

Upazila roundup

MAULVI BAZAR

Press Club executives

From Our Correspondent

March 25 : The biennial election of Maulvi Bazar Press Club was held on March 22 at Maulvi Bazar Pourashava auditorium. Ten out of thirteen executive posts were elected unopposed, while polling was held for the post of two Vice Presidents, General Secretary and Treasurer.

Syed Joinal Abedin of Daily Nabajagan and Aztur Rahman Abul of Daily Azad were elected Vice Presidents. Abdus Salam of Daily Sangbad was elected General Secretary and Golam Muhi Khan of Daily Janapad was elected Treasurer.



Mr. Safquatul Wahed (left) and Mr. Abdus Salam (right).

The office-bearers elected unopposed are : President—Shafquatul Wahed of Bangladesh Observer, Asst. Secretary—Ratan Kanti Chaklader of Daily Banglar Bani, Abul Kalam Zila of Daily Khabar and Abdul Hamid Mahbub of Daily Inqilab. Members—Radhika Mohan Goswami of B.S.S., Syed Ruhul Ameen of Daily Sangram, Prof. Rajat Kanti Goswami of Daily Star, Akmal Hussain Nipu of weekly Deshbarita and R.P. Deb of Daily Dainik Patrika.

Mr. Aztur Rahman, a senior journalist conducted the election.

CHUADANGA

Obituary

From Our Correspondent

March 25 : Dr. Fakir Mohammad, a prominent medical practitioner of the locality died at local Sadar Hospital following a massive heart attack recently. He was 70.

He left behind his wife and a son and a host of relatives and friends to mourn his death. He was laid to rest at his Mukti Para residence at Chuadanga.

Dr. Fakir Mohammad was known as a pious man and a social worker. He was also the President of Chuadanga branch of Bangladesh Muslim League. His namaz-e-janaja was held at local Jhenuk Primary School premises which was participated by a large number of people of the locality.

NETRAKONA

Prayer for rain

March 25 : Several hundred Muslims gathered at Mukterpara square here Sunday noon to offer Namaz-e-Istehkara for divine blessings for rains as the district has been experiencing severe drought and hot spell during the last few days, reports BSS.

A large number of children and females were seen offering Namaz-e-Istehkara at roof top around Mukterpara square.

The Namaz was followed by a special prayer which was conducted by octogenarian Acm Moulana Monjurul Hoque.

MYMENSINGH

Three kidnapped persons rescued

From A Correspondent

March 25 : Muktagacha police rescued three kidnapped persons including one school teacher from Muktagacha and Fulbaria Upazila recently.

Police rescued school teacher Md. Nurul Islam of village Malzani in Muktagacha upazila, after five days of kidnapping. He was kidnapped from his village home Bahyanga on March 13. The same day police and local people rescued Narayan Gourala (10) from village Chawtala in Muktagacha. He was kidnapped from his home at Piarpur in Jamalpur district on March 10. Police arrested one Rahima Khatun in this connection.

Muktagacha police also rescued another victim Abdul Hoq (20) from the village Bayda Bari Dacatayer Vita and arrested one trafficker with pipe gun. Separate case has been registered in this connection.

RAJSHAHI

Dust storm disrupts normal life

March 25 : Normal city life was disrupted for several hours here on Sunday afternoon when the season's first dust storm swept over the district, reports BSS.

The city also experienced light drizzle early in the morning bringing mercury down to a tolerable level from the hot spell prevailing here for the last several days.

People said that the rains might cause some harm to mango buds.

Smuggled goods recovered

Smuggled goods worth Taka 19,38,000 were seized by the law enforcing agency personnel from Kholsona village under Pabna upazila of Rajshahi district on Thursday.

Official sources said the goods included hides and skins and saree.

The seized goods were handed over to the customs department. A case was filed with the local police in this connection.

SIRAJGANJ

2 killed by lightning

From Our Correspondent

March 25 : Two boys were killed on Sunday by lightning near Bazar Bhadrachal under Kamarkhanda Upazila. One victim identified as Ashkarul Haque (15), son of Anowarul Islam with another unidentified victim while coming to IRR field for work at about 10 a.m. were hit lightning. When brought to Sadar Hospital they were declared dead and their bodies were handed over to relatives.

PABNA

Withdrawal of lay off demanded

March 25 : About 1,000 mill workers brought out a procession in the town Sunday afternoon demanding withdrawal of lay off, reports UNB.

The workers of the Kalico Cotton Mills submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner seeking immediate withdrawal of lay off in the mill. They also demanded punishment of the murder of a labour leader.

