

Upazila roundup

MADARIPUR

Weavers face setback

From Our Correspondent

March 23: Weavers of the district have been facing a setback due to price hikes of raw materials and other necessary inputs.

According to sources, the weavers of Kalkini, Shibchar, Rajlor and Sadar upazilas are heavily burdened with loans.

Annual sports

The annual sports meet of Laxmpur United High School was held in the school playground recently with great enthusiasm.

It was inaugurated by Md. Abdul Hai Miah, Headmaster, United High School and prizes were given away by Mr. Harun-or-Rashid Talukder, ex-chairman of Laxmpur Union Parishad.

COMILLA

BCS officers' training course concludes

From Our Correspondent

March 23: A two-month long training course of the BCS officers of Roads and Highways concluded here recently.

Mr. Nazem Ahmed Chowdhury Secretary, Roads and Highways was the chief guest and chief engineer Mr. M.A. Bari was the special guest in the concluding session.

The meeting was presided over by Syed Margub Murshed, Principal of Co-operative College, Comilla.

The chief guest in his speech said that the such a training would be successful when the trainers will work with responsibility and honesty. He said he will propose to the government to continue this type of training for a long time.

MYMENSINGH

5 get life-term for murder

From A Correspondent

March 23: Mrs Jinnat Ara, First Additional District and Sessions Judge, Mymensingh, in a judgement delivered recently sentenced five persons to life-term on the charge of killing one Abdur Razzak, a former UP Chairman of Dharpunia Union Parishad in Sadar Upazila.

The tried persons are Habi, Nur Muhammad Makku, Habi and Abdul Motaleb.

According to the prosecution on December 9, 1985 the accused persons killed Abdur Razzak. A case was filed with police who after investigation chargesheeted five persons.

The judge after examining the evidences sentenced all the accused to life-term.

PABNA

12,000 certificate cases filed against farmers

From A correspondent

March 23: At least 12,000 certificate cases have been filed against the defaulting farmers to realise the outstanding loan amounting to Taka 85,82,000 disbursed by different banks in nine upazilas in Pabna district.

Informed sources said that the Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKRI), Janata Bank and Agrani Bank have filed the certificate cases under PDR Act with different courts.

Farmers said that due to flood and other natural calamities for the last five years they incurred a huge crop loss which made them defaulters to repay their loans.

Farmers urged the concerned authorities to extend the time for the repayment of loans and demanded exemption of all interests on outstanding loans, which they took from the banks earlier.

BARISAL

One killed in road mishap

March 23: A head on collision between a passenger bus and a truck left one person dead and 20 others injured in Barisal — Faridpur highway Sunday, police said, reports UNB.

Shariful Islam (27), helper of the bus died on way to hospital, witnesses said.

The Barisal bound truck collided head on with the ill-fated bus when the driver lost its control.

The injured persons were released after first aid at Barisal Medical College Hospital.

Load shedding

Heavy load shedding has gripped the 20 south western districts of the country with the beginning of holy Ramzan.

According to sources, load shedding was 60 megawatt on Tuesday engulfing a vast area. Fifteen out of 16 districts of Khulna division and five districts of greater Faridpur have been included in the load shedding.

It is learnt that power suspension in many power generating units including hydroelectric power system of Kapital have compelled the authority to resort to load shedding.

KUSHTIA

FP workers' meet held

From Our Correspondent

March 23: Family Planning Field Workers of Meherpur district held a meeting at Meherpur upazila auditorium recently.

Dr. Mazharul Islam, Deputy Director, Family Planning, was present at the meeting while Mr. Mamtazur Rahman, D.C., distributed prizes among the best field workers.

Annual sports of Municipal Primary School was held recently at Meherpur Government School campus.

Mr. Mamtazur Rahman, D.C., inaugurated the sports as chief guest and distributed the prizes among the winners while Mr. Abdur Rahman, Municipality Chairman, presided over the function.

5 dacoits held

Five dacoits were arrested from Kalisankarpur in Kushtia town recently.

It is learnt that a gang of masked dacoits entered the house of Mr. Mahtabuddin (40), a local contractor, and took away the ornaments and a wall clock.

Police arrested the three dacoits from the spot and other two from the nearby area.

DINAJPUR

Soccer tourney

From Our Correspondent

March 23: Birampur Inter-Upazila Football Tournament-1991 was concluded with much enthusiasm recently.

Birampur Upazila Parishad arranged the tournament this year for the first time. Twelve teams from different areas of the upazila participated in the tournament.

The final match was played between Sabuj Sporting Club and Udayan Club. Both the teams played hard but failed to score a single goal. In tie-breaker, Sabuj Sporting won the match by 5-3 goals.

