

Upazila roundup

KUSHITIA
Citizen's Forum demands halt to Gulf war

From Our Correspondent
January 30: A public meeting organised by Citizen's Forum of Kushitia was held here recently at Public Library premises demanding immediate halt to Gulf war. The meeting presided over by Dr. Tofazzel Huq was addressed by Barrister Amirul Islam, Advocate Ghulam Mohiuddin and Resaul Huq. The speakers urged upon the world community to stop attack on Iraq by multinational forces. The speakers also said that during war of liberation of Bangladesh Iraq was by our side and now we are with Iraq in its war with multinational forces. The meeting demanded solution of Palestinian issue and immediate withdrawal of Bangladeshi troops from Saudi Arabia.

PABNA
Flower show ends

From Our Correspondent
January 30: On the concluding day ceremony of 4-day long flower exhibition styled 'Abu Zafar Pusa Pradarshani', Mr. Saidur Rahman, the Commissioner of Rajshahi Division said that everybody should be honest as like as flower. Presided over by Mr. Zahurul Islam Bishu the Commissioner attended the function as the chief-guest, and distributed prizes. The special guests were Mr. Aminul Islam, the Additional Commissioner of Rajshahi Division and Mr. Abu Solaiman, the Deputy Commissioner of Pabna district.

In this exhibition, a total of 35 participants exhibited flowers.

KUSHITIA
Revolver recovered

From Our Correspondent
January 30: Acting on secret information the police of Daulatpur PS recovered two round bullets of 303 rifle and a revolver from the house of Ali Hossain of the village Islampur under Daulatpur Upazila of Kushitia. A case has been lodged in this connection.

COX'S BAZAR
Bar executives

From Our Correspondent
January 30: The annual election of Cox's Bazar District Bar Association was held at the Bar Association conference room on January 25. Advocate Md. Jahangir and Advocate Md. Sahjahan were elected President and Secretary respectively. A 17-member Executive Committee was also elected.

MADARIPUR
249 attacked with malaria

From Our Correspondent
January 29: Malaria attacked 249 persons during 1990 in the district while the number of malaria patients was 164 in 1989, the health officer sources said.

Of the total 157 were attacked in Madaripur Sadar, six in Rajoir 61 in Kalkini and 25 persons in Shibchar upazilas.

It is alleged that the number of victims increased due to absence of fog spray of DDT since last couple of years by health department.

One held with arms

Saidur Rahman Molla, son of Abdur Rub Molla of village Kulechar under Kalkini police station was arrested with a country-made pipegun and three round cartridges of shotgun of board a motor launch 'MV Shining Sun' by the Ansars on duty in the launch on January 19.

Suspected Saidur Rahman was searched by the Ansars and found the said arms in his possession.

The launch 'MV Shining Sun' bound for Madaripur left Sadarghat, Dhaka in the evening on January 19, and while it reached Madaripur the following morning the Ansars handed over Saidur Rahman to the police of Madaripur.

A case under Piramans Act has been registered in this connection and further investigation is in progress.

BRAHMANBARIA
One crushed under wheels of train

From Our Correspondent
January 30: An unidentified man aged 45 was crushed to death under the wheel of a

Chittagong-bound parcel Express train in the early hours of Saturday at Brahmanbaria. According to police, the victim while crossing the rail track, was knocked down and crushed to death on the spot. His body was sent to Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital for autopsy. A case was lodged in this connection with Akhaura G. R. P. thana.

ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY
Farewell

From Our Correspondent
January 30: A farewell reception was held in honour of Sorker Ali Akkas, a lecturer of Law Department who has resigned recently to join his new judicial job. He stood 1st Class 1st in the judicial cadre. He was a prominent teacher of law department. The function was presided over by Naitema Haider Rashid, Chairman of the Law Department, Mr. Aroj Ali, Registrar, was the chief guest.

RANGPUR
Unclaimed camel

January 30: An unclaimed camel caught by local people was handed over to Kotwali police on Monday, reports BSS. Police said the camel was found abandoned at Mominpur recently. Local people later handed it over to Kotwali thana. The sources said the camel believed to have been smuggled in from across the border might be enlarged by smugglers when chased by villagers.

COX'S BAZAR
New road opens to traffic

January 30: The newly-constructed bridge over Sonachari canal on Sanabara road under Ukha upazila of Cox's Bazar district was opened to traffic on recently, reports BSS.

The Deputy Commissioner, M. C. Barman inaugurated the bridge at a function held at the bridge site.

The bridge was constructed with the financial assistance from the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

MYMENSINGH
2309 to appear in scholarship exam

January 30: A total of 2309 students including 793 girls have been appearing in the junior scholarship examination from this district, reports BSS.

