke on the occasion, among others. In his speech he assured all to bring more deserving students under this programme. Begum Shahzadi in her speech stressed the need for awarding scholarship not only to meritorious students but also to poor students. Ferdous Molfah while delivering his address as the chief guest urged the businessmen to follow the example set by A K M Hashem Education Fund.

'Peace amity march' in CHT from Dec 25

BANDARBAN, Dec 24: A 24member team of Sammilito Sangskritik Jote will visit the three hill districts for holding a three day peace amity march" from December 25, the local administration sources said. reports BSS.

The march programme will include holding of peace rally and cultural programme on December 25 from 3 pm at Rangamati sadar thana, and peace rally and cultural programme on December 27 from 3 pm at Bandarban sadar thana.

The General Secretary of the Jote Golam Quddus will work as the coordinator of the march which will be organised by local administration.

Fourteen television artistes, eminent film makers and drama artistes are likely to take part in the discussions.

No basic amenities for 60,000 dwellers in Jhalakati

JHALAKATI, Dec 24: About 60,000 dwellers in the centuryold district town are passing their days in great miseries for bad condition of roads and drainage system, reports UNB.

The 11.64-square kilometre small district town upgraded to a pourashava in 1875, but adequate roads and proper drainage system, are yet to be established here.

The town has only 63.5 km roads against the requirement of 100 km. Of the roads, only 20.5 km are pucca, 25.27 km semi-pucca and 17.73 km kutcha roads.

Breaches and potholes have developed on the narrow roads and rickshaws are kept on these roads haphazardly hampering the traffic movement. Moreover, vendors have occupied the footpaths causing much inconvenience to the pedestrians.

Most of the roads in the town are in dilapidated conditions and go under water during tide of the river.

Drainage system here is also in sorry state. The town has only 9.39 km drains as against 50 km. Most of the drains remain silted all the year due to lack of maintenance and care.

2 including woman killed in Tangail road accident

TANGAIL, Dec 24: Two people, including a woman, were killed, and three others injured in a road accident on Tangail-Bhuapur highway on Tuesday. reports UNB.

Police said the accident occurred when a speeding truck collided head-on with a Tangail-bound passenger van at Shialkol in Bhuapur thana on Tuesday evening

The two dead were identified as Abdul Monnaf. 38. of Sharaishabari thana in Jamalpur district and Siaton Begum, 47, of Jagatpur village in Bhuapur thana.

One of the injured was admitted at Bhuapur thana health complex. A case was filed with Bhua-

pur thana police. Police seized the truck, but is driver was absconding.

Abnormal fall in water level

Teesta Barrage project facing serious problem Rokeya Day was observed in Meherpur befittingly. Nari Forum, Shikkha and

PABNA, Dec 24: Teesta Barrage project, the largest irrigation project of the country's northern region, is facing serious problem due to abnormal fall in water level at the upstream since the last two months, reports UNB.

Meanwhile, due to drastic fall in water level at Teesta, the Teestamukh Ghat has already been declared abandoned.

The Water Development Board (WDB) said all the rivers and tributaries in northern region have marked a drastic fall two months before the beginning of normal lean period, threatening environment as well as irrigation projects

If the present situation continues nearly, 30 ghats along Teesta will have to be aban-

doned soon, they said. According to a competent source at Chilmari land port, the alarming fall in water level in the river Brahmaputra has threatened the floating oil depot at the Chilmari Ghat.

The depot supplies fuel in six districts - Rangpur, Kurigram, Dinajpur, Lalmonirhat, Nilphamari and Gaibandha dis-

An WDB official said such fall in water level is normally noticed during the period from December to January.

But this year the water level started falling since early October. This has posed serious threat to irrigation, riverine transports and fisheries as the dry season is approaching when farmers of the region depend both in surface and underground water for cultivation of Irri and Boro crops.

The Water Development Board (WDB) sources said water flow near the barrage point was recorded between 6000 and 7000 cusecs during the first fortnight of December 1996. But the flow virtually came down to 2,500 cusecs during same period this



MOULVIBAZAR: Ekhlas Ahmed Haidari, Secretary, Sreemangal-Shamsernagar Bus Owners' Association recently receiving a cheque of Taka 24 lakh as compensation from Gar-Hard CJ Janson, district manager of Occidental Company at the office of Deputy Commissioner (DC), Moulvibazar. - Star photo

Rly passengers woes multiply KUSHTIA, Dec 24: Passen-The ticket examiners, secu-

gers of Khulna-Rajbari railway section have been facing immense problems due to lack of proper care by the railway authorities, reports UNB.

The booking counter starts functioning just before the arrival of the train. As a result. the inter-city and local trains with inadequate number of compartments cannot cope with the rush of the passengers. It is alieged that booking counter in all stations charge increased rate of fare from the passengers. Sometimes, they sell unlimited number of tickets overcrowding the compartments.

rity guards, drivers and guards on duty remain silent when unruly ticketless passengers stop the train at different points Often first and second class

compartments are not attached to the trains creating great inconvenience to the passengers. They are compelled to travel in the over-crowded third class compartments Sometimes, passengers travel in luggage vans and

rooftops of the trains. In the absence of checking a large number of passengers are travelling without tickets in the line causing misery to the genuine passengers.

