

## National

## News snaps

## Work of college bldg progressing

MEHERPUR, Jan 5: The construction work of academic buildings of two colleges in Gangni thana under Meherpur district is in full swing at a cost of Tk 32.50 lakh, reports BSS.

The project was taken up under non-government educational institution development project. According to the district facilities department, the construction of three-storied academic building of Gangni College is nearing completion at a cost of Tk 16.50 lakh. The construction of two-storied academic building of Kazipur College in the remotest corner of the thana has begun recently. Taka 16 lakh has been sanctioned for the project. The construction work will be completed by June next.

## Dredging of Arial Khan essential

MADRIPUR, Jan 5: The dredging of the river Arial Khan is essential for the smooth navigation and ensuring supply of water for irrigation purposes, reports BSS.

Once the river Arial Khan was a blessing for the people of the district for smooth navigation, huge fish resources and abundant supply of water for irrigation. The river was deep and wide but due to heavy siltation the river is gradually losing its depth and changing its courses. Merchant and cargo vessels are hardly visible now a days in the river due to emergence of a number of shoals. The river bank fishermen have already changed their profession due to acute scarcity of fish and the farmers living beside the river are facing problems due to shrinking of irrigation facilities in the dry season as the river is gradually drying up. The people urged the authority concerned to take immediate steps to dredge the river-bed to remove the accumulation of huge silts for smooth navigation.

## Body found

SYLHET, Jan 5: Police recovered a body from a residential hotel at Telia area in the town on Friday, reports BSS.

The body of the boarder, identified as Kabir Ahmed, 51, son of Fazlul Rahman of Jahangir Sarak, Sabujbagh, Dhaka, was recovered after the hotel employees got no response from his room. Kabir was staying at room no. 114 of East End Hotel since December 29. Postmortem of the body was performed at Osmani Medical College Hospital and a case was lodged with the Kotwali police. Another message adds: Police arrested an Indian national from the town on Friday for travelling without valid documents. The arrested man was identified as Dr Paul Yusuf Alis Asit of Metiapur in Calcutta. He was sent to jail custody and further investigation is on.

## Massive mustard farming programme

JHENIDAH, Jan 5: A total of 7,900 hectares of land in six thanas of the district have been brought under mustard cultivation in the current rabi season, reports BSS.

According to Agriculture Extension Department, the production target has been fixed at 7,110 metric tons. Of the total land, 1,735 hectares will be cultivated in Sadar, 1,550 hectares in Kaliganj, 525 hectares in Kotchandpur, 1,950 hectares in Moleshpur, 1,575 hectares in Shaikupur and 565 hectares in Harinkunda thanas. Some 65 demonstration plots have been set up to acquaint the farmers with the modern methods of cultivation. Meanwhile, a total of 11,000 hectares of land in the district have been brought under lentil cultivation in the current season. Thana wise break-up of land is as follows: Sadar — 1,230 hectares, Kaliganj — 2,520 hectares, Kotchandpur — 1,285 hectares, Moleshpur — 3,540 hectares, Shaikupur — 1,735 hectares and Harinkunda — 890 hectares.

## Contraband goods seized

COMILLA, Jan 5: BDR 17 battalion seized huge quantity of contraband goods worth about Taka 19 lakh 50 thousand from different places in border areas of Comilla region, reports BSS.

BDR sources said, acting on a tip-off, the BDR in a special drive seized smuggled sarees, sugar, milk powder, wine, ganja, bi-cycle and timbers from border areas in Bibir Bazar, Baora Bazar, Salda Nadi, Nayanpur and Gangasagar areas from December 21 to December 28.

## Radha Krishna Puja in Narsingdi

NARSINGDI, Jan 5: A month-long Radha Krishna Kirtan and Puja, a religious festival of the Hindu community concluded in the temple of Sree Sree Kanai Lal zior at Barabo under Polash thana of the district on Thursday, reports BSS.

Thousands of devotees of all ages from the different parts of the country and India attended the Kurja Puja. On the occasion of Kurja Puja, a 4-day long Kurja Mela was held by the side of the temple. Members of the Hindu community performed one-day fasting on the concluding day of the puja.

