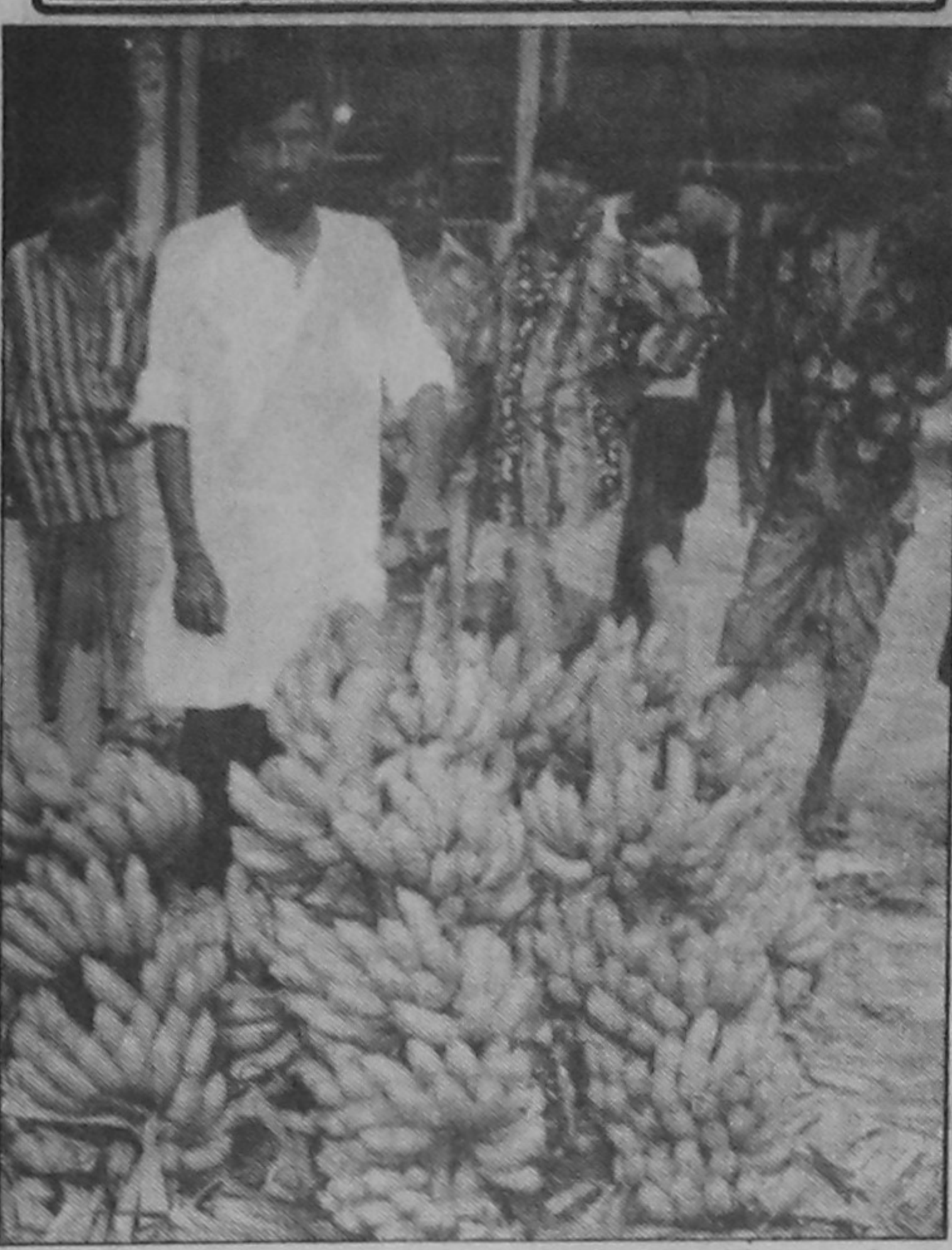


News snaps



A banana farmer displays a heap of high yielding variety of banana at Bela Pingalhati village under Sadar thana in Jamalpur district recently. Banana growers say they are losing in cultivating banana due to lack of marketing facilities in the district. — Star photo

Fertiliser price up

THAKURGAON, Jan 12: Price of all kinds of fertiliser has shot up in the district to the worries of the farmers, reports UNB. TSP is being sold at Tk 600 per 50kg bag in the retail market. Urea is sold at Tk 310 and SSP at Tk 310. A mobile court was formed before the Eid to check high prices of essentials. But it did not take action against the fertiliser dealers who allegedly created an artificial crisis. Farmers said high price of fertiliser would affect the Rabi crops.

