

Upazila roundup

KURIGRAM

Farmers demand exemption of interest on loans

From Our Correspondent

March 12: A big procession was brought out by the loanee farmers of Nageswari Upazila recently to press home their demand for exemption of interest on the outstanding loans they took earlier from different banks and withdrawal of warrants of arrests against defaulter loanee farmers.

The processions paraded the main streets of the upazila town and chanted slogans in support of their demand.

A farmers rally was also held in this connection at Nageswari football ground which was chaired by Mr. Mojibar Rahman. It was addressed, by Messrs M A Karim, Nuran Nabi, SK Dewan and Mafizuddin.

Later, they handed over a memorandum to Upazila Nirbahi Officer, Nageswari.

Women's day observed

The International Women's Day was observed at Kurigram with much enthusiasm.

In observance of the day the International Women's Day observance committee '91 chalked out an elaborate programme which included hoisting of National Flag, women's rally, discussion meeting, exhibition and cultural functions.

A discussion meeting was held in this connection at Pourashava campus with Nobia Khatun in the chair. Rosy Batkin, Nasrin, Lutfan Nesa, Dilruba Shirin, Samsun Nahar Sanu, and Zaheda Begam spoke on the occasion.

JESSORE

3 killed in road mishap

From Our Correspondent

March 12: Three persons were killed and 35 injured in a bus accident on Sunday afternoon at Godkhali on Jessore-Benapole road.

According to reports, the ill fated bus while going to Jessore from Benapole collided against a road side tree at Godkhali. Morshed (28) of village Baro Achra was killed on the spot. The two other dead persons could not be identified. All the injured persons were rushed to Jessore General Hospital.

Kidnapped girl rescued

Jessore police rescued Rubina (16) after two months of her disappearance.

It is reported that Rubina Khatun (16), daughter of Lutfar Rahman of village Khojrahat under Sadar Upazila was allegedly kidnapped by Yunus of the neighbouring village on January 12, last. Her father registered a case with the Kotwali police station in this connection.

S.I. Aisar Ali, acting on a secret information, raided a house of Bejpara area of the town and rescued Rubina after 2 months of missing. Accused Yunus, however, managed to escape.

Rubina's statement was recorded in the court of Sadar Upazila magistrate under section 164. She was later sent to Jessore General Hospital for medical test.

COMILLA

2 dacoits arrested

From Our Correspondent

March 12: Two alleged dacoits were arrested by Kotwali police recently.

Acting on a secret information a contingent of police Kotawali thana arrested the dacoits namely a bid Ali (30) of village Dantary under Sadar Upazila and Abdul Khaleq (30) in the same upazila of village in Khumar Bari.

A case has been filed with the Kotawali thana and further investigation is going on.

Our correspondent adds: A three-days training on nutritional blindness prevention was held in Comilla recently.

The Pourashava health workers and field workers of local NOO Janata Kutir Shilpa were imparted training.

Dr Shamsul Hoque, Civil Surgeon, Comilla inaugurated the training course.

Mr Nurul Islam Loskor Programme Officer of UNICEF and concerned people of Pourashava and the NGO were present.

MAULVI BAZAR

Religious teacher shortage in schools

From Our Correspondent

March 12: Education of student in religious subjects is greatly hampered due to absence of religious teachers in different government primary schools of Maulvi Bazar district.

There are only Hindu teachers in some schools. Muslim students of those schools are being deprived of religious education. On the other hand, many schools have only Muslim teachers and consequently the Hindu students of those schools are deprived of religious education. This anomaly was created due to noncompliance of transfer orders of teachers to different primary schools.

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SIRAJGANJ

10 injured in clash

March 12: Ten people including two cops were injured in a clash over refusal of entry to an opera (jatra) show here early Monday, reports UNB.

Two seriously injured constables, Rafiqul and Mahub, were rushed to hospital, where the condition of Rafiqul was stated critical.

According to police, the clash ensued at 3 a.m. as about 15 policemen were refused entry to the pandal with pass issued by the jatra authorities.

The clash occurred among motor workers, jatra authorities and police. The situation took a serious turn as local transport workers joined the brawl.

