

National

News snaps

Jummatul Bida observed

MADRIPUR, Jan 27: Jummatul Bida, the last Jumma prayer of the holy month of Ramadan, was observed here with due solemnity and religious fervour, reports BSS.

The main jamaat was held at the Baitul Jame mosque where a large number of devotees offered prayers. The mussels prayed for divine blessing of the Almighty Allah and peace, progress and prosperity of the country. The devotees also prayed for unity and solidarity of the Muslim Ummah on this occasion. Jummatul Bida was also observed in different mosques in Madripur district with due religious solemnity.

Whip accorded reception

COMILLA, Jan 27: The newly-appointed whip of Parliament Mujib Haque Mujib was accorded a reception here on Monday, reports UNB.

Mujib was elected from Comilla-12 constituency with Awami League ticket. The reception, presided over by eminent journalist Mostafa Golam Chowdhury, was addressed by local Awami League leaders.

Newly elected chairmen sworn in

MEHERPUR, Jan 27: Newly-elected chairmen and members of the district's union parishes were sworn in at a ceremony here on Monday, reports UNB.

The swearing in ceremony of 17 chairmen, 162 members and 54 women members were administered separately at the Shilpakala Academy auditorium by the Deputy Commissioner. Chairman of Mahajanpur union in Sadar thana could not attend the ceremony as he was in Kushtia jail.

Arms, ammunition recovered

KHULNA, Jan 27: Police recovered huge quantity of arms and ammunition from different parts of the city and arrested 255 people on various charges during the current month, reports UNB.

Officials said the firearms include five pipe-guns, two country-made revolvers, one sawed-off rifle and one shotgun. Some 47 rounds of live bullets and arms-making equipments were also recovered during the period. Police in their drive seized various drugs including 64 bottles of Phenoldyle, two KG ganja, foreign and home-made wines and rectified spirit.

Maize cultivation scheme in 11 S-districts

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Jan 27: Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) has undertaken a programme to bring 870 hectares of land under maize cultivation in 11 southern districts under Barisal Agriculture Extension Zone during this season.

This programme will include the district of Barisal, Patuakhali, Bhola, Pirojpur, Barguna, Jhalakati, Madripur, Faridpur, Gopalganj, Sariapur and Rajbari. BADC will sell and supply more than 21,000 kgs of high yielding varieties of maize seeds to the farmers. Nearly 25,000 metric tons of maize is expected to be produced on 10,000 hectares of land in 64 districts in the country this year, official sources said.

4 inter-dist dacoits arrested

JHENIDAH, Jan 27: Police have arrested four activists of inter-district dacoit gang by raiding different areas of the town on Tuesday night, reports UNB.

The arrested were identified as Korban, Seraj, Badsha and Mosharrif who were wanted in connection with a number of cases. According to the confessional statements of Sanjoy and Abdullah who were arrested on January 12 for criminal activities and coach dacoity, police in separate drives arrested the inter-district dacoits. A case has been filed against them and further police investigation is on.

Efforts on to give democracy a firm footing

BHOLA, Jan 27: Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed on Monday said peoples' representatives will run the country from village to the highest level of speeding up development and giving democracy a firm footing, reports UNB.

He was speaking at a rally of the newly elected chairmen, members and women members of 53 unions of the district at the town hall auditorium on Monday. Tofael said the government has made necessary arrangements for holding elections at all levels including Gram Parishad, Thana Parishad and panchayat. The Minister told the newly elected representatives that they are the leaders of grass roots level that is why they have to render their services to the people remaining above political affiliation and opinion.

R&H Deptt gets highest allocation

BARISAL, Jan 27: Roads and Highways (R&H) Department of Barisal region receives the highest allocation of Tk 63.65 crore out of total Tk 297.60 crore annual development budget of the current fiscal year for developing its rural infrastructures, official sources said, reports BSS.

