

National

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 Sufiuzzaman, general secretary Mostafa Babul and Rezaul Karim Hira MP.

Chhatra Dal leader arrested

SIRAJGANJ, Dec 28: Police on Saturday arrested a Chhatra Dal leader from power house gate of Bahigola 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, Bilaichhari and Raikali 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 Kailganj 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: Kotwali police arrested an alleged dacoit along with gun from Majumdar 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

MADRIPUR, 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) of late 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 poultries will be immunised this year. In the meantime, 45,000 cattle and 650,000 poultries were immunised. At the same time, 17,000 cattle and 64,000 poultries 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 Khaleda 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 Taka 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 Bhalukkandi 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 Tofazzal Hossain, supervisors of the project, among others, took part in the discussion. Such co-ordination meetings were also held recently in Mirzapur and Ghatal 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 BSS.

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.

Susal-Lama road construction begins

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

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

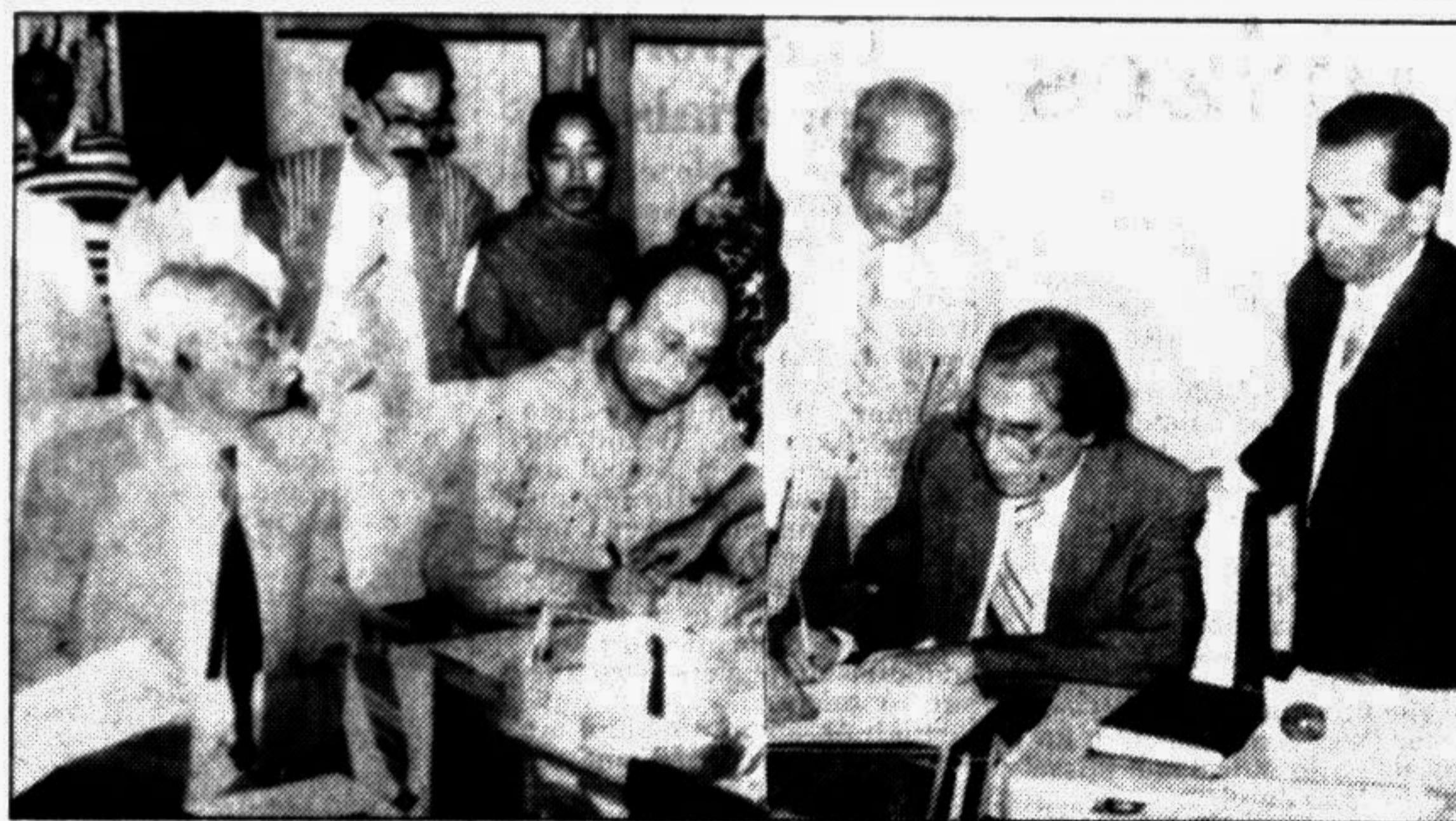
NARSINGDI, Dec 28: The first round of the fourth National Immunisation day was observed here recently and continued aiming to eradicate the polio virus from the country by the year 2000, reports BSS.