Police later intervened and brought the situation under control. Three motor workers — Salam, Abdullah and Selim Reza — were picked up from the spot.

But they were later released on bail after threat of transport strike by the workers.

FENI

Smuggled Indian goods recovered

March 12: Police recovered huge smuggled goods worth about Tk 2.5 lakh from a shop in the town and arrested the shopkeeper, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip, off police raided a spare parts shop of Muzaffar Hossain at Panchagachia road Tuesday last and seized spares of Indian bicycles including tyres, tubes, rings and ball bearing.

Muzaffar has been smuggling goods for a long time and was wanted by the police.

Islamic Foundation here distributed free of cost books worth about Taka 2.26 lakh among different mosques, madrasahs and clubs of five upazilas of the district during the last year.

According to sources, 10,404 copies were distributed to 102 mosques, madrasahs and clubs to promote Islamic knowledge.

Thirty sets of books were distributed at Sadar, 15 at Sonagazi, 15 at Purshuram, 20 at Chagalnaia and 22 at Dagonbhulyan upazilas.

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MAGURA

Tk 28.75 lakh for road construction

March 12: Zila parishad has sanctioned an amount of Taka 28.75 lakh for the construction of a bridge on Boralidah-Radhanagar road under Sreepur upazila here, reports UNB.

The 26 meter long bridge will be built in association with the Local Government Engineering Bureau this year.

According to Abdul Momin Khan, Executive Engineer of Zila Parishad, work on the project will start from April and will be completed within January 1992.

After implementation of the project, communication between the upazilas will be improved to a great extent.

Conventional method of spraying mosquito oil and that also in a most irregular way has proved ineffective and consequently breeding of mosquitoes in the town continues unabated.

It is high time for the Paura authority to take up a balanced scheme for proper drainage and regular cleaning of the same to get rid of many a health problems with which the town dwellers have exposed to.

MANIKGANJ

Dacoity in former UP Chairman's house

March 12: Valuables worth about Taka 30,000 were looted by dacoits from the house of a former Union Parishad Chairman of Shibulaya upazila, police here said, reports UNB.

Witnesses said, a gang of armed dacoits numbering 15 to 20 Friday night raided the house of Amanullah at village Maluchi and looted gold ornaments, watches and other belongings. The miscreants also beat up four inmates of the house when they tried to raise alarm.

While decamping with the booties, the villagers chased the dacoits and caught hold one of them.

According to police, five people including one dacoit were injured in the incident.

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NARAYANGANJ: During the dry season rivers and other water bodies recede alarmingly and there emerge chars and shoals. Here in a char at the mouth of the Sitalakhya farmers, however, have cultivated vegetables and other crops.—Star photo

KNM spends Tk 6 lakh per day for sweet water

KHULNA, Mar 12: The Khulna Newsprint Mills (KNM) has been incurring additional expenditure of Taka six lakh a month for carrying sweet water from the Madhumati as saline incursion in Bhairob river increased alarmingly due to withdrawal of waters at Farakka.

About 400 tons of sweet water are brought everyday in three barges from the Madhumati at Narail, 30 miles upstream, mill sources said.

Due to unilateral withdrawal at Farakka, the water level of the Padma has gone down and the river Goral silted up blocking water flow downstream. Besides, saline water of the Bay of Bengal entered almost all the rivers of the downstream of Padma.

According to the chief engineer of KNM, salinity in the water of the river Bhairob on March 3 was 2100 PPM, while it was 1600 PPM on this day last year and in 1989 it

was 1650 PPM on the same day. About 400 tons of salinity-free sweet water is needed every day to keep the mills going.

During the last few years, sweet water was collected from the river chitra of Narail. But as salinity increased in the river this year, requisite quantity of sweet water is being brought from the Madhumati. This process started in February this year and would continue till June this year, the sources added.

Terrorism by Maheshkhali UZ Chairman alleged

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, Mar 12: Five Union Parishad Chairmen of Maheshkhali Upazila under Cox's Bazar district alleged that present Upazila Chairman and the defeated BNP candidate from the constituency had created anarchy in Maheshkhali.