The mill authority announced the closure in November last following disagreement between the owner and the employees over provident fund.

It is learnt that, soon after the conclusion of the agreement the CBA leaders attempted to enlist about 200 fake labourers in the pay roll of the mill.

GHORASHAL

Services of 10 labour leaders terminated

March 24 : Services of ten labour leaders including former CBA President of Bangladesh Jute Mills were terminated due to prolonged absence, reports UNB.

The labour leaders belonging to Jatitya Sramik Party remained absent from duties following the mass upsurge in December last year.

The terminated leaders are : Abdul Hamid, Abul Kashem, Azizul Hoq Arun, Zahurul Hoq, Aziz Sardar, Milon, Nasir, Rabul, Zaman and Shafuluddin.

RAJBARI

Seminar on rheumatic fevers

March 25 : A seminar on rheumatic fevers and rheumatic heart diseases was held at Rajbari Circuit House recently, report BSS.

A Japanese expert, Dr. K. Yoshitake, delivered lecture on various aspects including preventing of rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease.

The seminar jointly organised by local health administration, government and non-government doctors was presided over by Prof. R. K. Khondakar, Prof. S. R. Khan and Prof. Sirajul Haque among others spoke on the occasion.

A total of 45 government and non-government doctors of the district participated in the seminar.

Meanwhile, a reception was accorded to Dr. K. Yoshitake, team leader of Japanese experts on rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart diseases

JAMALPUR

One killed in road mishap

March 25 : One Joat Ali (85) was knocked down by a Dhaka-bound truck on Jamalpur-Tangail road at Jamtali Bus Stand in Tiphalia union under Jamalpur Sadar Upazila recently, reports BSS.

The victim on his way back home from Jamtali Bazar was seriously injured. He was sent to hospital where he died.



PABNA: Little or no flow in the Ganges coupled with dry season low level of water led to a perennial drought. Cracks have developed on boro paddy fields at Santhia upazila threatening crop loss.

Rivers in N.dists falling fast

Siltation threatens navigation

From Our Correspondent

NARAIL, Mar. 25 : The rivers Chhitra Nabaganga, Kazla, Bhatrab and a portion of the Madhumati flowing through Magura and Narail districts have alarmingly silted up posing threat to irrigation, pisciculture and navigation.

With the advent of the dry season the water level of these rivers has fallen to a large extent bringing a total stand still to the movement of even country boats. The river beds of the said rivers are now being used for cultivation as they are completely dried up. The Ghorakhal-Chhitra tributary is also being dried up fast. A big charland has emerged on the off-take of the river hindering the flow of water. About one hundred miles-long Chhitra river is filled with hyacinth with knee-deep stagnant water. Cultivation would be possible even on this river-bed in near future.

Sherpur law, order situation reviewed

From Our Correspondent

SIHERPUR, Mar. 25 : A meeting of the District Law and Order Situation Committee was held at the Collectorate Conference Room with AKM Kamaluddin, Deputy Commissioner in the chair recently. The meeting reviewed the law and order situation in the district. Superintendent of Police Mr. Sulahmed spoke in the meeting.

The Deputy Commissioner asked the police personnel to be more active in curbing crimes.

Annual sports

The annual sports competitions of Sherpur district police was held recently at Pura Park maidan with much enthusiasm. Sportsmen all the five upazilas took part in 14 events.

Divisional Inspector General of Police, Dhaka Range Mr. Md. Ashraf Huda formally inaugurated the ceremony as chief guest while Mr. A. K. M. Kamaluddin, Deputy Commissioner was present as special guest.

The function was attended by officials and elite of the town. Mrs. Begum Ashraf Huda distributed prizes among the winners.

Knowledgeable circles opined that comprehensive programme for dredging both the Nabaganga and Chhitra rivers should be taken immediately for smooth navigation and to keep continued the trade and commerce of the district.

Bridges over khals needed

Thousands of people of

Narail, Kalia and Lohagara upazilas have been facing much difficulties for want of bridges on Gobra Khal and Ghora Khal connected with the Chhitra river.

The villagers complained that they have been facing serious problems for want of bridges on these khals.

The farmers have been experiencing troubles at the ghats where there is only one country boat to ferry paddy,

jute and other agricultural commodities. The farmers and members of the public of the opposite banks of both the khals have been facing difficulties for many years round for want of bridges on the two points.

In the absence of bridges over these khals, trade and commerce in the district is greatly hampered.

