

News snaps

KCC ward commissioner joins AL

KHULNA, Dec 30: A ward commissioner of Khulna City Corporation (KCC) Ershad Ali Sikder joined Awami League (AL) at a simple ceremony at the Khulna Circuit House on Friday last along with his supporters, reports BSS.

Awami League leaders including Monnujan Sufian MP, president of Khulna district Awami League and former whip of Jatiya Sangsad Sheikh Harun Rashid and secretary of the district Awami League SM Mostafa Rashid Shuja MP and whip of Jatiya Sangsad, president and secretary of Khulna City Awami League advocates Monjurul Imman and Talukder Abdul Khaleque, State Minister for Relief and Disaster Management were present on the occasion.

Massive Rabi crop farming scheme

CHUADANGA, Dec 30: The cultivation of Rabi crop of the current Rabi season is now in full swing in all the four thanas of Chuadanga district, reports BSS.

The four thanas of the district are Chuadanga sadar, Alamdanga, Damurhuda and Jibannagar. According to an official source, in the current Rabi crop cultivation season, the cultivation target of wheat has been fixed at 23,000 hectares, potato 900 hectares, sweet potato at 130 hectares, maize at 100 hectares, musur at 16,000 hectares, gram at 14,000 hectares, mitor at 100 hectares, arhar at 100 hectares and Khesari at 1200 hectares. About 80 per cent of the total target of cultivation of the Rabi crops have been completed and by 15th of the next month the cultivation period will be over.

Reception to intellectuals

SITAKUNDA, Dec 30: State Minister for relief and Disaster Management Talukder Abdul Khaleque has said the nation can get proper direction from the intellectuals in times of need, reports UNB.

The State Minister was addressing a reception to the intellectuals as chief guest at Shamsul Huda High School premises on Monday. The reception was organised by local Muradpur Club on the occasion of its Silver Jubilee.

Presided over by president of the celebrating committee SM Nurunnabi, the function was addressed, among others, by Abul Kashem Master MP, TNO Saifur Islam Laskar and Dr Faisal Siddiqi. The minister called upon the intellectuals to play an active role in building the exploitation-free Sonar Bangla as dreamt by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. He also lauded the role of the club in the development of education, health care, cultural and socio-economic condition of the region, said an official handout.

Alleged rapist arrested

SYLHET, Dec 30: A man was arrested and sent to jail custody for deflowering a minor girl at a village in Golapganj thana in the district, reports UNB.

Police said Abdul Malek Bulu dragged his sister-in-law Rupia Begum, 10, daughter of late Samir Uddin of Barakut village in the thana to a nearby tilla and raped her on Thursday. The ill-fated girl was returning home after shopping at the local bazar. Later, people from the nearby area rushed to the spot at the cry of the victim and rescued her in a serious condition as she was bleeding profusely. She was rushed to local hospital.

11 uplift projects implemented

KISHOREGANJ, Dec 30: The Water Development Board (WDB) has implemented 11 development projects in the district at an allocation of about Taka 1.1 crore in 1995-96 and 1996-97 fiscal years, reports BSS.

According to an official source the projects include construction and reconstruction of flood control barrage, culverts, dredging of rivers and earth work. About 159 metric tons of wheat was also allocated for the earth work.

Agri inputs to be supplied among farmers

MADARIPUR, Dec 30: A total of 75,000 hectares of land in the district will be brought under paddy, wheat and other winter crops cultivation during the current season, reports UNB.

According to Agriculture Extension Department (AED), boro paddy will be cultivated on 24,000 hectares, wheat on 18,000 hectares, mustard on 10,400 hectares, onion on 2,000 hectares and winter vegetables on 20,600 hectares. AED has already set up several demonstration plots to acquaint the farmers with modern methods of cultivation. Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) will supply seeds, pesticides and other necessary inputs among the farmers at fair prices to make the programme a success.

Seminar on human rights

KURIGRAM, Dec 30: A seminar on "Human Rights in flourishment of democracy" was held here at the local office of Bangladesh Human Rights Commission recently, reports UNB.