At a Press conference on Friday last the Union Parishad Chairmen said that 22 cases had already been filed against Upazila Chairman Abu Bakar Siddiq and BNP candidate Md. Rashid for looting fishes and salt trawlers and godowns of dry-fishes and ransacking of shops of the opposition parties.

The five Union Parishad Chairmen are: Shamsul Alam of Goric Cata Union, Ruhul Kader Babul of Thamar Chara Union, Maolana Maqbul Ahmed of Thalkata Union, Faridul Alam of Hoank Union and Abdul Khaek of Shapiapur Union.

Call to help census personnel

RAJSHAHI, Mar 12: Ex-officio Mayor of Rajshahi City Corporation and Divisional Commissioner of Rajshahi Sadur Rahman has called upon the people to help assist the personnel engaged in new population census to be held from March 12 to 15, reports BSS.

He was presiding over a meeting of Population Census Committee of Rajshahi City Corporation held at the conference room of the Corporation yesterday. Deputy Director of Bangladesh Statistical Bureau, officials and ward commissioners of City Corporation were present at the meeting.

Stressing the need for population census, the Divisional Commissioner said planning of the development programmes for the welfare of the people could not be prepared without information gathered from the census. He urged the people to cooperate the personnel engaged in the census to make it a success.

It was informed in the meeting that population census of 30 wards of Rajshahi City Corporation will be held under the supervision of six zonal officers, 82 supervisors and 519 enumerators.

Causes of AL, BNP's failure

Failure of AL and BNP to properly assess the mood and sentiments of the people of greater Rangpur.

Absence of Strategy to deal with JP candidates but BNP and AL remained locked into fight with each other at the polls.

Candidates fielded by BNP

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DISTRICT COUNCIL, RANGPUR NOTICE INVITING TENDER No 3/1990-91

Sealed Tenders in "KA" Form are hereby invited for the following works from the enlisted contractors (regular) of Rangpur District Council, Local Government Engineering Bureau and other Government and Semi-Government organisations. Tenders will be received by the undersigned in his Council Office up to 12.00 noon on Chaitra 2, 97/17-3-91 and opened on the same day at 12-30 pm in presence of the tenderers (if any) or their representatives. Each tender shall be dropped in a sealed cover with the name of the work superscribed on it.

S1. no	Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest money form 'KA' & Tender schedule	Time limit for work	Category of contractor (S)
1.	Construction work of Shadya-Pushkarni Union Council Bldg	5,30,000/-	10,600/- 500/-	4 months	Class - 1 (one) approved contractors under Rangpur District Council, Class-I(one) contractors of Govt and Semi Govt organisations & LGEB pre-qualified contractors.
2.	Repair work of double-storied Sadar Post Office Bldg	2,80,000/-	5,600/- 400/-	3 months	Class-1 (one) & Class-II (Two) approved contractors under Rangpur District Council and LGEB pre-qualified contractors

This tender notice is published in brief. Details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours on all working days.

DFP (G)-2758-9/3 G-09

Md. Bazlur Rahman Assistant Engineer District Council, Rangpur.

Political scene

Victims of political belief

Star report

A 40-year-old housewife, mother of seven sons, was divorced for casting vote in February 27 parliamentary polls for the party candidate her husband did not like. The husband, Sukur Ali of village Majhgram under Chatmohar upazila is an activist of a political party which his wife Sukjan does not support.

Village headmen and relatives of Sukur Ali persuaded him not to take such extreme measure against Sukjan for such 'minor offence'. But Sukur Ali was adamant, Star correspondent reports. In another case of such cruelty to fellow human being a factory owner retrenched six of his workers, four women and two men for supporting a political party the owner did not like. The workers of the factory at Naogaon were discussing about their decision to cast vote in favour of their party of choice in the parliamentary election which the owner happened to know. This angered him and he called all the workers and told them to vote for his party candidate. The workers refused. Thus they lost their job.

Cruelty to fellow human beings as shown by these two men deserve strongest condemnation by all irrespective of party affiliation.

