

## News snaps

### Loadshedding becomes a regular feature

BANDARBAN, Jan 11: With the beginning of the Ramadan, load-shedding has become a regular feature in the town causing suffering to the people, reports UNB.

The devotees are taking iftar and offering Tarabi prayers in great difficulties as the power started going off for more than four hours after the iftar since January 1. An official of local electricity department said higher authorities have been urged to do load-shedding in day time for the convenience of the devotees. But the devotees complained the situation remained unchanged after repeated appeal to the district administration. Meanwhile, scarcity of drinking water has been prevailing in the district as deep and shallow tubewells remain inoperative most of the time due to continuous load-shedding and erratic power supply.

### Health centre in bad shape

NARAIL, Jan 11: Singa-Sholepur union health centre in Sadar thana is in bad shape due to lack of maintenance and care, reports UNB.

Since the establishment of the semi-pucca building 50 years ago, no renovation works have so far been taken by the authority concerned. Several pillars of the building have become worn out and cracks have developed in its walls and rooftops making the building unfit for use. A physician and other staff members work here with high risk of life. Besides, the centre is plagued with manifold problems due to shortage of manpower and necessary medicine. The patients are to buy medicine from outside at high prices. Local elite have urged the authority to take immediate steps to renovate and modernise the health centre for the interest of the local people.

### Cattle lifting becomes rampant

RANGPUR, Jan 11: Cattle lifting has become rampant in two thanas of the district in the last few weeks causing concern among the farmers, reports UNB.

According to the affected people, at least 28 cattlehead were stolen in Kaunia and Taraganj in the last week. Farmers said they are to spend sleepless nights in cow-sheds to protect their animals as no measures were taken by the law enforcing agencies to check the cattle lifting. They said an organised gang is engaged in cattle lifting with the connivance of some influential people and dishonest law enforcing agency men. Many victims who have lost their cattle alleged that they could not file cases due to the mysterious reluctance of the police.

### Work of Gorai bridge starts

KUSHTIA, Jan 11: The much awaited construction work of Gorai bridge over river Gorai has at last started at a cost of Tk 16.32 crore, reports UNB.

The Roads and Highways Department has given work to M/s Momen Ltd and the earth work of the bridge is progressing fast. With the completion of the bridge the distance between Kushtia and Dhaka will be reduced from 150 to 110 miles. At present the ferry services remained suspended due to the emergency of shoals in mid-river and sharp fall in water level. With further reduction of water level the department will construct a Bailey bridge for smooth plying of vehicles.

### Massive Boro farming programme

NARSINGDI, Jan 11: About 40,200 hectares have been brought under Boro paddy cultivation in the six thanas of Narsingdi district in the current season, reports BSS.

According to an official source, 7,200 hectares have been brought under Boro paddy cultivation in Narsingdi sadar thana, 10,300 hectares in Raypura thana, 3,050 hectares in Polas thana, 7,100 hectares in Shipur thana, 7,600 hectares in Monohardi thana and 4,950 hectares in Balabo thana. This year the production target has been fixed at 1,10,200 metric tons of paddy in the district.

### 2 succumb to burn injuries

SATKHIRA, Jan 11: Two persons were killed and another one was seriously injured by a fire-caught in a hut of village Small Shanta under Debhata thana of the district on Monday night, reports BSS.

According to police sources, Abdus Samad, 25, Shahin, 16, and Jalil, 24, of the village, were sleeping in the hut. On the night of Monday fire originated from a burning lamp, caught the hut. Samad and Shahin died on the spot while Jalil managed to come out from the burning hut. He was admitted in to Shakhipur Health Complex in a critical condition.

### Electricity supplied to more villages

KISHOREGANJ, Jan 11: Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board, Kishoreganj branch has supplied electricity to 423 villages under eight thanas of the district, reports BSS.

A total of 1699.82 kilometre electric line has been installed. The total number of customers are 27,300. According to official sources, eight thanas are Kishoreganj sadar, Karimganj, Hossainpur, Pakondia, Katiadi, Tarail, Itna and Mithamon.

### Bridge-culverts work going on

NETRAKONA, Jan 11: The construction work of 33 bridge-culverts is going on in different parts of Netrakona district under the supervision of Local Government and Engineering Department (LGED), Netrakona, reports BSS.

An official source said, the project was undertaken at a cost of Tk 29.93,936 under the North East Minor Irrigation Project in Netrakona in the current financial year. The construction work is expected to be completed soon. After construction of the bridge-culverts, the rural road communication and irrigation network of the district would be improved considerably, project manager Fozlur Rahman told.