While contacted, the Deputy Commissioner and Zila Parishad Chairman, Narail, Mr. Ali Hossain said that in absence of bridges on the important places—Cobra Khal and Ghorakhal Khal everybody particularly the authoritative service persons have to face immense difficulties to pay visits to remote areas crossing the canals with jeeps or cars in emergency. The higher authority concerned has been informed of the situation to take immediate measures.

A neglected war cemetery

From Our Correspondent

COMILLA, Mar. 25 : A war cemetery dedicated to the memory of 51 freedom fighters at a hillock of Kollapathor now stands totally neglected outside public view. The cemetery was built in memory of 51 freedom fighters who laid their lives during our War of Liberation 20 years ago. They were buried here.

Situated in Kasba upazila of Brahmanbaria district, about three kilometres from Shaldanadi Railway Station, the cemetery and its surroundings have become an ideal place for grazing of cattle.

Mr. Abdul Mannan, an inhabitant of Kollapathar donated 65 acres of land for this war cemetery. There is no protection wall around the land, the name plates of freedom fighters have been covered with wild grass and soot. The local people by their own initiative are taking care which is very insufficient. There is no government efforts to protect this martyrs' land.

According to the local elderly people, during the War of Liberation the villagers collected the bodies of the fallen heroes and preserved those for several years, but no initiative was taken from any corner to preserve those in the museum. Though we do not show any respect to our martyrs, many of their relatives used to visit the place occasionally almost everyday. A good number of people also visit the cemetery but there is no place to live in. In 1987 there was a proposal for constructing a "Dak Bungalow" for the visitors but no steps have been taken to implement it. Besides, there is no good road to go to the historic site except local train.

The local people appeal to the government to take immediate steps to maintain the sanctity of the war cemetery.

The names of the Shaheed freedom fighters are as follows :

Sepoy Akkas Ali, Naik Abdus Sattar, Habildar Taiab Ali, Abdul Jabbar, Md. Zahir Hossain, Md. Fakhru Alam, Majahid Nur Mia, Naik Mozzamel, Naik Subedar Abdul Salam, Nawab Ali, Sepoy Muslim Mirdha, Engineer Nazrul Islam, Md. Abdul Wadud, Sepoy Tamizuddin, Mattur Rahman, Mosharraf Hossain, Naik Subedar Mainul Hossain, Sepoy Md. Nurul Haq, Md. Abdul Karim, Quayum, Sepoy Humayun Kabir, Lance Naik Md. Abdul Malik, Lance Naik Azizur Rahman, Sepoy Arshana Ali, Md. Faroque Ahmed, Md. Taru Mia, Naik Subedar Billaet Hossain, Md. Rafiqul Islam, Moshareb Mia, Asuranzan Dey, Md. Tajul Islam, Md. Shawkat, Md. Abdus Salam Sarker, Md. Amir Hossain, Md. Jahangir Alam, Paresh Chandra Malik, Md. Jamaluddin, Md. Abdul Awal, Md. Abed Ahmed, Md. Sirajul Islam, Md. Mattur Rahman, Md. Farid Mia, Md. Abdur Rashid Ansar, Sepoy Shahidul Haq, Sepoy Anwar Hossain, Md. Abdur Bari, Khandaker and two more unknown.

Two children burnt to death

Property worth Taka 1 cr burnt in a fortnight

THAKURGAON, Mar. 25 : Two children were burnt alive, 315 houses, 20 cattleheads and other materials worth Taka one crore were reduced to ashes in seven devastating fires in different areas of Thakurgaon district during the last fortnight, reports BSS.

On March 3 Sirajul Islam (8) the only son of a day labourer Babul Mia of village Chandipur under Thakurgaon Sadar Upazila was burnt to death as his house caught fire.

In another fire in village Jamalpur of Thakurgaon Sadar Upazila Aleya (6), the daughter of Asruddin was also burnt to death on March 8. In this fire 12 families were rendered homeless and about 60 houses, 16 cattleheads and materials worth Taka 50 thousand were burnt to ashes.

Two hundred houses of village Rahimanpur of Thakurgaon Sadar Upazila were burnt to ashes where 12

families were rendered homeless. The loss estimated here is about Taka 25 lakhs.

In another fire the houses of Bhatra Barman, Babul Barman of Thakurgaon Sadar Upazila were burnt.

Twenty other houses of village Akcha adjacent to Thakurgaon Pourashaba were burnt. In this fire different materials about Taka 2 lakh were also burnt.

In another fire incident in village Bhelaitor of Pirganj Upazila four cattleheads, five other houses and materials worth Taka 25 thousand were burnt.