## Valuables worth Tk 50,000 looted

SATKHIRA, Jan 5: Two dacoits were committed in two thanas of the district on December 30 and 31, reports BSS.

Police sources said about 15 to 16 armed dacoits entered forcibly into the house of bank officer Syed Habibur Rahman of village Kashimpur under sadar thana at the midnight on December 30. The dacoits robbed cash with other valuables worth about Taka 50 thousand from the house. In another incident, a group armed dacoits entered forcibly into the house of Girindro Nath Mondal of village Jelekhali under Shyamnagar thana at the midnight on December 30. The dacoits looted cash with other valuables worth about Taka one lakh from the house. Separate cases were filed with sadar and Shyamnagar thana.

## 400 more villages electrified

BHERAMARA, Jan 5: Four hundred villages under six thanas of greater Kushtia district have, so far, been brought under rural electrification network, reports BSS.

The Kushtia Palli Bidyut Samity gave thirty two thousand connections in the districts. The rural electrification authority have installed about two thousand kilometres of transmission lines. Extensive programmes will be implemented to bring more villages of the district under electrification network.

## Contraband seized

MANIKGANJ, Jan 5: Shibalaya thana police on Saturday seized 279 bottles of contraband phenisidyl syrup from the roof of a Dhaka bound passenger bus at Aricha ghat, reports BSS.

Acting on secret information, police raided a bus on its way to Dhaka from Rangpur and seized the contraband item. A case was filed but none was arrested in this connection, police said.

## Arms seized: 222 arrested

KHULNA, Jan 5: Police in a special drive against anti-social elements recovered 13 illegal arms and arrested 222 criminals from different districts of Khulna police range between December 30 and January 2, reports BSS.

Police source said the unauthorised arms include on Chinese rifle, two pipeguns, two shatterguns and one dbl. Police arrested 222 persons on various charges from different areas.

## Ansar, VDP assembly

TANGAIL, Jan 5: The annual assembly of Tangail district Ansar and VDP members was held at local Bhasani Hall recently, reports BSS.

A total of 600 Ansars and VDP took part in the assembly. Md Abdul Kuddus, Deputy Director of the Ansar and VDP Directorate attended the function as chief guest and distributed prizes among 138 best Ansar and VDP members. Among others Md. Abdus Sattar, Superintendent of Police, Tangail spoke on the occasion. M Abdul Qaiyum, ADC General, Tangail presided over the function.

## Workshop on role of journalists

MANIKGONJ, Jan 5: A two-day long workshop on "the role of local journalists in water and sanitation promotion" concluded here on December 29, reports BSS.

A total of 15 local journalists took part in the workshop sponsored by NGO Forum for drinking water supply and sanitation.

## Kishoreganj hospital being extended

KISHOREGANJ, Jan 5: Public Works Department has been implementing the construction work of the extension of Kishoreganj Sadar Hospital building and four quarters for the officers and the employees, reports BSS.

According to official sources, the government has sanctioned about Taka one crore for the construction of the new buildings.

## Incidents of stealing of vehicles rise

NOAKHALI, Jan 5: People, who own motor vehicles, are passing sleepless nights as incidences of stealing of vehicles and spare parts have been rising alarmingly in the district town, reports BSS.

People here said an organised gang in connivance with the influential quarters are engaged in the stealing, mainly side glasses, desk board, mile meter, cassette player, side lights and other parts of the engine, from different garages in the town at dead of night. Police administration said the gang took advantage of UP election, held recently, as most of their men were engaged in maintaining law and order in the polling centre areas. However, police said they arrested some of the people on suspicion but failed to find out the real culprits.



BARISAL: A two-day long Bengali cultural festival started here at the central Shaheed Minar on Sunday. Barisal Educational and Cultural Centre and Bengali Cultural Festival Celebration Council jointly arranged the festival. Educationist Prof Hanif inaugurated the festival.

