

News snaps

Reception to IGP

JAMALPUR, Dec 28: Inspector General of Police (IGP) M Ismail Hossain has said police and journalists have a bigger role in nation building activities, reports UNB.

He was addressing a reception ceremony accorded to him by Jamalpur Press Club members on Saturday. Terming journalism as a noble profession he said journalists and the police can play an important role in establishing a terrorism free civil society and a developed nation. Presided over by the Deputy Commissioner, the function was addressed, among others, by executive president of the club Saifuzzaman, general secretary Mostafa Babul and Rezauul Karim Hira MP.

Chhatra Dal leader arrested

SIRAJGANJ, Dec 28: Police on Saturday arrested a Chhatra Dal leader from power house gate of Bahirgola road in the town on charge of assaulting an Awami League leader, reports UNB.

Tipu Sultan, Vice-president of Sirajganj Islamiya Government Degree College students' union, was arrested following the filing of the case by AL leader Anwar Hossain Ratu. Ratu, former General Secretary of district AL filed the case with sadar thana police against 10 people on December 18 after he was manhandled by some activists in front of the district BNP office.

Smuggled timber recovered

CHITTAGONG, Dec 28: Forest Department of Chittagong Hill Tracts recovered 9,000 cubic feet of smuggled timber worth over Tk 60 lakh from different parts of the region during the last one month, reports UNB.

In different raids police also seized seven engine boats and two trucks which were used in smuggling. Six people were arrested in this connection. Official sources said the timbers were seized from Karnaphuli lake, Kaptai range, Raikhong Check station, Karnaphuli range, Alikhong range, Bilachhari and Raikhal areas. So far, 44 cases have been filed with the police.

Body recovered

JHENIDAH, Dec 28: Police recovered an unidentified dead body of a young woman from a sugarcane field of Babra village in Kaliganj thana on Tuesday, reports UNB.

Police suspected that the woman was murdered after rape. The postmortem of the body was performed at Jhenidah sadar hospital morgue. A case was filed with the police.

Alleged dacoit arrested

SYLHET, Dec 28: Kotalwi police arrested an alleged dacoit along with a gun from Majumdari area in the town on Saturday, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip-off, a contingent of police, led by ASP SM Kamal Hossain, raided the area and caught Babul who was wanted in connection with several cases. Police also recovered a foreign made one barrel gun from his possession. A case has been filed with the police.

Kishoreganj LGED takes 74 uplift projects

KISHOREGANJ, Dec 28: The Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) has taken 74 development projects in the 11 thanas of the district in the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the government has sanctioned Taka 1.75 crore for implementation of the projects. The projects included construction of 32 pipe culverts and 42 box culverts. About 25 per cent of the work has been completed and the rest is in full swing, the source said.

Workshop on pisciculture

MADARIPUR, Dec 28: A day-long workshop on the motivation of people about pisciculture and poultry farming concluded here at International Project for Rural Advancement (IPRA) office recently, reports BSS.

The workshop joined by 130 persons from two thanas of the district, was organised by the IPRA. The workshop was aimed to motivate the people to be self reliant through different economic activities, like pisciculture, poultry farming and animal husbandry.

Massive cattle immunisation programme

MANIKGANJ, Dec 28: Livestock Department are implementing a massive programme of immunisation and increase of cattle and poultry resources in seven thanas of the district in the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

Under the programmes, 200,000 cattle and 50,000 poultry will be immunized this year. In the meantime, 45,000 cattle and 650,000 poultry were immunised. At the same time, 17,000 cattle and 64,000 poultry were given medical treatment. Besides, 23,000 cattle were brought under cross-breeding system. The Livestock Department has fixed its target to bring more 28,000 cattle under cross-breeding within June '98 next.

Munshiganj Circuit House opens

MUNSHIGANJ, Dec 28: Telecommunications and Housing Minister Mohammad Nasim said the suggestion made by the opposition leader Begum Khaleida Zia to the president for a round-table conference of the government and opposition leaders on the peace agreement on Chittagong Hill Tracts was not acceptable as it was against the norms and spirit of a parliamentary democracy under which the country was now running, reports BSS.