Five subcentres have been set up in Mymensingh town. They are Zilla School, Vidya-mayee Girls School, Nasirabad Collegiate School, City School and Mymensingh High School.

FENI
Law, order situation discussed

January 30: The Deputy Commissioner, Feni held a meeting recently with the Chairman of the Union Parishads in the district to discuss developmental activities as well as the law and order situation in the area, reports BSS.

The meeting held at the chamber of the Deputy Commissioner with the Deputy Commissioner in the chair was attended by Chairman of the 46 Union Parishads. The district level officers including the superintendent of police were present in the meeting.

The meeting reviewed the law and order situation and was of the view that peaceful condition was essential for holding a fair and neutral election in February 27.

Meanwhile, the election fever has been gaining momentum in all the constituencies of the district. The Awami League, BNP and the Jamaat-e-Islam nominees have set up election camps and deployed their workers to carry on electioneering in the nook and corner of the district.

Mymensingh
151 prisoners released

MYMENSINGH, Jan 27: A total of 151 prisoners were released in three days from the Mymensingh District Jail under government amnesty following a prison revolt.

They were released on January 16, 17 and 18.

MYMENSINGH, Jan 21: A meeting was held at District Police Superintendent's office here recently with the Police Super Mr. Altah Hossain Mollah, Mymensingh in the chair.

The meeting discussed and reviewed law and order situation in the district. All police officers attended the meeting.



Not an open air ceremony. Students at a village near the metropolis sit on paddy field in the absence of a school house. -Star photo

Facilities meagre in schools
Primary education suffers setback in Dinajpur

PANCHAGARH, Jan 30: The Universal Primary Education Programme (UPEP) is faced with serious crisis in Panchagarh, Thakurgaon and Dinajpur of greater Dinajpur district. It is gathered that dilapidated condition of most primary school buildings, inadequacy of furniture, scarcity of teachers are attributed to the main cause that deter the education programme in three districts.

Besides, abnormal high price of papers and other educational ingredients, financial crisis, poverty and other social factors are also deterring the

primary schools which had been damaged by floods, storms, cyclones and other natural calamities during the last few years, have not yet been repaired in rural areas. In some schools, students learn their lessons standing due to shortage of benches and for want of accommodation. The students of three schools have been experiencing untold difficulties. Moreover, roofs of many school buildings have been severely damaged. Many of the schools are holding classes under open sky. Most of these schools have no tubewells for

supplying pure drinking water. Students are compelled to make water here and there due to lack of pucca latrine. According to informed sources, the quota of teachers in government primary schools in the district are not maintained properly. Some schools with a large number of students have been facing problems due to shortage of teachers while many schools having requisite number of students have excess teachers. It may be mentioned here that there are 1555 government and 255 non-government primary schools in

greater Dinajpur district. According to Primary Education Department sources, the total number of primary school children in 23 upazilas of Panchagarh, Thakurgaon and Dinajpur district is 19,97,064. Of them, 2,97,903 have had their facilities to read and write in 1555 primary schools. The majority are deprived of education facilities. In addition as many as 146 posts of primary school teachers have been lying vacant for a long time in 23 upazilas of three districts.

Mosquito menace makes life miserable in N'ganj

NARAYANGANJ, Jan 30: Mosquito menace has assumed an alarming proportion in this important river port town. The inhabitants, about six lakh, have been suffering badly due to the absence of any measures to contain the growth of mosquitoes. The situation becomes horrible during rainy days. Unclean and choked drains, stagnant ditches, ponds and tanks full of dirty water and hatched are the main breeding centers for the mosquitoes.

Absence of sanitation is also another main cause of mosquito menace. The drainage system has been blocked due to filling up of canals, ditches and ponds over the years. Instead of serving as outlets these silted drains virtually

breed flies, mosquitoes and other insects. Garbage accumulated in these drains for days and months is not cleaned regularly. Taka one lakh has been allocated for Narayanganj Municipality to eradicate mosquito during the current fiscal year. But situation little improved after the authority has conducted some cleanliness drive and ground spray but it has little lasting effect. Municipal Authority sources said that an Anti-Mosquito Scheme was launched in 1962-63 with 75 staff members which continued till 1980. Later non-availability of funds from government forced the authority to minimise its functions. Besides, the staff was transferred to various organisations, due to which the

department was closed since 1990. At present there is only one person left as supervisor. It is obviously impossible on the part of a single person to control the mosquito problem in a city like Narayanganj. Meanwhile the price of anti-mosquito oil has increased much, as a result it has become impossible to continue the eradication programme for more than two months with the budget allotted for 1990-91. Informative sources said that anti-mosquito scheme submitted to the government several years back is still awaiting approval. The Municipal authorities have recently issued notices to the concerned house owners to keep their respective premises clean.

