

## National

## News snaps

## Scarcity of HYV wheat seeds

NAOGAON, Dec 22: Farmers in Shahapara thana are not getting high-yielding variety (HYV) wheat seeds due to an artificial crisis created by some unscrupulous dealers of BADC, reports APB.

Claiming inadequate supply, they are charging Tk. 370 to Tk. 420 for a 20-kg bag of seeds against its government-fixed price of Tk 300. Farmers said these price are beyond their reach. Sources in the BADC told that though they are aware of the situation, it is not possible for them to take any action against the dealers.

## Two killed in road accidents

SIRAJGANJ, Dec 22: A boy and a woman were killed in two road accidents at the western part of the Bangabandhu Jamuna Bridge approach road Saturday, reports APB.

Police and witnesses said Hatem Ali, 10, son of one Hossain Ali of Potitala in Naogaon district died on the spot when he was hit by a truck at Sobjababu Crossing in Sadar thana. Police seized the truck but the driver escaped. In the other accident, one Rawshanara, 40 was run over by a microbus when she was crossing the road at Nolka under same thana.

## Tk 4 cr water supply project

JAMALPUR, Dec 22: Three schemes at a cost of Tk four crore have been undertaken to ensure supply of drinking water to the town dwellers, reports UNB.

Two separate iron removal plants costing Tk two crore will be set up at Boppara and Amlapara of the municipality and five tubewells at a cost of Tk 78 lakh will be sunk by the Public Health Engineering Department under the programme. Besides, 27 km new pipelines will be installed in the pourasava area at a cost of Tk 1.22 crore, officials said adding that works of these schemes have already been started. They said after successful implementation of the schemes, financed by Asian Development Bank (ADB), supply of pure water will be ensured to about 80 per cent of the total population of the town.

## Valuables worth Tk 5 lakh looted

SIRAJGANJ, Dec 22: Dacoits swooped on jewellery and stationery shops at a bazaar in Shahjadpur thana on Sunday midnight and looted cash and valuables worth about Tk 5 lakh, reports UNB.

Police said, the robbers, numbering 20 to 25, stormed three jewellery and five stationery shops at Sarishakol bazaar by breaking the locks of the doors and looted goods. During the daicoit, the robbers tied up two night guards of the bazaar when they tried to resist them.

## Poultry farm set on fire by miscreants

FENI, Dec 22: A poultry farm was set on fire by some miscreants in Chhagalnaiya thana here damaging birds and other valuable worth about Tk 5 lakh, reports APB.

Police said "National Poultry Farm" of former JCD leader Zia Haider at College Road came under attack on Saturday night by his rival group. In the devastating fire some 3,200 poultry birds and a motor cycle, among other valuables, were charred. The terrorists also ransacked his monthly "Haider" magazine during the attack.

## Woman arrested for killing husband

KHAGRAKHARI, Dec 22: Police arrested a woman from Joon Maron area in Bhaibonchhara recently for allegedly killing her husband, reports APB.

Nagpuni Chakma, 32, along with Shar Mohan Chakma of adjacent Sekandarpur shot her husband, Kamini Mohan Chakma, 42, to death recently. Locals said Nagpuni had an extramarital relation with Shar Mohan for a long time. Post-mortem of the body was done at the local hospital.

## 50 injured in clashes over harvesting

PATUAKHALI, Dec 22: At least 50 people were injured in clashes as musclemen tried to forcibly harvest the paddy of marginal farmers at Char Barat in Bauphal thana and Chiranga village in Kalapara thana recently, reports APB.

Clashes also took place in Mostafapur, Khaprabanga, Bipinpur, Mithaghajani and Madhukhali villages in Kalapara thana, police said. The government has shown its awareness of the problem by setting up 18 police camps in different chars of Barisal. The camps will be manned by 400 members of the Armed Police Battalion, Range Reserve Force and Special Security Force. One magistrate will also be deployed on mobile duty.

