

**Upazila roundup**

**JAMALPUR** **100 kg marijuana seized**  
**PATUAKHALI** **Meteorology Week observed**

**From Our Correspondent**  
 March 22: District Excise Department personnel recovered 100 kg of marijuana worth about Taka 50000 from a village Atlabari under Islampur upazila recently. Official sources said that one Bekee Akand cultivated marijuana on five decimals of land. Inspector Sheikh Abdur Razzak raided the spot with his group and seized the marijuana from the land. A departmental case has been started in this connection.

**From Our Correspondent**  
 March 22: Metrology Week was observed in Patuakhali from March 15 to 21 followed by a number of programmes. To highlight the importance of the week district administration arranged discussion with traders, showing of slides in the local cinema halls. A mobile court headed by First Class Magistrate, Mr. Abdul Wahab visited various bazars of the town and seized huge outdated weights from traders. The court fined Taka 5400 and sent a number of traders to jail. Similar programmes have also been taken in six upazilas of the district. At the end of the week, a seminar was arranged to motivate people in using Metric system weights.

**Young girl killed in train accident**  
 A young girl Fulbanu (17) was killed when she was run over by a passenger train near Melandah Bazar railway station recently. The body of the victim was sent to Jamalpur General Hospital for post mortem.

**One killed over land dispute**  
 Md. Abdul Ghani of village Chota Bighal of Patuakhali Sadar Upazila succumbed to his injuries in the local hospital following a clash over land dispute. It is learnt that the opponents are near relatives having uncle-cousin tie. On the day of occurrence, at 10 a.m. in the morning while the cousin Md. Abdul Ghani went to harvest dal from the said land his uncle and other accomplices opposed him. At one stage the assailants numbering five to seven attacked Abdul Ghani with lathi, dao and lethal weapons resulting grievous injury on his person. Latter on, people discovered him in an unconscious state and rushed him immediately to the local hospital where he succumbed to his injury. A case has been registered in the local thana in this connection and two accused Noor Hossain and Noor Alam have been arrested by police.

**Teachers' role in meaningful education stressed**  
 March 22: Vice-Chancellor of the Dhaka University Prof. Maniruzzaman Miah said here on Sunday that meaningful education should be spread to every nook and corner of the country to build a prosperous nation, reports BSS. He was addressing a meeting of the teachers of the Government Brojomohon University College of Barisal as the chief guest. Prof. Mohammad Hanif, Principal of the College, presided over the function.

**JHALAKATI** **Nine canals to be re-excavated**  
 March 22: Water Development Board (WDB) here has taken up a scheme to re-excavate nine canals in Rajapur and Kaukhali upazilas of Jhalakathi and Pirojpur districts during the current fiscal year, reports UNB. Official sources said four canals will be re-excavated in Rajapur and five canals in Kaukhali upazilas. Over 3080 metric tons of wheat have been sanctioned for the implementation of the projects. Over 5000 acres of land will be brought under irrigation facilities after the completion of the schemes, the sources added.

**Prof. Miah said the teachers had a great role to play in bringing about a radical change in the educational and intellectual life of the country. The Vice-Chancellor later at another function administered the oath of the newly-elected members of the Brojomohon University College Students Union.**

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**From A Correspondent**  
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**MYMENSINGH** **Two women commit suicide**  
**From A Correspondent**  
 March 22: Two women committed suicide in Muktagacha upazila in separate incidents last week due to family feuds, police sources said. The deceased were Julekha (25), wife of Shohrab Ali of village Tarati Charpara, and Shilpi (18) daughter of Mukbul Hossain of village Mugheltula under Muktagacha upazila in Mymensingh district. Cases were filed with Muktagacha police in this connection.

**2 killed in road mishaps**  
 Nuru Mia (47) was run over by a minibus and died on the spot on Mymensingh-Tangail road at Muktagacha recently. The victim was poor of upazila Livestock Office in Muktagacha. The minibus fled away. An unnatural death case has been registered with Muktagacha police. Another person was killed in a road accident recently on Dhaka-Mymensingh road at Shikarika. The victim was identified as Dr. Mokbul Hossain.

**Tumour weighing half a maund removed**  
 UNB adds: A big tumour weighing about half a maund has been successfully operated from the abdomen of a female patient at the Zila hospital Sunday. Hospital sources identified the patient as Shahanara Begum (35), wife of Majibur Rahman Howlader in Gondamara village of Haimchar upazila of the district.



