

Upazila roundup

KUSHTIA
Press Council
Chairman meets
journalists

From Our Correspondent
February 23: Justice Ruhul Islam, chairman Bangladesh Press Council met with the journalists at Kushtia Press Club recently.
The meeting was presided over by Mr Shamsur Rahman Balu, President, Kushtia Press Club.
Justice Ruhul Islam said the journalists could not play a strong role for black laws and lack of Press freedom. He also added that if we want to establish newspapers we must create its readers.
He expressed his satisfaction over the activities of Kushtia Press Club in democratic movement.
Among others, Dr Anwarul Karim, Dr Hafizur Rahman, Prof Ahsanuddin Shaik, Motiuddin Ahmed, Mr. M.A. Reza and Mr. Elahi Bok addressed the meeting.

MAGURA
3 rifles looted
from police party

From Our Correspondent
February 23: Three loaded 303 rifles have been looted by some armed miscreants from a police party of Sreprek thana on Wednesday night. According to the officer in-charge of Sreprek thana while three constables with a sub-inspector were going to patrol duty at village Srikole three kilometers of Sreprek thana, about 25-30 armed miscreants suddenly attacked them and looted three rifles with 27 ammunition. Being resisted by police the miscreants opened them.
As a result Sub-inspector Mosharrif Hossain and constable Churamaji were injured seriously and admitted to Magura Sadar Hospital in critical condition.
A case has been registered with the Sreprek thana. DIG, Khulna Mr Shahidul Haque and SP, Magura visited the spot. Police also arrested two persons allegedly involved in this incident.

RAJSHAHI
Smuggled goods
seized

February 23: A Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) patrol team seized contraband goods worth about Taka one lakh fifty thousand on February 18 and 19 from different border outposts of Rajshahi, reports BSS.
The goods included saree, sugar, blade, bullock, bicycle, pepper and electric goods. All the goods were handed over to customs.

RANGPUR
Arms recovered

February 23: Rangpur Sadar police recovered one pipe gun and some ammunitions and lethal weapons from an area near Balapara Railway Bridge of the town recently, police sources said on Wednesday, reports BSS.
The recovered ammunitions and weapons included 32 SMO, one kirtch, 32 round SMO bullets, one round 303 bullet and five rounds of gun cartridges. None was arrested in this connection.
Police arrested three miscreants from Rangpur town Tuesday.

Boro farming plan in 5.23 lakh hectares

From Our Correspondent
CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Feb 23: The Agricultural Extension Department has taken up a programme to cultivate Boro paddy on 5,23,850 hectares of land in eight northern districts of the country during the current season.
It is expected that a total 13,67,000 metric tons of paddy will be produced under this programme.
To make this programme successful the Agricultural Extension Department will provide the farmers with necessary irrigation facilities, fertilizers, seeds and other agricultural equipment.
Arms recovered
Bandar police recovered one pipegun and 11 cocktails from Kuripara Bandar recently, according to a police source.
Meanwhile, Abdul Oshab, OC, Bandar thana said, the pipegun and cocktails were kept beside the main road of Kuripara.
A case was filed with Bandar police. None has been arrested in this regard.
According to reliable sources 4,34,230 metric tons of paddy will be produced on 1,69,770 hectares of land in Bogra, 65,830 metric tons on 26,000 hectares of land in Rajshahi, 1,22,650 metric tons on 48,000 hectares in Natore, 2,31,760 metric tons on 90,730 hectares in Naogaon, 26,240 metric tons on 13,890

CHUADANGA
8 party worker
assaulted by
JP supporters

February 23: A supporter of eight party alliance was beaten mercilessly by the alleged activists of Jatiya Party for his refusal to work for JP, reports UNB.
Witnesses said the victim Abdul Latif of village Boldia while working at Hizlagari bazar in Chuadanga constituency-2 was gheraoed by the JP workers recently. They insisted him to work for them which he refused.
At one stage they started beating him mercilessly and left the place before the arrival of the rescuers. He was later rushed to the hospital in a critical condition.
A case has been filed in this connection.

THAKURGAON
Polls motivation
meet held

February 23: A motivation meeting to hold the ensuing Jatiya Sangsad elections free, fair and smooth was held Tuesday at the conference room of the Deputy Commissioner, reports BSS.