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), Sohrab Uddin Khan, Executive Engineer of the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) and local pourashava commissioners, teachers, industrialists and representative of different NGOs. It was presided over 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, phenisidyl, alcohol, hemp, locally known as 'Dai' 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.

There are informations, at least 230 centres are functioning across the zone for selling phenisidyl. Everyday about 20 thousand to 30 thousand bottles of Indian-made phenisidyl 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, now these anti-health drugs are being marketed in the country?

Consumers alleged that Indian phenisidyl are of low grade and adulterated. A kind of chemicals are mixed to make its taste alike phenisidyl. Those are injurious to health, a section of health experts claimed. But, yet these adulterated drugs are being sold in large scale, 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 phenisidyl. Everyday about 20 thousand to 30 thousand bottles of Indian-made phenisidyl are being sold from these centres.

People of all ages particularly youths are consumers of drug. They are quite ignorant of its injurious affects. 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 phenisidyl. Bulk quantity of phenisidyl generally comes from India. A section of

Rivers drying up abnormally!

PABNA, Dec 28: Water of main rivers, canals, beels and ponds have been drying up abnormally in the northern region in the country, according to the agriculture extension department, reports UNB.

Meanwhile, irrigation is facing a setback as the canals and beels have dried up before the advent of the dry season in the region. The ground water level also recorded sharp fall.

An expert in the Hydrology department said everything has been undergoing changes with the change of time. He said indiscriminate setting up of deep and shallow tubewells and pump houses is mainly responsible for the fall of ground water level.

He said the people of the region will face serious drinking water shortage with the passage of time due mainly to the adverse effect of the Farakka Barrage and unplanned water lifting system.

This year the short tenure rainy season has appeared early and passed away soon. Meanwhile, water in Chalan beel area have abnormally reduced to 5-6 feet causing drying up of thousands of acres of lands.

Mentionable that 35,000 irrigation pumps are engaged in lifting water in the Chalan beel area. Of these, 25,000 are run by diesel and the rest are operated by electricity.

The cumulative pressure on ground water will inevitably hamper the irrigation in the next dry season, experts said.

Boy killed in Patuakhali road mishap

PATUAHALI, Dec 28: A boy was crushed under the wheels of a speeding microbus at Kamejatala crossing on Patuakhali-Khepupura road in Sadar thana on Friday, reports UNB.

The ill-fated boy Al-Amin, 6, son of Abdur Rasheed Mira of village Ballavpur in the thana, met his tragic end at about 3 pm while crossing road.

Another report from Gaibandha adds: Housewife Jesmin, 22, was allegedly killed by her husband Mostafizur Rahman at Chandpur village in Gobindaganj thana on Wednesday.

A case was filed with the police. The killer husband remained absconding.

Another report from Manikganj says: Three people including a school boy allegedly committed suicide by taking poison in the district last week.

55 hurt in clashes over Milk Vita Factory body polls

SIRAJGANJ, Dec 28: Some 55 people were injured in separate clashes between two rival groups at Milk Vita Factory at Reshambari area in Shahjahanpur thana on Friday, reports UNB.

The clash occurred over the factory Committee election between the supporters of a defeated and the winning groups.

About 10 people were injured at the same place. Thirty passengers suffered injuries.

In a separate incident, the dacoits also looted valuables worth about Tk 8 lakh from the passengers of a Dhaka-bound night coach at Tebunia in Pabna district on Saturday hours.

The bandits swooped on the passengers of the Dhaka-bound night coach coming from Dhaka at Tebunia on the Pabna-Rajshahi highway and decamped with the booties.

Earlier, a gang of highway robbers looted valuables worth about Tk 12 lakh from the passengers of a Dhaka-bound night coach on Tuesday night at the same place. Thirty passengers suffered injuries.

In a separate incident, the dacoits also looted valuables worth about Tk 8 lakh from the passengers of another night coach near the same place on early Saturday last.

The incidents of highway robbery have alarmingly been increased in the district. Three robberies were committed in the district within a week in which valuables worth about Tk 23 lakh were looted and 50 passengers were injured.

COX'S BAZAR, Dec 28: Six alleged terrorists were arrested with firearms from a shrimp enclosure today.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of police raided the area in Ramapur under Chokoria thana of the district and arrested them.

Five rifles and a revolver were recovered from their possession.

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 dead were identified as Nazmin Akhter Ruma, aged about seven.

Girl roasted alive in N'ganj

NARAYANGANJ, Dec 28: A minor girl was roasted alive when fire broke out at a slum at Pagla near Rail Line last night, reports BSS.

Thirteen houses were gutted.

The dead was identified as Nazmin Akhter Ruma, aged about seven.

In another incident one police constable Abdus Sattar, 30,

was killed when he was hit by a bullet while he was on duty.

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