Child labour on rise in Pabna, Cox's Bazar

PABNA, Jan 30: The numbers of child labours are increasing in Pabna district day by day. These tender-aged children are compelled to take odd jobs for mere survival. The boys who are barely aged between 18 and 15 are being considered as minor ones. These boys work as helpers in construction sites, hotels, restaurants, bid factories, bakeries, teastalls, motor garages, bicycle repair workshops and welding workshops. Besides, many work as shoeshive boys, domestic servants, coolies, hawkers and rickshaw pullers. The actual number of child labourers could not be known as no survey has been conducted over them as yet. According to unofficial sources, the total number would be nearly 20 to 30 thousand in the district.

According to knowledgeable sources, these children who should be in school, due to forced circumstances end up as child labourers. They usually come from distressed or landless families. Many of them have no parents. This unfortunate children are exploited to the maximum. For their hard work they get only food. Some of them get a nominal wage.

Many of these children are school drop-outs and have left school due to economic pressure. As their poor parents find it difficult to feed these children, they send them out to work. Where these children get at least two meals a day. The conscious people are of the opinion that a Patha Kali school for these children should be opened here to impart vocational training to them so that they could be able

to earn their livelihood as worthy man in society. Our Cox's Bazar Correspondent adds: The number of child labourers are increasing sharply throughout the Cox's Bazar district. They are seen engaged as rickshaw pullers, hotel boys, house servants, hawkers etcetra. Presently there are about seven thousand child labourers in the district. In the district towns of Moheshkhali, Kutubdia, Ramu, Chakaria, Ukha and Teknaf Upazilas and in some other important places of the district, there are about 200 boys under 12 years who are seen pulling rickshaws without valid licence. From three to four thousand child labourers are presently serving in more than 2000 hotels and restaurants. It is learnt that most of them are serving only on two

meals a day basis, and their masters even behave with them in a very harsh manner and compel them to work from morning till late at night without any rest. They do not get medical treatment or leave during illness. In some areas of the towns about two thousand boys and girls are serving as house-servants. Of the total, 60 per cent are female and most are serving only on food basis while others get Taka 30 to 50 per month.

BAU Teachers' Council executives

AGRI-VARSITY (Mymensingh), January 30: The annual election of the Bangladesh Agricultural University Teachers' Council to form its executive committee for the year 1991, was held at the University Club premises on January 25. Prof. Dr. M. Azbul Huq of the Department of Horticulture and Mr. Md. Mahfuzur Rahman, Associate Professor of Agricultural Finance were elected President and General Secretary respectively to the 11-member executive committee of BAU Teachers' Council.

Students yet to get text books

BARISAL, Jan 30: Students of primary classes here are yet to receive text books from authorities though the academic session began on schedule, it is alleged, reports UNB. Short supply and non-availability of text books have led the students to use banned note-books, which resulted in a thriving business.

According to sources, book traders are usually reluctant to sell text books which bring lower profit than the note-books. Publication, printing and selling of note-books for class two to class eight are banned by law and its violation may entail fine between Tk 10,000 and Tk 25,000. But the book traders here are said to have been enjoying the blessing of local administration.

Diesel, kerosene being smuggled out to India

BOGRA, Jan 30: A huge quantity of diesel and kerosene is being smuggled out to India from the country everyday through different border areas of Bogra, Jyppurhat and Dinajpur districts, reports UNB. Some oil merchants said hundreds of barrels of fuel are being smuggled out as oil rationing was imposed by Indian government due to outbreak of Gulf war.

Meanwhile, fuel prices have come down after the government announced that stock is satisfactory. Taking advantage of the situation some dishonest traders are smuggling out fuel to India. Local elite have urged the authorities to take action to curb smuggling.

Ramu needs direct dialling system

Meanwhile, the telephone subscribers of Ramu upazila under Cox's Bazar district have been suffering for a long time. They have to take much trouble in contacting Dhaka, Chittagong, Cox's Bazar Sadar and other places. The telephone department has no permanent house of its own in Ramu.

The old system takes much time to contact other places. Due to lack of direct dialling system with district Sadar, subscribers always depend on the Exchange. As a result business men and other subscribers face troubles in sending important messages.

Smuggled goods

Indian commodities like sarees, glass, scent, hair oil, blades, steel plate, cosmetics, onions, cotton yarns, sugar have flooded Cox's Bazar markets over the nose of law-enforcing agencies, it is alleged. Recently this correspondent on a visit to different local markets in Cox's Bazar town have found that Indian goods are being sold openly.