The meeting was presided over by Khondakar Mizanur Rahman Deputy Commissioner, Thakurgaon. Mr. Inamul Haque present at the meeting.
Mr. Haque said that the government is determined to hold the ensuing elections free, fair and smooth at any cost and for this he sought cooperation of all concerned.
The meeting was attended by government officers of different departments leaders of political parties and elite of the town.

KUSHTIA
Eye camp ends

From Our Correspondent
February 23: A 10-day long free eye camp at Chitholia in Mirpur Upazila concluded here 86 eye patients were treated and operated upon. The camp organised jointly by BNSB, Khulna Eye Hospital and a voluntary organisation Pipasa distributed spectacles among the patients. The camp was inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner, Kushtia Syed Hafiz Ahmed, President of Pipasa. Sree Kanaail Sharma expressed his thanks and gratitude to all those who helped in organising the camp particularly the doctors of BNSB, Khulna Eye Hospital.

MALIDEE COURT
Woman killed
in road mishap

February 23: A middle-aged woman was crushed under the wheels of a speeding minibus near Dattapara area of the town, police said here Wednesday, reports UNB.
According to witnesses, the victim Sharia Baru (50) while crossing the road was run over by the vehicle recently.
The bus was carrying a Jatiya Party candidate for the February election along with his supporters.
No case was, however, registered with the police.



Many new equipment have been introduced for scientific farming making way for easier extraction of paddy and other crops from the stalks now. Poor farmers who cannot afford to avail of the gift of modern science still extract paddy through indigenous method with the help of draft animals. -Star photo by Shafiuddin Bitu.

Pilferage of telephone wires rampant

From Our Correspondent
PABNA, Feb 23: Pilferage of Telephone wires in northern zone of the country is rampant.
According to the sources, nearly 30,000 metres long telephone wires worth Taka 2 lakh were stolen from different telephone lines during last three months and 300 telephones have been disrupted causing untold sufferings to the subscribers of the district in contacting Dhaka and other distant places.
On the other hand, due to lack of proper tele-communication the railway authorities are facing much problems to contact other railway stations. As a result trains are not able to maintain correct timings. The most affected areas of the district are Singa, Lashkarpur, Nazirpur of Sadar upazila and Ishwardi, Bera and Santhia upazila of Pabna district. Several cases have been lodged by the Telephone and Telegraph Department but no action has yet been taken by the police, it is alleged.
to shortage of space the students cannot sit comfortably. No separate common room is provided for the girl students. Besides, due to absence of staff room the teachers are seen sitting in the verandah.
Moreover, the library is running short of necessary books and the students are hardly able to prepare their lessons. On the other hand, the college is facing financial hardships. As a result teachers and staff members do not get salaries in time.
Despite good academic atmosphere, the college is not able to admit new students for want of accommodation.
People of the district urged the concerned authorities to take immediate steps for providing assistance for smooth running of the college.

Facilities absent in Jamalpur girls schools

From Our Correspondent
JAMALPUR, Feb 23: Three government girls high schools have been facing many problems causing serious setbacks to education.
The Melanda Government Pilot High School, Madarganj Government High School and Bakshiganj Government School were given government authorisation by President Ershad in 1987.
There is shortage of accommodation for both students and staff in these schools. There is no hostels, library room and playgrounds in these schools. Transport facilities are completely absent.
The schools are not able to admit new students for want of accommodation, the students on the other hand deprived of education are not able to go to non-government schools because of extremely high charges.
Moreover, the school building have developed numerous cracks in the roof and walls.
During rainy season water enters through the cracks causing damage to books and other valuable articles.
Absence of toilets and urinals is an added problem to both students and staff. Despite repeated appeals made in this regard the concerned authorities have a dead ear in this matter.
The school compounds are so small that it do not serve the students to participate in outdoor games.

BDR jeep damaged

SATKHIRA, Feb 23: Transportation in the country's south-western routes came to a halt Tuesday after transport workers struck to protest an alleged beating of a truck driver, reports UNB.
According to witnesses, the incident occurred when a loaded truck refused to give side to a jeep carrying BDR Commander of Khulna Sector at Nalita Bazar point on Kali-ganj-Satkhira road.
But the jeep managed to overtake and stopped the truck by blocking the road. The BDR jawans of the jeep then mercilessly beat the driver, Ansar Ali, they added.
Local people came to the driver's rescue and pelted stones at BDR personnel and damaged the jeep.
Following the incident, local Motor Sramik Union called for suspension of vehicular transportation on Satkhira-Khulna, Satkhira-Jessore and Satkhira-Kaliganj routes.

