

Upazila roundup

COX'S BAZAR

New bridge opens to traffic

**From Our correspondent**  
February 10: The newly constructed bridge over Sonichhori canal on Valokia sea beach road under Ukhia Upazila of Cox's Bazar district was opened to traffic recently. The Deputy Commissioner and acting Zila Parishad Chairman of Cox's Bazar, Mr. M.C. Barman inaugurated the bridge at a function held at the bridge site. The function was presided over by Mr. Nurul Islam Chowdhury, Chairman of Ukhia upazila Parishad was addressed by Mr. Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury, U.N.O., former M.P. Mr. Sahjahan Chowdhury and Executive Engineer of Cox's Bazar LGEB Mr. A.B. Siddiq. The bridge (30 feet long) was constructed with the financial assistance from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) at a cost of Taka seven lakhs.

BHOLA

Hilsha fry being caught

**From Our Correspondent**  
February 10: The fisherman of Bhola district are catching huge hilsha fish fries locally known as Tharka from the rikers. According to informed sources, the fishermen are indis criminate catching the immature hilsha fish from the local rivers in the name Chapila fish. Most of the fisherman of the district are using current net defying the government ban. It is alleged. Experts are of the opinion that large-scale catching of Tharka by current nets should be stopped forth with to save the Nilsha population.

NETRAKONA

2 invigilators assaulted

February 10: At least two invigilators were assaulted and Principal's room was brickbatted by a group of students and outsiders at Mohanganj College degree examination centre on Thursday. Police and eyewitnesses said, reports BSS. The incident occurred immediately after expulsion of 21 degree examinees for adopting unfair means. The untoward incident caused panic among the examinees who were in the halls. However, the situation was brought under control after intervention of Upazila Chairman and UNO, the sources added. A total of 35 degree examinees were expelled Thursday in the three centres of Netrakona district for adopting unfair means.

CHUADANGA

38000 acres put under wheat cultivation

**From Our Correspondent**  
February 10: In all 38,000 acres of land have been brought under wheat cultivation in four upazilas of Chnadauga district during the current-rabi crop cultivation season. According to an official source, of the total land 8,000 acres have been brought under wheat cultivation in Chnadauga Upazila, 15,000 acres in Alamdauga Upazila, 10,500 acres in Dariduga Upazila and 8,000 acres in Jibannagay Upazila. During the current season the cultivation target of wheat in the district was fixed at 44,500 acres. Due to some unknown reason the target could not be achieved this year in the district. BADC has supplied wheat seeds among the cultivators at a fair price to make the wheat-cultivation success.

BORGUNA

Women repression

February 10: Non-registration of marriage among the poor people has been one of the main cause of women repression and divorce in the district, reports UNB. According to a random survey in some areas of Amtali and Betagi upazilas, most of the marriages are not registered and wives are subjected to physical torture. The survey revealed that due to lack of deeds, wives cannot go for legal action against their husbands. Taking this advantage, husbands find it easy to abandon their wives whenever they like. Consequently, many divorcees resort to begging, prostitution and other illegal means to maintain their livelihood. marriage Registrars in the rural areas allegedly charge higher registration fees illegally. It is suggested that the government should fix minimum 'mohorana' at TK 25,000 and a token fee for compulsory registration to save rural women from oppression.

MAGURA

Sugarcane farming scheme

February 10: Modhukhali Sugar Mills authorities have taken up a scheme to cultivate sugarcane on 15,000 acres of land in Magura, Faridpur, Rajshahi and Gopalganj zone during the current season, reports UNB. According to official sources, with the implementation of the scheme, about 13,612 metric tons of sugar worth over Taka 49.83 crore are expected to be produced.



PABNA: Cheap labour force employed in husking mills. —Star photo

Women labourers deprived of minimum wages

**From Our Correspondent**  
PABNA, Feb-10: Nearly 50,000 women workers are employed to perform round the clock duty in hundreds of husking mills in the northern districts of the country. Majority of the women work force constitutes widows and distressed ones. Each such day labourer fetch between Taka 20 and Taka 25 after 12 hours of hard labour under the open sky. They are forced to put in this back-breaking job as no alternative source is available to them. This has broken their health and the women labourers have been suffering from bronchial diseases.