The priority has been given to improve and expand the riverine communications in Barisal region rather than that of road transport here. Barisal region was also given top priority in the Taka 247.05 crore Annual Development Budget (ADB) allocation for the last 1996-97 fiscal year on the same geographical grounds, the sources added. Roads Highways Department (RHD) have been constructing the connecting growth centres with major commercial cities and towns.

BINA-AID field day held

TANGAIL, Jan 27: Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture (BINA) and Agriculture Extension Department (AID) jointly held a field day on the effectiveness on Mustard-4 recently, reports BSS.

Fifty farmers took part in the programme that was held in the auditorium Bashaid College. Among others, Atoar Rahman, Director (administration) of BINA, and Raisul Haider, Chief Scientific Officer spoke on the occasion. Ibrahim Khalil, Deputy Director, Agriculture Extension Department, Tangail presided over the function.

Indian cows recovered

SATKHIRA, Jan 27: The Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) personnel on January 25 seized fourteen Indian cows worth more than Tk 75,000 from Sonamondi border area under Shyamnagar thana, reports BSS.

A case was lodged in Shyamnagar thana in this connection and the cows were handed over to the Basantapur Customs authorities.

Unidentified bodies recovered

KISHOREGANJ, Jan 27: Bhairob GRP recovered two unidentified bodies from Rammagar bridge and Bhairob railway bridge recently, reports BSS.

In another incident a woman named Fazila Akter, 21, of Tarakandi village under Kuliarchar thana in Kishoreganj committed suicide by taking poison. She died in the hospital. Kuliarchar thana police sources said, she committed suicide due to family dispute. Postmortem of these bodies were done at Kishoreganj sadar hospital morgue. Separate cases were lodged with the respective thanas in this connection.

Rice distributed among poor men

RAJBARI, Jan 27: Relief and Disaster Management Ministry has distributed 4,377 metric tons of rice among 8,107 distressed families of 42 unions in four thanas under its VGD programme during last six months, reports UNB.

During the period, the ministry also distributed 73 mts of rice among fire, cyclone and flood affected families and allocated 170 bundles CI sheets for 170 erosion-hit families in Pangsha thana under its VGF programme. Local MP Zillul Hakim distributed the CI sheets to the distressed people for their rehabilitation.

