

Upazila roundup

MADARIPUR

Pure drinking water scarce

From A Correspondent

March 9: Residents of local Pourashava have been facing scarcity of pure drinking water for a long time. The residents complained.

According to sources, most of the residents are compelled to collect water from the rivers and ponds for drinking and cooking purposes causing health hazards.

Hospital sources said diarrhoea and intestinal diseases have been spreading alarmingly in the areas due to indiscriminate use of impure water from silted river and derelict ponds.

Bus passengers have been facing problems due to absence of waiting sheds at different bus stands here.

The passengers are forced to wait for hours together under open sky at these bus stands. The passengers said. Women and children passengers are the worst sufferers.

Local people urged the authorities concerned to take immediate measures in this regard.

KUSHTIA

Prize-giving ceremony

From Our Correspondent

March 9: Prize distributing ceremony of inter banks Upazila sports competition was held at BKB Alamdanga branch area recently.

Mr. Shamsuzaman, Manager of BKB Alamdanga branch presided over the function. Barrister Badal Rashid, Upazila Chairman was the chief guest.

Mr. Sayed Saleh Ahsan, UNO and Mr. Hasan Kadir, Chairman, Paurashava were the special guests.

Mr. Shamsuzaman and Abesuddin were the champion and Golam Faruk and Nikhil Khandu were the runners up in the Badminton competition.

Power failure

UNB adds: Frequent power failure and load shedding have become a regular feature in the town and adjoining areas causing inconvenience to dwellers and loss to businessmen.

According to sources, hardly a day or night passes without power disruption. Electricity goes off almost at every sundown plunging the entire town into darkness. Anti-social activities have also increased.

Ferrate power supply has also affected production in local mills and factories. Irrigation has also been hampered due to erratic power supply.

Besides, voltage fluctuation has rendered household electric and electronic gadgets inoperative.

MAGURA

Construction material prices up

March 9: Scarcity of building materials in four upazilas of the district has been hampering construction work, reports UNB.

According to sources, prices of brick, cement and timber have gone up by 40 to 50 per cent in the wake of Gulf war. Although the war ended, the prices of the materials did not come down.

At present a bag of cement is being sold between Taka 230 and 250. Cement dealers attributed the price hikes to short supply.

Meanwhile, scarcity of firewood has compounded the miseries of the poor people.

Sufferers have urged the authorities to take necessary steps in this regard, without further delay.

Kutchra latrines

Unplanned construction of kutchra latrines have posed a threat to health and sanitation in the town here.

Innumerable kutchra latrines beside the roads have been emitting bad odour creating problems to the pedestrians. The situation worsens during the rainy season.

The house owners in the densely populated area constructed kutchra latrines adjacent to their dwellings polluting the surroundings. Local people alleged that kutchra latrines were not cleaned regularly.

Residents have urged the pourashava authorities to set up sanitary latrines in the town and take necessary steps so that others can follow the suit.

JHENIDAH

3 dacoits held

March 9: Villagers caught three dacoits red handed and recovered two pipeguns from their possession at village Ghoreacha in Harinakundu

upazila, police said here today, reports UNB.

Police and villagers said a gang of armed bandits numbering about 15 entered the house of Kesmat of the village for committing a dacoity on Wednesday.

Hearing hue and cry of the inmates of the house, villagers gheraoed the dacoits and caught three of them.

They were later handed over to the police.

FENI

2750 sanitary latrines to be installed

March 9: Public Health Engineering Department (PHE) has undertaken a project to install 2750 sanitary latrines in five upazilas of the district during this financial year, reports UNB.

The project involving an expenditure of Taka 16.50 lakh is being implemented in cooperation with UNICEF. About 60 per cent work of the project has been completed, official sources said.

After completion of the project, about three lakh people of the area are expected to be benefitted.

JAMALPUR

2 killed in road accidents

March, 9: Two persons were killed in separate accidents in Sarisha

Bari Upazila of the district recently, reports BSS.

One Abdul Gafur (18) of village Mazalia was crushed under the wheels of a truck on the District Council road recently.

Another Israyil (28) of village Char Malipara was seriously injured in a clash between rival groups on the digging of irrigation canal. He was sent to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital where he succumbed to his injury.

A case has been registered in this connection.