## 4 Rajshahi Edn Board officials sued

### From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Jan 5: Four Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examinees of 1997 under Rajshahi Education Board have filed a case with the sadar Senior Assistant Judge Court of Rajshahi against Rajshahi Education Board authorities demanding publication of their withheld results of examination.

The defendants are chairman, chairman-in-charge, secretary and controller of examinations of the board.

The petitioners said, they filled in the forms of HSC examinations as retained candidates from their concerned colleges duly and appeared in the examination peacefully without any objection from the board authorities, but the board authorities in a meeting held on May 20 last year (1997) decided to cancel the results of the retained examinees. Challenging the decision of the meeting, the four candidates filed the case.

The plaintiffs are Farid Hosain and Sharifa Yesmin of Karotia College of Sirajganj, Kamal Hossain Talukder of Mohanagar College of Rajshahi and Sohel Haider of Tarash College of Sirajganj.

### Transport strike in Sylhet

#### From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Jan 5: Flying of bus and minibus will be suspended from Monday in the Sylhet-Sunamganj road as Sylhet Bus-Minibus Owners group went on a sudden strike on Sunday afternoon and the top all public and private buildings.

A ceremonial march past was held at Satkhira stadium at 8 am. Police, Ansar, member of BNCC, Boy Scouts, Girl Guides and students of different educational institutions participated in the march past. Deb Dutta Khisa, Deputy Commissioner, Satkhira, took salute.

The day's other programmes were reception to the family members of Shahid Freedom Fighters (FFs) of the district, distribution of improved diets among the prisoners of local jail, patients of hospital and members of local Shishu Sadan, special prayers in all places of worship for the peace and prosperity of the country. Sports competitions were held for males and females at local stadium. A friendly football match was held in this connection.

### Transport strike in south-western zone threatened

#### From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Jan 5: Transport workers in south-western zone will go on a 48-hour token strike from 6 am on January 12 if the authorities concerned fail to accept their 6-point demand by January 11.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the south-western zonal committee of Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan Sramik Federation (Bengali) Road Transport Workers Federation, held here recently.

The demands include release of driver, supervisor and helper arrested on charge of dacoity in a night coach on Dhaka-Dharmrai road in November last year, deployment of security force in night coach, cancellation of registration of transport workers unions in Narail, Kushtia and Moleshpur, stoppage of toll collection at Kamarkhali of Faridpur and at Daulatdaha ghat and solution to traffic jam at Aricha.

### Prices of essentials up in Narsingdi

NARSINGDI, Jan 5: Prices of essential commodities have registered all time high just with the advent of the month of holy Ramadan, reports BSS.

The greedy stockists, wholesalers and general traders have increased the prices of daily necessities to earn windfall profit. In cases of some commodities they have increased the prices to two or three times higher than those prevailing few days before.

According to local people, the prices of rice, ata, flour, pulses, vegetables, sugar, soybean, onion, tomato, fish, egg, milk and meat have increased sharply in different markets.

Meanwhile, many people have been suffering from various intestinal diseases due to consumption of adulterated soybean and mustard oil which are now being sold at Tk 50 and Tk 60 per litre respectively.

Coarse rice is being sold between Tk 14 and Tk 15, medium quality at Tk 16 and fine quality between Tk 17 and Tk 18 per kg. Ata is being sold between Tk 13 and Tk 14 per kg.

Prices of beef, mutton, fish, sugar and winter vegetables have also shot up abnormally hitting hard the low-income group of people.

Moreover, prices of molasses, patai gur, green pepper, dry chilly, spices, banana and other fruits have increased beyond the purchasing capacity of the common people.

The total number of enrolment in these institutions is 3,41,280 as against the total

## Cold wave victims demand blankets

### From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, Jan 5: Rush blankets and necessary warm clothes in five cold wave gripped districts of greater Rangpur zone to save thousands of distressed people from severe cold. It was now strongly demanded by the victims, according to the informations received from far flung areas of the zone.

The cold wave which is now being intensified following fast dropping of the mercury caused worst sufferings to the poor and low income group of people consisting almost 80 per cent people out of total 70 lakh population of the zone.