1 killed in Satkhira road accident

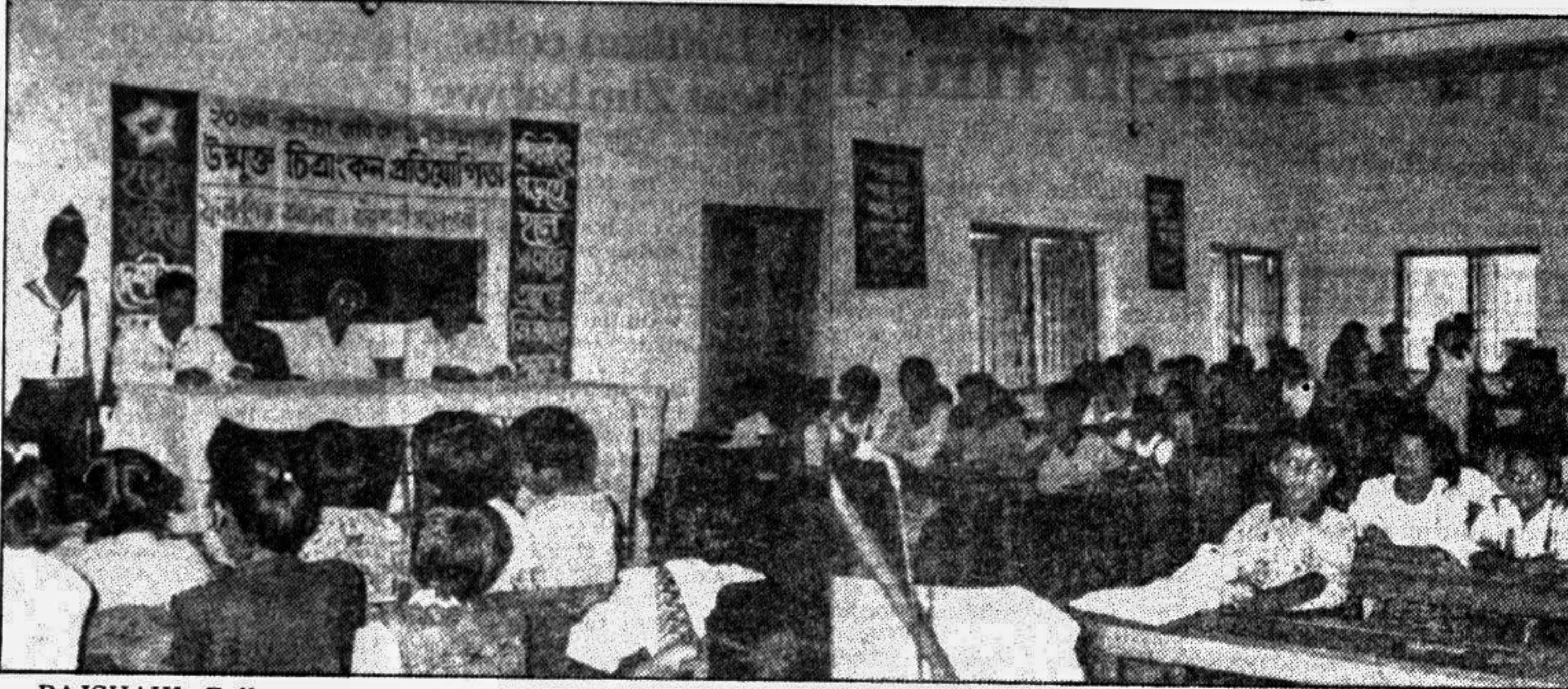
SATKHIRA, Jan 27: One person was killed in a road accident near Pirganj Bazar under Kaliganj thana of the district recently, reports BSS.

Police sources said, a Kaliganj-bound truck ran over a man while he was trying to cross the road near Pirganj bazar. He died on the spot. The victim was identified as Abdul Kader of village Pirganj. The body was sent to Satkhira Sadar Hospital for autopsy. A case has been lodged with Kaliganj thana. The driver managed to escape.

Training course on Bengali pronunciation

TANGAIL, Jan 27: A week-long training course on Bengali pronunciation and spelling concluded at Anahul High School recently, reports BSS.

Chyaneer, a local educational organisation organised the training course. A total of 90 students of the school took part in the programme conducted by four instructors. Md Abu Mansur, a local educationist distributed prizes among the best participants in the concluding ceremony. The Chyaneer sources said that it will also conduct such course free of cost in different secondary schools of the district.



RAJSHAHI: Fulkuri Ashor, a juvenile association of the city recently organised an art competition for children at Loknath High School premises.

— Star photo

Many tea gardens yet to pay huge land tax

From Our Correspondent

MUJIB VIBAZAR, Jan 27: Land tax amounting to Taka two crore 12 lakh 67 thousands 633 remained unpaid from different tea gardens of Moulvibazar district for a long period.

It is alleged that any amount to realise these huge amount of land revenue from tea gardens is yet to be taken by the revenue authority as owners of defaulter tea gardens have good relations with the officials of the concerned ministry. As a result the unpaid amount of land revenue has been increased by adding interest.

There are 90 tea gardens of different sizes in Moulvibazar district including foreign owners. It is learnt from a source of the district revenue department that they had fixed the collection target of land development revenue from tea garden areas amounting to Taka three crore 71 lakh 47 thousand for the year of 1997. But they had collected Taka one crore 58 lakh 79 thousand 41 against the target and rate of collection was 53.51 per cent. It was 43.44 per cent in 1996. At this stage, Taka

two crore 12 lakh 67 thousands 633 remained unpaid.

