

## News snaps

## Wheat sanctioned for 306 projects

FENI, Jan 5: The government has sanctioned 519 tonnes of wheat for the implementation of 306 projects in five thanas and one pourasava in the district under Test Relief (TR) programme, reports BSS.

According to official sources, the break-up of the projects and allotment is — 85 tonnes of wheat for 65 projects in Chhaglalnaya, 97 tonnes of wheat for 60 projects in Dagonbuiya, 121 tonnes for 58 projects in Feni sadar, 92 tonnes for 34 projects in Parshuram, 104 tonnes for 82 projects in Sonagazi and 20 tonnes for 7 projects in Feni pourasava. The projects include repair and maintenance of roads and embankments, field raising of different educational institutions, cutting of jungle and removal of water hyacinth.

## Section 144 withdrawn from Satkhira

SATKHIRA, Jan 5: Section 144 has been withdrawn from the town on Thursday afternoon, reports BSS.

Section 144 was imposed in Satkhira town on December 26 due to a clash between two groups — one led by a transport owner Abdur Rouf and another by Abdus Sobhan. During the clash several business houses and residences were ransacked, and damaged 15 motor vehicles and many motor-cycles were set-on fire. About 50 persons including one high police officer were injured during the clash. The district administration imposed Section 144 in the town to bring the situation under control.

## Foodgrains distributed

BELABO (Narsingdi), Jan 5: Science and Technology Minister Lt Gen (retd) Mohammad Noor Uddin Khan has called upon all irrespective of party affiliation and opinion to work unitedly for the execution of various development projects taken by the present government, reports BSS.

The minister was distributing wheat and rice among the VGF and VGD card holders in Patuli, Billahbaid, Belabo and Bajnab unions on Saturday. Each of the VGD card holder received 30 kg wheat and VGF card holder 15 kg wheat and 5 kg rice. He referred to the government's post flood relief and rehabilitation programmes and said the government had earned appreciations from home and abroad for its honesty, devotion and efficiency in conducting the relief and rehabilitation programmes. All these have become possible due to far-sightedness and bold leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, he added. Local leaders including Narsingdi district Awami League vice-president S A Hadi, joint secretary advocate Fazlul Hoq, former upazila chairman of Belabo Shamsheer Ali Bhuiyan and Chhatra League leaders were present.

## Training course on self-employment

JHALAKATI, Jan 5: A three-month training course on self-employment for unemployed educated youths began here on Sunday, reports APB.

A total of 100 trainees are taking part in the course, organised by the Department of Youth Development. Being held at the Youth Training Centre here, the course will train the participants on poultry and animal husbandry, pisciculture and first-aid. Participants will be provided with necessary credit facilities for self-employment after the training, the department sources said.

## 15 dacoits in Bhaluka in a week

MYMENSINGH, Jan 5: Fifteen dacoits were committed in Bhaluka thana here in a week, marking the alarming deterioration of law and order situation, reports UNB.

The gangs looted valuable worth Tk 8 lakh by raiding 15 houses including three shops from December 19 to December 25, official sources said. Witnesses said about 25 dacoits looted goods including gold and cash worth Tk 3 lakh storming the houses owned by Akther Hossain and Abul Kalam at Mamarish village on December 25. Earlier on December 23, the gang attacked the houses of Omar Ali, Keramat Miah, Hekmat Miah, Hafiz Miah, Suruz Miah and Taleb Miah one after another and looted goods worth Tk 2 lakh. On December 19, dacoits were committed in four houses at Sonakhal, Katalmari and Angarpura villages and three shops in Interhat Bazaar and decamped with valuables worth Tk 3 lakh.

## Loan for rebuilding houses

NETROKONA, Jan 5: An amount of Tk 23,00,000 has been earmarked for distribution as loan for rebuilding houses damaged by the last flood, official sources said, reports APB.

At least 4,600 families in 10 thanas and two municipalities will be the beneficiaries of the programme. Each family will get Tk 500. The thana-wise allocation is: Tk 2.77 lakh for 555 families in sadar and Barhatta, Tk 2.30 lakh for 460 families in Durgapur and Purbadala, Tk 2.07 lakh for 414 families in Kalmakanda, Tk 2.08 lakhs for 416 families in Atpara, Tk 2.10 lakh for 418 families in Mohanganj, Tk 2.37 lakh for 474 families in Khaliqajuri, Tk 2.19 lakh for 438 families in Madan, Tk 1.75 lakh for 350 families in Kendua and Tk 15,000 for 30 families in Netrokona and Mohanganj municipalities.



CHANDPUR: Dr Aminul Islam, Vice-Chancellor of National University addressed the teachers of Chandpur Government College which he visited recently.