Nazrul birth anniversary

KHULNA, Jan 12: The 100th birth anniversary of national poet Kazi Nazrul Islam was observed here at the auditorium of Khulna University on 28 December, reports BSS. Prof Saifuddin Shah of the university was the chief guest. Several teachers of the varsity spoke on the poet's contributions to Bangla literature and paid rich tributes.

650 Test Relief projects

COMILLA, Jan 12: Six hundred and fifty Test Relief projects are going to be implemented in the district as a part of the government's effort to alleviate poverty, reports BSS. The projects are being implemented under the Rural Infrastructure Development Programme with the allocation of 1,600 tons wheat. The projects include earth filling in different educational institutions, construction of culverts and reconstruction of rural roads, officials sources said.

Wheat farming programme

RANGPUR, Jan 12: The Agriculture Extension Department (AED) has been executing a programme to bring 37,000 hectares of land under wheat cultivation in the district in the current season, reports BSS. Of the total, 29,055 hectares have, so far, been cultivated while cultivation is progressing in the rest lands. About 85,000 tons of wheat is expected to be produced in the district during this season.

Businessman strangled

BAGERHAT, Jan 12: A businessman was strangled over a dispute at South Rajapur village in Sharankhola thana on Friday, reports UNB. Police said timber trader Mustafa, 38, was kidnapped and was killed allegedly by his neighbour Abul Khan and his associates over a dispute of five bighas of land. They also picked up Mustafa's nephew Saiful Islam who was later rescued by locals. A case was filed with Sharankhola Police Station.

Workshop on school management

MYMENSINGH, Jan 12: A five-day workshop on 'School Management and New Curriculum' organised by the Secondary Education Development Project (SEDP) concluded here in the premises of Mymensingh Zilla School recently, reports BSS. The workshop was inaugurated by Director of SEDP Dr Mohammad Golam Rasul Meah on December 24. According to sources, a total of 87 heads of the secondary schools in the district participated in the workshop.

Relief distributed

BANDARBAN, Jan 12: A total of 680 pieces blankets, four metric tons of Saurian dates and 3,000 pieces clothes, provided from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund, have been distributed among poor people in seven thanas including one pourasava of the district recently, reports BSS. Thana Nirbahi Officers and Local Union Parishad chairmen distributed the relief goods to the poor tribal and non-tribal people in the district including Bandarban Pourasava.

Youth killed in road accident

KUSHTIA, Jan 12: A young man was crushed under the wheels of a speeding truck at Golapnagar under Bheramara thana of the district recently, reports BSS. The victim, Bhadumiah, 28, met his tragic end while crossing the road. The body was sent to Kushtia Sadar Hospital for autopsy and a case was filed in this connection.

Construction work progressing

TANGAIL, Jan 12: Facilities Department of Tangail zone is constructing five academic buildings for five high schools at a total cost of Taka 87.5 lakh in the current fiscal year, reports BSS. Official sources said under this programme academic buildings for Bindu Bashini Government High School, Santosh Islamic University Government Girls' School Jamalpur Zilla School, Handina Government High School and Melanda Government High School are being constructed. The work will be completed in eight months.

Projects being implemented

KUSHTIA, Jan 12: Kushtia Pourasabha has been implementing one hundred and five projects at a cost of Taka five crore in the current fiscal year, reports BSS. According to official sources, the Pourasabha has taken up a different projects including construction of roads, culverts, drains and walls in different areas of the Pourasabha. The projects will be completed soon, a source said.

