

## News snaps

### 772,035 children immunised

MYMENSINGH, Jan 16: A total of 772,035 children under five in three pourasavas and 12 thanas of the district were given polio vaccine during the 6th National Immunisation day, reports UNB.

The rate of immunisation, according to registration, was 96 per cent, official sources said. According to the breakup, 81,559 children were immunised in Sadar thana, 63,759 children in Trishal, 51,999 children in Bhuluka, 57,346 children in Muktagachha, 63,012 children in Pulbaria, 76,187 children in Gola, 41,806 in Gouripur, 62,009 in Ishwarganj, 66,786 in Nandail, 98,542 in Fulpur, 45,681 in Haliuaghat, 30,143 in Dhobura. Besides, 25,543 children were given polio vaccine in Mymensingh Pourasava, 5,099 children in Muktagachha and 2,564 children in Gouripur Pourasava areas.

### Tk 1.37 cr holding tax unpaid

BANDARBAN, Jan 16: A huge holding tax remained unpaid in Bandarban Municipality since long hampering development activities, reports UNB.

According to sources Tk 1.37 crore has been lying unrealised with 56 government officials till the current financial year. Municipal Chairman Alhaj Ayub Chowdhury said implementation of various development projects, including road renovation, is being hampered due to nonpayment of holding taxes. Some Tk 1.63 crore was spent to implement 86 schemes in revenue sector in 1997-98 and 1998-99 fiscal years, he said adding there are another 22 schemes afoot to be implemented involving Tk 58 lakh.

### Fish disease breaks out

MADARIPUR, Jan 16: Fish disease has broken out in different parts of the district, reports BSS.

The disease known as ulcerative syndrome was detected recently in rivers, beels, canals and ponds of the district. The affected fishes were being sold in abundance in markets. Last year, the same disease broke out in an epidemic form in the district, local people said.

### Post of magistrate vacant

BARGUNA, Jan 16: The post of a magistrate in Amtali thana of the district has been vacant since three and a half months, hampering disposal of hundreds of cases, reports UNB.

The post of the magistrate fell vacant after Amtali Thana magistrate joined in Betagi thana as Thana Nirbahi Officer (TNO) on October last year. The judicial activities remained virtually suspended as the TNO of the thana was not in a position to settle all the cases alone. Aggrieved people urged the authorities concerned to appoint a magistrate in the thana on an emergency-basis in order to relieve their sufferings.

### 'Terrorist' snatched away

MAGURA, Jan 16: A group of people snatched away an alleged terrorist from police custody at a village here on Wednesday while they were returning to Shalikhah thana, reports UNB.

They also beat up some of the police personnel, including SI Mukul Mia, police sources said. They said a gang of terrorists led by one Monzur Hasan Didi attacked the law enforcer and snatched away Talim Mia, arrested from village Deshmukhpara. Police later arrested two alleged terrorists — Mosharaf and Abbas. A case was filed with Shalikhah thana in this regard.

### Boy killed in road mishap

KUSHTIA, Jan 16: One unidentified boy was killed on Wednesday evening on Kushtia highway near Kushtia Government Girls' High School under the wheels of a speedy truck, reports BSS.

Police immediately sent the injured boy to Kushtia General Hospital where the doctor declared him dead. Police seized the truck. The driver was absconding. A case was registered with Kushtia police station in this connection.

### Clothes, food distributed

COMILLA, Jan 16: Abu Hena Mustafa Kamal MP distributed 5,000 sarees, 1,000 lungis, 1,200 kg sugar and huge quantity of semai among the distressed people in sadar and Laksam thana in the district recently, reports BSS.

He also distributed cash money among the distressed people in the area.

### Robbery at jewellery shop

KHULNA, Jan 16: Armed bandits broke into a jewellery shop at KC Ghosh Road, Sadar thana and looted gold ornaments worth of Tk 2.5 lakh on Friday night, reports UNB.

Police said the gang in connivance with the shop employees entered L Rahman Jewelers at around 2 am and looted 35 tolas of gold ornaments. The employees denied their involvement in the incident. A case was filed.

### LGED implements 8 schemes

CHUADANGA, Jan 16: The implementation of eight schemes in all the four thanas of the district by the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) at a total cost of taka 71 lakh has just been completed, reports BSS.