**Bumper potato production:** Farmers who cannot avail of bank loan facilities are compelled to turn to mahajans (money lenders) for money at high interest rate. Here a farmer is selling out his produce much below the production cost to pay off pre-harvesting loan at Vikrampur in Munshiganj district. — Star photo.

**Misappropriation of rice worth Tk 22 lakh alleged**

**From Our Correspondent**  
 KUSHTIA, March 22: A section of the unscrupulous employees of Kushtia General Hospital due to alleged negligence of the authority. The blood bags were not preserved properly. The hospital authority has not yet submitted indent for blood though the stock is totally exhausted. As a result patients are forced to buy blood at a higher price from outside. Bangladesh Krishi Bank Kushtia region opened Bankers Club at the I.F.I.C. Bank premises recently. Mr. Abdul Kader, S.P.O. Sonali Bank presided over the function. Mr. Moinuddin Ahmed, Manager, Islamic Bank, Mr. Ikramul Kabir, Manager Uttara Bank, Mr. Abdul Momin, a leader of Bank Federation and Mr. Farhan Ali of Janata Bank address the function.

**Teknaf beset with problems**

**From Our Correspondent**  
 COX'S BAZAR, Mar 22: Teknaf upazila of the district is deprived of basic amenities since long. The upazila established in 1983, consists of six unions with two lakh inhabitants and covers an area of 40 miles. All the areas of six unions are deprived of better communication system, drainage and electricity facilities. The health, agriculture and education sectors are hard hit. There are no pucca roads in three unions and electric supply is provided only in upazila proper. Roads are in very deplorable condition and due to lack of proper maintenance during rainy season stagnant water on the roads creates much difficulty for both vehicles and pedestrians and in other seasons boat of dusts increase the sufferings. Lack of proper agricultural inputs like quality seeds, fertilizers, deep tubewells, agricultural loans, hit the cultivation and the upazila is still undeveloped resulting in poor output in all the seasons. Besides, education in the district is hampered due to absence of minimum requirements like teachers, furniture, supply of pure drinking water, accommodation and pucca building for the schools and accommodation facilities for both staff and students. There are three schools from which only 16 students have appeared in the SSC examination last year. The literacy rate of the upazila is 10 per cent. People of the upazila urged the concerned authorities to take remedial measures immediately.

**From Our Correspondent**  
 Famous bazar of Teknaf has plagued with various problems creating sufferings to both customers and sellers. There are no proper and specified seating arrangements provided for the shopkeepers. As a result they are usually seen seated scattered leaving no place for the customers to move. The only health centre and one health complex in the upazila with only 20 beds are quite inadequate to cope with the rising needs of the 1.5 lakh residents, the patients are deprived of proper treatment. Moreover, absence of staff members shortage of medicine and lack of proper management increase the sufferings of the patients.



**PABNA:** A day's respite on his rickshaw van braving scorching heat. — Star photo.

**Property worth Tk 25 lakh gutted**

FENI, Mar 22: Property worth about Taka 25 lakh was gutted in a devastating fire at Fazilpur village of the Sadar upazila Wednesday. Witnesses said, the fire originated from a kitchen of Amu Bhuiyan of the village and burnt 22 houses into ashes. Villagers rushed to the spot and after frantic efforts brought the fire under control. Mahbulul Alam MP visited the spot and distributed some cash money among the affected people.

**No power supply for 5 months**

MADARIPUR, Mar 22: Power supply in Shibchar upazila remained disrupted for the last five months hitting hard the local industrial units, reports UNB. According to sources, power supply was snapped in August last year when an electric tower over the river Arakhan near Utrail village was broken down due to erosion of the river. Besides domestic and commercial consumers, the power disruption has also been hampering irrigation in the upazila, it is learnt. Local people have urged the authorities to restore power supply in the upazila without further delay.

**4 dacoits held in Sirajganj**

SIRAJGANJ, Mar 22: Police arrested four dacoits from Gotarhar village under Sadar upazila on Wednesday night, reports UNB. Acting on a tip off, police raided the village and nabbed Hafizur Rahman, Mokbul Hossain, Sohrab Ali and Liaqat Ali. They were wanted in connection with several piracies in the river Jamuna.