Organised by the district unit Human Rights Commission, the seminar was presided over by president of the commission and journalist Mujibur Rahman. General Secretary of the Commission Prof Liakat Ali presented the key-note paper in the seminar which was held to mark the 49th anniversary of World Human Rights Day. The speakers called upon the elite of the society to help create mass awareness about human rights. They also urged to repeal the law which negates the human rights for flourishment of democracy. The speakers said terrorism must be rooted out from the society to give democracy an institutional shape.

Discussion on life, works of Kashempuri

NETRAKONA Dec 30: The 18th death anniversary of noted folk literature Sirajuddin Kashempuri was observed here recently in a befitting manner, reports BSS.

Sirajuddin Kashempuri was born in village Kashempur of Madanpur union under Netrakona sadar thana in 1901. He was given literary award by Bangla Academy in 1976 for writing many books on folk-literature. Netrakona reporters Club arranged a discussion on the life and works of Sirajuddin Kashempuri at the conference room of old circuit house. Octogenarian educationist and litterateur Prof Shamsuddin Ahmed was the chief guest while advisor of Reporters Club, Netrakona, advocate Hafizur Rahman Khan presided.

Firewoods being used in brickfields

PABNA, Dec 30: Firewoods are on rampant use in the brickfields of the district despite the government ban, reports UNB.

The government imposed the ban on the use of firewood at the furnaces of the brickfields to maintain the ecological balance. There are more than 100 brickfields in different parts of the district and firewoods are being used indiscriminately before the nose of the district administration. Some brickfield owners informed that they use firewoods as those are available at cheaper rate and on credit. They also said the price of coal is higher than the firewood. While contacted, a source of district administration told that mobile vigilance teams have been formed to find out the brickfield owners engaged in violating the government order.

Work of 5 bridges completed

MANIKGANJ, Dec 30: Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) completed the construction work of five bridges at a cost of Taka 2,03,43,000 under PL-480 in the district recently, reports BSS.

The constructed bridges are 35-metre long bridge on Maniknagar-Joymontop road and 60-metre long bridge on Daragram-Bonparil road in Singair thana, a 30-metre long bridge on Mohadebpur-Gangashagar road in Shibabala thana. A 43.90-metre long bridge on Jitika Poddarbari-Mohadebpur road in Harirampur thana and a 63-metre long bridge on the old Dhaleswari river in Gheor thana. The communication system of the areas have improved much after the completion of these bridges.

Illegal sale of rectified spirit

BARGUNA, Dec 30: Illegal sale of rectified spirit at different places of the district is going on unabated before the nose of the law enforcing agencies, reports UNB.

As per rules, the government provides licence to the bonafide homeopath practitioners and druggists to use the spirit in manufacturing medicine. But it is learnt that some licence holders are illegally selling the item to the liquor shops for manufacturing spurious wine. Moreover, the contrabands including Indian Phensidyl Syrup and other spurious drugs are being sold at different medicine shops in the district. Besides, opium and ganja mixed bidi are also available at different betel-leaf and grocery shops in the district. The guardians demanded immediate measures to stop illegal selling of the rectified spirit and the spurious drugs to save the youths, in particular, from ruination.

Workshop on modern methods of farming

JHALAKATI, Dec 30: A day-long workshop on modern methods of cultivation was held at the Rajapur thana headquarters on Sunday, reports UNB.

Organised by the Agriculture Extension Department, the workshop made a brief review on harvesting of various crops at the demonstration plots under the Agriculture Support Service Programme, employment of the destitute women in cultivation, progress of rabi cultivation and coordinated block demonstration. It also suggested necessary recommendations for boosting up agri-production in the district. Some 25 agro-officials and block supervisors of the AED took part in the workshop.

They never exercise voting rights

JHENIDAH, Dec 30: All the 2,860 women voters, in maintaining their age-old superstition, did not exercise their right to franchise in the elections held at Shurat Union held on Wednesday, reports UNB.

The female voters both Hindu and Muslim communities never exercise their voting rights since Pakistan period, said a village elder.

All the efforts of district administration, NGO and women organisations went in vain to bring them to polling centres. Even member candidates for women reserve seats did not cast their votes.