Mohamad Nasim was addressing as chief guest at a meeting of the local elite recently at the premises of the newly constructed district circuit house here. The minister earlier inaugurated the circuit house which was built at a cost of Take one crore and 72 lakh on one and a half acres of land.

Coordination meet on edn project

TANGAIL, Dec 28: A co-ordination meeting on the mosque based mass-education project of the Islamic Foundation was held recently at village Bhulakkandi under sadar thana, reports BSS.

M. Abdur Rab, deputy director of the Islamic Foundation presided over the meeting. M. Abdur Razzaq, assistant director, M. Shahjahan and M. Tofazzul Hossain, supervisors of the project, among others, took part in the discussion. Such co-ordination meetings were also held recently in Mirzapur and Ghatil thanas.

Attack on journalist condemned

RANGPUR, Dec 28: Local political leaders and journalists condemned the terrorist attack on a journalist and demanded immediate arrest and punishment of the miscreants, reports UNB.

The demand came at a meeting held at the local Press Club on Thursday. The speakers expressed concern over deterioration of law and order situation in the district. Representatives from all political parties and social, cultural and professional organisations were present at the meeting. District correspondent of the Daily Khabar and secretary of the local Press Club Liyakat Ali Badal was seriously injured by the armed terrorists while he was returning home.

Rehabilitation of disabled people sought

MEHERPUR, Dec 28: A discussion meeting to mark the international disabled day was held at Zila Parishad auditorium here recently, reports BSS.

Jointly organised by the district administration and the district social welfare department, the discussion was presided over by M. Shamsul Huq, Deputy Commissioner, Meherpur. The speakers called upon all to help rehabilitate the disabled people who are integral part of our society.

Sualak-Lama road construction begins

BANDARBAN, Dec 28: The construction of Sualak-Lama road under Bandarban district has begun on December 4, the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) officials said, reports BSS.

The three-year project has been taken up in the current fiscal year at an allocation of Taka forty crore. Seventy culverts and bridges including a long bridge over the river Matamuhuri will be constructed on the 55-kilometre road. The road will be completed by the end of the year 2000, the LGED officials said.

Immunization Day observed

NARSINGDI, Dec 28: The first round of the fourth National Immunisation day was observed here recently and continued aiming to eradicate the polio virus from the country by the year 2000, reports BSS.

According to civil surgeon office, a total of 306042 children from one to five years of age have given polio vaccine and Vitamin A capsules through 1741 vaccination centres in six thanas of the district including 61 centres in pourashava by using 18000 vials. The second round of the immunisation programme will be observed on January 18, 1998 next.

Discussion on environment

GAZIPUR, Dec 28: A discussion on environment and social security aspects of health was held at Tongi poura auditorium on Monday, reports BSS.

Organised by Tongi pourashava, it was addressed, among others, by Masume Hiroema representative of JICA, Hassan Zahid, additional director of the Department of Environment (DOE), Shihab Uddin Khan, Executive Engineer of the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) and local poura commissioners, teachers, industrialists and representative of different NGOs. It was chaired by chairman of Tongi pourashava Azmatullah Khan.



RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY: Prof. Abdul Khaleque (R) and Prof. Sayeedur Rahman (L) recently taking over the charge of Vice Chancellor and Pro Vice Chancellor of the university. Prof. Abul Fazal Haque, Treasurer of the university also seen beside them.

— Star photo

Drug addicts increasing

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, Dec 28: Drug addiction is on rise especially among youths in 5 districts of greater Rangpur zone.

Different kinds of drugs like heroin, wine, phensidyl, alcohol, hemp, locally known as 'Daul' are available in abundance across the zone. Most of the shops in the key points of the district towns and a group of people are earning lots of money by selling drugs to the addicted persons.

People of all ages particularly youths are consumers of drug. They are quite ignorant of its injurious effects. A good number of young and elderly females are also found habituated in this bad practice.