A good number of spectators witnessed the match. The Upazila Chairman distributed prizes among the players.

JAIPURHAT

205 villages electrified

March 23: Rural Electrification Programme in Jaipurhat district is going ahead at a cost of about Taka 20 crore, reports BSS.

An official source said so far 9,213 electric connections were given in 205 villages under five upazilas in Jaipurhat district. Of the total, 7,700 arc domestic connections and 162 industrial, 517 commercial, 655 irrigation pumps, 163 charitable organisation and 16 street lights.

So far about 800 kilometers of lines were erected. Preliminary work of extending rural electricity to neighbouring Badalgachhi and Dhamurhat upazilas of Naogaon district from Jaipurhat have already been completed. It is expected that electricity will be supplied to these upazilas within a year.

PABNA

Education Week concludes

From Our Correspondent

March 23: The concluding ceremony of 5-day long Education Week was held at Government Edward College, Pabna recently with Professor Md. Moslem Ali, Principal, Edward College in the chair.

The programme included a seminar on 'Education and democracy' and a series of competition on different cultural events such as kerat, debate, speech, Rabindra-songs, Nazrul-songs, guitar and dances. The best college, school (boys), school (girls) and madrasa were Pabna College, Pabna, Government Nazimuddin High School, Ishurdi, Government Girls High School, Pabna and Boalmari Senior Madrasa, Santhia were adjudged best college, school (boys), school (girls), and Madrasa respectively.



Crops on a vast tract of land are damaged due to pest attack every year. For want of insecticide peasants cannot protect the paddy plant from the menace. Here an anxious farmer holding a bundle of boro paddy sheaf infested by pests locally known as 'Mazra Poka' at a village in Narayanganj. — Star photo by Shafiquddin Bitu

Fire havoc at Matlab bazar

Property worth Taka 50 lakh gutted: 12 injured

CHANDPUR, Mar 23: At least people were injured and property worth about Taka 50 lakh was gutted in a devastating fire at Matlab upazila bazar Tuesday night, police said, reports UNB.

Witnesses said, the fire originating from a lantern soon engulfed the adjacent areas and burnt 21 shops and one grocery godown into ashes.

The fire brigade personnel came to the spot after one hour of the incident, the people alleged. However, the fire fighters extinguished the fire after frantic efforts.

Of the injured, one was admitted to Matlab health complex in a serious condition and the rest were released after first aid.

It is alleged that some miscreants looted the goods of the shops during the incident.

Another report from Jhenidah says that property worth about Tk 4.5 lakh was

gutted in three separate fire incidents — two at Jhenidah Sadar and one at Alamdanga upazila in Chuadanga district Tuesday.

In one incident 31 dwelling houses were gutted at village Teorbilla under Alamdanga upazila. The fire originated from the kitchen of the village Gafur.

Another incident occurred at Chapri village under Sadar upazila where fire originating from a kitchen gutted two houses of Kawsar Ali.

In yet another incident at Udoypur village under Jhenidah pourashava the house of an widow Bizrunnessa was gutted. The cause of the fire was not known but villagers suspect that the old enmity may be the reason behind the incident.

Another report from Dinajpura adds: Tamizuddin died of heart failure while he was shifting his belongings from

the fire that gutted valuables worth about Taka 50,000 at South Palashber under Chirribandar upazila Tuesday.

12 houses were charred in the incident. The cause of the fire could not be known.

Madaripur

Our Madaripur Correspondent adds: The Fire Service and Civil Defence week 91 was observed at Fire Service Office premises recently.

Mr. Ashiqul Haq Chowdhury DC Madaripur inaugurated the week while Mr. Md. Mujibur Rahman Deputy Director, Civil Defence was in the chair.

Speaking on the occasion Mr. Khalidur Rahman Khan, Chairman of Madaripur Pourashava, Mr. Abdus Sattar Mia, Principal, Sufia Mohila College urged the people to remain more vigilant against the fire incidents.

10,000 child labourers in Satkhira

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Mar 23: The number of child labourers is increasing in the district day by day. With the influx of floating population in urban area, some people take the advantage and engage the minor boys in different fields of activity. Minor children are compelled to take up these job to earn their livelihood.

The tender aged boys and girls are engaged mostly as helpers in the construction work, hostels, restaurants, factories, motor garages, bakeries, bicycle repairing shops,

welding work shops etc. Besides, many work as domestic servants.

According to international labour laws, children below the age of 15 are not allowed to take up hard work. In Satkhira district children who are engaged in such activities, are hardly 12 years of age or even below. In a recent survey it has been found that these children are compelled to take up hard work because of their poverty.

