

SNAPS

**NID to cover
5,36,275 babies
in B'baria**

**OUR CORRESPONDENT,
B'baria**

The 12th National Immunisation Day (NID) will be observed in the district on January 18.

A total of 5,36,275 children will be immunised on the day at 2531 centres.

The programme was announced at a press briefing by Civil Surgeon Dr Ishaq Khan at Dr Milton Auditorium at Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital yesterday.

UNICEF's Brahmanbaria Project Coordinator Naima Begum and WHO Subject Specialist Dr. Kazi Hasan Ahmed were present.

A total of 12655 field workers and volunteers from schools, colleges, madrasahs, mosque, Ansar and VDP (Village Department Party) members will take part in the programme.

Children up to five years will be immunised.

**RU admission
form distribution
date extended**

OUR CORRESPONDENT

The Rajshahi University (RU) authorities have extended the date of distribution of admission forms up to January 20, official sources said.

Students will have to submit their forms on the same date.

Earlier, January 15 was fixed as the last date of distribution of admission forms while the last date of submission of forms was January 18.

The date was extended following a meeting of the Education Committee headed by the VC on Sunday, said Registrar Abdus Salam.

The students were continuously demanding extension of the date.

**'Notorious dacoit'
held in B'baria**

**OUR CORRESPONDENT,
B'baria**

Brahmanbaria Sadar police led by OC Mia Kutubur Rahman Chowdhury in a special drive at Bhdugar village arrested wanted notorious dacoit Hanif on Monday night.

He was wanted in several criminal cases filed under the Speedy Trial Act.

**CUJA office
bearers**

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Rubel Khan of Ajker Kajgoj and Kallur Rahman of Ifteqaf were declared winners jointly as both of them bagged equal number of votes in the Chittagong University Journalist Association (CUJA) elections held on the campus on Sunday.

Sarwer Jahan Sumon of Sangbad was elected Joint Secretary defeating Jafar Iqbal of Sangram by one vote.

The other office bearers were General Secretary-Abdul Sabur of Janata, Vice President-Madhu Kabir of Inqilab, Office Secretary-Nurul Azim of News Today, Treasurer-Nizam of Bangladesh Today while Faruk Ahmed of Dinkal was elected a member.

Proctor professor Mujibor Rahman acted as the Election Commissioner. A total of 19 voters exercise their franchise.

**Forestry diploma
holders' threat**

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Chittagong Forest College students under the banner of Diploma in Forestry Student Welfare Council (DFSWC) formed a human chain on the press club premises demanding job guarantee on Saturday.

The council also threatened to go for a greater movement if steps are not taken soon to appoint the Forestry diploma holders as Foresters.

Token hunger strike for 'golden handshake' dues

Authorities 'cheated' with us, workers say, threaten self-immolation unless paid by Jan 25

**OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Nilphamari**

Former workers and employees of Darwani Textile Mills at a token hunger strike on the mill premises on Monday alleged that the BTMC authorities "cheated" with them by not paying their dues under a 'golden handshake' programme in time.

They threatened of "self-immolation" if their dues are not paid by January 25. Ninety-eight workers and employees of the mill accepted the 'golden handshake'.

At a brief rally there, speakers said they accepted the 'golden handshake' as BTMC Chairman Brig Gen (Rtd) Anwar Hossain Chowdhury during a visit to the mill in August last year assured them in presence of CBA leaders and journalists that 'inshaallah dues would be paid within one and a half months or two months'.

The 98 people accepted 'golden handshake' following the chair-

man's verbal assurance, the said.

But the mill authorities adopted a trick, the speakers alleged. The mill authorities managed a written agreement with the workers and employees that payments would be made when the government provides money, they said. The total dues is about Tk two crore 33 lakh.

Not getting the dues after two months, their leaders at a press conference at Nilphamari Press Club on December 13 last year urged the government and the mill authorities to pay their dues by December 31.

Then they staged demonstrations, but to no response, the speakers said.

The rally was addressed by, among others, CBA Acting President Abdur Rahman Prodhan, Jatio Sramik Party central organising secretary Bazlur Rahman, Nilphamari Jubo League General Secretary Shahid Mahmud, CPB

(Communist Party of Bangladesh) President Sreedam Das.

When contacted, the mill's General Manager Zulhas Mia said he is maintaining constant contact with the BTMC chairman, who is also very keen to make the payments at the earliest.

CBA Acting President Abdur Rahman Prodhan, who is also a leader of ruling BNP's labour front Jatiyatabdali Sramik Dal said he accompanied by leaders of Sramik League (Awami League's labour front) and Jatio Sramik Party (labour front of Ershad's Jatiya Party) met the BTMC chairman in Dhaka on September 23 last year. The chairman told them that he had written to the Finance Secretary for funds and was awaiting a reply.

Former CBA president Mahatabuddin Sarkar alleged that the authorities were trying to create a frustrating situation in the mill to pave the way for its privatisation.



Ninety-eight workers of state-owned Darwani Textile Mills on a token hunger strike in front of the mill gate in Nilphamari on Monday.

PHOTO: STAR

Fresh agitation for BRTC service in 3 Sylhet UZs

January 13-17 rallies and siege to upazila headquarters announced, indefinite suspension of supplies to follow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet.

A fresh agitation programme has been announced at a rally at Jaintapur upazila headquarters for resumption of BRTC bus service three upazilas of Sylhet.

The programme includes rallies at Kanaihat upazila headquarters on January 13, at Jaintapur on January 14 and at Gowainghat on January 16. People will lay a siege to the three upazila headquarters on January 17. A 'tougher' programme will be announced at a rally at Jaintapur on January 18.

If the service is not resumed, supply of tea, sand, stone, and coal imported from India through Tamabil will be stopped indefinitely.

Supply of sand, stones and coal from the three upazilas to the rest of the country including other areas of Sylhet remained suspended for 24 hours on January 7 at the call of the Committee.

Speakers at the rally alleged that the finance and the communica-

tions ministers pushed them towards agitation and they will be responsible for any consequence.

The speakers said, the finance minister is a bright son of the region. BRTC service was introduced on September 10 at his initiative. Its withdrawal on pressure from private transport owners is unacceptable, they said.

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Former Jaintapur Upazila chairman Siraj Uddin Ahmed, who

is Convener of the Committee, chaired the rally.

It was addressed by, among others, Jaintapur Awami League President Md. Abdullah, BNP Secretary and former Union Parishad (UP) chairman Abdul Malik Manik, UP chairman Mokhlisur Rahman Doula, Eklasur Rahman, Kamal Ahmed, Qudrat Ullah, ABM Zakaria, Golam Kibria Helal, Shahed Ahmed Babar, Advocate Rafique Ahmed, Moulana Abul Hossain Chatuli, Moulana Muhibul Haque, former UP Chairman Lutfur Rahman Lebu, Abul Kalam Azad, Mashuk Ahmed and Baharul Alam.

People of the three upazilas are also boycotting private bus and minibus since October 13, alleging that they are behind withdrawal of BRTC service.

The 17 Parganas Shalish Samannaya Committee, a non-partisan people's forum, announced the programmes at the Jaintapur rally on Sunday.

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