A female voter said the male guardians do not allow them to cast their votes. A male guardian and village elder said it is a social custom not to cast vote by the female voters adding that it is anti-religion to touch the hands of women for smear indelible ink by unknown people while casting votes.

On the other hand, it is learnt that 87 per cent female voters of nearby Kalicharanpur and Naldanga Unions cast their votes in the elections held on the same day.

Local UP Chairman Abdur Rashid said there is a risk of social boycott if any one tries to bring female voters to polling centres.

Cold wave claims 11 lives in Panchagarh

PANCHAGARH, Dec 30: The severe cold wave claimed at least 11 lives in the district during the last fortnight, local people and hospital sources said, reports UNB.

The deaths were reported from the municipality area here and different villages of Sadar, Atwari, Tetulia and Boda thanas.

The victims were identified as Gora Mohammad, Mohammad Bohur Uddin, Jharu Mohammad, Hafez, Sukur Ali, Mofiz Uddin, Abul Hossain, Shohimuddin, Mohammad Jhonu, Shamu and Hamuddin.

The district administration has started distribution of warm clothes among the cold hit poor people in some areas. But the affected people alleged maldistribution of the clothes by a section of officials.

Normal life is being paralysed in the district due to dense fog and shivering cold. During the last two days, the mercury has registered a slight rise.

Silver crown looted from temple

KHAGRACHHARI, Dec 30: A gang of armed robbers looted Tk 46,500 cash and silver crown from a temple in Matriganga thana, police said, reports UNB.

According to a delayed report, a gang of 15-16 dacoits entered the Tailapang Buddhist Temple in the thana breaking the window while its custodian went out to respond to the call of nature at dead of night on December 21.

They also inflicted injuries to eight Marma tribals who were sleeping in the temple. A case was filed with the police accusing 16 people.

Arms recovered

MADARIPUR, Dec 30: Madaripur thana police, acting on a tip-off recovered two pipe guns from Rasti village and Kulpadeli area recently, reports BSS.

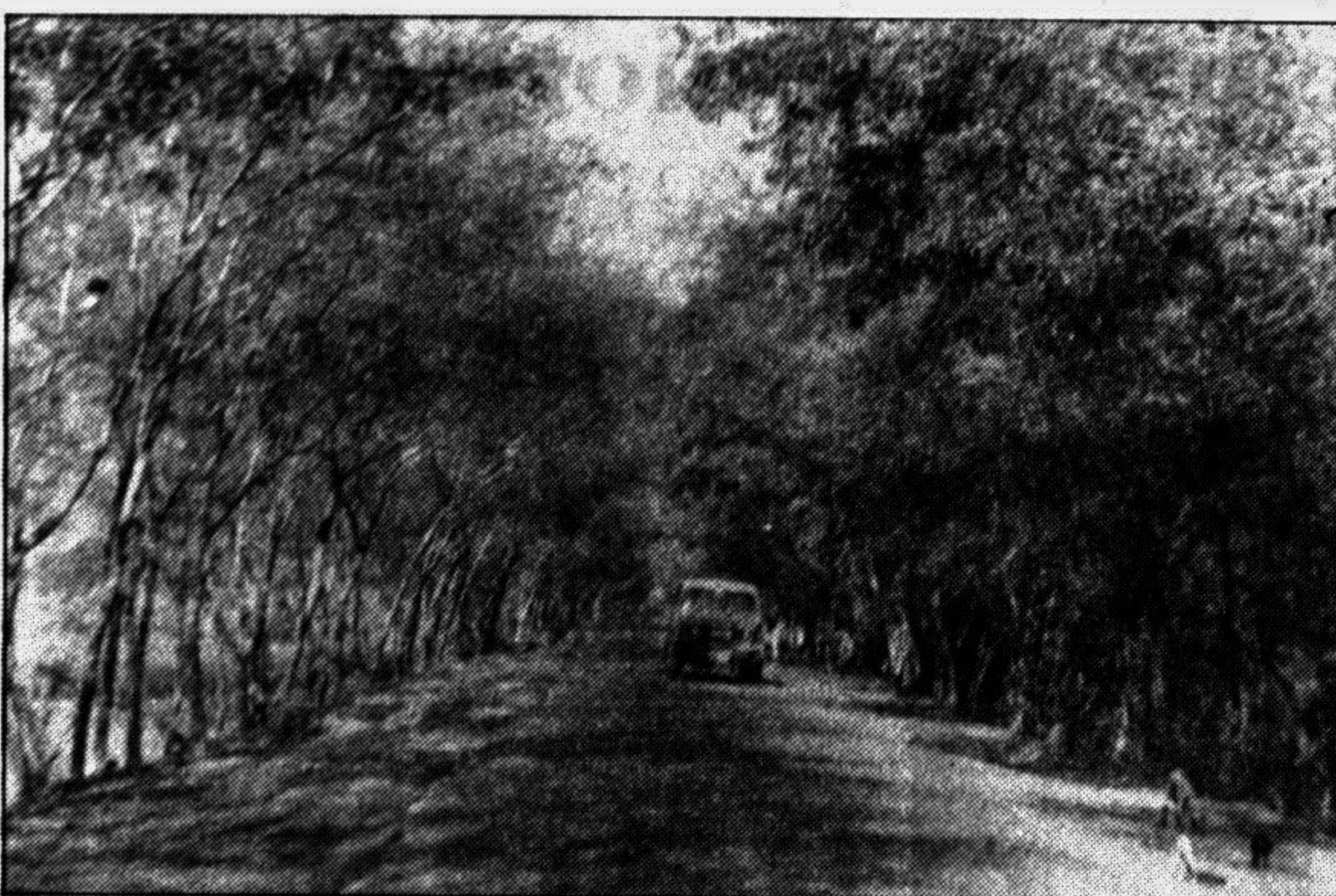
Police said, a case was filed with Madaripur thana in this connection.