Our Kurigram Correspondent adds: Though the election result of Jatiya Sangsad has surprised all the major political parties but it was not unexpected to the people of greater Rangpur consisting Kurigram, Gaibandha, Lalmonirhat, Rangpur and Nilphamari districts.



Sukjan

Though the pre-polls survey conducted by some organisations indicated neck and neck fight between Awami League and BNP in all the 22 seats of greater Rangpur, but the wave was gradually changing in favour of deposed President Ershad's Jatiya Party.

Three political alliances, Jamaat-e-Islami, Jatiya Party, Islami Oikya Jote, Zaker Party and some other parties fielded their candidates in all the 22 seats of greater Rangpur Zone.

Out of the total 22 seats in greater Rangpur, Jatiya Party has bagged 17 seats, Awami League three seats, C.P.B. - one seat and NAP(M) - one seat. It is surprising that in Rangpur all the BNP nominated candidates placed in third, fourth or even the fifth position in the election race.

Four ex-Ministers of Ershad regime have contested in four seats of Rangpur Zone but two of them came out successful.

Ex-Minister Dr. T.I.M. Fazley Rabbi Chowdhury (JP) contested from Gaibandha - three seat and was elected by defeating his nearest rival Abu Talib Mia (BAKSAL) by a margin of 17001 votes.

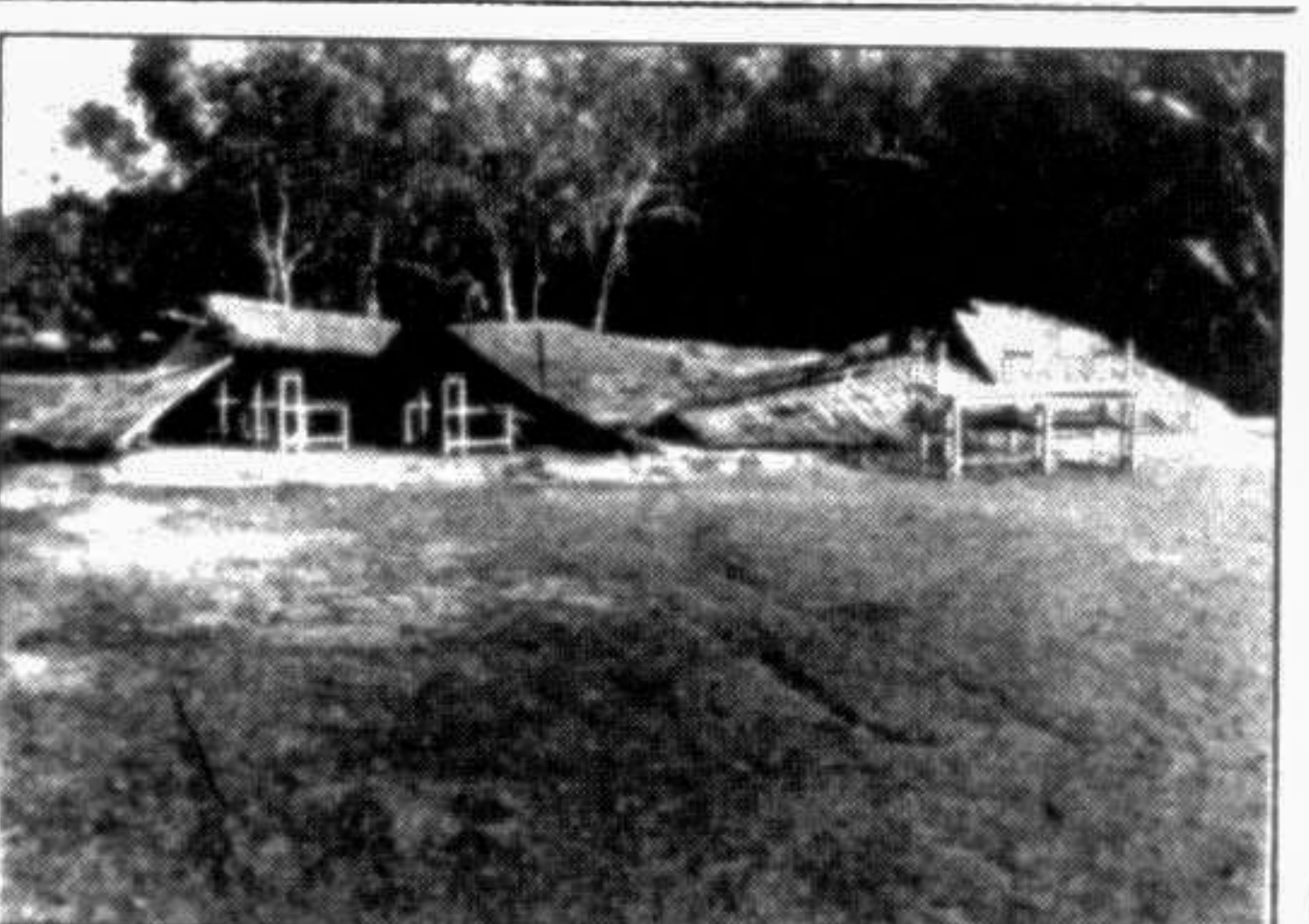
Ex-Minister Alhaj Tajul Islam Chowdhury (JP) contested from Kurigram - two (Sadar) seat and was elected by defeating his nearest rival Zafar Ali (AL) by a huge margin of 14,868 votes.