According to a statistics, 10 per cent population of the zone roughly around three lakh and fifty thousands are drug addicted. Sources said, most of the drug addicted persons are very much fond of phensidyl. Bulk quantity of phensidyl generally comes from India. A section of

consumers alleged that Indian phensidyl are of low grade and adulterated. A kind of chemicals are mixed to make its taste alike phensidyl. Those are injurious to health, a section of health experts claimed. But, yet these adulterated drugs are being in large scale used especially by the youths causing a serious concern for the guardians.

There are informations, at least 230 centres are functioning across the zone for selling phensidyl. Everyday about 20 thousand to 30 thousand bottles of Indian-made phensidyl are being sold from these centres. A large section of drug addicted youths have been suffering from various chronic diseases.

It is most surprising, despite massive anti-drug campaigns and strong vigilance along the border belts and in the internal markets, how these anti-health drugs are being marketed in the country?



FARIDPUR: The members of Faridpur Lions Club offering free medical treatment and distributing medicine free of cost to the destitute at a free medical camp arranged recently at Alipur here.

— Star photo

Highway dacoity on rise

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Dec 28: Highway dacoity has become a regular feature in Dhaka-Rajshahi route at night in recent days.

Three dacoities have been committed in last three days in three night coaches. All the three incidents occurred in places between Pabna town and Dashedura crossing under Iswardi thana.

A Dhaka-bound night coach of Unique Paribahan came under attack of the dacoits at about 10 pm on Tuesday.

Another night coach Rajanigandha was looted on Wednesday at about 9:30 pm while proceeding toward Dhaka.

Another dacoity was committed in Rajshahi-bound coach Sugandha at about 3 am on Thursday.

All three dacoities were committed at places from Pabna to Dashedura. The dacoits were travelling in the buses in disguise of passengers. They looted lakhs of cash money, ornaments and valuables of passengers.

Repatriation of refugees resumes Jan 1

KHAGRACHHARI, Dec 28: The sixth phase of Chakra repatriation will start from January one, district administration sources said here today, reports UNB.

DC Mohammad Ismail received a list of some 2,951 members of 573 families from South Tripura District Magistrate Lok Ranjan this morning.

The Chakra refugees will return to their homesteads in the CHT from the Kanthalchhari camp.



PABNA: A sequence of a dance drama "Mohuar Pala" composed on the basis of Mymensingh Geetika staged recently at the local Banamali Institute by Pabna unit of Bangladesh Gano Shilpi Sangstha.

— Star photo

Severe cold paralyses life in greater Rajshahi, Kushtia

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Dec 28: Life has been paralyzed in the entire northern region due to severe cold in this winter.

Major affected areas are Rajshahi, Natore, Naogaon and Chapainawabganj districts.

Dense fog covers the region up to 2:00 PM.

A total of 16 deaths have been recorded till writing of the report. Winter, vegetable and Rabi crops are severely affected by cold wave. Local farmers of Chapainawabganj and Godagari alleged, IRRI-Boro seed beds have been damaged.

Rajshahi Medical College sources said, diseases like asthma, whooping cough, eczema, cold and dysentery are on increase. RMCH authority is admitting 30 cold related disease affected patients per days on average. At outdoor of the hospital, the number of cold related diseases have increased by about 50 per cent.

Dr. Abdul Wadood, a doctor on duty of ward No-10, (children ward) informed this correspondent that the number of child patients suffering from cold related diseases like bronchitis, cough and cold have increased. Five of the children suffering from cold related diseases also died during the last one week at RMCH.

Meanwhile, the people of Rajshahi are experiencing an unbearable cold weather for about a week. However, the temperature marked a slight rise on December 26. The mercury recorded the lowest 8 degree Celsius on Dec-23, 8.3 degrees on Dec-24, 10 degrees on Dec-25, 16.6 degrees on Dec-26 and 9.8 degrees on Dec-27 at Rajshahi.

The sun could seldom be seen during the day time and dense fog is visible in the whole region. The number of road accidents has also been increased in the region due to dense fog and at least five accident have

occurred daily in the northern region. During the last 24 hours three people died in three separate road accident, two in Shibganj of Chapainawabganj and one at Darusa of Paba thana in Rajshahi district. Dense fog was the reason behind these accidents.