UZ Chairman held Police plan combing operation in Kushtia

From Our Correspondent
KUSHTIA, Feb 23: The Upazila Chairman of Mirpur Khondkar Israil Hossain Apu has been arrested on charge of his involvement in the murder of Marfat Ali on Tuesday. Md. Sukur Ali, brother of Marfat Ali, a candidate of Kushtia two constituency and former Upazila Chairman belonging to JSD (Rob) named 12 persons in F.I.R. including Israil Hossain Apu and Siraj Mollick. Police also arrested Biplobi Communist Party (Huq group) leaders Bipul Kumar Saha, Saymol Kumar Saha and Entaz as suspects all these steps were taken after a meeting held on Tuesday at Kushtia Circuit House with Deputy Inspector General of Police, Khulna Range Mr. Sobidul Haq in the chair. Superintendents of Police of Chuadanga, Meherpur, Rajbari, Magura, Jhenidah and Kushtia were present in the meeting.
D.I.G. of Police expressed his deep sorrow at the killing of Marfat Ali at the hands of illegal possessors of arms and asked the police officers to take adequate steps so that such incidents are not repeated in future and congenial atmosphere prevails during the ensuing polls and voters can cast their votes without fear. The meeting also decided to conduct combing operation in the area to arrest all the accused persons before polls and asked the police officers to play their due role without hesitation in making the operation a success.



Al-haj Mohammad Ali, an independent candidate from Narayanganj-four constituency, addressing a workers' meeting at Adamjee Nagar on Friday last. -Star photo

2 candidates quit election race in Chuadanga

From Our Correspondent
Two candidates have quit from contesting the ensuing Jatiya Sangsad Elections from two constituencies of Chuadanga district.
The candidate Md. Shah-jahn of JSD (Rab) quit from contesting due to illness from Chuadanga seat-1 and Mr. Eunuch Ali Awami League has quit as he has been ordered to support the 8-party alliance nominee in his seat Mirza Sultan Reza from Chuadanga-2 seat.
Mr. Eunuch Ali earlier took "Bench" as his election symbol to contest the ensuing JS polls as Independent candidate from Chuadanga-2 seat.
Law, order situation discussed
The monthly meeting of Law and Order Committee, was held at the conference room of the Deputy Commissioner of Chuadanga recently.
Mr. Tajul Islam Deputy Commissioner of Chuadanga, and the Chairman of the district presided over the meeting.
In the meeting the law and order situation during the last month was discussed elaborately and the meeting expressed satisfaction over the improvement of the situation throughout the district.
It was decided to maintain law and order situation at any costs in the ensuing Jatiya Sangsad Elections.
They urged upon the concerned authorities to take appropriate steps to control the situation at the time of elections.

Hoodlums active in Maulvibazar

MAULVIBAZAR, Feb 23: Life and living of the residents of Kulaura upazila here has been threatened due to terrorism by hoodlums, reports UNB.
They complained that eve-teasing, hijacking and extorting money are common which led to the deterioration of the law and order situation in the upazila.
Meanwhile, villagers recently brought out a procession and submitted a memorandum to Upazila Nirbahi officer demanding safety and security of the inhabitants.
A meeting chaired by union parishad chairman Alauddin Ahmed, recently urged the law enforcing agencies to bring the miscreants to book at the earliest.

Ex-MP sued for corruption

From Our Correspondent
JHALOKATI, Feb 23 - A corruption case was filed by Mr. Taofikul Islam against former Jatiya Party MP Mr. Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto in Jhalokati Judge Court and warrant of arrest was issued in connection with an arms case.
In this case he was charged with embezzlement of relief materials particularly C.I sheet and damaging Sadar Hospital's Ambulance which costs more than Taka 16 lakhs. He is contesting the ensuing polls from Jhalokati-Nalchiti constituency.

Bullock shortage at Nandail

From A Correspondent
NANDAIL, Feb 23: Due to acute shortage of bullocks, cultivation in Nandail, Ishwarganj, Kendua and Tariul upazilas is seriously hampered.
Besides, they are facing serious problems as they cannot pay irrigation charges to the deep tubewell owners.
It is alleged that the owners are collecting high irrigation charges in advance which has been fixed at Taka 1800 per acre of land, this year. Most poor cultivators are compelled to leave their lands uncultivated in this current tri-boro season due to a rise in prices of agricultural inputs.