C' NAWABGANJ

Contraband worth Tk 60.64 lakh seized

March 9: Jawans of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) here seized contraband worth Taka 60.64 lakh and arrested four people in this connection during the last week, reports UNB.

Summaged goods worth Taka 46.30 lakh were seized while being smuggled into the country and contrabands worth Taka 14.34 lakh recovered while being smuggled out to India during the period.

The illegal Indian items include cattleheads, hides and skins, sugar, salt, bicycle, yarn, spares, spices, cosmetics and fertilizer while polyester cloth, soyabean oil, copper, bellmetal were listed among the Bangladeshi goods. The goods were later handed over to local customs authorities.

At least 181 cases have been lodged in this connection.

COMILLA

Union family welfare centre opens

March 9: Khandaker Ashaduzzaman, Secretary, Health and Family Welfare Ministry inaugurated a union family welfare centre in Guliara, under Comilla Sadar upazila on Thursday, reports BSS.

Mr. Ashaduzzaman in his speech asked the concerned officials and workers to work sincerely and honestly for spreading the message of family planning movement in the grassroots level so that the ultimate aims could be achieved.

The inaugural function was addressed by Mr. Hedayatul Islam Chowdhury, Deputy Commissioner and Mr. Shamsul Hoque Civil Surgeon of Comilla.

MAULVIBAZAR

Census training camp ends

March 9: A two-day long training camp for national census-91 was held here recently, reports BSS.

Syed Mohashin Ali, Chairman, Maulvibazar Paurashava inaugurated the camp at Paurashava auditorium.

A total of 73 youths participated in the training for conducting the census.

These youths will work as enumerators in Maulvibazar Paurashava area.

The inaugural session was addressed by Mr. M. A. Hoque of the Statistic Department and commissioners of the Paurashava.



These youngsters are accustomed to seeing the tourists cruise on the speed boat at Cox's Bazar lake. Their joys know no bound when they get a rare opportunity of boarding a stationary boat. — Star photo.

Disposal of paper mill wastes pollutes river water in Pabna

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Mar 9: The water of the Padma and adjoining areas are getting polluted due to disposal of wastes of North Bengal Paper Mills, Paksey under Ishurdi Upazila of the district and hampering the production of pisciculture, and spawn of fish.

Local people complained that decrease in water level of the river and accumulation of wastes are making environment polluted. Besides, due to excretion of different poisonous gas, chemicals and raw materials used by the mill people are getting affected.

According to the Environment Pollution Control Department there are some definite scientific means to neutralize the wastes and protect the people from bad reaction but the mill authorities

are not utilizing such methods to stop the pollution. It is alleged that surrounding areas are getting polluted and also destroying pisciculture, flora and fauna of the area.

Different other industries and mills of the district are also running in the same way. People of the affected locality urged the concerned authorities to take immediate steps to save the people from environmental pollution and with hazards.

1000 await for new phone connection

About 1000 applications for new telephone connections are kept pending since long causing sufferings to the applicants in the district.

The Telephone Exchange Department presently has

1000 existing lines is not in a position to meet the growing demand of the people of the district.

It is very difficult specially for Journalists, Businessmen, Doctors Advocates and other professionals to carry out their respective duties due to non-availability of new telephone lines.

Applicants urged the concerned authorities to take initiatives so that they can get phone lines at the earliest.

Business without trade licence

Mushroom growth of shops having no trade licences are rampant in Pabna Municipal area in the recent days.

At least 250 shops of jewellery, restaurant, grocery and stationary are continuing busi-

ness without any trade licence. Most shop-keepers are even using electricity without meter causing loadsheddings and untold sufferings to the genuine consumers. On the other hand, Power Development Board is deprived of heavy revenue earning incurring a heavy loss every month.

It is learnt that some dishonest officers and employees of Power Development Board and Pabna Pourashava have a close contact with the shopkeepers to carry on such illegal practices.

Moreover, unauthorised floating shops occupy footpaths causing frequent road mishaps.

People of Pabna town urged the concerned authorities to take legal action against the unlawful activist.

Non-payment of dowry

Over 39,800 marriages terminated in 3 years

From Our Correspondent

NETRAKONA, Mar 9: More than 39,800 marriages have been terminated during the last three years in 67 upazilas of greater Mymensingh district for non-payment of dowry, polygamy and immoral activities, it is learnt.