Smuggled goods like sarees salt, sugar, fruits, cosmetics and crokeries are transported regularly by trains. Many unruly incidents occurred in the name of toll collection in various stations. The compartments of the

trains are not kept clean and in the absence of water supply the latrines remain dirty emitting bad odour. Waiting rooms in most of the stations have no sitting arrangements for the first and second class passengers. The passengers urged the

Railway authorities to take necessary steps to solve the longstanding problems of the section without further delay.

One killed, 25 hurt as villagers clash in Daudkandi

others were injured in a clash between two rival groups of villagers over the possession of a char in Daudkandi thana reports UNB.

Witnesses said the clash took place at Bhatera village in the morning, leaving the unidentified man dead on the

was filed.

Meherpur Newsletter

Sangskritik Charcha Kendra.

Shishu Academy, Women and

Child Affairs Department and

various non-governmental or-

ganisations chalked out elabo-

rate programmes to mark the

cluded rally, procession, dis-

cussion on Rokeya's life and

works. Ayesha Huq, President,

Mahila Krira Sangstha paid glowing tributes to her. She

urged the womenfolk to follow

the footsteps of Begum Rokeya.

V-Day observed

here in a befitting manner. The

other cultural organisations

chalked out elaborate pro-

grammes to observe the day.

The day's programme began

with booming of 21 gun salute

at one minute past midnight

and hoisting of national flag

atop all government and pri-

Ansars, VDP, Boy Scouts, Girl

Guides was arranged at

Meherpur Stadium in the

morning. Other programmes

included cinema show on Lib-

eration War for the school stu-

dents, special prayers were of-

fered in all mosques, temples

and churches for prosperity of

the nation, improved diet was

supplied to the inmates of jail,

hospitals and orphanages, dis-

cussion on the War of Libera-

tion, sports competition for the

women and fancy football

match and illumination in the

Banana farming

evening.

A march past by Police,

vate buildings in the morning.

district administration and

Victory Day was observed

The day's programmes in-

From Our Correspondent

MEHERPUR, Dec 24: Begum

field staff. It is reported, field work essential for motivation of people is absent in two thanas of the district. There is a also a dearth of field workers in every union

work to control population explosion. Services to the new born babies and mothers are very poor Most of the field staff are not trained. Most of the doctors of the department do not maintain office time as they are en-

to undertake necessary field

gaged in private practices. It is a also alleged, the Family Planning equipment and medicine are not available in time of need. So the achievement in the field of population control remains far below the target mostly due to lack of proper supervision, as well as active cooperation of the field

Indian pesticides flooding markets

Indian pesticides have flooded various hats and bazaars of the district.

smuggled into the country through different border points and being sold at low prices. The farmers are using these low price pesticides as the

An agricultural expert opines, indiscriminate use of Indian pesticides in crop field has been affecting the fertility of soil thereby reducing production of crops.

Scarcity of fodder

gains popularity Cultivation of banana as both vegetable and fruit has

been gaining popularity in the region. It is learnt, as the cultivation of banana has become more profitable peasants are more inclined to bring maximum land under banana farming. The soil and climate favours banana cultivation in both winter and summer seasons in this district. It is being cultivated on high land on large scale round the year. There is less possibility of any harm to the plant by storm and rain. Besides, pest attack is hardly noticed. There is a bright prospect for producing banana in drought affected areas of this region.

Crimes rising alarmingly Hundreds of mastans are al-

legedly committing various crimes in the district town and its adjoining areas.

Although police occasionally round them up, most of them roam about hither and thither and do whatever they like. The victims of criminal activities of the so-called mastans have to remain silent in many cases for obvious reasons, a town dweller said. Some town dwellers have alleged, mastans are very much daring and they commit crimes under the shelter of influential and vested quarters.

FP programme facing setback

The Population Control Programme is facing a setback in the district due to manifold problems which include mismanagement, corruption, absence of effective supervision and negligence of duty of the workers.

These pesticides are being

Bangladeshi ones are costlier.

The development of dairy farming in the district has been adversely affected for long due to acute scarcity of fodder.