Development comes to a stand still

Tax realisation not easy in Narayanganj

From Our Correspondent

Realisation of Municipal taxes is not easy in Narayanganj. When contacted, an official of the municipality informed that the taxes during the current fiscal year 1990-91 (July-June) was assessed at Taka 2,14,21,210 but Taka 38,51,500 (18%) has so far been realised till December 1990. In the previous year Taka 1,09,14,801, (44%) was collected while the estimated tax came to Taka 2,47,39,940. So the backlog of tax payment for the year 1989-90 amounts to Taka 1,75,69,710. The arrears taxes of the government, semi-government and autonomous bodies were calculated at Taka 37,32,544 in the year 1989-90. A spokesman of the municipal

Committee told this correspondent payers come forward to clear their dues the situation would not improve. It would be very difficult to finance the development projects of the municipality, he added. While explaining various problems and difficulties faced by the municipality he said due to irregular collection of taxes and lack of coordination with other developing agencies all these lead to public suffering. One of the causes of the financial crisis of the municipality is the increased revenue expenditure. The authorities concerned have taken all possible measures to streamline its working with a view to providing maximum services to the people and redress their grievances. Referring to the accumulation of the huge arrears, the spokesman said that a tendency had developed among a section of citizens to treat the municipal demands rather lightly. The municipal authorities further informed that there were certain handicaps and problems which must be tackled immediately. It is worth noting that tax collection increased remarkably due to the issuance of government circular in connection with over due tax in the year 1973 and 1976. But absence of this sort of government circulars in the years

Traffic rules violation Bus journey risky on Cox's Bazar routes

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, February 10: Frequent violation of traffic rules is making bus journey hazardous to and from the district headquarters, the most important tourist centre in the country. Journey by buses and minibuses is seemed too risky as those are overloaded and driven recklessly. Dilapidated roads of Teknaf-Chittagong and Cox's Bazar-Teknaf routes often cause road mishaps. Besides, whimsical driving of the transports on the routes also adds to the passengers' sufferings. Reports by the passengers said, sometimes goats, fishes, fruits and vegetables are



MYMENSINGH: An anti war procession brought out by Service Civil International in the town recently. —Star photo

Fate of industrial estate uncertain

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, February 10: Prospect of Gaibandha, Bangladesh small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) industrial estate seems to be bleak due to absence of proper initiative and entrepreneurship. Discouraging the attempt of erecting industrial estate BSCIC authority decided to lease the acquired land of Gaibandha industrial estate for cultivation purposes. Lack of fund and interest by the entrepreneurs to set up industries have made the fate of the industrial estate uncertain. Economic backwardness of the district is another reason behind the reluctance of the entrepreneurs. In the year 1985-86 BSCIC selected location of industrial estate at Dhanghara with an area of 15 acres of land. The following year BSCIC spent Taka 38 lakh for the construction of administrative building, earth filling and price of land. Concerned authority did not take much initiative for the materialisation of the plan even for some unknown reason they failed to arrange adequate fund to gear up the preliminary work of estate. According to an official source, over Taka 87 lakh is needed to complete the preliminary works like earth work, approach road, water supply, culvert, drainage system and electricity to bring the plan in a sound footing. How much time will be needed to reach the expected goal is now the question of all.