According to the source, a huge amount of land revenue has remained arrear to 8 out of 18 tea gardens under Baralekha thana. Gardenwise statement of unpaid revenue of Baralekha thana are Taka 35,10,800 from Sridharpur tea garden, Taka 11,29,744 from Kumerhail tea garden, Taka 12,18,387 from Keramotnagar tea garden, Taka 20,51,880 from Chitalekha tea garden, Taka 5,10,544 from Rahmania tea garden, Taka 66,37,53 from Fatehbagh tea garden, Taka 19,03,312 from Shahjahanpur tea garden, and Taka 22,8,221 from Hafiza tea garden. Tea gardens from Baralekha thana is in the top of defaulter list of land revenue.

In Kulaura thana of the district number of tea gardens are 26. Huge amount of land revenue remains unpaid from 7 gardens. Gardenwise amount of unpaid revenue under Kulaura thana was taka 78,4,371 from Sagornal tea garden, Taka 85,2,285 from Rangichera tea garden, Taka 21,33,010 from Muraichera tea garden, Taka

23,5,037 Rajgarab tea garden, Taka 46,9,902 from Diluk tea garden, Taka 44,9,633 from Rehana tea garden and Taka 26,6,112 from Sirajnagar tea garden.

There are 10 tea gardens in Rajnagar thana. Land revenue has remained arrear to almost all tea gardens of this thana. Of them Taka 9,3100 due from Shakara tea garden.

The source said that the district revenue department had sent a file to the ministry seeking permission for certificate cases against 30 defaulter tea garden authorities. But the ministry is playing silent role in this regard.

The source added that in every three years, certificate cases

has been started against the defaulter tea gardens to realise land revenue. But it failed to make any fruitful result.

The source, however, said, some native and foreign owned tea gardens under Kamalganj and Srimongal thanas are realising their land revenue on regular basis. But other gardens are showing less interest to pay land revenue.



JHENIDAH: This female fishing cat was beaten to death by people at village Pukuria under Kaliganj thana on January 23.

— Star photo

28 killed in Meherpur last year

From Our Correspondent

MEHERPUR, Jan 27: A total of 29 murders were committed in Meherpur district during 1997 while hundreds of theft, dacoits, hijacking abduction, rape, women and children repression took place during the period of one year.

In 1996, 43 murders were committed. Of the 28 murders 20 were male and 9 were women. In Meherpur sadar thana 20 persons were murdered, of them 15 are male while 5 were women. In Gangni thana total murders were 9, of them 5 were male and 4 were female. The first murder started in January with the killing of Amjad in village Bhabanipur of the sadar thana in the hands of terrorists. Amjad was taken to a hospital and was killed when he went to cut grass in the field.

On June 20 Selina of Mathura village under Gangni thana was picked up by armed miscreants and was killed by a tea-stall and was killed by a rope in his neck.

On January 15, Jesmin a housewife of village Anjupur under sadar thana was killed in matters of dowry. On February 5 a young person Laton by name was killed in the hands of terrorists. On February 6 Jostina a housewife of village Komarpur under sadar thana was killed when her husband threw acid on her body.

On February 12 Tanjor Ali of village Kholapara was killed by their rivals in connection with past enmity. On March 6 miscreants picked up Sajeda, a housewife from her bed in village Kathalpota of sadar thana and after rape she was strangled to death. On March 7 Tokkel Ali of Bamundi union under Gangni thana was killed brutally by an influential group.

According to the official sources of the Bikoshito Magura programme, Mass Education Centres in four thanas of the district have been functioning since July 1, '97 under direct supervision of 572 supervisors in 572 blocks in the district.

On April 21 one housewife of

night and later she was killed and left in the field. On the same night Mariam of village Dhankhola under Gangni thana was killed by her husband on dowry ground. On July 20, Abdul Ghani and Sharifuddin of village Kola under sadar thana were killed by gun fire when they were coming in a procession. On July 28, Kayeruddin, an old man of village Chowgacha was killed by the hands of terrorists.