### School reconstruction work completes

JHENIDAH, Jan 11: Facilities Department of the Ministry of Education has completed the reconstruction work of 12 dilapidated school buildings in Jhenidah district with a total cost of Taka nine lakhs in the ongoing session, officials sources said, reports BSS.

Of the total reconstructed buildings seven are in Shailakupa thana and the rests are in Harinakunda thana. About 3,000 students of these non-government high schools will be benefited by these work, the sources added.

### Labourer killed by rivals

NARAIL, Jan 11: A day labourer was killed and five others were injured in an attack by rivals over sharing of money at Chahilgarh village in Lahagora thana on Monday, reports UNB.

Tajibor Bari, 35, died on the spot when his rivals hacked him to death following a hot exchange. The injured were admitted to the local health centre. A case was filed with the police.

### Annual assembly of Ansars

MEHERPUR, Jan 11: The annual assembly of Meherpur district Ansar and Village Defence Party (VDP) was held on December 29 at the district Ansar Headquarters premises here, reports BSS.

M. Sadik Hasan Rumi, Deputy Director General of Ansar and VDP was present at the function as chief guest. Deputy Commissioner, Meherpur M. Shamsul Huq presided over the function. Five hundred Ansars and VDP members took part in the assembly.

### Polio vaccine given to children

TANGAIL, Jan 11: A total of 547,145 children below five years of age were given polio vaccine in a two-day campaign in the district recently, reports BSS.

The district health department in collaboration with a large number of volunteer organisations conducted the campaign. 2,537 centres were opened in 11 thanas of the district for the purpose. The health department fixed the target of polio vaccine at 556,538 children in the district.

### Founding anniversary of BCL

MADARIPUR, Jan 11: The 50th founding anniversary of Bangladesh Chhatra League (S-P) was observed here on January 4, in a befitting manner, reports BSS.

Chhatra League, Madaripur district unit arranged elaborate programmes on the occasion. The programmes included placing of floral wreath at the portrait of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, colourful rally, discussion meeting and cultural function. The discussion meeting was held at the local office of Chhatra League. Khalid Hossain Erad, president of district Chhatra League presided over the meeting. Leaders of Chhatra League spoke in the meeting.

### 7 US made revolvers recovered

SYLHET, Jan 11: Police seized seven US made revolvers from behind a house at village Majhergaon in Companiganj thana on Tuesday, reports UNB.

Acting on secret information, police recovered the arms in an abandoned condition. Police suspected that conflict of interest among the members of the gang may be the reason behind leaving the arms in an abandoned condition. A case has been lodged and further investigation is on.

# Cold wave paralyzes life in Sherpur

From Ratan Chowdhury

SHERPUR, Jan 11: Mercury in Sherpur district and its adjoining places recorded further fall. It has been fluctuating between 8 degree Celsius to 9 degree Celsius till Wednesday causing immense sufferings to the inhabitant of the areas especially to poor.

Local people and eyewitnesses said at least five persons have died, three in Jhenaidah, one in Sherpur and rest one in Srebdori thana of the district. Sadar hospital sources said diseases like asthma, whooping cough, cold and dysentery are on increase. Sadar hospital authority is admitting 10 cold related disease affected patients each day on average. The number of cold related patients have increased by 35 per cent in five hospitals of the district.

Local weather experts and some social organisations said onrush of cold wave from the Himalayan region and thick fog have intensified winter in the district. The district is about 30 to 35 kms south-east of Garo hills in Bangladesh and neigh-

boring India.

The sun could seldom be seen even in the day time and dense fog is visible in the whole area. However, local residents and political leaders of the district alleged that the prices of warm clothes including second hand clothes have increased throughout the district.

Deputy commissioner, Sherpur, Md Naofel Miah told to The Daily Star, some 12197 pieces of clothes and warm clothes have been sanctioned from the respective ministry. District administration has arranged speedy distribution of relief materials among the distressed people in five thanas of the district. The relief materials includes - blankets, sarees, blouse, shirt, full-pant, half-pant, gajee, old clothes, jacket, jumper, muffler, salafere, child dresses and blankets.

Mohammad Naofel Miah said day-labourers, rickshaw-pullers, and child-labourers are badly affected by severe cold. On the other hand, local social workers alleged that out of the

sanctioned relief warm clothes only a small quantity was distributed recently at Nakla thana and other materials are yet been distributed.

Sherpur Bar Association president, Advocate Saiful Islam Kalam told that middle class are seen visiting old clothes shop, but the price seem to be high. They are going back without purchasing any clothes.

Child-labourers who perform odd jobs in different places are also seen having no warm clothes as their masters did not provide them with requisite quantity of warm clothes.