There are around one hundred dairy farms having nearly one thousand improved varieties of cattle in the district. The daily production from these farms is roughly 15,000 litres of milk. But due to dearth of marketing facilities the dairy farm owners are compelled to sell bulk quantity of milk to the tea shop owners at much cheaper rates while a small quantity goes to the private consumers at prices between Taka 12 and Taka 14 per litre. The fodder crisis has caused much suffering to the dairy farm owners all over the

Drug addiction on rise

The number of addicted youths has been growing alarmingly here. Even rural youths are addicted to wine, opium. indigenous wine, morphine, sedative tablet, Mrita Sanjibani Sura, and other types of

liquid containing alcohol According to a non-official survey. Meherpur town and its suburbs have turned into open markets of intoxicated drugs. easily available in medicine shops and groceries. Phensidyl, one of the favourite drugs is being smuggled from India into Meherpur district in large quantities. These are also sent to other places of the country by various means of transport. The survey reveals that the number of addicted teenagers is only five per cent, but it is alarmingly growing day by day. Even minor boys are found looking for drugs in medicine shop. It is alleged that a well organised gang of criminals are engaged in smuggling these drugs into the Bangladesh territory from India.

2664/

Ferry Divn, Barisal

Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD Ferry Divn, Barisal

(RHD), Tender Notice

Tender Notice No 40 of RHD, Ferry Divn. Barisal/1997-98. Name of work : As described below

. Eligibility of contractor: "A to E" category contractor of RHD, as per financial capacity and territorial jurisdiction. 4. Availability of tender: 1) Executive Engineer, RHD, Mechl. Ferry Divn, Barisal/Khulna.

schedule 2) Sub-Divisional Engineer, RHD, Mechl. Ferry Sub-Divn, Barisal (only office hours. No tender will be sold on the date of receiving tender sehedule).

5. Tender receiving officer: 1) Superintending Engineer, RHD, Mechl. Ferry Circle, Khulna. 2) Executive Engineer, RHD, Mechl. Ferry Divn, Barisal/Khulna. Last date of selling: 5-1-98/22-9-1404 (only office hours).

tender documents Last date of receiving: 6-1-98/23-9-1404 at 12 Noon. tender in sealed cover

Date and time of: 8-1-98/25-9-1404 at 1 PM. opening tender Date and time of lottery: 8-1-98 at 3 PM. (if applicable)

Group Name of work Estimated Earnest No cost money Supplying of spare parts for 108 HP Samufa engine of different type 3276/ferries under Ferry Sub-Divn Barisal during the year 1997-98 1,63,800/-

Supplying of spare parts for 110 HP Daf engine (model 620) of 5584/ different utility ferries under Ferry Sub-Divn Barisal during the year 2,79,200/-1997-98

Suplying of spare parts for 75 HP Ford engine of different ferries under 3610/-Ferry Sub-Divn Barisal during the year 1997-98 1,80,500/-

Supplying of different materials for different pontoon in running maintenance of different ferry ghats under Ferry Sub-Divn Barisal 1,00,700/during the year 1997-98

Supplying of spare parts for 150/290 HP Volvopenta engine of different steel ferries under Ferry Sub-Divn Barisal during the year 1,96,500/-1997-98

Supplying of spare parts for 150 KW Man engine of different ferry ghats under Ferry Sub-Divn Barisal during the year 1997-98 1,33,200/-DFP-28785-18/12 Executive Engineer, RHD

Hospital ailing PABNA, Dec 24: Pabna Mental Hospital is facing manifold threat to the patients. problems hampering the treatment of mentally retarded pa-According to local people,

RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY: Prof Abdul Khaleque, Vice-

Chancellor and Prof Saidur Rahman Khan, Pro Vice-

Chancellor of the university placing wreath at Shaheed

Pabna Mental

Victory Day.

Minar on

tients, reports UNB.

lack of proper planning, insufficient beds and shortage of physicians have been impeding proper treatment of patients for The number of bed has not been increased during the last

accommodation in the hospital, which has only 400 beds A dilapidated house is being used as outdoor, hospital ources said adding that almost

30 years. Many patients are de-

nied admission due to lack of



Prof Fauzia Ally, Principal, Chittagong Government Women's College speaking at a discussion meeting held on December 18 at the college auditorium as part of Victory Day celebration programme.

crumbled building itself is a

- Star photo

The sitting arrangement at the outdoor is quite insufficient and toilet facilities are too meagre to cope with the needs of the patients. About 120 patients visit the outdoor daily but only 10 to 15 of them can avail the admission facilities.

many patients who have already been cured are staying at the hospital as their relatives or guardians abandoned them. Acting director of the hospital Dr Reaz Uddin told that seat

rent amounting to over Tk 2

Besides, the sources said

lakh remained pending for long with 20 patients. He alleged that some of the guardians gave their false addresses making it difficult to find out their whereabouts and release of the patients properly.

The number of doctors is in-

adequate, the sources said. The post of a clinical psychiatrist has been lying vacant since the establishment of the hospital. The only ambulance and X-Ray machine of the hospital are lying out of order for long.

Association executives JHENIDAH, Dec 24: A 23member committee of district

Jhenidah Bar

Bar Association has been formed with Azizur Rahman and Ismail Hossain as president and secretary respectively. reports UNB. The installation ceremony

of the newly elected committee will be held on January 1, association sources said

G-3176

COMILLA. Dec 24: At least one person was killed and 25

Some of the injured were rushed to different local clinics with critical injuries. A case