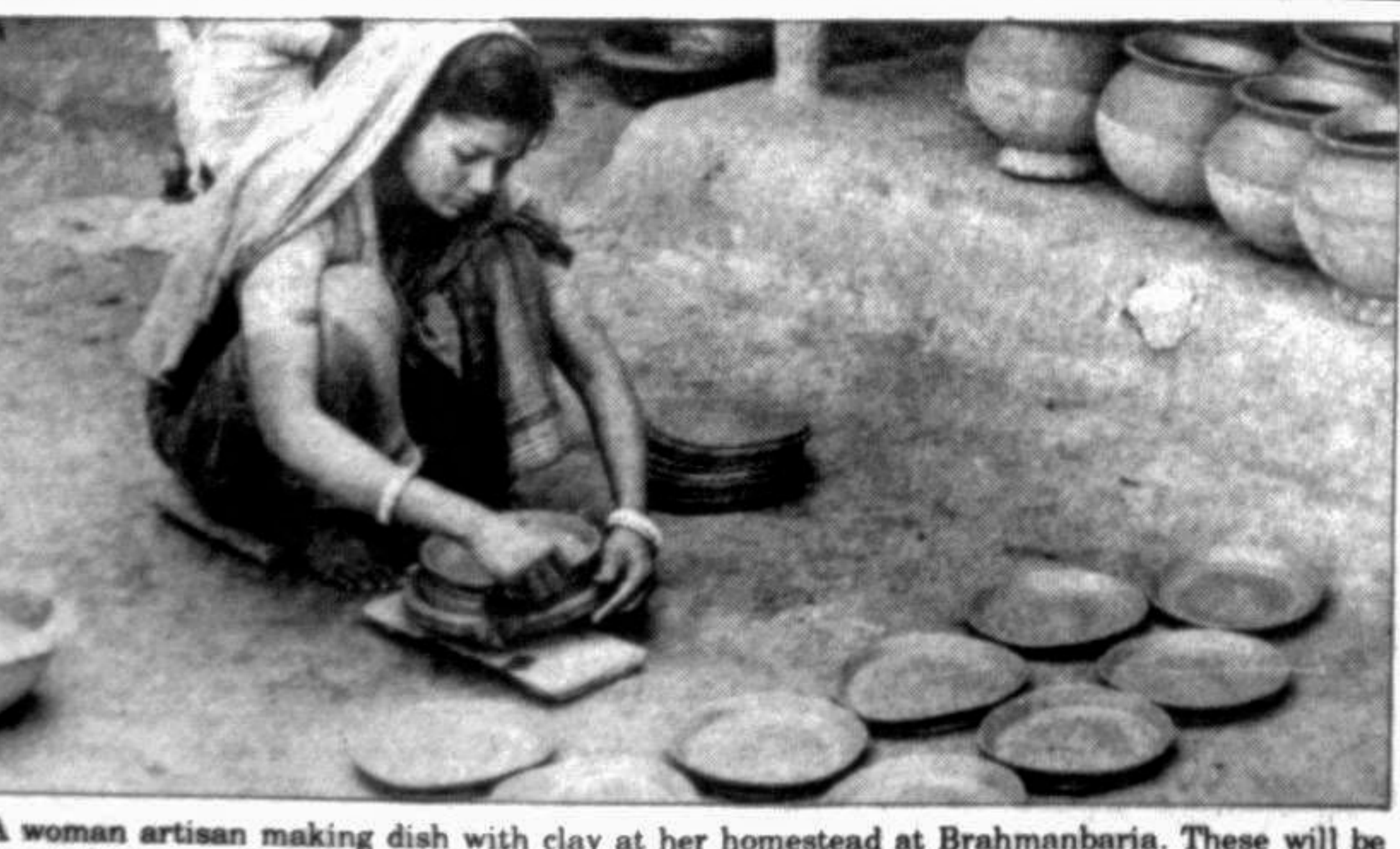
About 10,000 child labourers are working in this district to earn their livelihood.

Most of them have no shelter or house to live after the day's hard work. They spend the night at bus station or in the verandah of other houses.

Kutchra latrines

Indiscriminate construction of Kutchra latrines in Municipal area of Satkhira has been posing threat since long to the health and sanitation of the town people.

It is learnt that some house owners in the densely populated areas have constructed



A woman artisan making dish with clay at her homestead at Brahmanbaria. These will be burnt before sending to local market for sale. — Star photo

Notes from Chuadanga

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, Mar 23: An anti-crime public meeting was held at Jamjami Bazar under Alamdanga upazila of Chuadanga district recently.

