

## 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 Chhagalnaiya, 97 tonnes of wheat for 60 projects in Dagonbhuia, 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### Section 144 withdrawn from Satkhira

SATKHIRA, Jan 5 : Section 144 has been withdrawn from the town on Thursday afternoon, reports BSS.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 (retel) Mohammad Naeem Uddin Khan has called upon all irrespective of party affiliation and opinion to work untidely 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, Billahabdi, Belabo and Bajinab 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 dacoities in Bhaluka in a week

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

The gangs looted valuables 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 Akhter 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, Hafej Miah, Suruz Miah and Taleb Miah one after another and looted goods worth Tk 2 lakh. On December 19, dacoities were committed in four houses at Sonakali, Katlamari and Angarpara 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 Purbadhala, 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 Khaliyuri, 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 employee 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 the western zone of Bangladesh railway, reports UNB.

Railway and other sources said at least 700 people sustained injuries during the period in these accidents. They said the number of major accidents involved in about 50.

There are 598.23 km railway lines in the western zone of the railway, said the officials.

The first railway accident in the region after the independence was occurred at Jessore station when an engine ripped through a fence and entered into a local market killing 150 people and injuring 100 others. At the same station in 1975, nine members of the army were killed and 25 injured when their vehicle entered into a

level crossing beside the station.

In 1986, 35 people lost their lives at Chuadanga and another 40 at Alamdanga 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 deluge in the country.

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 Atul Hai Shib-ley.

At least 150 passengers were injured in these accidents.

In 1992, Simanta Express caught fire and 36 people were burnt to death while another 100 sustained injuries.

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 Jessore.

In 1997, 11 people were killed and about 50 injured in an accidents 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.



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 Khalishpur 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 Khalishpur thana over sharing of toll money.

## Woman labourers on rise in Iswardi

ISWARDI, Jan 5 : Poverty is compelling poor women to take up jobs which were exclusively for men in the recent past, reports APB.

This has considerably increased the number of women workers in nine thanas of Pabna district.

Poor women prefer outdoor work to domestic service not only because of higher pay, but also due to the greater freedom they enjoy, some of them said.

Many of them have left the traditional jobs of domestic servants and cleaners and dish-washers in hotels and restaurants and are doing work which were exclusively for men in the recent past.

## 'Free style' of health complexes in Jessore

From Staff Correspondent

JESSORE, Jan 5 : All the seven thana health complexes and 22 health sub-centres in Jessore district are beset with multifarious problems for quite a long time now, reports APB.

## Younger generation's proper education stressed

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 Prasad Ghose, founder-member of the college Pijang Union Parishad chairman Sirajul Islam Morol and Principal of the college Syed Aminul Islam.

Besides an acute shortage of doctors and technicians, there is lack of supervision in all the centres, local people and patients alleged. Life saving drugs are never available, not to speak of oxygen, they alleged.

When contacted the Civil Surgeon said that 10 posts of doctors are lying vacant in the thana health complexes and eight in the health sub-centres.

Alternative arrangements have, however, been made for attending serious patients at the sub-centres, he added.

These thana health complexes are at Jhikargachha, Chowgachha, Monirampur, Keshabpur, Bagharpara, Sarsa and Abahynagar. The sub-centres are at Lebatala, Jangalbadhal and Sakiragati in Sadar thana; Sarsa, Bagachhara, Samta, Chalitabaria and Laxmanpur in Sarsa thana; Gangadapur, Amriabazar and Bankra in Jhikargachha thana; Rajganj and Nehalpur in Monirampur thana; Siddipasha, Bagatia and Sreedhanpur in Agahnagar thana; Vitaballa in Bagharpara thana and Jagadishpur, Narayanpara, Pashapole and Sukhpukiria in Chowgachha thana.

Allégations are there that the medical officers of these health complexes and health centres are more interested in private practice than attending their official duties.

## Diarrhoea claims 4 lives in Pabna

PABNA, Jan 5 : Diarrhea broke out in an epidemic form at various places here claiming four lives and attacking 50 others on Friday and Thursday, reports UNB.

Of the deceased, three were identified as Korban Ali, 55, Khairul, 35, and Achhiya, 12, of Ulat village in Sujanagar thana. Another woman aged about 35 of the same village could not be identified. Three more deaths — two at Chatmohor and one at sadar thana — were reported in last week, official sources said. More than 50 patients have so far been admitted in different thana health complexes with the water borne disease.