The four thanas of the district are Sadar, Alamdanga, Damurhuda and Jibannagar. According to an official source, two schemes have been completed in each of the said four thanas of the district. Under the schemes a total of 4 kilometre roads have been constructed and reconstructed.

### Stolen timbers recovered

NAOGAON, Jan 16: Timbers of 102 Shishu trees stolen from Barendra Project in Mandia thana were recovered from a house at Dariapur last week, reports UNB.

On information, local people raided the house of Rustam and recovered the timbers worth about Tk 40,000 from the courtyard of his house. A case was filed.

### Money lending business up

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Jan 16: Money lending has become a brisk business in all five thanas of the district, reports BSS.

According to sources, a section of money lenders lend money among the poor villagers throughout the district against high rates of interest. Farmers and poor villagers find no alternative and borrow money from them to meet their urgent need.

### Discussion on public exams

NAOGAON, Jan 16: A discussion on 'Corruption-Free Public Examination' was held at thana parishad auditorium in Mohadebpur police station in the district recently, reports BSS.

Presided over by Thana Nirbahi Officer Ferdous Alam, Khalilur Rahman, chairman of Rajshahi Education Board, was the chief guest while Prof Mansur Rahman was the special guest. Among others, Abdul Quaim, Principal of Jahangirnagar Govt College, Abdul Matin, Principal of Raiganj College, Manjur Alam, UP Chairman of Raiganj, spoke on the occasion.

### Roads in bad shape

JHENIDAH, Jan 16: The internal road communication of the six thanas in the district is in a very miserable condition, reports BSS.

In the rainy season, 2,709 km paths connected with 1,233 villages become unusable for movement of vehicles. Development work of the district is hampered because of the poor condition of this communication system. In the rainy season, the six thanas become isolated, so, it becomes difficult for businessmen to store household commodities. Even, if any incident occurs the news reaches the thana headquarters after two days.

### Fruit bearing trees decreasing

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Jan 16: The number of fruit bearing trees is gradually decreasing in the district due to felling trees, reports BSS.

Chapainawabganj district was once famous for quality mangoes. Now the quantity of this type of mangoes has decreased because of shortage of mango trees. Poor people are often cutting and selling bearing fruit trees like mango jack-fruit, black berry, litchi to timber traders for survival.

### Equal rights for every citizen

BANDARBAN, Jan 16: Prime Minister's Advisor on the Ministry of Establishment and War of Liberation Affairs Khandaker Asaduzzaman said here recently every citizen of all areas of the country including the Hill Tracts were enjoying equal rights despite the differences in culture and heritage, reports BSS.

Addressing the district-level officials here, Asaduzzaman said overall development of the nation could not be possible, keeping a part of the country backward and underdeveloped. Keeping this idea in view, the present government, he said, had given priority to the solutions of long-standing problems of the Chittagong Hill Tracts and accomplished peace accord on it. The people of the hill tracts, the advisor said, have been living in peace following the signing of the peace agreement. He said that the government had laid special attention for the development of education and health to change the lot of the people of the hilly region.



Two girls are seen in a mustard field in the district. Growers expect bumper production of the crop this season. — Star photo

## Bumper mustard output expected in Jhenidah

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Jan 16: Bumper mustard output is expected in the district this season as the weather so far has been favourable.

Farmers and agriculture officials said the weather so far has been favourable, besides standing crops show sign of good harvest.

Local Agriculture Extension Department had fixed a target to bring 8,000 hectares of land under mustard cultivation with a production target of 7,200 metric tons in the current season.

According to AED sources, the office had taken the target to produce 1,440 metric tons of mustard by cultivating 1,600 hectares of land in Sadar thana, 1,620 mt by cultivating 1,800 hectares in Kaliganj

thana, 495 mt by cultivating 550 hectares in Kotchandpur thana, 1,800 mt by cultivating 2,000 hectares in Moheshpur thana, 1,170 mt by cultivating 1,300 hectares in Shailakupa thana and 675 mt by cultivating 750 hectares of land in Harinakundu thana.