The meeting presided over by Mr Badal Rashid, Chairman, Alamdanga Upazila Parishad was organised by both civil and police administration of Chuadanga, Kushtia and Jhenidah districts. Mr Shahidul Haq, Deputy Inspector General of Police was the chief guest. High Officials from Chuadanga, Kushtia, Jhenidah and Meherpur also attended the meeting.

The meeting was addressed by Mr Syed Hafiz Ahmed, Deputy Commissioner Kushtia, Mr Aminul Islam Khan ADC General, Chuadanga, Mr Abdur Rahim Khan SP, Chuadanga, Mr Anwar Hossain, Chairman Jamjami upazila and Mr Makbulur Rahman, ex-Chairman, Alamdanga Upazila Parishad.

Besides, hundreds of people from Jamjami Union also attended the meeting.

The speakers in the meeting urged the people to co-operate with the law enforcing agencies to resist the activities of the criminals. The chief guest in his speech stressed the need for people's co-operation for controlling crime in the area.

New bridge opens

The newly constructed Monohardi-Jamjami link bridge on the river 'Kumar' under Alamdanga upazila of Chuadanga district was inaugurated recently by Mr Shahidul Haq, Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Khulna in presence of a huge gathering.

Office-bearers

Election of office-bearers of the Madaripur Rikshaw Sramic Union was held recently.

Md. Motaleb Hossain Talukdar and Md. Sorwar Hossain Mollah were elected President and Secretary respectively while Md. Athar Hossain was elected Treasurer.

Mr. Kabir Hossain a social worker conducted the polls.

Chicken pox

Chicken pox has broken out alarmingly in rural and urban areas of Shariatpur district.

According to the sources, children and adults are suffering from the disease.

No preventive measures have yet been taken by the concerned authorities, it is alleged.

Moreover, curative medicines are to be reportedly rare and insufficient in the hospitals and health complexes.

Dhoomketu Club annual festival concludes

AGRI-VARSITY (Mymensingh), Mar 23: The five-day annual festival of Dhoomketu Club, a juvenile organisation of Bangladesh Agriculture University Residential Area, was held recently at the club-premises, says a press release.

The programmes of the colourful festival included nine events in indoor-games, eight events in literary competitions and eight events in cultural competitions. Quite a good number of competitors took part in each event of the competitions.

Prof ZH Bhuiyan, a renowned soil scientist and one of the senior, most faculty-members of BAU, inaugurated the festival. The inaugural function was presided over by the club-President Mr AKM Abdul Kuddus Miah, while it was addressed by ASM Munir, Ehsanur Reza Shovan and Sajjad Hossain Khan Sohag, General Secretary, Literary Secretary and Cultural Secretary of the club respectively.

The closing function of the festival was attended by Mr Naibuddin Ahmed, a reputed Photographer and Prof MA Wahid, Chairman of BAU Juvenile Council as the chief guest and the special guest respectively.

The guest and advisors of the club distributed prizes among the winners.

Sharmin Karim Tuli turned out to be the best Dhamketu for the year 1991 by securing highest point to her credit for her splendid performance in various events of indoor games, literary and cultural competitions.

Political scene

500 JP leaders, workers resign

GAIBANDHA, Mar 23: About 500 workers and leaders of the district Jatiya Party have resigned from the party and its front organisations, reports UNB.

In a press statement they said that they have severed relation with the party from March 12.

The statement was signed by Shah Nurullah Jahangir, joint secretary of the party who also resigned.

Among the prominent who resigned are: Abdul Mannaf, 1st joint secretary, Fazlay Karim Nantu, president, Sadar upazila unit, Union Parishad members Abdull Halim and Tazul Islam, Abul Kalam Azad, Unit secretary, Sadullapur upazila.

JCD procession

A message from Jhalakati adds: Jatiyatadabi Chhatra Dal (JCD) of the district brought out a procession against the Police Super of the district for his alleged corruption in the final year examination of L. L. B.

According to sources, P. R. Chandra, Police Super, was expelled last week from the examination hall for adopting unfair means.

The JCD rally paraded main roads of the town and demanded punishment of the Police Super as per law.

Later in a meeting the leaders of JCD called upon the authority to take action against the Police Super within a week. Monirul Islam, Mahbub Hussain and Rahim Azad addressed the rally.

Police Super told this correspondent that he became the victim of conspiracy and demanded fair inquiry into the allegation.

Discussion on Mujib

Our Kushtia Correspondent writes: Bheramara Upazila Bangabandhu Parishad arranged a discussion meeting in celebration of the birthday of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman recently.