Facilities absent in Comilla rly. station

From Our Correspondent

COMILLA, Feb 10: The Comilla Railway Station has been plagued with manifold problems. Established in 1885, it is situated between Dhaka and Chittagong junction. Everyday thousands of passengers travel to and fro from this point and they are facing many problems due to inadequate number of benches, waiting rooms, toilets, security police, etcetra. There are only four waiting rooms available where water supply is absolutely absent. Benches are not sufficient on the platform for which passengers particularly women have to wait standing or sitting on the floor. There are no toilets in the station either for passengers or staff members. According to the reports in spite of Taka 1,25,14,631 yearly profit there is no sign of development in the station. The station earned 20% more than the previous year. Besides, this office building has become very old and is in a deplorable condition. Due to inadequate light passengers at night feel insecure. A good number of tubelights were fixed last year but these lights are out of order for a long time. Local authorities of the station said that repair and development work is undertaken directly from Chittagong Divisional Office and local authority has no headache regarding this. About 65 officers and staff has been employed for this station, but these employees have been suffering much due to acute accommodation problem. The railway quarters provided for the staff have been sublet to illegal occupants. Moreover, only nine unarmed police are posted here who are not at all sufficient for this big station.

Political scene

Rallies devote more time to Gulf war

Star report

Election rallies and procession now being held across the country continue to devote more time to Gulf war than the political programmes of respective parties and individual candidates. In some places public meetings are organised exclusively in support of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. On Friday last a big crowd gathered at the Laldighi Maidan at Chittagong and pledged to take part in 'Jehad'. The meeting was held after Juma prayer under the auspices of the newly-formed 'group of Saddam supporters'. Carrying banners and big portraits of Saddam Hussein the processionists converged at Laldighi Maidan from different parts of the port city. Presided over by Mr. Liaqat Ali Khan, Convener of the group, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Enamul Huq, Nizamuddin, Yunus, Moulana Habibur Rahman, and A.B.M. Mahiuddin Chowdhury. Speakers at the meeting called for enlisting the names of those willing to take part in 'Jehad'.



Candidates contesting from Mymensingh district. From top left: Principal Matiur Rahman (AL), A.K.M. Fazlul Haq (BNP), M.A. Hannan (Muslim League), M.A. Jilil (BAKSAL-Gonatantri Oikya Jote), Md. Shamsul Haq (AL), Advocate Julmat Ali Khan (BNP), Md. Rafiquddin Bhuiyan (AL), Muzem Hossain (Jammal), Justice Tafazzal Hossain Khan (BNP), Fazlur Rahman Sultan (BNP), Dr. Abdul Mannan (BAKSAL-Gonatantri Oikya Jote), Muslem Uddin (BAKSAL-Gonatantri Oikya Jote). —Star photo

Our Patiya Correspondent writes: Hectic electioneering is gaining momentum in six constituencies under South Chittagong in the forthcoming Parliamentary election. The polls has created much enthusiasm amongst all section of people here. The candidates and supporters of different political parties are moving door to door, organising public rallies and bringing out processions in order to motivate the public opinion in their favour. The upazila headquarters of Partiya, Sankhali, Benskhali, Chandanaish, Lohagara, Anwara and Boalkhali wore a festive look with multi-colour posters, festoons arches, banners and wall writings. Major political parties including Awami League, BNP, Jamat-e-Islami and Jatya Party fielded their candidates in almost all the seats and intensified their polls campaign. There are in all 27 candidates for six parliamentary seats in south Chittagong. The constituency-wise names of the candidates are as follows: In Chittagong -10: Mr. Strajul Islam, Ex. MP (BNP), MR Monwar Ahmed (CPB), Mr. Minuddin Khan Badal (BSD), MR Nurul Islam (AL), Advocate Chitta Ranjan Das (NAP) and MR. Harunur Rashid Khan (JP). In Chittagong -11: Mr. S. M. Yousuf (AL), Mr. Shahnewaz Chowdhury (BNP) and MR. Shamsul Alam (JP). In Chittagong -12: Mr. Akhteruzzaman Chowdhury, Ex: MP (AL), Advocate Kabir Chowdhury (BNP), Prof. Mah-