The cold wave victims are identified as, Haji Fayezuddin Mia, 85, of Shandakura and Shakhina Khatun, 38, under Jhenaidah proper under Jhenaidah thana and another woman who remained unidentified. In Sadar thana Abdur Rashid, 52, of village Holghore in Rowha union and other new born child (girl) at Charabana Gunapara under Sadar thana of the district.

## Cold wave, burn injuries: 7 killed in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, Jan 11: Seven people including a minor child were reportedly killed in cold-bite and burn injuries in the district during the last two days.

Police and local people told UNB, two elderly sisters of Jagatgati village under Kaziapur thana along with one of their grandchildren died on the spot

Cold wave costs 11 in Barisal division

BARISAL, Jan 11: Cold wave sweeping over the country has claimed at least 11 lives in the last six days in six districts of Barisal division, reports BSS.

The sun appeared in this divisional town on Saturday after 42 hours.

Biting cold its continuing to prevail over this region. Minimum temperature recorded here on Saturday is 8.5 degree Celsius, according to Met Office here.

after sustaining burn injuries on Friday night while getting heat to avert severe cold.

The victims were identified as Sonavan, 58, Sabiron Khatun, 48, and Rashid, 8.

In a similar incident, Amir Ali, 68, of village Saguna under Tarash thana died on Saturday morning.

The on-going severe cold wave claimed three more lives in the district on Friday night. They are: Solaiman, 59, and Golebar, 62, of Rahatpur village under Kaziapur thana and Hormuj Ali, 65, of village Monaksha under Shahjadpur thana.

Meanwhile, Post and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim distributed clothes among the cold-hit people of different areas under Sadar and Kaziapur thanas of the district on Saturday.

The district administration and different socio-cultural and political organisations were distributing warm clothes among the affected people, said an official handout.

## Meherpur hospital in shambles

MEHERPUR, Jan 11: Inadequate number of doctors, shortage of medicines, beds and equipment in the sadar hospital have been hampering proper treatment of the patients in Meherpur district for a long time.

The hospital needs 120 doctors, but only 20 doctors are performing their duties. It means that there is one doctor for 30 thousand people, but according to government's rule there should be one doctor for every five thousand people. There are six lakh people in Meherpur district but the number of doctors engaged at present is 20.

Out of 20 doctors in the district, nine doctors are working in Meherpur sadar hospital. In different health centres of sadar thana seven doctors are working while in Gangni thana there are four government doctors.

3 JCD activists arrested in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, Jan 11: Three JCD activists were arrested from Dhanbandi and Soagobinda areas of the town on Saturday, reports UNB.

They were identified as Sagar, Shahin and Liton - all were members of Thana JCD Committee.

Police said they were wanted in connection with several criminal cases including terrorism.

They were sent to the jail ha-jat and further investigation was on.

From Our Correspondent

In Meherpur sadar hospital there are two consultants, one medical officer one dentist, one RSO, one pathologist and one radiologist.

According to civil surgeon's office, 20 doctors are working at present in place of required 35 doctors.

The 50-bed Meherpur sadar hospital can not cope with the increasing number of patients due to inadequate number of beds. The existing number of beds can only meet 25 per cent requirement of the patients. But surprisingly, this is the only hospital besides Gangni Health Complex in the district. The population of this district is more than 6 lakh, which means that there is one bed for about 8 thousand people which is too meagre to meet minimum requirement. It is essential that this hospital should be developed into a 200-bed full-fledged hospital with adequate facilities such as experienced physicians, well-trained nurses, instrument and life saving drugs and with maternity, child welfare, dental, eye specialist and other arrangements. If such arrangements are made the acute treatment problem of the people of this district may be minimised. Otherwise, poor and middle class patients will have to embrace death for want of proper treatment.

Sometimes, surgeons do not get proper cooperation from anaesthetists and other staff delaying operation, it is also alleged. Internal conflict between doctors sometimes lead to serious obstacle on the way to proper treatment facilities of the poor patients.

## BAF distributes warm clothes

From Our Correspondent

LALMONIRHAT, Jan 11: Bangladesh Air Force (BAF) and Bangladesh Air Force Women's Welfare Association (BAFWWA) jointly distributed warm clothes and blankets amounting to Taka 60,000 among the severe cold-hit people here on Saturday.

About fifteen hundred poor people of around BAF C&M Unit, Lalmonirhat were provided with warm jackets, cardigans, sweaters, mufflers and blankets. Among others, senior BAF officers, local government officials and journalists were present. Meanwhile, BAFWWA also distributed warm clothes amounting to Taka 20,000 among the cold-hit people around BAF Base Matuiri Rahmatpur.