Training on bee-keeping

SATKHIRA, Jan 12: A month long bee-keeping training workshop organised by Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC), Satkhira was held at Pushpakali Government Primary School under Debhatana thana recently, reports BSS. The training workshop was inaugurated by the Deputy Manager, BSCIC, Satkhira Youb Ali as the chief guest. About 35 unemployed youths participated in the training workshop, conducted by SM Fazlur Rahman and BS CIC officials.

Bumper Aman output

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Jan 12: Farmers of Chapainawabganj district achieved bumper production of Aman paddy in the current season despite heavy downpour and recent flood, reports BSS. An official of local Agriculture Extension Department informed that the farmers cultivated Aman on 57,500 hectares but the recurrent flood had damaged Aman plants on 10,000 hectares. Now, due to bumper production, the farmers will be able to make-up the loss caused by flood.

Cotton cultivation gaining popularity in Mymensingh

From Our Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, Jan 12: Cotton cultivation has gained popularity in Mymensingh region in recent years as farmers find the crop profitable. According to sources in the Cotton Development Board in Mymensingh, a total of 4,110.58 hectares of land had been brought under cotton cultivation this season in Mymensingh zone with the production target of 4,200 metric tons. Of the total, 60 hectares were cultivated to produce seeds and the rest for general cotton by 6,931 cotton growers. Of the cultivated land 218.13 hectares were cultivated under Gabtali-1 unit by 260 cotton growers, 119.27 hectares under Gabtali-2 unit by 218 growers, 302.57 hectares under Kishoreganj unit by 376 growers, 358.50 hectares under Susuti Bazar unit by 857 growers, 90 hectares under Kahargaoon unit by 215 growers, 73 hectares under Jamalpur unit by 107 growers, 2.4 hectares under Nakla by 9 growers, 170 hectares under Madhupur unit by 180 growers, 138.50 hectares under Muter Bazar unit by 225 growers, 192.01 hectares under Dhanbari unit by 275 growers, 134 hectares under Pakulia unit by 259 growers, 141 hectares under Dhalapara by 182 growers, 550 hectares under Sagardighi-1 by 1148 growers, 327 hectares under Sagardighi-2 unit by 798 growers, 503 hectares under Garobazar-1 unit by 699 growers, 503.5 hectares under Garobazar-2 unit by 830 growers, 153 hectares under Barochua unit by 190 growers, and 65 hectares under Aahatichala unit by 213 growers. To make the cotton cultivation a success the Cotton Development Board (CDB) distributed 30,006 kilograms of cotton seeds and loan amounting to Tk. 2,99,550 among the cotton growers of this region in the current season. The CDB expects seed cotton worth over Tk 10.5 crore will be produced in Mymensingh Cotton Zone in the current season, said S M Afzauddin, Chief Cotton Development Officer of the zone. Local people said more lands of the zone can be brought under cotton cultivation through providing training and bank loans to the growers. UNB from Thakurgaon says: Cotton production in three northern districts is likely to go down this year due to unfavourable weather. Officials said the cotton beds on 660 acres in Thakurgaon, Dinajpur and Panchagargh districts were totally damaged during the rainy season in stagnant water. Plants that survived are also in bad shape. The Cotton Development Board said 1,287 acres in Thakurgaon, 882 acres in Dinajpur and 536 acres in Panchagargh were brought under cotton cultivation in the current year most of which were affected by adverse weather. No plants were found on 660 acres. An official said earning from cotton is likely to go down to half this year. Cotton is being produced in Thakurgaon Sadar, Peerganj, Bahadanga, Ranishoykel and Haripur of Thakurgaon district, Dinajpur Sadar, Birol, Nababganj of Dinajpur and Panchagargh Sadar, Boda and Atori of Panchagargh.