The government relief is quite inadequate to cope with the sky high demands of the cold wave struck distressed people of the zone, it was alleged by officials of the district administration.

Eye-witnesses describing harrowing tales of thousands of

cold wave hit victims scattered across remote shoal and rural areas said, just after sun-set people of all ages are found shivering. In futile they try to escape from the biting cold.

They set ablaze to hay and other dry things to keep their bodies warm. Then around the fire and they pass sleepless nights, they added. In such an inhuman manner the rural people are now passing their nights all over the zone, it was alleged.

It is a pity and heart-touching that vast population in the zone have no minimum number of warm clothes. Rather they are semi-naked bodies to escape from the severe cold, eye-witnesses further alleged.

There are a large number of people particularly old and infants who are being attacked with cough and cold wave diseases. Many of them died.

## Satkhira Newsletter

### From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Jan 5: The 26th Victory Day was celebrated through out the district with a renewed pledge to build a happy and prosperous Bangladesh.

The day's programme started with placing of wreaths at local Central Shahid Minar at midnight. The national flag was hosted a top all public and private buildings.

A ceremonial march past was held at Satkhira stadium at 8 am. Police, Ansar, member of BNCC, Boy Scouts, Girl Guides and students of different educational institutions participated in the march past. Deb Dutta Khisa, Deputy Commissioner, Satkhira, took salute.

The day's other programmes were reception to the family members of Shahid Freedom Fighters (FFs) of the district, distribution of improved diets among the prisoners of local jail, patients of hospital and members of local Shishu Sadan, special prayers in all places of worship for the peace and prosperity of the country. Sports competitions were held for males and females at local stadium. A friendly football match was held in this connection.

### Action against attacker sought

The journalists of the national and local dailies at Satkhira in a joint statement on December 21, strongly condemned and protested, what they said, "obstructing the circulation and sale of Dainik Purbanchal through destructive activities."

The signatories to the statement are Abdul Multalib, President Satkhira Press Club, Prof Abu Ahmed (Daily Star), Abdul Wazed Kachi (Inqilab), Anisur Rahim (Editor, Daily Satkhira Chitra), Nazmul Alam Mallik (Daily Kafela), Prof Pabitra Mohon Das (Ajker Kagoj), Moshrar Hossain (Al-Ameen), Mizanur Rahman (Janakantha), Advocate Abdur Rashid (Independent) and Nurul Islam Shoror (Pathoker Kagoj). They urged the authorities concerned to take necessary action against the attackers so that the newspaper may be published without any threat.

### One killed in road accident

One person was killed in a road accident near at Patkheda Bazar, Tala thana on Khulna-Satkhira road on December 21.

The victim was identified as Sajidur Rahman, 20, son of Abdul Hamid of village Taikufi under Tala thana of the district.

A case was lodged with Dehkhata Police Station.

### Child drowns

A three and a half years old child drowned when he fell into a nearby canal of village Baudhanda under sadar thana.

Eye-witnesses said, the victim, Mithu, son of Mukul of Baudhanda a cluster village under sadar thana while playing by the side of the canal, fell into the canal and drowned. Local people recovered the body from the canal on December 19.

### Phensidyl recovered

A total of 62 bottles of phenesidyl syrup were recovered from the house of Dukhi Mia of village Baferia under Dehkhata thana on December 19.

Police sources said, acting on a secret information, Asadul Haq newly re-elected chairman of Parulia Union Parishad in Dehkhata thana with the help of local people caught red handed Dukhi who used to sell smuggled Indian phenesidyl syrup and recovered 62 bottles of phenesidyl from his possession.

The chairman handed him over to Dehkhata Police.

A case was lodged with Dehkhata Police Station.

## Pry edn being hampered

PABNA, Jan 5: Primary education in the district is being hampered seriously due to various reasons, reports BSS.

Guardians and local people said negligence of duty, scarcity of necessary appliances, dilapidated conditions of school buildings, out-dated teaching method and lack of inspection are the main problems that are hampering the universal primary education programme.