— Star photo.

## Fate of trainees uncertain

RANGAMATI, Jan 5: Fate of over a hundred trainees of Hathazari Agriculture Training Institute, sent from Rangamati, has become uncertain as they cannot bear their educational expenses any more, reports UNB.

These trainees were sent to the institution in 1996 by Rangamati Local Government Council (LGC) with a view to filling up the gap of employees of agriculture department and teachers at secondary education level in Rangamati. LGC selected them for three-year Distant Education Agriculture Diploma Course after interview for which they are supposed to get monthly allowances from the council. The trainees said they have already passed four semesters with their own expenses in two years, but the council did not provide them minimum allowances, stipends and semester fee. They said there was also a commitment that the trainees may be given contractual appointments after completion of two semesters but no such appointment had yet been made.

## Brick fields polluting air

NATORE, Jan 5: Numerous brick fields in six thanas of the district are polluting the air and the area is being denuded of greenery, reports APB.

As per law brick field owners are supposed to use coal only for burning bricks. But most of them are flouting this law with impunity and using wood, which is cheaper and easily available. Some of them keep small quantities of coal in front of kilns only to befool officials of the Department of Environment, but actually they burn wood. Local people told that many of them have developed respiratory problems due to the black smoke emitted by the brick fields.

## Young man succumbs to injuries

SYLHET, Jan 5: A young man succumbed to his injuries on Saturday and the other reported to be in a critical condition following an assault on them by an armed group on Thursday, reports APB.

The dead was identified as Farid Ahmed, 20, son of late Mofizuddin of Sunamganj district. He had been living in South Baluchar of the town. Critically injured Mamun, 22, of Kharadipara in the town, has been undergoing treatment at the Osmany Medical College Hospital. Police said unidentified gunmen came to a tea-stall at Baluchar in the town on motor-cycles and sprayed bullets on the young men when they were taking tea there at about 12 noon.

## 2,117 uplift projects implemented

KISHOREGANJ, Jan 5: District Relief and Rehabilitation Department has implemented 2,117 projects allocating 7,036 tonnes of wheat, reports BSS.

According to official sources those projects were taken in 1997-98 fiscal year under the rural infrastructure repair and protection programme of the government.

## 343 killed in train accidents since independence

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Jan 5: Some 343 people were killed in train accidents since the country's independence in 1971. At least 150 passengers were injured in these accidents.

In 1986, 35 people lost their lives at Chuadanga and another 40 at Alandanga in 1988 due to derailment of railway wagons.

Biennial council of History Assoc Oct 22-23

From RU Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Jan 5: The biennial council of Bangladesh History Association has been postponed due to last year's delay.

The new date of the council

has been fixed on October 22-23

in 1999, according to a press

release signed by the president

of the council, preparation

committee Prof Atful Hai Shibley.

In 1992, 35 people lost their lives at Chuadanga and another 40 at Alandanga in 1988 due to