## Review meeting on Diarrhoeal Diseases Control Programme

COX'S BAZAR, Jan 5 : A four-day review meeting on Diarrhoeal Diseases Control Programme began here on Sunday, reports APB.

A total of 97 health and family planning officials from 11 districts in Chittagong division will take part in the programme in phases. On the first day, 23 officials from Chittagong and Khagrachhari districts took part in the programme.

The programme is jointly organised by the Health Directorate and UNICEF.

The programme was inaugurated by Director of Health Education and Manpower Development of the Department Prof Shah Munir Hossain at motel Shaibal of Parjatan.

## Mugger succumbs to injuries

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Jan 5 : One of the two muggers who were severely beaten by angry mob succumbed to his injuries in the sadar hospital on Tuesday evening.

Another was admitted to the same hospital whose condition remained critical till Wednesday evening. The deceased has been identified as Hatem Ali, 22, while the name of the injured is Shipon, 24.

Police quoting FIR said, the alleged muggers were caught red-handed by pedestrians when they were escaping after committing robbery in the residence of Dr Salina Begum of Basupara on Tuesday noon. They were beaten there by mob.

Dr Selina lodged a case with Sonadanga thana in connection with robbery. But none has so far lodged any case against murder of the alleged mugger.

## 6 killed in 2 Faridpur road accidents

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, Jan 5 : Six persons were killed and 30 others injured in two separate road accidents within a span of five days here.

Four persons were killed and 10 others injured on December 22 when a Khulna bound passenger bus and a Dhaka bound truck collided head-on at Chhankhali between Madhukhali and Kamarkhali on Faridpur-Jessore highway.

The dead were identified as Hashem Bhuiyan, 62, Masudur Bhuiyan, 28, Matuul Rahman, 60, and one unidentified septuagenarian.

In another incident on December 27 two persons were killed and 20 others injured at Kaidubi in Bhanga thana on Faridpur-Khulna highway. One of the dead was identified as Omar Ali, 30, and the other was an unidentified youngman of 25 years old.

Of the injured 12 were admitted to three local hospitals and the rest were released after first aid.

The accident took place when a Patuakhali bound passenger bus fell into a road-side ditch causing the tragic incident.

Two separate cases were lodged with Madhukhali and Bhanga thana respectively.

## Comilla dist JP confce

COMILLA, Jan 5 : Conference of district Jatiya Party was held at Comilla town hall on January 2, reports BSS.

General Secretary of Jatiya Party Nazim Rahman Manju was present as the chief guest.

Party presidium member Sheikh Shahidul Islam and Manirul Hoque Chowdhury were the special guests.

Party district convenor Abdul Awal presided over the conference. Sudhir Kumar Hazra, Yar Ahmed Salim, Jahangir Alam spoke in the conference.



BARISAL: The 100-day long IPM training course here is in progress. Agriculture Department of Barisal organised it.

— Star photo.

## C'nawabganj Hospital ailing

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Jan 5 : The modern hospital here has been beset with many problems causing sufferings to the patients, reports UNB.

Local people and patients alleged that most of the doctors of the hospital are engaged in private practice in their chambers or clinics ignoring their official duties.

Many doctors do not attend their duties in the second half of the working days causing problems for the patients from the rural areas, because they cannot reach the hospital early in the morning.

Some patients further complained that the doctors spend most of their times with the medical representatives who

use to pay regular visits to them. They said the doctors do not behave well with the patients.

The standard of service of the nurses and other third of fourth class employees is also very low and the wards always remain stinky and filthy. The patients are being supplied with sub-standard food, said the patients.

There is allegation that costly medicines of the hospital are being sold outside by the corrupt employees.

Besides, lack of doctors in the hospital has been a serious impediment in rendering medical service to the patients.

## Lack of irrigation facilities

## 25,000 acres of 'boro' land getting fallow gradually

SUNAMGANJ, Jan 5 : A total of 25,000 acres of 'boro' land at Kharcher haor area in the district is going to be fallow gradually due to lack of irrigation facilities, reports UNB.