Convener of the upazila unit Mr. Matjur Rahman presided

over the meeting. Kushtia district Sheikh Rasel Smriti Sangsad also arranged a discussion meeting and cultural function in the public library premises recently to celebrate the birth anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Mr. Shahjahan Alam Shaju and Mr. Naser Mahmud were present as special guests.

Mr. Rashiduzzaman Tutul, General Secretary, Majampur unit Smriti Sangsad presided over the function while Kamrul Hossain Moni, General Secretary, Kushtia Kabita Parishad addressed it.

Shibir leader's death condoled

Meanwhile, Principal Moulana Mohammad Manzur Kader and Advocate Nurul Islam, President and Secretary respectively of Bangladesh Islamic Oikya Andolan, Kushtia district unit in a joint statement expressed their great shock at the killing of Shibir leader in Chittagong University.

They demanded exemplary punishment of the killers and urged the authority to create a congenial atmosphere in the educational institutions.

Pabna

A Correspondent from Pabna adds: The district Coordinator of Freedom Party Hassan Ali last Monday said the parliamentary system of government would be suitable for the country and urged the BNP to build a strong base for democracy.

Talking to newsmen in Pabna Press Club Mr Hassan Ali said that he was delighted at the victory of BNP especially the nationalist forces in the election.

Four leaders of gram committee: 'TAP,' Lekhok, Shibir and Gonotantik Biplobi Jote and their 100 workers joined UCL expressing support to the ideals and policies of the party, party sources said recently.

The new comers are Mujnu Biswas, Mokarrom, Mahatab Uddin and Haraj Uddin.

Pilferage of 41 tons wheat alleged

From Our Correspondent

NANDAIL, Mar 23: Labourers working on a road reconstruction project brought out a procession against the malpractices adopted by the project Chairman Abul Hashem and the Union Parishad Chairman Mr. Abdur Razzak Bhuiyan who allegedly pilfered the wheat allotted for the workers and sold the same in black market.

The labourers engaged in the reconstruction of Kaliganj-lichayaganj Bazar Road and a Banali-Kaliganj Bazar Road under Rajgate union at Nandail upazila paraded the office of the Upazila Chairman and complained that they were not receiving wheat which is given to them as wages. As a result they are starving.

It is further alleged that 41 metric tons of wheat have been sold in black market which

was detected after investigation.

On the other hand, work on the project is left undone and will remain incomplete due to these malpractices.

Acting on a complaint, O.C. Nandail in a raid recovered 19 bags of wheat from the house of Sarafat Hagi.

Besides, P.I.O. investigated the godown where wheat was kept but did not find any wheat which also confirmed the pilferage.

The labourers submitted separate petitions to the D.C. Mymensingh and the District Relief and Rehabilitation authority seeking prompt action.

Meanwhile, the local BNP leader Mr. Abdull Ahad Khan urged the concerned authority to take necessary action against the persons involved in the pilferage.

Arms, ammunition recovered

From A Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, Mar 23: Police recovered 59 fire arms and 113 rounds of ammunition from different areas of Mymensingh district from December 27 to March 12, police sources said.

Out of the 59 fire arms there were 47 pipe gun, eight country made guns, two revolvers, one pistol, one grenade and 113 rounds of ammunition.

The fire arms have been recovered from Kotwali, Muktagacha, Trishal, Bhaluka, Gaffargaon, Fulbaria, Phulpur, Gouripur, Iswarganj, Nandail,

Hahaghat and Dhobaura police.

The arms were displayed at Mymensingh district police control room on March 15, by SP, Mymensingh Mr Altaf Hossain Mullah and briefed the local journalists on the arms recovery drive.

The National Science and Technology Week-91 of Mymensingh district concluded at the Government Ananda Mohon College recently.

The Science Week was inaugurated by Prof Rezaul Karim, Principal of the AM college.

Dacoity in Netrakona

NETRAKONA, Mar 23: Nine residential quarters under Kendua Upazila health complex were raided at a time by armed dacoits at late night recently.

The dacoits reportedly beat up the inmates of the quarters and looted huge quantity of cash money, gold ornaments and other valuables.

Police told BSS the dacoits numbering about 20 to 25 armed with lethal weapons disconnected power and telephone lines before committing the dacoity.

Prize-giving ceremony

FARIDPUR, Mar 23: The annual prize distribution ceremony of Government Sarada Sundari Mahila College was held on Tuesday at the college auditorium, reports BSS.

Dr. Md. Mozammel Haque, chairman, Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Dhaka attended the function as chief guest. In his address to the students he said that the students should give emphasis on extra-curricular activities side by side with academic pursuits.