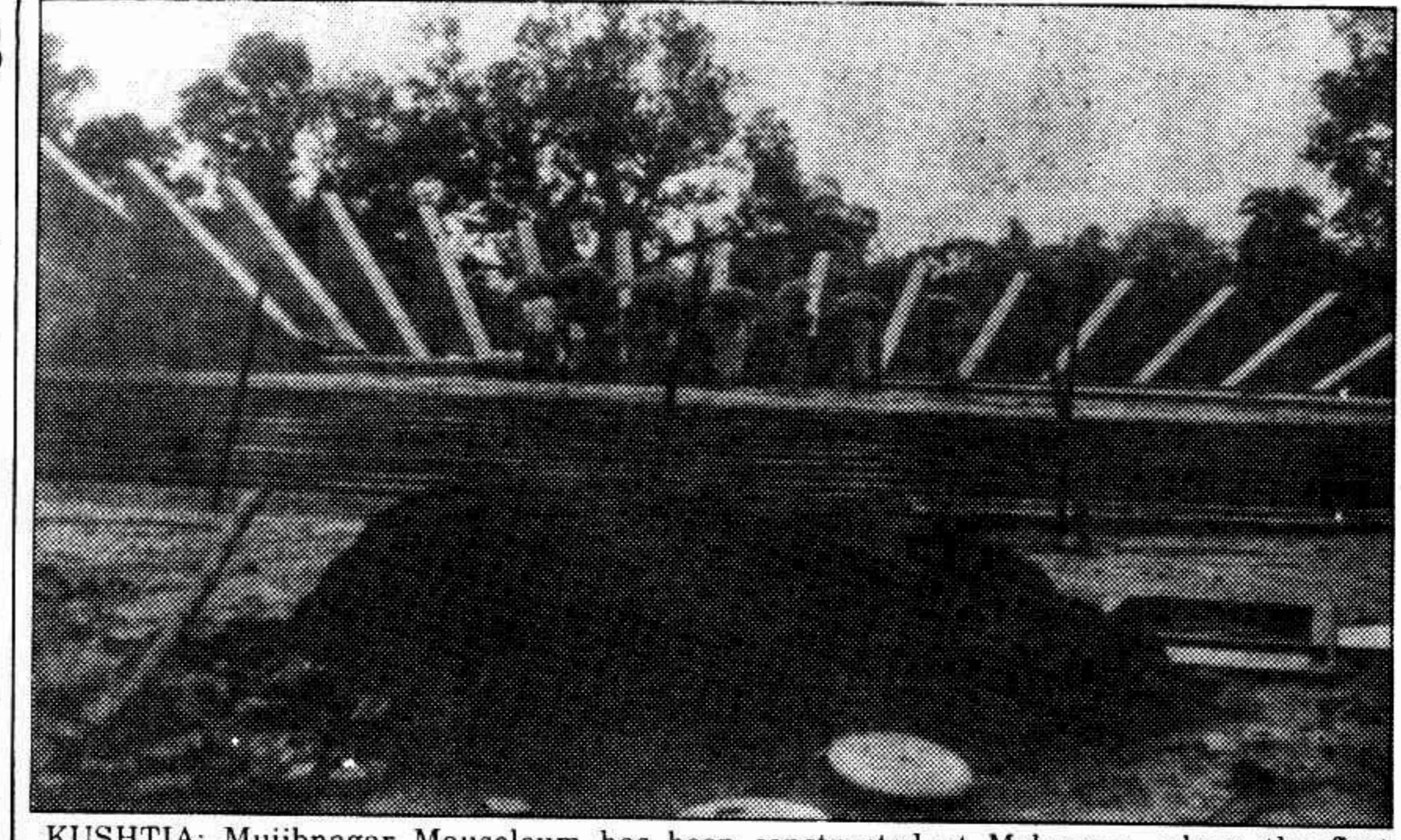
derailment of railway wagons.

Some 23 people were killed when two trains collided head-on at Hilli in 1993. In the same year, six passengers were killed in a collision between a train and a passenger bus in Jessor.

In 1997, 11 people were killed and about 50 injured in an accident between two trains at Shiddir station.

The latest accident occurred at Kashimpur Kaliganj rail gate where 13 passengers lost their lives during a collision between a train and a bus. About 50 were injured.

Besides, 20 other people were killed in stray train accidents at different places of the region during the period.



KUSHHTIA: Mujibnagar Mausoleum has been constructed at Meherpur, where the first Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh was formed on April 17, 1971. If the place is preserved properly then it may attract tourists from home and abroad. — Star photo



GOPALGANJ: M Nasiruddin, Deputy Commissioner of Gopalganj addressing at the eighth founding anniversary of Ramshil Union Pragoti Granthagar at Kotalipara recently. Also seen on the dais are (from left to right) Kamal Sen, a social worker, James SK Adhikari, founder president of the library, Manindra Nath Roy, TNO of Kotalipara and other officials.

## Four hurt in Jubo League factional feud

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA: Jan 5: Four persons were injured in a fierce clash between two factions of Jubo League at Kashipur in Kashipur thana on Tuesday noon. The injured were admitted to different private clinics.

Police lobbed tear gas shells and fired shots from short guns to bring the situation under control. Police said both the groups used hand bombs and firearms against each other.

In another incident on the same day, three persons including a pedestrian were injured when two groups of Awami League supporters clashed near Kashipur thana over sharing of toll money.

## Woman labourers on rise in Iswardi

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Jan 5: Political Adviser to Prime Minister Dr S A Maleque stressed the need for imparting proper education to our younger generation who could build a disciplined social order free from terrorism and exploitation, reports BSS.

He was speaking as the chief guest at the inaugural ceremony of a newly-built 'Sheikh Russel Smriti' Hall of Saheed Smriti College at Town Noapara under Fakirhat police station of Bagerhat district recently.

Presided over by Fakirhat Thana Nirbahi Officer Iqbal Hossain, the function was also addressed by the Vice-Chancellor of Khulna University Prof Dr S M Nazrul Islam and Deputy Commissioner of Bagerhat Syed Nurul Islam.

Present on the occasion were vice-president of Bagerhat district Awami League Sib Prashad Ghose, founder-member of the college Piljung Union Parishad chairman Sirajul Islam Morol and Principal of the college Syed Aminul Islam.

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