115 cataract patients operated upon

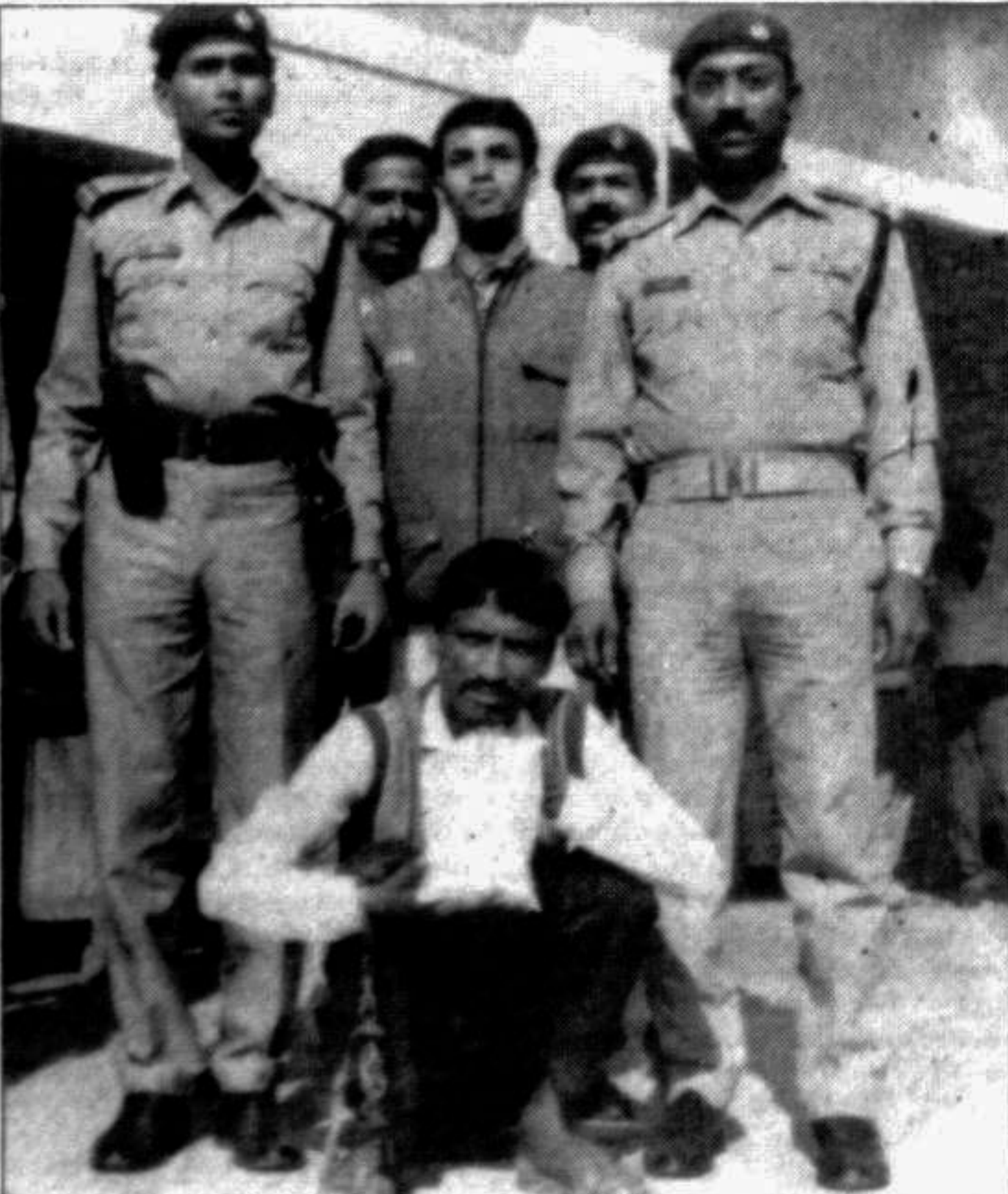
From Our Correspondent

GOURIPUR (Mymensingh), Feb 10: A week long eye-camp concluded here on Tuesday under the joint auspices of Bangladesh Ophthalmological Society, Mymensingh Zila Samity and Gouripur Adarsha Paribar Sangstha, reports UNB. A total of 115 cataract patients were operated upon and treatment was provided to 2,000 other eye patients in the eye-camp. Former President Justice Ehsanuddin Chowdhury inaugurated the eye-camp on January 30 while the cataract patients were operated upon by Prof. Syed Modasser Ali and Prof. A.K.M. Mukhtadir. It is reported that these crops are sold in the hats and bazars of the district at a very low price compared to towns and cities. Besides, these poor farmers cannot supply their products to other districts as they are not able to bear high transport fares. Farmers alleged that their agro-based perishable products neither getting fair prices nor supplied to other districts resulting in their hardship.