Harvesting of cotton begins

CHUADANGA, Dec 30: The harvesting of cotton in the Chuadanga zone of Bangladesh Cotton Development Board (BCDB) has begun last week, reports BSS.

According to BCDB, 11,000 hectares were brought under cotton cultivation in this zone.

About 3.35 lakh maunds of cotton is expected to be produced in this zone this year. The harvesting of cotton will be completed by March next.



KHULNA: Social afforestation drive has become a complete success in the port city.

— Star photo

Voting in 1 centre suspended in Gaibandha

75 injured in post-polls violence in Sherpur

From Our Correspondent

SHERPUR, Dec 30: At least 75 persons were injured in electoral violence during the last two days (19th and 20th day) of on-going union parishad elections.

Polling atleast 11 centres has been suspended due to violence while clashes between the supporters of rival candidates took place, two separate fire incidents also occurred according to district administration source.

Elections were peacefully held at 120 centres out of 131 under five thanas of the district. 50 persons were injured in Dhala and Kamaria unions on December 27. Of the injured, 15 persons were admitted in sadar hospital and rest 40 people were released after first aid treatment. Other 25 persons were injured on December 28 in Bajitkhila and Charsherpur union. Of them, 5 persons were admitted in sadar hospital.

The Deputy Commissioner, Sherpur, told The Daily Star, polling in 11 centres were cancelled as supporters of certain chairman and member candidates snatched away ballot papers including boxes.

Mohammad Naofel Miah DC Sherpur said, out of 52 unions in five thanas of the district election in 41 unions completed peacefully.

District election officials and election control room sources said that the postponed centres are: Sanasirchar Government Primary School centre (Kamarerchar union), Kulkunda Dighara Non-government Primary School centre and Chandernagar Nayapara Government Primary School centre in Dhala union, Khunua Government Primary School centre and Ragunatpur Tajul Islam Dhakhil Madrasa Centre in Kamaria union.

In Char Sherpur union six centres are Charsherpur Government Primary School Shattaniapara Government Primary School centre, Charsherpur Nayapara Government Primary School centre, Heruya Balurghat Government Primary School centre, Zuginab Non-government Primary School centre, and Bamunerchar Government Primary School Centre.