Political scene

War scenes on TV snatch video viewers

Star Report
Gulf war still dominates national politics though only 28 days are left for the parliamentary polls. Leaders of major political parties are holding big public meetings at various places of the country in favour of their respective candidates. But the voters appear to be more interested to follow minute to minute development of war than to domestic politics. In hats and bazars the regular video shows have also lost their charm. Instead, crowd gathers in front of television sets to see war scenes and know the latest developments of war.

Our Faridpur Correspondent writes: Election campaign is going on in full swing in Faridpur town. The workers and supporters of Awami League and BNP are holding meetings and processions all most everyday. Lequat Hossain, a leader of Awami Jubo League of Faridpur, was seriously injured by a miscreant few days ago and later died in PG Hospital, Dhaka. In this connection a big meeting was held by the Awami Jubo League near Janata Bank head office, Faridpur. The speakers urged the law enforcing agency to contain the miscreants.

Our Chandpur Correspondent adds: Acting President of Jatiya Party Mizanur Rahman Choudhury in his first election meeting held on Saturday at Akkas Ali School ground urged all political parties to abide by code of conduct of Jatiya Sangsad election. He stressed the need for restraint to give democracy an institutional shape. Referring to political intolerance he pointed out that without tolerance democracy could not be achieved. He instructed JP worker to remain calm under any provocation. The venue of the meeting was shifted from Municipal Park in

elections have geared up electioneering through public meetings, posterings and wall writings in union, upazila and district headquarters. Sixty-three candidates have been racing for Jatiya Sangsad polls for six constituencies in Barisal district. Of the candidates, Mahbubuddin Ahmed (AL) Abdur Rahman Biswas (BNP), Rashed Khan Menon (5-Party), M. Matdur Rahman (JP), Maulana Abul Hasnat Md. Nurallah (Jamaat) and Enayet Pir Khan (IDP), are among the prominent personalities. The campaigners working for Awami League and BNP appear to be far ahead of those of others in posterings and wall writing in different areas. The walls of these areas are covered with colourful posters and writings of slogans. Meanwhile, the district administration have been preparing themselves for free, fair and impartial elections in this district. Over 13 lakh voters will exercise their voting rights in six constituencies, an official source said.



Netrakona
A message from Netrakona adds: Election campaign has been gaining momentum in Netrakona district with the

Freedom Party brought out a procession demanding immediate recovery of illegal arms. The processionists handing over a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner. coming of the election date nearer. Different political parties including the Awami League and BNP are holding electoral processions and public meetings in different areas of the district. Awami League Mohonganj upazila unit held a public meeting at the upazila town Sunday which was addressed by former Food Minister and Awami League-nominated candidates for Netrakona - four constituency Mr. Abdull Momen. He said if Awami League was voted to power it would establish an exploitation free society and fundamental rights of the people which were snatched by the post-1975 regimes would be restored. Durgapur upazila unit of BNP held a public meeting at the upazila town Sunday. Mr. M A Karim, BNP candidate for Netrakona-one constituency, addressed the meeting. He urged the people to cast their vote in favour of BNP candidates to free the country from prevailing chaos and confusion and for changing the life style of the people. The Jatiya Party Antpara upazila unit also brought out an electoral procession at the upazila town on Sunday to introduce Mr. Abdull Ali as party candidate for Netrakona-three constituency, which covered Antpara upazila sadar. The processionists paraded different roads of the town displaying their election symbol 'plough'.

Our Jhenidah Correspondent says: Jatiya Party Jhenidah district branch brought out a procession at Jhenidah Monday demanding immediate release of ousted President H.M. Ershad.

About one thousand processionists paraded the main thoroughfares of the town chanting various slogans. Later, a meeting was held at local Chudanga bus stand in which Zila Jatiya Party President and ex-chairman, Jhenidah Zila Parishad Asharful Abedin presided. Speakers in the meeting demanded immediate release of Ershad including all Jatiya Party leaders and urged the people to cast vote in favour of Jatiya Party candidates.

Barisal BSS from Barisal adds: All the 22 political parties which have fielded nominees for the forthcoming parliamentary

Toll collectors harass passengers

From Our Correspondent
SIRAJGANJ, Jan 28: Passengers travelling from northern areas are being harassed by local 'mastans' (hoodlums). According to eye witnesses, they are extorting tolls from vehicles moving from Nalchar to Bhanpur. The new road at Nalchar was constructed on the shoals that emerged in River Lakhya to make the route shorter and easier. Moreover, travellers are often robbed of their belongings and the miscreants are active in launch grant of the



Obituary
Alauddin Bepari, former chairman of Birkampur Cooperative Society, President Islam Bagh Swarnmilani Jubay Sangha and social worker of the locality died of brain haemorrhage at P.G. hospital on January 26. He was 70. He leaves behind his two wives, nine sons and nine daughters to mourn his death.