However, local residents of Rajshahi alleged that the prices of warm clothes including second hand clothes have increased in the city markets. Bitter wind, which is unusual in the winter, has added the miseries of winter stricken people. Day labourers, shelterless people and rickshawpullers are badly affected by severe cold. However, no relief goods including winter clothing have reached yet to the winter

JCD-BCL clash at Ghatil College: Principal injured

TANGAIL, Dec 28: At least 12 people, including the principal and VP of the students union, were injured in a clash between rival student organisations at Ghatil GBO University College in the district today, reports UNB.

The clash erupted when the ruling party's student wing, Bangladesh Chhatra League, tried to hold a meeting at the same venue on the college campus where Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal was holding a meeting with permission of the Principal.

Principal Abul Mansur Ahmed was injured as he intervened.

College students union VP Mohammad Shahiduzzaman and Towhid Hasan of BCL were rushed to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital in critical condition.

Four people, including the Principal, were given first aid.

stricken people of the region.

Our Kushtia Correspondent adds: People of Kushtia and its adjoining areas are suffering for want of warm clothes in this winter. Day labourers and street archins are the worst victims as they have no money to buy warm clothes.

Child labourers who perform odd jobs in different places are also seen having no warm clothes as their masters do not provide them with requisite number of warm clothes. Large number of beggars are seen coming from different parts of the district and begging for warm clothes from house to house.

In village areas people are seen sitting around fire to save themselves from biting cold which are sweeping the district during last one week. Mercury fell 8 degree Celsius in Chuadanga, Meherpur and Kushtia. Due to cold wave sweeping all over the district business establishments have been closing their shutter just after sun set.

Rickshawpullers are seldom seen on road after 7 pm. Reports of death of a few children due to cold related diseases have reached here from different parts of the district. Reports of the suffering of those who have been rendered homeless due to erosion in Daulatpur thana have also reached here. Continuous erosion by the river Ganges have devoured their hearth and home. They have taken shelter on Rafta Mo-hishundi flood protection embankment. They are spending their days in make shift structure for want of government help. Their paddy fields have gone into the river bed reducing them to beggars with no succour from anywhere.

Plan to construct child home for orphans at Bandarban

BANDARBAN, Dec 28: State Minister for Social Welfare, Women and Children Affairs Dr. Mozammel Hossain has said government will construct a child home at a cost of Tk 1.26 crore for the neglected, distressed and orphan children of the district, reports UNB.

He said during the current fiscal year Tk 50 lakh interest free loan will be disbursed among the distressed and helpless people of the district to make them self-reliant and to help them lead a happy life.

The minister was addressing an interest-free loan disbursement gathering at the local town hall on Friday.

President over by Deputy

Commissioner M. Atiqul Islam Chowdhury, the function was addressed, among others, by Bir Bahadur MP, local government parishad chairman Thaoing Cha Sue Master and Director General of Social Welfare Department M. Nizamuddin.

The state minister said the BNP government met 13 times with the tribal leaders but failed to solve the hill problems. The present government under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has successfully solved the long-standing problem.

The minister said after signing the historic peace accord the government has taken up a massive programme to develop

the CHT region with help of various Government and Non-government organisations.

He said after the completion of these pro-people programmes the living standard of the people of the region will improve to a great extent. He urged the hill people to remain alert against the anti-peace accord elements.

The state minister announced some development programmes under his ministry. Later he disbursed Tk 2.82 lakh loan to 61 distressed people of Sadar thana.

Earlier, the minister visited the vocational training centre of the distressed people at the office premises of district women affairs.

Pre-occupations of officials in UP polls

Aman paddy procurement drive being delayed in N-dists

NATORE, Dec 28: The procurement drive of Aman paddy and rice is being delayed in 16 northern districts including Natore because of the pre-occupations of the officials in ongoing Union Parishad elections, reports UNB.

The formation of thana level procurement committees headed by the TNO's may be delayed causing at least one month halt in the process.

Though the production will cross 45 lakh mts this year which is about 1.5 times higher than the target in the region, the procurement target however, is substantially insignificant.