Till December last year 1,291 hectares of land were brought under the programme in Sadar thana, 1,540 hectares in Kaliganj, 585 hectares in Kotchandpur, 2,280 hectares in Moheshpur, 1,180 hectares in Shailakupa and 489 hectares in Harinakundu thana of the district.

A good number of farmers have cultivated Sonali and Kalyani varieties of mustard,

besides Tori-7 and Rai varieties.

Agrani and Safal varieties, invented by Bangladesh Atomic Research Institute, are also planted in the district.

In villages one can find everywhere yellow mustard fields stretching for acres of land.

Golam Rabbini, 45, a grower of village Dhaura in Shailakupa thana, said the weather so far has been favourable and he is expecting bumper production.

Agriculture officials said farmers are expecting good output as seeds, fertiliser and other inputs were supplied to them timely.

Last season 7,659 mt of mustard were produced by cultivating 8,215 hectares of land in the district.



Rajshahi University Teachers Association (RUTA) brought out a silent procession on the campus recently, protesting the recent terrorist activities on Shaljalal University campus, Sylhet. — Star photo

## Zia was freedom fighter by chance: Abu Sayeed

MYMENSINGH, Jan 16: State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed Saturday urged the people to fight back anti-liberation forces to foil conspiracies to destroy the spirit of the liberation war, reports BSS.

A 'Ziaur Rahman was a freedom fighter by chance', he bulldozed the spirit of the liberation war and established Golam Azam and others involved in war crimes in politics,' the

state minister said while addressing a party workers' rally organised by Mymensingh district Awami League at a local gymnasium adjoining to Circuit House ground here.

President of the district Awami League Principal Matiar Rahman chaired the meeting. General Secretary of the party's district unit Nazim Uddin Ahmed, Hafez Ruhul Amin Mandani MP, Mohammad

Shamsul Haque MP, Advocate Moslem Uddin MP, former MP Advocate Zubed Ali, Municipal Chairman Mahmud Al Noor Tareq and leaders of Jubo League, Krishak League, Chhatra League and Awami Ainjibi League among others, addressed the rally.

Prof Sayeed said Zia and Ershad had created a new elite class in the society and to legitimise unholy and unlawful governance Zia altered the character of our constitution.

The state minister said military war and ideological war were two different things and Ziaur Rahman being a freedom fighter in the liberation war had no belief in the 'secular spirit' of the liberation war.

Blasting the coalition of Khaleda-Ershad-Golam Azam, he said like her spouse Begum Zia was also fomenting the fundamentalist forces in the country.

The state minister said that no freedom-loving citizen could hold the spirit of 1947 and all democratic forces in the country should join hands to drive out evils who never believed in the philosophical spirit of 1971.

Listing different endeavours of the government Prof Sayeed said Awami League government under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has achieved success in different national and international levels.

Prof Sayeed said according to international studies, people living below the line of poverty is now 40 per cent which was 62 per cent during the first five years of independence and 58 per cent during the tenure of Begum Khaleda Zia. He said the literacy rate in Bangladesh was now over 60 per cent.

Calling his party as pro-poor, the state minister said Awami League is a political party with clear manifesto to improve the fate of the less fortunate people across the country.

## Construction of two bridges begins in Barisal

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Jan 16: Construction works of Doarika and Shikarpur bridges over the river Sandhya began recently.

A Chinese construction company is constructing both the bridges on Barisal-Faridpur road with an estimated cost of Tk 112.76 crore. Roads and Highways Department is supervising the construction works.

Kuwait government is providing financial assistance to the project.

The Doarika bridge will be 388 metres long and 10 metres wide with eight spans while the Shikarpur bridge will be 242.50 metres long and 10 metres wide having five spans.

Both the bridges will have 7.50 metres wide motorway and one metre wide pavement.

Experts and workers of the Chinese construction company have already built make shift residential houses at Sanuhar under Wazirpur thana near the Shikarpur Bridge construction site.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina laid foundation stone on December 12, 1998.

## Bridge at Nagarkanda inaugurated

FARIDPUR, Jan 16: Forest and Environment Minister Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury on Tuesday called upon the people to extend their cooperation to implement the development programmes undertaken by the present government, reports BSS.

Inaugurating a 54-metre long bridge on Talma-Hatkrishnapur Road under Nagarkanda thana she said the anti-liberation forces and the autocrats have been united and plotting to obstruct development activities.