According to the comments of local people, the following factors have greatly contributed to Jatiya Party's success in the election in greater Rangpur.

The important persons who lost their security are former MP and chairman of Bagerhat Zila Parishad Mr. A. Hye Bachchu (JP), former Sadar Upazila Chairman and MP (elected thrice) Sk. Abdur Rahman (JP), General Secretary of Bagerhat district unit of NAP (Mozaffar) Advocate S.M.A. Sabur, General Secretary of Bagerhat district JP and former Upazila Chairman of Sharankhola Mr. Habibur Rahman, Advocate Fazlur Rahman Molla (ML-Kader).

Our Bagerhat Correspondent says: The security money of 21 candidates out of 33 from four constituencies of Bagerhat district in the parliamentary election held on February 27 have been forfeited.

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JAMALPUR: A Madrasa razed to the ground by a storm that lashed Melandaha upazila recently.—Star photo.

Early mosquito eradication programme needed

KUSHTIA, Mar 12: Mosquito menace in Kushtia Paura area has assumed an alarming proportion causing utmost sufferings to the town dwellers and exposing them to serious health hazards. Adequate and effective measures to eradicate mosquitoes are yet to be taken by the Kushtia Pourashava.

Conventional method of spraying mosquito oil and that also in a most irregular way has proved ineffective and consequently breeding of mosquitoes in the town continues unabated.

Silted drains and stagnant pools of water scattered all over the Paura area are yet to be renovated by the Paura authority this year and as such breeding of the mosquitoes continues in alarming proportion.

Over the years the size of Kushtia Paura areas as well as

its population have considerably increased but the arrangement for eradicating mosquitoes did not show any improvement.

It may be mentioned that Kushtia Pourashava lacks in proper drainage facilities and on step has been taken in this direction for long.

It is high time for the Paura authority to take up a balanced scheme for proper drainage and regular cleaning of the same to get rid of many a health problems with which the town dwellers have exposed to.

Meanwhile, emergency measures should be taken for proper cleaning of the silted drains and ditches and the derelict pond owned by even private individuals. The owners should be motivated to keep their ponds clear and help making the congenial atmo-

sphere for eradicating mosquito menace.

Storm causes damage

A severe cyclonic storm which lashed Daulatpur upazila of Kushtia district on March 1 caused widespread damage to a large number of Kutcha houses and standing crops, according to a delayed report received here. The storm at a speed of 80 kilometer per hour swept over village Mohiskundi, Bhagjoth, Ghoribona, Chilmari, Mathurapur and damaged tobacco wheat and betelleaf. Some cattle head died in the storm which blown away many tin roofs of the locality.

It may be mentioned that a fortnight back these areas suffered heavy damage due to hailstorm unprecedented in the area, according to local people.