A procession was brought out in Shailakupa thana headquarters under Jhenedah district recently, hailing the Unesco decision to declare the 21st February as International Mother Language Day. — Star photo

Khas land distributed among poor people in Barisal

BARISAL, Jan 12: The government in its effort to mitigate sufferings of the homeless and landless people of the district has taken up rehabilitation programmes, reports BSS. The programmes include distribution of 1,032 acres of khas land among the members of 1,943 poor landless families in the first phase and 488 acres of khas land among the members of 918 families in ten thanas of the district in the second phase. The government keeping an eye on the sub-human life led by thousands of families rendered homeless by the erosion of 12 rivers in the district has taken up the programme. These families, after losing everything because of erosion of the rivers Meghna, Tetulia, Kirtankhola, Mashkata, and Sandhya, have been living on the flood protection embankments at different parts of the district for the last few years. According to an official source, a total of 1,032 acres of khas land have already been distributed among 1,943 families in ten thanas of the district in the first phase. Chief whip Abul Hasanat Abdullah handed over the deeds of the lands personally to the respective owners. Besides, 488 acres of this land will also be distributed among 918 poor families soon, the source added. Of the total, 100 families will be benefited in Sadar thana, 312 families in Bakerganj, 102 families in Mehendiganj, 155 families in Hizla, 157 families in Muladi and 80 families in Babuganj. Another report from Chudanga says: A total of 148 acres of agricultural khas land have been distributed among the 754 landless families in four thanas of the district. The four thanas of the district are Chudanga Sadar, Alamdanga, Damurhuda and Jibannagar. Of the total, 12 acres have been distributed among the 109 landless families of Chudanga Sadar thana, 48 acres among the 253 families of Alamdanga, 58 acres among the 270 families of Damurhuda and 30 acres among the 122 landless families of Jibannagar thanas. UNB from Ranganati says: Some 65,000 hectares of land in the Chittagong Hill Tracts remain fallow every year for want of cultivation facilities. The areas where the crop-lands remain uncultivated include Jurachhari, Bilaichhari and Borkol of the district, Panchhari, Dighinala and Mohalehhari of Khagrachhari and Thanchi and Roangchhari of Bandarban district. "It's possible to produce some 15,000 mts of paddy worth of Tk 20 crore by bringing these lands under cultivation," said an agriculture official. "Unless we stand on a common platform for our desired development, we will fail to sustain in the current trend of global competition," he said. With local Awami League leader Nurul Islam in the chair, the meeting was also addressed, among others, by Sayed Rafiqul Haq MP, district Awami League President Abdur Zaher and former student leader Pankaj Nath.



Though agriculture is the prime sector of the country's economy, it is yet to be modernised. A very few farmers like Ahsabul Haque (in the picture) use power-tillers, while most farmers still use traditional plough. Some of the marginal farmers and share-croppers cannot even afford to have oxen and plough. Aref Ali, a share-cropper is cultivating his land with spade. These photographs were taken recently from Jeupara in Puthia thana of Rajshahi district. — Star photo by Abdul Wadood

Winter vegetables farming programme in Narsingdi

NARSINGDI, Jan 12: About 5,000 hectares of land have been brought under winter vegetables cultivation in six thanas of the district this year, reports BSS. The production target has been fixed at 72,500 tons of vegetables. Of the total 900 hectares have been brought in Sadar thana, 1,400 hectares in Raipur thana, 950 hectares in Shibpur thana, 750 hectares in Belabo thana, 600 hectares in Monohordi thana and 400 hectares have been brought in Palash thana. The districts are Panchagargh, Dinajpur, Naogaon, Natore, Pabna, Rangpur, Nilphamari, Sirajganj, Gaibandha, Kurigram and Bogra. Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADCO) supplied improved quality of seeds and different commercial banks disbursed loan among vegetables growers to achieve the target of the production. Another report from Rangpur says: Potato cultivation target has exceeded during the current season in the district. There was a target to bring 14,400 hectares under potato cultivation this season, but more than 22,000 hectares have, so far, been brought under potato cultivation in the district. There is an expectation of a record quantity of potato production, around 2,67,000 metric tons, in this season in the district. The soil condition and weather of northern region of the country are very suitable for sweet potato and groundnut cultivation, sources said. Another report from Rangpur says: Potato cultivation target has exceeded during the current season in the district. There was a target to bring 14,400 hectares under potato cultivation this season, but more than 22,000 hectares have, so far, been brought under potato cultivation in the district. There is an expectation of a record quantity of potato production, around 2,67,000 metric tons, in this season in the district.