Child diseases rise in Borguna

BORGUNA, Feb 23: Hundreds of children of five upazilas here have been affected by malnutrition, eye and intestinal diseases, reports UNB.
According to doctors and social workers, about 50 per cent children aged between five and nine have been suffering from diarrhoea, dysentery and jaundice.
Paucity of safe water and consumption of adulterated foodstuff were mainly responsible for the spread of the diseases, it is alleged.
Besides, scarcity of necessary medicines in hospitals and health centres has aggravated the situation.

Political scene

Mood of voters baffles candidates

Star report
Attitude of most voters has baffled the candidates in far flung rural areas of the country. Contestants for the February 27 parliamentary polls have realised that winning the hearts of village people is not so easy this time despite hectic campaigns.
A large number of candidates belonging to different political parties and independent groups contesting the polls from various constituencies have expressed identical opinion about voters' mood. Our correspondents based in various districts report that the voters behave very politely with the candidates or their supporters. But often they appear to be too conscious not to be misled or convinced by propaganda. Some even ask searching questions to the candidates about their individual programme for the development of respective localities.
Many candidates confided to our reporters that the voters will apply their own judgement in choosing their representative no matter what frantic efforts a candidate make to convince them.

A Correspondent from Kurigram adds: At a Press conference held at the local BSD office, called by 8-party, 7-party and 5-party alliances on February 18, Advocate Amanullah, local AL leader, Advocate Enamul Haque Chand, local NAP leader and Mr. Harun-or-Rashid Lal, local CPB leader, expressed their concern at the inactiveness of police personnel in recovery of illegal arms and containing the terrorist activities by Jatiya Party workers in election campaign.
The leaders urged the authorities for immediate replacement of police adminis-

Independents, are contesting in Bogra district for seven seats in the February 27 parliamentary election, according to an official handout.
A total of 15 lakh 18 thousand 612 people are voters in the seven constituencies which have 2711 booths under 584 polling centres. The polling will be conducted by 8717 officials. Of them 584 are Presiding Officers, 2711 Assistant Presiding Officers and 5422 Polling Officers.

The candidates of Awami League, BNP and Jamaat are the main contestants in these constituencies. Jatiya Party has



Candidates contesting from Kushtia district. From top left Abdur Rauf Chowdhury (BNP), Anwar Ali (AL), M.A Khaleque(BNP), Amirul Islam (Independent), Dr Anisur Rahman(Jamaat), Korban Ali (JP), Noor Ahmed Bakul (UCL), and S.M Azizul Haque (JP). -Star photo

set candidates in six and JSD (Rob) and Zaker Party in five constituencies. Besides, 7 independents and 11 candidates from other political parties are contesting.
According to the latest voters list, the number of men voter is 773385 and women 745227. There are 3085 new voters.

Mymensingh
The Parliament election campaign in the district gained momentum. The candidates and their supporters are now visiting their areas to mobilise support in their favour. The district and the upazila headquarters are gradually wearing a festive look. The Mymensingh town turned into a garden of banners, pla cards, festoons and wall-writings.
A good number of election camps of political parties have been set up in all the seven wards of the pourashava. The tempo of campaign rises in the evening.

A total of 21,07,087 voters including 993027 women are likely to exercise their right of franchise in the coming election on February 27 to elect 11 members from Mymensingh district. According to the local election office polling will be held through 4153 booths under 800 centres and 13259 polling personal including Presiding Officers, Assistant Presiding Officers and Polling Officers will be engaged to conduct the election.

Pabna
Our Pabna Correspondent adds: The forthcoming JS Polls have created much enthusiasm among the voters and non-voters in every nook and corner of the district.
The election campaign has started in full-swing in different parts of Pabna district. Candidates of all constituencies and their supporters have launched vigorous door to door campaign round the clock in order to motivate the voters in their favour.
District town and upazila headquarters were a festive look followed by colourful lights, pop symbols, posters and way-side wall writings. Warm slogans and songs through loud-speakers in different camps and pandels in every nook and corner of far-flung areas have become common. Processionists with eye-catching banner, festoon and photographs of candidates of their own parties parade the town streets.

Bogra
Fifty-five candidates from different political parties, and