During the dry season it is difficult to bring the vast tract of land under 'boro' paddy cultivation.

Local farmers said, construction of a dam on the river Chalti and excavation of nearly two-km canal up to Minajury have become urgent necessity to extend irrigation facility in the area to enable them to cultivate the 'boro' paddy.

Thousands of growers of

Ronger Char union of Sadar thana and Sholakabad union of Bishwambhorpur thana are facing problems in tilling their lands due to lack of irrigation water.

People of 30 villages in four unions have taken an initiative to construct an alternative dam with the help of bamboo at the proposed location on voluntary basis since Dec 25.

Bishwambhorpur Thana Nirbahi Officer sanctioned Tk 20,000 for the initiative, but the work could not be started as yet due to various problems.

Local farmers demanded of the authorities to construct the dam along with a sluice gate and excavation of the canal at the Bomar Dala to facilitate cultivation of 'boro' on the vast tract of land.

## 4 undertrial prisoners escape from court hayat

MAGURA, Jan 5 : Four undertrial prisoners escaped from the court hayat recently, reports UNB.

Hasan, Abu Bakar, Shah Alam and Zakir Hossain, accused in a number of dacoity cases, were brought to the court hayat on the day of hearing of one case.

They broke open the ventilator of the toilet of the dilapidated court hayat and managed to flee.

## Best cub

From A Correspondent

KHAGRACHHARI, Jan 5 : Syeda Lira Royhan was adjudged as the best cub in the First ever Cub Camporee held here.

Forty-seven cub groups from different thanas took part in the camporee which was held from December 14 to 17.

Royhan is the youngest daughter of Syed Abu Royhan, Additional Deputy Commissioner (General), Khagrachhari.



NATORE: Fortune favoured Imail because of his hard working nature.

— Star photo

## Success story of a poor hard working youth

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, Jan 5 : Ismail who was once a jobless and frustrated youngman, is now a wealthy person.

Life is now more meaningful to him than in his days of early youth. His strong will power, curiosity and hard work have made him a successful man. Constant endeavour has made the 31-year old Ismail Hossain of Ekdala village in sadar thana a wealthy person.

He could not pursue his school education due to poverty. He is the son of a peasant named Md Zohor Ali.

In 1992, Ismail came to the good grace of the officials of Natore Horticulture Centre (NHC) when the centre selected Ekdala village as their 'service area'. Ismail participated in a two-day long training programme on winter vegetables cultivation at NHC during the end of the year. In the same year, NHC set up a demonstration plot on his two-bigha land. A bumper production of cauliflower, cabbage, tomato and other vegetables on the demonstration plot encouraged him greatly. Then Ismail took training twice on

summer and round-the-year vegetable cultivations. He earned a profit of Taka 20,000 by cultivating cauliflower, cabbage and tomato on his two-bigha land that year. In the next year, Ismail concentrated his attention on cauliflower cultivation. He earned a net profit of Taka 25,000 from the land by cultivating cauliflower. The continuing profit inspired him immensely and he ventured to lease seven bighas of land from others in 1995. Then Ismail earned a profit of Taka one lakh with the production of

cauliflower. He got the same price of his cauliflower in the next year also. Last year he leased nine bighas of land and cultivated cauliflower and subsequently made a profit of Taka one lakh and 50 thousand. He also earned additional profit of Tk 70,000 by producing and selling vegetable seedlings in collaboration with NHC the same year.

In this winter season Ismail has brought 11 bighas of land under cauliflower cultivation. While visiting Ismail's land at Ekdala village recently, this correspondent saw an enthusiastic and happy Ismail who proudly showed him abundant production of cauliflower on his land. Ismail has expected Taka two lakh profit this year. He said, "I till my land myself. I plant seedlings myself and take care of those myself." He also revealed that he had already turned his thatched cottage into a brick-built house recently from his profit. He also bought eight high breed cows and now he has been thinking of a small poultry farm.

He also informed this correspondent that many of his neighbour villagers have been following his foot steps. In the mean time, many of them took advice from him regarding cauliflower cultivation.

While talking to The Daily Star, horticulturist Ayub Hossain of NHC told that Ismail's hard work and enterprise crowned him with success. Everyone came following him, he added. He also informed that most farmers think that Ismail had already earned name and fame as an ideal farmer in the district.