BSS reports: Similarly the district administration of Kushtia distributed new winter clothes among the poor and cold-stricken people on Thursday and Saturday.

The relief materials were purchased by the money saved from the expenditure of the iftar party cancelled by the administration.



JHENIDAH: N M Shahjalal, Vice Principal, Government Nurun Nahar Mahila College distributing prizes among child artists of Jhenidah Shipakala Academy following a painting competition arranged by local cultural organisation "Jhinuk".

# Glowing tributes paid to Bangabandhu

CHITTAGONG, Jan 11: Glowing tributes were paid to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in observance of his Home-Coming Day on Saturday, reports BSS.

Awami League and its front organisations along with other socio-cultural bodies observed the day through elaborate programmes which included placing of wreaths at the portrait of the Father of the Nation, hoisting of national and party flags atop all Awami League office, discussion and cultural function.

Chittagong City Mayor Ahaj A B M Mahiuddin Chowdhury garlanded the portrait of Bangabandhu on behalf of Chittagong City Corporation in the morning.

Later a discussion was held in the city corporation auditorium with the city mayor in the chair.

It was addressed, among others, by ward commissioners Nurul Islam, Liakat Ali Khan, M A Naser, Abdullah Mamun and Faiz Ahmed.

The city mayor, in his speech, termed the Home-Coming Day of Bangabandhu as a memorable event for the people of Bangladesh and said after his

return from Pakistan jail he left no stone unturned to rebuild the war-ravaged country.

The mayor urged all to contribute their utmost mites to materialise the dreams of the Father of the Nation.

Awami League city charter also observed the day through various programmes held at its Darool Fazal market office while Awami League Chittagong South district held a discussion at its Anderkilla office.

To mark the day Bangladesh Chhatra League, Commerce College, M. E. S. College and Chittagong City Chhatra League units separately organised discussions.

Vice-presidents and general secretaries of the students union of some 14 educational institutions have garlanded the portrait of Bangabandhu.

Local dailies published some special articles while Bangladesh Television, Chittagong centre has put up special programmes on the occasion.

In Rajshahi the day was observed in a befitting manner.

Various organisations of the region also observed the day to commemorate the occasion. Rajshahi city Awami League

observed the day by hoisting the national and party flags at the party unit office here in the morning in observance of the day.

Party leaders and workers garlanded the portraits of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and four national leaders on the occasion.

A discussion was held in the public library hall with city Awami League president Mahabub-uz-Zaman Bhulu in the chair.

In Rangpur Awami League and its front organisations held elaborate programmes to observe the day.

The programme includes - hoisting of national and party flags in the party office.

District Awami League acting president advocate Nazrul Islam presided over a discussion meeting.

Among others, advocate Ratish Chandra Bhowmik, advocate Hosneara Dalia, Shamim Talukdar and Umme Rubina Kokila took part in the discussion.

Speakers said the return of Bangabandhu gave Bangladesh's independence its completeness.



NARAYANGANJ: Prof Rehman Sobhan addressing as the chief guest at a discussion meeting held recently under the auspices of 'Shapla', a cultural organisation at the local municipal library auditorium. The discussion was arranged in observance of Victory Day.

Star photo

## Natore Newsletter

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, Jan 11: A 21-member committee of Nature unit of Bangladesh Human Rights Commission has been formed here recently.

Journalist Md Mahfuz Alam Moni has been made president of the commission while Advocate Ruhul Amin Talukhdar Tagar was elected its general secretary.

### 3 prominent men dead

Three prominent figures of the district died of their old age diseases on December 31.

Poet, literature, and journalist Md Haseer Uddin Kabi Ratna died at 91 years of age at his home at Bargachha in the town.

He was the head clerk of the then sub-division of Natore. He was given Kabi Ratna title in 1955 by Jessore Shahittia Sangha. He left behind 8 sons, 2 daughters and a number of well-wishers to mourn his death.

Social worker and physician Dr Shah Monir Uddin Ahmed died at the age of 70.

He left behind 2 sons and 2 daughters besides a host of well-wishers to mourn his death.

Old businessmen and social worker Mahboob-ul-Mohsin alias Mokbul Mia died at 90 years of age at his house at Uttar Bargachha in the town.

He left behind 6 sons and 2 daughters besides a number of well-wishers to mourn his death.

Dead bodies of the three personalities of Natore were buried at Garkhana graveyard.

Old man commits suicide

An old man committed suicide by drinking poison at Molkhati in the town on Thursday.

Police said, Sona Promanik, 55, son of late Kafil Uddin drank poison following a dispute over family dispute and died at Natore Sadar Hospital after 48 hours of his taking poison.