Bhola needs cold storage facilities

From Our Correspondent

BHOLA, Feb 10: Cash crops valued at crores of Taka are being damaged for want of cold storage facilities every year in seven upazilas of the district. Farmers have been playing a laudable role in yielding cash crops like onions, garlic, turmeric, pepper, potato, tomato, and ginger. Cash crop growers are compelled to sell their products at nominal prices to a section of unscrupulous businessmen as there is no scope to preserve the products for future when prices go high. It is reported that these crops are sold in the hats and bazars of the district at a very low price compared to towns and cities. Besides, these poor farmers cannot supply their products to other districts as they are not able to bear high transport fares. Farmers alleged that their agro-based perishable products neither getting fair prices nor supplied to other districts resulting in their hardship.



KUSHTIA: Arrested heroin seller Nazimuddin, a guard of Janata Bank Regional office of Rajarhat road with a heroin packet in his hand. Mr. Harun-ar-Rashid, ASP, Sadar circle and SI Md. Ziaul Alam Zia are seen in picture. —Star photo.

COMILLA

20 orphan girls wedded

**From Our Correspondent**  
February 10: The marriage ceremony of 20 orphan girls of Chandpur Shishu Sadan was held recently at Baburhat Shishu Sadan with great enthusiasm. Kazi Mohammad Monjure-e-Mowla, Secretary, Ministry of Social Welfare, was the chief guest and Mr. Omar Faruk, Director General of Social Welfare was the special guest. Mrs. Monjure-e-Mowla distributed the gifts among the wedded couples. One sewing machine and other household materials were distributed to each of the newly wedded couples as gifts. The elites of the town and the students of the Sadan and guardians of the newly wedded couples attended the ceremony.

KUSHIA

Rabindra Sangeet Parishad

**From Our correspondent**  
February 10: A council meeting of Jatya Rabindra Sangeet Parishad, Kushiya district unit was held at Kushtia Shilpa Kala Academy auditorium recently. Dr. Sangida Khatoon, Secretary General, Central Committee and distinguished radio and TV artist was present as chief guest. Famous singer Mahamuda Khaton was present in the function as special guest. Dr. Sangida Khatoon declared the names of twenty one members of executive body of Rabindra Sangeet Sammelan Parishad, Kushtia unit. Mr. Mohiruzzarman and Mr. Ataur Rahman Badal have been declared as president and Secretary respectively. Mr. Sangida Khatoon distributed the certificates among the winners.

KISHOREGANJ

Urs

February 10: The two-day annual Urs of Sultanul Aulia Hazrat Dewan Syed Ahmedur Riza (RA) will begin on February 18 at Bhagalpur DEWAN Bari Darbar Sharif under Bajitpur in Kishoreganj, reports UNB. His popularity known as Pagan Dewan. A Milad Mahfil, Zikr and special Munajat will be held on the occasion seeking divine blessings for the Muslim Ummah. Dewan Syed Mohsin Ali on behalf of the Urs committee has requested the disciples and admirers of the great saint to attend the Urs.

LUXMIPUR

Probhati Sangha founding anniversary

February 10: Probhati Sangha, a social welfare club of Brahimpur village of the district celebrated its 5th founding anniversary Thursday, reports UNB. The ceremony was observed with free distribution of books among poor students of the village and a week-long indoor and outdoor sports competition. Among other social and cultural activities, the club is running an adult education centre and a co-operative society for the poor peasants and rickshawpullers. The founding ceremony was presided over by Habibur Rahman Babul, founder president of the club. It was also addressed by Strajul Islam, Iqbal Hossain Chowdhury Bakul and Patit Pa-