On August 8, Abdul Jalil and Nur Islam of village Mahajanpur under sadar thana were shot dead by the terrorists in broad day light. On August 20, Ashraful a school student was killed in connection with an alteration centering a play ground.

On September 7, Mohammad was killed in the hands of terrorists of village Chandpur under Gangni thana. On September 12, Abdul Jalil of village Chandpur was shot dead by dacoits when he proceeded to prevent the dacoits from committing dacoity. On September 21, Mizanur Rahman Dalu was killed in Dighirpara at the outskirts of the town by armed attack of his rival in retaliation of past enmity.

On October 6, mother Jahana Begum was killed in the hands of her son brutally in village Sonali under sadar thana. On October 7, one Ismail of village Andianabas was beaten to death. On November 2, one unidentified young man was beaten to death in the hands of people suspecting him to be of members of terrorists group in village Pirojpur.

On December 20, with the murder of Rahima of cluster village of Rajpur under sadar thana, murder during the year 1997 ended.

New mass literacy project undertaken in Magura

From Our Correspondent

MAGURA, Jan 27: Bikoshito

Magura, an integrated socio-economic development programme has taken up the mass literacy project to free the district from the curse of illiteracy from four thanas like Sripur, Shalikha, Muhammadipur and Sadar of the district.

A total of two lakh 57 thousand four hundred illiterate people aged from 11 years to 45 years will be freed from illiteracy under the above mentioned project.

On April 21, one housewife of

night and later she was killed and left in the field. On the same night Mariam of village Dhankhola under Gangni thana was killed by her husband on dowry ground. On July 20, Abdul Ghani and Sharifuddin of village Kola under sadar thana were killed by gun fire when they were coming in a procession. On July 28, Kayeruddin, an old man of village Chowgacha was killed by the hands of terrorists.

On August 8, Abdul Jalil and Nur Islam of village Mahajanpur under sadar thana were shot dead by the terrorists in broad day light. On August 20, Ashraful a school student was killed in connection with an alteration centering a play ground.

On September 7, Mohammad was killed in the hands of terrorists of village Chandpur under Gangni thana. On September 12, Abdul Jalil of village Chandpur was shot dead by dacoits when he proceeded to prevent the dacoits from committing dacoity. On September 21, Mizanur Rahman Dalu was killed in Dighirpara at the outskirts of the town by armed attack of his rival in retaliation of past enmity.

On October 6, mother Jahana Begum was killed in the hands of her son brutally in village Sonali under sadar thana. On October 7, one Ismail of village Andianabas was beaten to death. On November 2, one unidentified young man was beaten to death in the hands of people suspecting him to be of members of terrorists group in village Pirojpur.

On December 20, with the murder of Rahima of cluster

village of Rajpur under sadar thana, murder during the year 1997 ended.

17 shops gutted at Tangail

From Our Correspondent

TANGAIL, Jan 27: At least 17 shops were completely gutted in a fire at Park Bazar in Tangail town on Saturday night.

The fire originated from an oven of a hotel at about 11 pm soon engulfed the adjacent shops. Seventeen shops were gutted completely and 11 others partially, fire brigade sources said.

Firefighters extinguished the blaze after an hour.

The extent of damage was estimated at Tk 22 lakh, shopkeepers and fire brigade source said.

Cold spell claims 8 in Moulvibazar

From Our Correspondent

MUOLVIBAZAR, Jan 27: Seven cold spell claimed eight lives in Moulvibazar district during last two weeks.

According to local people, Abdul Malik, 50, of Biraintala village under Kulaura thana died from cold on the night of January 6. On January 5, Md Raja Miah, 57, of Tilagaon village under Kamalganj thana died at night. Azad Miah, 30, of village Faridpur under Rajnagar thana died recently.