An UD case was lodged with the sadar thana in this connection.

Female SSC examinee kidnapped

A female SSC examinee was kidnapped by a group of miscreants led by 'identified' terrorist Bharat on Sunday afternoon.

Police and family sources said, Barna Talukhdar, 14, daughter of Prolay Lochan Talukhdar was kidnapped by the group at gun point from Lalbaria area of the town while she was returning home from her private coaching.

A case was lodged with Natore sadar thana in this connection. However, none was arrested till filing of this report.

## Sarees distributed among fire victims

Ward No 1 Awami League

Haider Ali and leaders and workers of local Awami League, Jubo League and Chhatra League were with him during his visit to the affected area.

Leaders of Khulna city and district unit of BNP also distributed sarees, lungies and winter clothes among the distressed.

Twenty-nine families were affected by the devastating fire at Sahebpura in Daulatpur.

BNP leaders who visited the affected area included BNP Khulna city committee president and secretary Nurul Islam and Nazrul Islam and convenor of district committee Syed Isa.

Khulna City Hawkers Union affiliated with Jatiya Samik League also distributed winter clothes to the fire affected people of Sahebpura in Daulatpur.

The Awami League leaders who also visited the fire ravaged areas included Awami League central leader and member of parliament Begum Mannujan Sufian, president of Khulna city Awami League advocate Manjural lamam, advocate Kazi Abdus Satter, leaders of hawkers union Saheen Reza Khan, Anisur Rahman and Hasanuzzaman Khokon.

Meanwhile, mayor of Khulna City Corporation urged the city dwellers to come forward to help the people affected by severe cold wave.

In a statement the city mayor said that a relief cell has been opened to help the affected people around the city.

892 more tribal refugees return home

RANGAMATI, Jan 11: A total of 892 tribal refugees of 183 families returned home on Thursday, the eighth day of the sixth phase of repatriation, from Kathachhari refugee camp in the Indian state of Tripura through Ramgarh frontier point of Khagrachhari hill district, reports BSS.

With this, 7,631 tribal refugees of 1,530 families returned home in the current phase of repatriation which resumed on January 1. The process is likely to be continued till the last refugee is returned.

With the return of 245 tribal refugees of 51 families on Friday repatriation of refugees from Kaktachhari refugee camp will be completed and the 225 feet bridge that Bangladesh built over the Feni river connecting frontier town of Ramgarh of Bangladesh with Sabrum of India will be demolished, officials said.

## Salt production being hampered as cold wave prevails

COXS BAZAR, Jan 11: Salt production here is being hampered due to the prevailing biting cold wave, reports UNB.

The producers started their works for preparing land in the early December and production started from the mid-December. But due to the shivering cold and dense fog the production has come down alarmingly.

This season only 1,100 metric tons of salt have been produced till January 1, as against 3,340 metric tons in the corresponding period of the last season.

But BISCIC authorities hoped that the target would be achieved if the growers get adequate sunshine in the March-April period to refine salt.

About 47,000 acres of land in Kutubdia, Moheshkhali, Chokoria, Sadar and Teknaf of Cox's Bazar and Banskhal of Chittagong district have been brought under salt cultivation in the current season.

1,264 deep tubewells to be installed in 10 southern dists

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Jan 11: The Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) has undertaken an elaborate programme to sink 866 deep tubewells and 398 Tara deep tubewells in 10 south-western districts of the country in the current fiscal year, according to DPHE sources.

The sources said, 422 deep tubewells will be sunk in 7 thanas of Khulna, 194 in 3 thanas of Bagerhat, 113 in 2 thanas of Jessore, 137 in 4 thanas of Satkhira district.

Similarly, DPHE will also install Tara pumps - 31 in each of Jhenidah and Magura, 26 in Jessore, 57 in Satkhira, 228 in Kushtia, 12 in Meherpur and 13 in Chuadanga districts for drawing pure water for deep surface at comparative less cost.

All these deep tubewells and Tara pumps will be installed by March this year.

The sources told that with completion of this programme about one and a half lakh people of these 10 southern districts would be benefited.

Student held while making arms in Khulna

KHULNA, Jan 11: Police arrested a student of a local college while he was making firearms in Khalishpur Housing area yesterday, reports BSS.

Acting on a tip-off police raided the old weather office building at Khalishpur Housing Colony and arrested Motbar Rahman, son of Mohammad and seized materials and appliances for making firearms. Police said three of his accomplices escaped from the place.

Police seized several portions of shutter guns and pipe guns, and appliances required for making guns from the building.

BDR jawan's bail prayer rejected