**UP chairman killed in road accident**

DINAJPUR, Mar 22: Bed-Dehi union parishad chairman of Phulbari upazila was killed and his companion injured seriously in a road mishap near Phulbari police station on Wednesday, reports UNB. Police said the incident occurred when a speedy truck dashed their motor cycle killing the Chairman Abdus Salam (30) on the spot. The injured Gafur was rushed to the Sadar hospital in a critical condition. The body was sent to morgue for autopsy. A case has been lodged in this connection.

**4 die from snake bite in Pabna**

**From A Correspondent**  
 PABNA, Mar 22: Four persons died from snake bite in different areas of Pabna recently. According to the reports, Hassan Ali (40) and Akkas Ali (20) both of village Pirpur in Sadar Upazila died from snake bite while they were sleeping at home. Another victim Karim Sheikh (29) of village Atiacoa, upazila Pabna Sadar died from snake bite while he was working in the paddy field. Delp Das (20) Malonce Union Parishad under Sadar Upazila died from snake bite on the road while he was returning home.

**Training on pest management concludes**

**From A Correspondent**  
 FARIDPUR, Mar 22: A five-day long training course on "integrated pest management" has concluded here, reports UNB. Jointly organised by the Directorate of Agriculture Extension Department and FAO, the course was participated by 45 subject matter specialists of 31 districts of the country. The theme of the course concluded recently was "save the plant and maintain environmental balance with least use of chemical fertilizers." The participants were imparted both theoretical and practical training on control of insects and conservation of beneficial insects. The concluding function, held at the auditorium of local agriculture training institute, was chaired by SM Munim, Director, Plant Protection while it was also addressed by Abdur Rahim, Deputy Commissioner of the district, Md Shafiquddin, Deputy Director, Plant Protection. Dr S Ramaswami, integrated pest management expert of FAO distributed certificates among the participants.

**Political scene**

**Two lucky brothers**

**From Our Correspondent**  
 NANDAIL, March 22: Two brothers have been elected members of parliament from two neighboring constituencies in the last Jatiya Sangsad polls. They are Mr. Khurram Khan Chowdhury and Anwarul Hossain Khan Chowdhury of village Moazzempur under Nanslail Upazila of Mymensingh district. Mr. Khurram Khan Chowdhury who was elected the first upazila Chairman of Nandail was also elected MP from his home constituency Mymensingh-9 to the 2nd and 4th parliament of the country. He is a prominent Jatiya Party leader of Mymensingh district. In the last Jatiya Sangsad polls he left his home constituency as anti-Ershad movement reached its peak there. Hence he fielded himself on the Jatiya Party ticket in the neighboring constituency Mymensingh-8 and own the race. Meanwhile, his elder brother Mr Anwar Hossain Khan Chowdhury contested the polls on BNP ticket from Mymensingh-9 constituency and won the seat. These two lucky brothers also once were elected to the Dhaka varsity senate.

Supporters and workers of Jatiya Party Nandail branch held meeting and brought out processions demanding release of former President Ershad and his other associates. Movement demanding release of Ershad is being intensified in Iswarganj upazila where Jatiya Party nominee Mr. Khurram Khan Chowdhury was elected in the last polls. **JP activist stabbed**  
 UNB from Pabna states: An activist of Jatiya Party was stabbed by some miscreants at Shalgaria in the town, police said on Thursday. Witnesses said, the victim Biplob (21) while returning home from the town Saturday night was attacked by the miscreants. They stabbed him indiscriminately and left the place leaving him unconscious. Biplob was rushed to the General Hospital in a critical condition. District Jatiya Party held Awami League activists responsible for the attack. A case has been filed in this connection.

**Jamalpur**  
 Our Jamalpur Correspondent adds: Jamalpur district unit of BNP has demanded arrest of Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) and Upazila Chairman of Melandah and same local AL activists accusing them of rigging in Jatiya Sangsad polls are creating terror in eight polling centres. The BNP district committee held the meeting at its party office here on Monday chaired by a Khairul Bashar Chisty, district BNP President and a candidate who lost the election in Jamalpur-3, constituency. The meeting was also addressed by Serajul Haque MP, Mahbubur Rahman, Khandakar Ilias Moritoza Advocate Abdus Sobhan, ex-MP, and Ashraf Ahmed. Awami League nominee Mirza Golam Azam has been declared elected from the constituency. Golam Azam polled 39,337 votes compared to 31,790 by his nearest rival Khairul Bashar of BNP. An All Party Students Unity (APSU) in a public meeting held at Bukul Tala square in Jamalpur town demanded prove into corruption in the government offices of the district. The speakers alleged that irregularities and corruption had become an irresistible practice in the government offices causing utter sufferings to the members of the public. They also blamed the administration for their indifference to the corruption practices. Mr Alamgir Hossain, VP, Government A.M. College Student Union and JCD leader presided over the meeting.