Supporters of a defeated chairman candidate of Char-mucharia union ransacked the TNO office in sadar thana of the district. Several hundred supporters of Muklesur Rahman gheraoed the TNO office on December 28. Later the agitated supporters of Muklesur Rahman brought out of protest rally which paralysed the town streets chanting slogan against the result of Char-mucharia union. They demanded repolling at KMF Senior Madrasa including cancellation of poll result where election was held on December 23.

Besides, tense situation has been prevailing in Bajitkhila and Charsherpur union. Police said, supporters of defeated chairman candidates attacked each others at Bajitkhila

union. The supporters set on fire Bajitkhila union bazar. As a result at least 50 shopping centres and two dwelling houses burnt to ashes. The incident of fire also took place at Haji Bari of Balurghat in Charsherpur union.

Our Gaibandha correspondent says: Election of eight union parishads (UPs) out of 17 UPs under Gobindaganj thana concluded on December 24. Polls of one centre was suspended following clash and snatching of ballot paper and boxes.

In Darbasta Government Primary School centre under Darbasta union some unruly supporters of influential candidates entered into the polling centre armed with deadly weapons and snatched away ballot boxes. Police resorted to lathi charge to disperse the unruly crowd. The authority declared polling at the centre suspended.

Besides, some unruly people were involved in clash outside the Naldanga Non-government Primary School centre. At one stage the clashing group were tried to enter into the centre. Police had to open two rounds of blank shots and lobbed five rounds of tear gas to disperse the mob. Polls in this centre were suspended for some times but later voting was held peacefully in this centre.

Voting of remaining unions of Kamdia, kaibari, Sakahar, Rajahar, Sajamara, Taluk Kanupur and Gumaniganj was held almost peacefully.

With the ending of polls in remaining eight unions under Gobindaganj thana on December 27 months long union parishad election concluded in seven thanas of the district.

Election at Rakhal-Buruj, Kamardaha, Mohimaganj, Nakai, Harirampur, Shibpur, Shalamara and Kochashahar under Gobindaganj thana was held almost peacefully on December 27 with some stray incidents. Police had to open two rounds of blank shots. They recovered arms and ammunition.

In Jibangari Government Primary School centre under Salmara union police arrested two persons namely Zillur Rahman and Mithu, recovered one pipe gun and three rounds of ammunition from their possession. The persons attempted to create terror in polling centre compound.

In Balua Government Primary School centre under Mohimaganj union police had to open two rounds of blank shots to disperse unruly supporters who attempted to snatch away ballot papers and boxes. Police, however, foiled the attempt of miscreants.

In Kochashahar Government Primary School centre under Kochashahar union police arrested two persons namely Shahidul Islam and Pintu Sarker and recovered daggers and Chinese axes from their possession. They were creating terror.

However, polling in all the

eight unions concluded peacefully. Polling in Gobindaganj sadar union remain stopped following injunction issued by the courts.

Our Satkhira Correspondent reports: A total of 52 union Parishads Chairman were unofficially declared elected under five thanas of Satkhira district.

The elections of 52 Union Parishads (UP) concluded in five out of seven thanas of the district in a peaceful manner. These thanas are Shyamnagar, Kaliganj, Debhata, Satkhira Sadar and Assasuni.

The district election office, after holding election in the union parishads declared unofficial results of chairman and members who were elected in the polls.

The elected chairman under five thanas are: In Shyamnagar thana—Jaglu Haidar (Shyamnagar sadar), Abdul Hamid (Kashimari), Liakat Hossain (Bhurulia), Golam Alamgir (Nur Nagar), Abdul Kader (Atulia), Amal Krishna Sardar (Padma Pukur), Likat Hossain (Barigolaini), Gazi Sohrab Hossain (Gabura), Asim Kumar Mridha (Munshiganj), Sk Alamgir Haidar (Ramjan Nagar).