## Number of drug addicts up

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Dec 22: The number of drug-addicted people is increasing at an alarming proportion in the district causing concern among the peace-loving people, reports UNB.

According to local people, a huge quantity of narcotics including hemp, heroin and phenidyl are entering into the district from across the border by an organised gang of smugglers. These are also being carried to other areas of the country. Adolescents and youths who are the future of the country are being increasingly being addicted to various drugs due to its easy availability. Even the youths of gentlemen family do not hesitate to resort to heinous acts like stealing and mugging to manage money for buying drugs. Besides, poor people especially rickshaw pullers and day labourers are also addicted to it.

## Religious books distributed

NARSINGDI, Dec 22: Islamic Foundation, Narsingdi unit distributed religious books among the 19 mosque-based libraries in Narsingdi district on Wednesday, reports BSS.

Deputy Commissioner Narsingdi, Rafiqul Islam distributed the books in a simple function. ASM Sirajul Islam, Deputy Director, Islamic Foundation Narsingdi unit presided over the function. The books worth about Taka seven thousand were distributed to each of the 19 mosque-based libraries.

## Traffic congestion turns acute

BARGUNA, Dec 22: Traffic congestion has turned acute in district town causing hindrance to the movement of vehicles as well as pedestrians, reports UNB.

Indiscriminate parking of rickshaws and motor vehicles on the roads and loading and unloading of goods here and there are responsible for the hazards. The traffic jam is a regular phenomenon at east and western side of the pucca bridge on Sadar road, Lokghat area, Madrasa road and Eidgah market area. According to the dwellers, a large number of rickshaws are plying without licence with the collaboration of some dishonest officials. The rickshaw-pullers park their vehicles according to their whim violating the traffic rules. The number of under aged rickshaw-pullers is increasing day by day. Besides unloading and loading of goods by the truck drivers on busiest roads before the nose of the traffic police is a common feature.

## Crisis of construction materials

KISHOREGANJ, Dec 22: Acute crisis of house building materials has been prevailing in the flood-hit areas of the district, reports UNB.

Bamboo, straw and jute sticks, the main materials are now dear in the market creating frustration among the poor people. The long lasting natural deluge completely damaged thousands of dwellings while a large number were raged to the ground. The victims are needed to rebuild their houses, but severe crisis of bamboo and other house building materials has caused price hike creating a situation beyond the control of the common man.

Some unscrupulous traders are selling the materials at exorbitant rate taking advantage of the situation. The affected people urged the government to provide them with financial assistance so that they can reconstruct their ruined houses.

## Narsingdi Press Club executives

NARSINGDI, Dec 22: An eleven member executive committee of press club, Narsingdi was formed last week in a general meeting held here in the press club hall room, reports BSS.

Nibaran Ray of The Daily Ittefaq and Abdur Rahman Bhuiya of the Sabuj Bangla were selected president and general secretary respectively of the executive committee of the press club for the next two years. Other office bearers are: vice president — Md Abu Taher (BSS) and Abu Faiz (The Daily Sangram), asstt. general secretary — Abdul Aowl (The Daily Millat), treasurer — Badal Kumar Saha (The Bangla Bani), literacy and cultural secretary — Haladhar Das (The Daily Al-Amin), office secretary — Asadul Hoq Palash (The Dainik Janata), executive committee members — (1) Abdur Rahim (The Bangladesh Observer), (2) Abdul Hannan Bhuiya (The Daily Sangbad), (3) Nurul Islam (BTV).

## 3 killed allegedly by terrorists

CHUADANGA, Dec 22: Three people were killed allegedly by armed extremists in separate attacks on the first day of a special police drive against the outlaws in southern districts recently, reports UNB.