Even, she said, the unholy alliance is threatening to topple the elected government in an undemocratic way.

She, however, expressed the hope that the conscious and the patriotic people of the country would foil conspiracies against democracy and the spirit of liberation war.

Later the minister distributed warm clothes among destitute people.

## 'Bijoy Mela' opens in Khulna

KHULNA, Jan 16: State Minister for Relief and Disaster Management Talukder Abdul Khaleque has called upon the people to uphold the values and ideals of the independence, reports BSS.

The minister was inaugurating the twenty-one-daylong 'Bijoy Mela' organised jointly by Khulna Muktiuddha and Swadhinata Parishad and Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation at local Saheed Hadis Park on Monday.

Presided over by President of Muktiuddha and Swadhinata Parishad and member of the Awami League central committee Shamsur Rahman Mani, the function was also addressed, among other, by Begum Mannun Kabir Balu, editor of Dainik Janmabhum and member of BSS Board of Directors, Azhar Ali Talukder, deputy commissioner of Khulna, and Ataul Gani Badshah, police superintendent of Khulna.

Talukder Abdul Khaleque said over the last twenty-one years, the previous governments distorted the ideals of independence and the War of Liberation and now the responsibility lies with the present government to uphold the spirit of the Liberation War.

## Bright prospect of amla farming in hill districts

RANGAMATI, Jan 16: 'There is bright future of amla cultivation in the three hill districts due to favourable climate and geographical locations, reports UNB.

Amla, a kind of fruit enriched with vitamin C, is naturally grown in the forest of the hill districts and perished in the absence of collection and preservation.

With proper initiative, a large number of hill people can improve their living standard by selling this nutritious fruit and the people get vitamin C enriched amla at a low price.

Although amla is being sold at Tk 50 to Tk 60 per kg at different markets in the plain land, a huge quantity of the fruits are perished every year in the forest.

Hill people urged the authorities to take initiative to collect and preserve amla in a large scale.

## Traders sell spurious petrol in Bagerhat

BAGERHAT, Jan 16: In blind pursuit of profit, a section of fuel traders are selling kerosene-mixed petrol, causing damage to automobiles, reports UNB.

Witnesses said many dishonest traders procure petrol from Daulatpur depot in Khulna district and mix 25 per cent kerosene with it, as kerosene is much cheaper than petrol.

Some of the traders in connivance with lorry drivers mix kerosene with petrol before supplying it to the dealers.

## Law Minister for quick disposal of cases

MYMENSINGH, Jan 16: The Minister in charge of Law, Judiciary and Parliamentary Affairs Abdul Matin Khairi called upon the members of the bar and bench to be very careful of the cases so that these are disposed off without delay, reports BSS.

He was addressing the lawyers of local bar in the premises of Bar Library on Thursday.

Law Minister said that the common people come to court for legal justice, but sometime they are harassed unnecessarily which are not expected.

Presided over by the President of Mymensingh District Bar Association Advocate Wazedul Islam, the meeting was addressed, among others, by

Advocate Md Moslemuddin MP, Advocate M Zubed Ali and G M Anwar Advocate.

District and Sessions Judge AKM Fazlur Rahman, district Awami League President Principal Md Matiar Rahman and Deputy Commissioner, Md Rafiqul Islam were present on the occasion.

The Minister also announced grants for the improvement of the old Bar Library building and for purchasing books for the library.

Later, the Law Minister met the government pleaders, public prosecutors, deputy commissioner and police super at the conference room of deputy commissioner and discussed matters relating to judicial affairs.

## Pakshey-Bheramara ferry services suspended again

PABNA, Jan 16: Direct road communication between southern and northern parts of the country through Pakshey-Bheramara ferry ghats was disrupted again from Thursday due to abnormal fall of water level of the river Padma, reports UNB.

Local sources said about 500 vehicles, including goods carrying truck and buses, have been waiting at both the ghats for crossing the river.

Ferry operators said fall of river water continued for last three days but they were forced to stop ferry services on Thursday due to lack of navigability in the channel.

On that day, three ferries carrying buses and trucks went aground.

Sources said although dredging work was continuing to remove sand from the channel but the proper navigability of the channel could not be regained.