**Maulvi Bazar**  
 Our Maulvi Bazar Correspondent writes: Though the election result of Parliament has surprised all the major political parties, but it has not unexpected to the people of greater Sylhet consisting Sunamgonj, Sylhet, Maulvi Bazar and Habigonj districts. Though the pre-polls survey conducted by some local newspapers indicated neck and neck fight between Awami League and BNP in all 19 seats of greater Sylhet, but the wave was gradually changing in favour of Jatiya Party. Major political parties fielded their candidates in all the 19 seats of Sylhet zone. Out of the total 19 seats in greater Sylhet, Jatiya Party has bagged 8 seats, Awami League 7 seats, and BNP, CPB, Gonotritri Party, Islami Oikya Jote has bagged one each. It is surprising that in greater Sylhet. Only one of the BNP candidates elected from Sylhet -1. In other seats BNP candidates placed in third, fourth or even the fifth position in the election race. The security money of 96 candidates out of 151 from 19 constituencies of greater Sylhet have been forfeited in the election. District wise forfeited list is as follows: In Sunamgonj district 26 candidate lost their security money out of 40 in 5 seats. In Sylhet 38 out of 58 candidates lost their security money in 6 seats. In Maulvi Bazar 13 candidates out of 23 in 4 seats and in Habigonj district 19 candidates out of 30 in 4 seats lost their security money. It has also surprised that Jatiya Party is the largest political party in greater Sylhet. In three out of 4 districts of greater Sylhet BNP secured no seat. And out of 19 seats BNP secured only one seat.

**23 lose security deposit in Satkhira**  
 Our Satkhira Correspondent adds: Security money of 23 candidates out of 39 from five constituencies of the district have been forfeited in the parliamentary election, official sources said. According to sources, Parimal Sarkar (Independent), Fazlul Karim (Jatiya Tanti Party), Md. Abdur Rouf (United Communist League), Md. Mafidul Islam (Freedom Party), Shaikh Maniruzzaman (Muslim League), Shaikh Motleb Hossain (JP), Abdus Salam Moral JSD (Rab) lost their security deposits from Satkhira-1 constituency. A. K. M. Abdur Rahim JSD (Rab), Mr. Alauddin Mollah (Muslim League) and Kazi Reazuddin JSD (Inu) lost their security money from Satkhira-2 constituency. Ashrafuzzaman (Muslim League) Mr. Abdur Halim BNP SM Ruhul Amin, (Independent), Md. Abdul Khayer (Independent) Md. Rafigul Islam (Independent), Roufuddin (Workers Party), Rezaul Karim (Zaker Party) and SM Syedur Rahman JSD (Rab) lost their security money from Satkhira-3 constituency. Alhaj Mohiuddin Ahmed (Muslim League) and Swapan Kumar Nandi JSD (Rab) lost their security money from Satkhira-4 constituency. Abul Kalam Azad JSD (Rab) Gazil Abdal Hmid (JP) and Prof. Nazrul Islam lost their security money from Satkhira-5 constituency. In may be mentioned here that out of total 8,19 lakh voters, 6.75 lakh voters cast their votes in the five constituencies of the district.

**Problems grip high schools in Pabna**

**From A Correspondent**  
 PABNA, Mar 22: About 20 high schools of 13 unions under Sadar upazila of Pabna district are beset with manifold problems depriving 10,000 students of proper education. These schools are facing shortage of accommodation, furniture and inadequate equipment in science laboratories and lack of necessary appliances for games and sports. Most of the school buildings have developed numerous cracks in the roof and walls. During rainy season water enters through the cracks for which the schools are on the verge of collapse. Moreover, due to absence of doors and windows, cattle and dogs move freely in the class rooms. Due to lack of accommodation, teachers taking classes in a room. Students cannot follow their lessons. In most of those schools scarcity of safe drinking water persists due to no availability of tubewells. Recently, the tuition fees have been increased due to which poor students are facing economic hardship. One hundred and thirty-six high schools of the District are running in the same manner affecting about 50,000 students.