Homecoming Day observed in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Jan 12: The historic Home Coming Day of Bangabandhu was observed here on Monday paying glowing tributes to the architect of the Independent Bangladesh Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, reports BSS. Bangladesh Awami League, its front organisations and other socio-cultural bodies in port city observed the day with a fresh vow to accomplish the unfinished tasks of Bangabandhu. The city chapter of Bangladesh Awami League held a discussion at its Darool Fazl Market party office with Minister for Labour and Employment MA Mannan in the chair. Mayor of Chittagong Alhaj ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury and AL leaders Abul Kalam Sawdagar, Dr Aferul Ameen, Kazi Enamul Hoq Danu, M A Rashid, among others, took part in the discussion. The Labour Minister, in his speech, recalled the contributions of Bangabandhu that led to the emergence of Bangladesh as an independent country. He urged all democratic and pro-liberation forces to integrate themselves with the on-going development activities, carried out by the present government. Taking part in the discussion Mayor Mohiuddin Chowdhury said we must be ever vigilant against all intrigues and evil designs of the vested quarters that may thwart the materialisation of the dreams of the Father of the Nation. Earlier, the leaders and workers of Awami League placed wreaths at the portrait of the Father of the Nation while national and party flags were hoisted atop all party offices in the port city to mark the occasion.

Shun politics of destruction: Samad Azad

SUNAMGANJ, Jan 12: Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad on Tuesday called upon those 'involved in destructive politics' to come back to constructive politics and dedicate themselves to the current development process for achieving the nation's desired goal, reports BSS. "Shun the path of negative politics which results in destruction only and join the constructive politics which will offer the nation welfare and peace," he said while speaking as the chief guest at a public meeting at Habibpur village under Jagannathpur thana of the district. Local unit of Awami League organised the meeting, an official handout said. Abdus Samad Azad stressed the need for creating a consensus in the national politics for spearheading the current development programmes to achieve the long-cherished goal of the country's economy. "Unless we stand on a common platform for our desired development, we will fail to sustain in the current trend of global competition," he said. With local Awami League leader Nurul Islam in the chair, the meeting was also addressed, among others, by Sayed Rafiqul Haq MP, district Awami League President Abdur Zaher and former student leader Pankaj Nath.

Cold wave claims 13 lives in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, Jan 12: Severe cold wave claimed 13 lives in the district in the last eleven days, civil surgeon office sources said. Unofficial sources, however, said at least 23 people died of cold related diseases during the period. Besides, a large number of people fell sick as the severe cold wave swept across the northern region, including Sirajganj. Hospital sources said 250 people were suffering from cold related diseases. Meanwhile, thick fog blanketed the district headquarters on Wednesday, forcing most of the residents to stay indoors. Sun usually appears in the sky at noon in these days, residents said.

Three commit suicide in Jhenidah

JHENIDAH, Jan 12: Three people, including a housewife, allegedly committed suicide by taking pesticide in the district on Sunday, reports UNB. Police and family sources said the victims, identified as Faruquzzaman, 23, son of Babar Ali of Raipur village in Kaliganj thana, Roksana, 15, daughter of Monir Hossain of Debinagar village in Shailakupa thana and Tara Banu, 28, of Paglakamal area in sadar thana, took poison over family feuds. The bodies were sent to sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy. Separate UD cases were filed with police.

Convict held in Bagerhat

BAGERHAT, Jan 12: A convict was arrested from his house at Shashangram in Mollahat thana recently, reports UNB. Police said the arrested, Bipradas Malaker, 30, was sentenced to two years rigorous imprisonment in absentia in a smuggling case on April 6 last year. The court had also fined him Tk 1,000, in default, to suffer three months more RI.