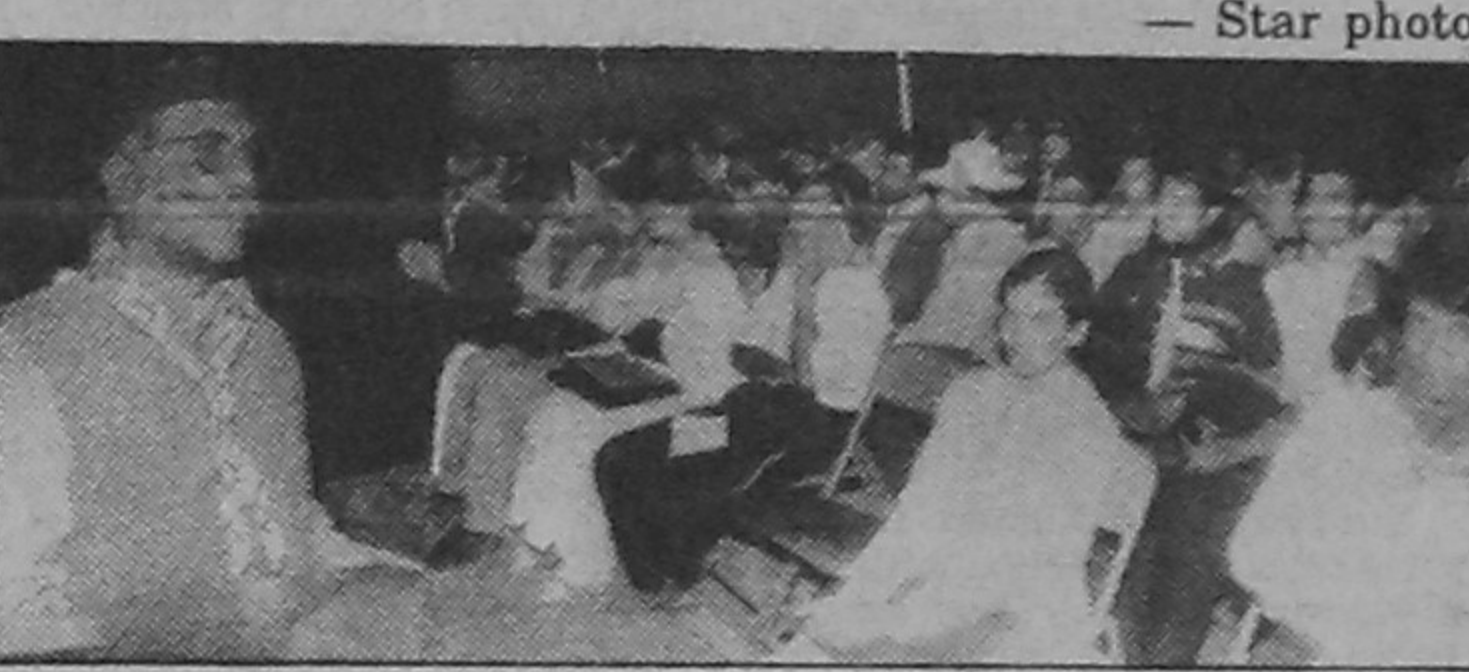
With this disruption, the Pakshey-Bheramara ferry services were snapped four times in the current dry season.

The ferry service was resumed partially on January 5 with sudden rise of river water.

## Events of districts in picture



Syeda Zebunnessa Haque MP, handing over cheques among the recipients of Grameen Mohila Unnayan Prokopa recently at a function in Sylhet town. — Star photo



Abu Yousuf Alam, Pro-Vice Chancellor of Chittagong University addressing the Second Chittagong Divisional Rovers' Conference in Chittagong as the chief guest. — Star photo



A condolence meeting was held recently in Chandpur to condole the deaths of poet Begum Sufia Kamal and Rokonzaman Khan Dada Bhai. — Star photo



Feni Diabetic Association organised a medical camp recently where patients are being operated upon. — Star photo



A procession was brought in Gaibandha town recently to mark the 11th founding anniversary of Spandan Shilpi Goshthi. — Star photo



Quilt makers are busy making quilts in Magura town as cold wave sweeps across the country. — Star photo