It will severely affect the interest of the growers.

The small and marginal farmers of the region are selling their produce at the markets between Tk 190 and Tk 210 per maund which is below the production cost.

When contacted almost all the district and thana level food officials in this region admitted that no policy papers have reached them so far except directive wise target of procurement. As a result, the purchasing process of paddy and rice could not be started in their respective areas.

The Rajshahi Divisional

Controller of Food M. Mahfuz Ali told UNB that the committees would be formed within this month and the drive would get full momentum from January next.

Meanwhile, the middlemen and 'farishtas' taking advantage of the situation are purchasing the paddy from local markets at lower prices to make windfall profit.

Local leaders apprehended that the growers would be deprived to get fair prices of their produce like the previous seasons if the procurement policy is not modified.

Gaibandha Newsletter

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Dec 28: Two motor cycle riders sustained stab injuries by a gang of highway dacoits. They snatched away motor-bike and cash taka on Gaibandha-Palashbari highway on December 5.

The victims were proceeding toward Palashbari at night. When they reached at Goreya on Gaibandha-Palashbari road at night, a gang of miscreants resisted them creating barricade on road. They stabbed the victims and snatched away motor-bike and cash taka three thousand from their possession and managed to flee.

The injured persons are Ismail Hossain Zahid and Abdus Sattar. They were admitted to Palashbari Health Complex and later removed to Rangpur Medical College Hospital.

4 killed in road mishap

Four persons were killed and five others sustained injuries in two separate road mishaps that took place on Bogra-Rangpur highway on December 5.

In the first incident that occurred near sadar thana three motor cycle riders were killed when a Rangpur bound night coach hit them.

Two persons namely Rasel, 20, and Masud, 22, killed on the spot and another Abdul Karim, 30, died at Rangpur Medical College Hospital. The incident took place at 2 am at night.

In another incident one police constable Abdus Sattar, 30,

was killed and five others received injuries when a micro-bus turned over on to the road side ditch when it overtook a sugarcane trolley at Gulia bridge on Mohimaganj-Gobindaganj road. Two separate cases were filed with Gobindaganj thana.

Defeated chairman candidate's worker dies

One Forekan Ali, 26, of Padumshahar under Shaghatana died of heart failure after being shocked having the defeating news of a contesting chairman candidate Wahiduzzaman Shawpan on December 5.

The victim was an active supporter of Wahiduzzaman, a chairman candidate of Padumshahar union under Shaghatana thana. He could not come out successfully in election held on December 4. On hearing the news the victim fell unconscious and later died in heart attack.

15 shops gutted

A total 15 shops together with all the belongings at Naldanga bazar under Sadullapur thana reduced to ashes in a devastating fire on December 14.

According to local people, the fire originated from unknown source at dead of night which sharply spread to the surrounding areas. 15 shops including all the goods were burnt to ashes. Properties worth about Taka ten lakh destroyed completely.

Post election violence

40 shops gutted by unknown miscreants

PIROJPUR, Dec 28: Unknown miscreants torched Ghoshherat Bazar in Sadar thana of the district gutting at least 40 shops on Friday night in a sequel to post election violence, reports UNB.

Witnesses said some 25 hoodlums swooped on the Bazar at midnight. They ransacked and looted the shops of the bazar before setting them on fire.

Some 25 people were injured in clashes between rival groups since Wednesday following the election of Patyashi union of the thana.

Supporters of newly elected Chairman Asadul Kabir Swapan allegedly ransacked the house of Mahub, a supporter of former chairman Delwar Hossain, on Thursday.

Police suspected that Friday night's attack was a sequel to previous attack by the elected chairman candidate.

Additional police force have been deployed in the area to avert further clashes.

UNB reports from Jhalakati

Election to five unions in Razarpur thana of the district was held peacefully on Wednesday.

The unofficially elected chairmen of the unions are: Milon Mahmud from Razarpur sadar union, Mohammad Shah Alam Khan from suktagar, Abdul Mannan Khan from Mathbari, Shamsuddin Talukder, Sham from Sattaria and Hazi Shamsul Haq Barkat from Galua unions.