Sources said a gang of gunmen led by a woman cadre of an outlawed party took away Firoj, 27, son of Moslem Malitha of Harokandi village of Alamdanga thana of this district, from his house at gunpoint and shot him dead after slaughtering at a nearby baor at the dead of night. Police said armed terrorists kidnapped Moniruzzaman Badal, 28, son of Shafiuuddin of Malihad village of the same thana, while doing his contractual works and shot and slaughtered him at a nearby bridge. Meanwhile, Hafizur Rahman, 32, Imam of Allangi village mosque in Gangni thana of Meherpur district, was murdered by slaughtering in the mosque's verandah by armed brigands.

## Five killed in separate incidents in 4 dists

Five people were killed and 40 others injured in separate incidents in four districts on Friday and Sunday, police and hospital sources said, reports UNB.

In Comilla, a young man was killed and 15 were injured in a collision between a bus and a truck at Shaheed Nagar in Daudkandi thana on Sunday.

The Dhaka-bound truck and Comilla-bound bus collided head-on at 11 am leaving Afsar, 25, helper of the truck dead on the spot.

Of the injured, condition of 12 has been stated to be critical.

Police seized both the vehicles, but the drivers managed to flee.

In Satkhira, Moslema, 12, daughter of Moksed Ali, of village Touardanga in Assasuni thana drowned into the pond adjacent to her house on the same day.

In Feni, two people were killed and 25 others injured in separate road accidents on Dhaka-Chittagong highway on Friday.

A bus, carrying a picnic party, fell into a roadside ditch at Fatehpur rail crossing of the district leaving Tareq Bin Shiplu, 19, an SSC examinee, killed and 25 others injured.

The bus was returning to Narsingdi from Cox's Bazar.

In another accident, Abul Khamer, 35, was crushed under the wheels of a speeding truck at Mohipal in the morning.

In Sylhet, an octogenarian man was killed by his rivals following a land dispute at Chatthibanda village in Sadar thana on Friday.

## Administrative borders between Bhola, Laxmipur dists demarcated

BHOLA, Dec 22: The administrative borders between Char Nalthiug and Baikanthapur of Bhola district and Laxmipur district have been demarcated by the authorities, removing a source of clashes over land and crops in the area, reports APB.

The border now lies on the western part of Adarsha Bazaar in Laxmipur.

Clashes over land and crops were common in the area during harvesting season and when shoals would emerge after the rainy season.

Two police camps will be set up in Daulatkhan and Laxmipur to maintain law and order, sources in the district administration said.

Officials of Ramgati

(Laxmipur) and Daulatkhan thanas have been vested with the responsibility of inspecting land deeds and other relevant documents to identify the land-gabbers and find out the real owners.

The decision was taken at a recent meeting attended by DC of Bhola Abdul Mannan, SP Mokhlesur Rahman, ADC Mokhlesur Rahman, ADC Mo- hamed, DC of Laxmipur Mahbubul Alam, SP Kairul Bashar, TNO JN Biswas, and TNO of Ramgati.

A committee was formed to remove differences and to find out ways to prevent recurrence of violence and land-grabbing. The committee will submit its suggestions to the district

commissioners within 15 days.

The area has been a trouble spot for quite some time. A few days back, more than 100 musclemen attacked Char Nal-

thiug and Laxmipur and set on fire more than 50 dwellings and looted thousands of maunds of rice along with cattle. They also kidnapped a magistrate, Sharif Murza, a police sub-inspector and two constables whom they released after some time.

Murtaza later filed a case against Mohsin Majhi, leader of the musclemen of Ramgati.

Local people hope that after the steps taken by the government, peace will return to the area and clashes over land and crops will stop.

## Because of discord over allocation of wheat

JHENIDAH, Dec 22: The TNO of Shailakupa thana has been carrying out his official duties at his residence for over two months now because his office has been kept under lock and key by a Union Parishad Chairman allegedly because of disagreement over allocation of wheat.

The TNO, Mahfuzul Karim, lodged a complaint with the Shailakupa thana, but no action was taken. He then complained to the district administration, but nothing has been done.

When contacted, the TNO refused to say anything about the matter on the plea of "personal security".