Eid celebrated in dists

CHITTAGONG, Jan 12: Eid-ul-Fitr, the biggest religious festival of the Muslims, celebrated here and elsewhere in the district on Sunday with due religious fervour and traditional enthusiasm, reports BSS. In the city, Eid congregations under the auspices of Chittagong Central Eid Jamaat Committee were held at 77 places. The first congregation was held at M A Aziz Stadium at 8-30 AM where Katib of Andarkillah Shah-e-Jam-e-Mosjid Anwar Hossain Al Tahir Al Jaberi Al Madani led the Eid prayers. Another big congregation under the supervision of Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) was held at Jamirul Falah Complex. Minister for Labour and Employment M A Mannan, Chittagong City Mayor A B Mahiuddin Chowdhury and former Mayor Mahmudul Islam Chowdhury offered their Eid prayers at Jamirul Falah Complex. Another report from Khulna says: Eid-ul-Fitr was also celebrated in Khulna with religious fervour. People from all walks of life offered prayers, visited their near and dear ones and exchanged greetings. The main Eid congregation was held at the local Circuit House Maidan with thousands of Muslims offering prayers. The congregation was led by the Principal of Khulna Alia Madrasa and Pesh Imam of Khulna Town Jame Mosque Moulana Md Abu Saleq. Prayers were offered seeking continued peace, progress and prosperity of the country and for the entire Muslim ummah. Eid prayers were also offered in various mosques in the city. Another report from Narayanganj says: On the day, Eid congregations were held in eidgah, mosques and open space in different parts of the district. In Narayanganj town, the biggest Eid congregation was held at Masdar Eidgah Maidan at 9 am. Congregations were also held at Police Line Maidan, Thana Pukur Par Mosque, DIT Railway Mosque and Court Mosque. Prayers were offered seeking peace and prosperity of the country as well as the Muslim ummah. Improved diets were supplied to the inmates of hospitals and orphanages. Private and public buildings were illuminated. The roads were decorated with miniature national flags and bunting.

Memory of Gaibandha Liberation Day

GAIBANDHA, Jan 12: People of Gaibandha still remember the 9th December with joy and sorrow as on the day in 1971 they were freed from Pakistani occupation. During the War of Liberation Gaibandha people forged strong unity to wrest the independence from the clutches of the Pakistani occupation. Over 1,000 people actively joined the nine month long liberation war after receiving training from Gaibandha, the then sub-divisional headquarters. On November 27 freedom fighters launched a fierce attack on the Pakistan army at Rasoolpur, triggering air attack the following day by the Pakistani forces. On December 4 the Allied force launched counter air attack in the area. In the attack railway station, wireless centre and Fulchhari ghat were damaged. On December 6 afternoon the Allied forces launched attack and entered Gaibandha town from Balurghat border area. By December 9 the then sub-divisional headquarters was totally freed from the occupation as the Pakistani soldiers and their local collaborators—members of Razakar, Al Badar and Al Shams forces—fled the town. On that day thousands of people poured into streets to join celebration, singing, dancing and chanting slogans of victory. Mabub Elahi Ranju, Aminul Islam Suja, SN Nabi Lahu, Mofizur Rahman Khoka, among others, were prominent freedom fighters in the district.

Five shops gutted in Satkhira

SATKHIRA, Jan 12: Five shops were gutted in a fire at Parulia Bazar under Debhatana thana of the district recently, reports BSS. According to sources, the fire originated from an electric short circuit at a shop and soon engulfed the five shops and damaged the property worth about Taka four lakh. The fire-fighters from the district town rushed to the spot and extinguished the blaze after two hours of hectic efforts.

Events of districts in picture



A colourful rally of youths was brought out in Sylhet town recently in observance of National Youth Day. — Star photo



Brahmanbaria Municipality Chairman Helal Uddin formally inaugurates the inter district bus stand recently in Brahmanbaria. — Star photo



Abu Osman Chowdhury, Chairman of BJMC, handing over eight electric fans to the authority of Chandra Imam Ali High School under Chandpur district as donation recently. — Star photo