In Kaliganj thana—Abdus Sattar (Krishan Nagar), Mizanur Rahman (Bishnupur), Abdul Kahleque (Bhara Shimala), Kazi Mofakharul Haq Nilu (Kushlia), Md Selim (Naita), Abdul Haq (Mathureshpur), Khorsheed Alam (Dhalbaria), Abdul Wahed (Rotonpur), Shahjahan Siraj (Moutala) and Didarul Haq (South Sreepur) were declared elected.

In Debhata thana—Asadul Haq (Kulja) Golam Farooq Babu (Parulia), Salamattullah (Sakhipur), Abdul Gani (Noapara) and Abul Fazal (Debhata Sadar) were elected.

In Satkhira sadar—Ranjit Kumar Ghosh (Bhomra), Abdur Rouf (Alipur), Abul Khair (Fingri), Abdul Gafoor (Brahmarajpur), Ashrat Hossain (Dhulihar), Shahiduzzaman Helal (Banshadah), Golam Sarwar (Bai Kari), Lufur Rahman (Agerdari), Abdul Mazid (Shibpur), Azmaluddin (Jhawdanga), Mahitul Haq (Balli), Abdul Alim (Labsa) Golam Morshed (Kushkhali) and Prof Fazlur Rahman (Ghona) were elected.

In Assasuni thana—Noor Mohammad (Sreula), Matir Rahman (Pratapnagar), Abul Hoshem (Budhata), Kanak Chandra Mondal (Kadakat), Ismail Hossain (Dargapur), Gazi Abdur Rouf (Baradal), Shahidul Islam (Shovnali), Mobarak Ali (Khajra), Rafiqul Islam (Kulla) and Nurul Alam (Anulia) were elected.

Our Moulibazar correspondent says: Elections in 64 union parishads under six thanas of Moulibazar district were held peacefully, according to district election control room source.

Officials source said, election was held in 12 UPs in Baralekha thana, 16 UPs in Kulara thana, 7 UPs in Rajnagar thana, 8 UPs in Kamalganj thana.

Heart camp in Manikganj

MANIKGANJ, Dec 30: A mobile heart camp organised by the National Institute of Heart Disease began in Daulatpur thana of Manikganj district recently, reports BSS.

State Minister for Land Alhaj Rashed Mosharaf inaugurated the camp.

Director General of National Institute of Heart Disease Dr Aktaruzzaman was present on this occasion. The function was also attended, among others, by Civil Surgeon and Deputy Commissioner of Manikganj.

About one thousand five hundred poor patients got free care treatment from this camp.

The State Minister for Land in his inaugural speech called upon the rich people to come forward in aid of the distressed who are not getting proper treatment due to financial problems. He also called upon them to arrange such camps for rendering free treatment to the poor people.

Rangs reunion

From A Correspondent

MUNSHIGANJ, Dec 30: Rangs Group recently arranged a reunion at Malkhanagar School and College in Munshiganj district.

The directors along with other officials of Mitsubishi Electronics, Rangs Ltd, Rangs Workshop took part.

The participants met at the venue after completing a cruise on the river.

Abdur Rouf Chowdhury, Managing Director, Rangs, who hails from Kazirbagh in Malkhanagar union of Munshiganj district spent the day together with the employees of the Group.

Mohiuddin Ahmed, Chairman of Malkhanagar union along with teachers and students of the school and college gave them a warm reception.

Zakia Rouf Chowdhury, Romo Rouf Chowdhury, Romana Rouf Rumi, Farhana Haque Romo and Rumi Akhter Hossain, directors and senior officials of the Group were present.

Bijoy Mela concludes

DINAJPUR, Dec 30: State Minister for Fisheries and Livestock Satish Chandra Roy called upon all to work unitedly to ensure economic emancipation to reach the fruits of independence to the doorsteps of the common people, reports UNB.

He was addressing the concluding function of the Bijoy Mela and prize distribution arranged in observance of the Victory Day here on Saturday.

The function was also addressed, among others, by Mostafizur Rahman MP, four former MPs and Police super of the district with the Deputy Commissioner in the chair.

The minister said real history of the independence should be projected to the new generation which was achieved after bloodshed at the call of Bangabandhu.

He said Bangabandhu wanted to build a self-reliant nation by achieving economic emancipation of the people. We shall have to materialize his dream by accomplishing his unfinished task, he added.