A police officer of the thana said that they could not take any action as all the chairmen in the thana were influential members of the ruling party. When one of the chairmen was asked about the matter, he said, "The TNO will not be allowed to enter into his office any more. So he should be removed by the government immediately."

According to sources, the government had allotted four tonnes of wheat for distribution to puja mandaps during the last Durga Puja.

A committee headed by the local MP prepared a list and submitted it to the TNO. On the other hand, all the chairmen of 11 union parishads prepared

another list and demanded that the wheat be allotted according to their suggestions.

The TNO, was unable to oblige the chairmen.

The chairmen then helped a meeting and demanded his removal. Later, on October 4, they ransacked his office and locked it.

## Highway dacoity in Gaibandha

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Dec 22: A highway dacoity was committed on December 17 on Gaibandha-Palashabri highway near Tulshighat.

The dacoits stopped a Bogra bound truck and looted away cash amounting to Taka 1,600 after beating its driver and helper.

On the fateful night, the highway dacoits created barricade across the road with three logs at the place of occurrence of the dacoity. Meanwhile, a Bogra bound truck reached the spot. Then the miscreants committed the dacoity and fled away after beating the driver and the helpers. The dacoits also damaged the wind screen of the truck.

People in the region alleged that the law enforcement agencies remain indifferent to the growing menace, which has caused concern among them. In most of the cases, illegal traders are informed before the launching of any anti-drug drive by a section of officials thereby failing the chance to curb the menace.

The situation is going beyond the control and leading the young generation to the brink of ruination.

MYMENSINGH: Vice-Chancellor Prof Muhammad Hossain inaugurating a modern Japanese ECG machine installed at Bangladesh Agricultural University Medical Centre. Photo shows the VC is being examined with the newly installed machine.

— Star photo

## Saplings dying due to unidentified disease

JHENIDAH, Dec 22: Saplings are rapidly dying in country's South-western region due to the outbreak of unidentified disease, incurring a huge loss to the owners, reports UNB.

The worst affected districts are Jhenidah, Chuadanga, Magura, Meherpur, Jessor, Satkhira and Kushtia.

The Forest Department sources said that saplings are not only being affected by the disease in the South-western part but in other parts also due to the same reason.

The disease first broke out in 1994 in South-western region of the country, but experts could not detect this as yet.

At first stage of the infection, leaves of the upper portion of a sapling dry up then the entire portion of the sapling creating a hole on the peel and then suck the juice leaving the sapling rotten.

The Forest Department sources said samples of affected saplings were sent to Britain to detect the disease.

The department has advised the growers to use pesticides 'Furadan' and Kaleskin mixing with one litre water at the roots of the saplings on an experimental basis.

The agri officials visited the garden to detect the cause behind the ravage but they are yet to make any headway in this regard.

Meanwhile, Dr Wazed Box, an expert of Bangladesh Forest Research Institute, after conducting research, has found one kind of insect in the saplings, which is said to be the cause behind the disease.

He said this insect, known as 'spot hole borer' or 'embreocha Chitell platipodi dicholifer', enter into the top portion of the sapling creating a hole on the peel and then suck the juice leaving the sapling rotten.

The Forest Department sources said samples of affected saplings were sent to Britain to detect the disease.

The department has advised the growers to use pesticides 'Furadan' and Kaleskin mixing with one litre water at the roots of the saplings on an experimental basis.

PABNA: Rafiqul Islam Bakul MP, distributing money among the tornado victims of Kshudra Matiabari village. A severe tornado lashed over the area a few months back.

— Star photo



MYMENSINGH: A colourful procession was brought out in the town in observance of Child Rights Week '98 which was organised by Shishu Academy. The processionist paraded the main thoroughfares in the town.

## Law and order worsens in Naogaon district

From Our Correspondent

Naogaon, Dec 22: The law and order situation in the district has deteriorated alarmingly.

Five incidents of murder occurred within eight days in the current month in different parts, according to police.

Police have seized one rifle, eight revolvers, 76 rounds of live bullets and 17 cartridges from different parts of three thanas during the last one year.