In most cases, women of the lower class have become the victims. Due to non-registration of the marriage deeds oppressed women did not get the legal protection for their ignorance. In cases of registration of marriage deeds, the oppressed women can approach the court for terminating their marriages with their husbands as their parents are unable to meet the demand of the dowry of their husbands.

The main cause of oppression of women is identified for non-registration of marriage deeds.

Besides, the marriage registrars in the remote areas demand higher fees than that of the actual one. It is alleged.

It is felt that Government should take measures to en-

sure registration of marriage deeds with a negligible amount of fee.

Besides, defying the Government restriction, many people marry more than once in far flung areas without the written permission of the first wife.

A survey showed that marriages in the rural areas often

fail to ensure the rights of a wife due to the absence of legal protection provided in the deed. As a result, divorce has become a common feature in the rural areas. The victims

mostly live in utter despair. Sometimes they are forced to indulge in immoral activities to earn their livelihood.

Tk 10 cr flood control plan awaits execution

From Our Correspondent

MAULVIBAZAR, March 9: A scheme of Taka 10 crore to construct south Hakaluki Haor, a flood control embankment under Kularua upazila of the district taken up in 1979 has not yet been executed.

During the monsoon the rain water least 33 thousand acres of land lying on the southern border of the Haor

and neighbouring seven unions like Bhukshimul, Kandipur, Buramchal, Bramonbazar, part of Kularua, Joychand and Joyfargar.

After a survey the Water Development Board took up a scheme to construct 11 miles embankment and six regulators on different canals which fall into Hoar Hakaluki.

Notes from C' nawabganj

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, March 9: A total of 5000 metric tons of wheat have been allocated to implement 80 projects under Food for Works Programme in nine upazilas of the district, reports UNB.

According to official sources, the projects include construction of kuteha roads and educational institutions. Implementation of the projects have already been started.

Wheat allotment in the upazilas are: Godagari-746 metric tons (MTs) for 12 projects, Tarore-384 MTs for 9 projects, Paba-89 MTs for 11 projects, Bagha-401 MTs for 5 projects, Charghat-692 MTs for 10 projects, Puthis-214

MTs for three projects, Mohanpur-400 MTs for 8 projects and Bugmara-635 MTs for 11 projects.

Of the total projects, 35 will be implemented with an allocation of 2430 MTs of wheat by Co-operative for American Relief Everywhere (CARE). The rest of the allocation will be provided by the World Food Programme (WFP) to implement the remaining 45 projects.

Chicken pox

Chicken pox has broken out in an epidemic form in different parts of the district.

According to sources, the worst affected upazilas are Gomostapur, Nachol and Sadar. Doctors said eight to 10 patients affected by the disease were rushing to hospital and health complexes daily. A large number of patients in remote areas are being treated by homeo doctors.

Local doctors attributed the cause of the chicken pox to paucity of pure water in the district.

New telephone connections are not being given in the district after repeated appeal by the customers, it is alleged.

According to sources, the existing 400 telephone connections are quite inadequate to meet the growing demand of the people in the town.

Customers alleged that hundreds of applications seeking for new connections have been lying with the authorities for years together. But no positive steps have yet been taken to enhance the capacity of the existing lines.

Journalists, doctors and lawyers of the town are the worst sufferers due to non-availability of new connections.

Political scene

'They fail to be 'Golams' of people

Star report

All the four 'Golams' lost the February 27 parliamentary election from Barguna. In all 13 candidates belonging to various political parties and independents contested along with the four candidates with 'Golam' before their name from Barguna-2 (Patharghata-Bamna) constituency.

The word 'Golam' in Bangla means servant. Two of the four Golams in course of their election campaign told the electorates that they were the servants of people. They also sought opportunity to serve public cause. But the voters could not oblige the 'Golams'.

The four Golams are: Golam Kabir of Awami League, Golam Sarwar Hiru (Independent), Golam Sarwar Kamal (Independent) and Golam Mohammad Sarwar of Jatiya Party.

Jamalpur Correspondents: Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia said Thursday that the people gave their verdict in favour of BNP only because of its pragmatic leadership during the last nine years.