Jhenidah Newsletter

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Dec 30: A wanted person was arrested from the house of Ahmed Mandal at village Babra under Kaliganj thana of the districts recently, according to police sources.

Police said, Mainuddin, a wanted person of a case with Faridganj thana of Chandpur district was staying in the house of Ahmed Ali for a long time. Police raided the house and arrested him.

One killed in road accident

Mitul, 24, helper of a truck was crushed to death on spot under the wheels of a truck near Madandanga under Saikupa thana recently, according to police sources.

Local people and eyewitnesses said, Mitul fell down from the truck Dhaka-Da-4264 when the driver tried to save a cyclist at about 4 pm on the day.

A case was filed with Saikupa thana in this connection and the body was sent to morgue for autopsy.

The driver reportedly managed to flee leaving the vehicle.

Wheat farming programme

About 600 metric tonnes of wheat worth Taka 142 crore is likely to be produced in 10 southern districts this year, according to the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) sources.

To make the programme a success 108,800 hectares of land was brought under the programme.

A total of 14,000 hectares of land was brought under the programme in Jhenidah district. 24,000 hectares in Kushtia district, 23,000 hectares in Chuadanga district, 16,000 hectares each in Jessore and Meherpur districts, 9000 hectares in Magura district, 14,500 hectares in Narail district and 1,500 hectares of land was brought under wheat farming programme in Satkhira district.

Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) will supply adequate seeds and irrigation inputs, DAE sources said.

23 elected unopposed

Candidates including five female were elected as union parishad members in five thanas out of six thanas of the district, according to District Election Office sources.

Sar-e-Jahan, a female can-

didate of ward 2 of Porahati union, Nasima Khatun from ward 3 in Harisankarpur union, Basanti Rani Sarker from ward 2 in Padmakar union, Tofazzel Hossain from ward 5 in Sadhubati union, Hekmat Sarkar from ward 1 and Mofazzel Hossain from ward 2 in Saganna union, Abdus Sattar from ward 3 in Moharajpur union and Niranjan Sarkar from ward 7 in Ghorsal union under Jhenidah sadar thana were elected Union Parishad (UP) members as no rival stood against the said candidates.

Ojala Khatun from ward 1 and Eriza Parvin from ward 2 in Nityanandapur union, Rafiqul Islam from ward 9 in Halkimpur union and Ashrafur Bari from ward 7 in Umedpur union were declared as UP members in Saikupa thana.

Tithi Rani from ward 1 in Kola union, Subarna Rani from ward 1 in Simla Rokanpur union, Lutfar Rahman from ward 8 in Sundarpur-Durgapur union and Abul Kashem from ward 6 in Niamatpur union under Kaliganj thana were elected UP members.

Khadeja Begum from ward 2 in Kushna union, Lutfunnessa from ward 2 in Saffarpur union, Shamsul Hoque from ward 1 in Baluhaar union and Kawsar Rahman from ward 1 and Rajab Ali from ward 9 in Dora union under Kotchandpur thana.

In Mohepur thana Abdus Sattar from ward 8 in Panta-para union and Benajir Alihed Ripon from ward 5 in Jadapur union were elected UP members. But none was reportedly elected as UP member in Harinakundu thana of the district. Election Office sources said.

Valuables worth Tk 40,000 looted

A dacoity was committed in the house of Piru Mia at village Debrajpur in Kaliganj thana of the district recently.

The dacoits looted valuables worth about Taka 40,000, according to local people.

Local people said, a gang of dacoits numbering 10 to 12 with firearms and swords entered into the house and started looting. When the inmates of the house tried to protect themselves the miscreants opened one round of blank fire and fled.

When contacted Kaliganj thana police said, a case was recorded with them and none was arrested in that connection.



DINAJPUR: A discussion meeting was arranged recently in Dinajpur Press Club here by Integrated Social Advancement Foundation in observance of World AIDS Day.



MUNSHIGANJ: Two rural boys trying in vain to catch bees from hard molasses from a village market in the district.

— Star photo