She said her party got majority in February 27 polls. Begum Zia was addressing a huge post election rally at Benuara Char High School field and a big reception meeting at Jamalpur Singhan High School ground. The meeting was presided over by Abu Syed Choudhury while the reception meeting was presided over by district BNP leader Advocate Abdul Khaleque and addressed by newly MP-elect Serajul Hoque, Ahammed Nazir, Afazuddin, Rahima Khandkar, Ex-MP Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder, Jahanara Begum and Jamalpur-2 BNP nominee Soltan Mahmud Babu. Begum Zia said that the people had voted for her party as they wanted welfare, progress and preservation of national independence. She congratulated the people for making BNP victorious.

On her arrival here, Begum Zia was given a rousing reception. The BNP chief said that the present age limit to enter government service for the freshers would be extended. She said the nightmare of the 1974 famine which claimed thousand of lives still haunted the people.

Thousands of people greeted Begum Zia shouting best wishes to Madam Zia. Repolling will be held in eight centres of the Jamalpur-2 constituency consisting Islampur upazila on March 9. Polling was postponed there due to disturbances. According to unofficial results Rashed Mosharraf of Awami League got 30403 votes while BNP

nominee Soltan Mahmud Babu has bagged 22074. There are about 25000 votes in the eight centres where repolling will be held.

Begum Zia urged the electorate to vote for the BNP nominee in the repolling for the sake of democracy. She said the people had voted a party to power immediately after independence but that party betrayed people denying them food and clothing.

analeda Zia said President Zia had initiated the politics of production in his people-oriented programmes. BNP will continue to follow this programme, she added.

Begum Zia further said her party would also set up new industries to create employment opportunities and would stop smuggling.

The BNP chief also pledged for raising age limit for government services.

JP procession

Our Sirajganj Correspondent adds: Jatiya Party on Thursday afternoon brought out a procession here as a part of countrywide programme demanding release of former President Ershad and his other associates.

The processionists paraded main roads and chanted slogans demanding release of Ershad and withdrawal of warrants of arrest against JP leaders.

Meanwhile Awami League Bakal and front organisation on Thursday evening arranged public meetings at Sirajganj town and upazilas to recall memories of historic seventh March, 1971. Speakers at the meetings called upon the people to uphold ideals of Bangabandhu to mitigate sufferings of common people and to establish a true democracy in the country.



PABNA: Timbers kept on Ichamati Bridge footpath causing inconveniences to passers-by. — Star photo

Saw mill owners occupy bridge footpath

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Mar 9: The main footpath of Ichamati bridge has been occupied by a section of dishonest businessmen.

The "Natan Bridge" 100 feet long and 15 feet wide constructed at a cost of Taka 22,00,000 in 1961 connects the roads from Dhaka to Rajshahi, Kushtia, Bhuridi and other districts. A large number of vehicles cross the bridge everyday.

The people urged the authorities to do the needful to alleviate the sufferings of the general public.

In 1971 three saw mills were installed at the northern slope of the bridge. Since then mill owners keep timbers in stacks on the footpath of the bridge. As a result of the footpath has completely destroyed creating frequent traffic jams.

The people urged the authorities to do the needful to alleviate the sufferings of the general public.

2 killed in road mishap

MAULVI BAZAR, Mar 9: Two people were killed in separate road mishaps in the district, police said today, reports UNB.

Witnesses said an unidentified woman was crushed under the wheels of a speeding coach recently while she was crossing the Sherpur bridge on Dhaka-Sylhet Highway.

In another accident, an unidentified old beggar was knocked down by a speeding coaster last week on Shamsheernagar road of the town killing him on the spot.

Separate cases had been filed with the local police in this connection.

Passengers suffer as train derails

JOYPURHAT, Mar 9: Thousands of passengers were stranded as train communications snapped on the Parbatpur-Ishwardi line after a goods train derailed at Jamalganj here this afternoon, reports UNB.

Railway sources said three boggies of the 60-boggy Ishwardi-bound train from Parbatpur slipped off the track near a small bridge next to the outer signal of Jamalganj station at around 2-30 pm.

The accident occurred while repairing work was continuing on the Parbatpur-Ishwardi-Khulna line.



Selling water at Nagarbari ferry ghat on Dhaka-Aricha highway to passengers waiting to cross the river. — Star photo