Chandpur

A message from Chandpur adds: Property worth Taka several lakh was gutted in a fire incident at Ashinpur village of Matlab Upazila recently.

Fifteen dwelling houses of Hajitari in Ashinpur village were totally damaged and

many cattleheads were burnt to death.

The fire victims are now living under the open sky. The people of the area urged the government to help the affected people.

Jamalpur

A report from Jamalpur says: Property worth about Taka seventeen lakh was gutted in two separate fire incidents in Jamalpur and Sherpur district recently.

Originating from kitchen fire burnt to ashes seven dwelling houses of Jalal Mandal, Bahajuddin, Mamtaj Mandal, Munsif Mandal, Mozammel Haque and Matam Mandal of village Charballa under Sarishabari upazila in Jamalpur district. The loss of property was estimated at Taka seven lakh.

Fire servicemen from Sarishabari extinguished the fire.

Ticketless journey

BIWTC loses Tk 7 lakh per month

MANIKGANJ, Mar. 25: Ticketless passengers of Archa-Daulatdia ferry services are causing a monthly loss of about Taka seven lakh to the BIWTC besides creating inconveniences to higher class revenue passengers in connivance of ferry operators, it has been alleged, reports UNB.

About 15000 coach passengers and 85000 commuters avail of the ferry services every month but only 20 to 30 per cent of them have valid tickets, informed sources alleged saying the majority pay tolls to the operators openly.

The passengers without ticket allegedly occupy the seats of deluxe passengers to the annoyance and harassment of revenue passengers including women.

The unauthorised travellers often play cards and resort to gambling in the upper class areas for which they pay tolls to the police personnel on duty.

Political scene

Govt firm to stop campus violence: Yunus

TANGAIL, Mar. 25: State Minister for Education Principal Yunus Khan on Saturday visited the Mazar of Moulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani at Santosh to pay homage to the great leader, reports BSS.

The State Minister offered Fatcha at the Mazar and prayed for the peace of the departed soul.

Principal Yunus Khan in the evening visited the Santosh Bishwa Biddhahiya College and Kagmari, Mohammad Ali Collage at Kagmari.

Talking to the leaders of the student's union of the colleges the State Minister said, the present government was determined to maintain complete academic atmosphere in the educational arena through stopping all kinds of anarchism and violence. He also called upon the students leaders to fully cooperate with the government in achieving the cherished goal of democracy throughout the country and advancement in all sphere of life.

Religious harmony

Another report from Langalbandh, Narayanganj adds: State Minister for Information Mohammad Nurul Huda on Saturday visited Langalbandh, a holy place of the Hindu community, on the occasion of 'sacred-dip' in the river Brahmanputra and religious ceremony of the community.

The State Minister talked to the devotees gathered there about their feeding in performing their religious rites.

Addressing a spontaneous gathering there, he said Bangladesh is a unique example in maintaining religious harmony. The State Minister stressed for all out cooperation from all corner to maintain this harmony.

Abul Kamal MP, accompanied the State Minister.

MPs accorded reception

Our Tangail correspondent



KURIGRAM: Students of Chowrahat non-government primary school in Rajarhat upazila seen sitting under the open air for want of class rooms. — Star photo

730 pry. schools in sorry state

From Our Correspondent

KURIGRAM, March 25 : About 730 Primary schools in nine upazilas of Kurigram district having about 1,77,947 students have been facing manifold problems.

Out of total 2,56,529 school going children, about 1,77,947 are attending class while the rest 78,582 are being deprived of primary education.

Of the total schools, 170 are non-government with 35,535 students and 560 are government where 1,42,411 children are studying. There are 2604 teachers who are not at all sufficient to meet the requirements.

According to the District Education Office Sources, the school buildings were constructed during the Pakistan period, roofs of which are

made of corrugated iron sheets. Due to lack of repair these roofs are now on the verge of collapse. Besides, in absence of doors and window the schools are left open at night providing abode for animals.

Moreover, there are no chairs and benches on the schools. The boys and girls take lessons sitting on the floor of the schools.

Dilapidated condition of the schools cause anxiety among the guardians. As a result they stopped sending their children to the schools resulting in fall of attendance to a great extent.

The Facilities Department has reconstructed some school buildings but their number is very few.

Diarrhoea claims 29 in Netrakona, Barguna

From Our Correspondent

NETRAKONA, Mar. 25 : Diarrhoea has broken out in Kalmakanda and Durgapur upazilas in Netrakona Mr. M. A. Karim, MP told a news conference here on Sunday. That diarrhoea claimed 12 lives at Kalmakanda and Durgapur during the last four days.

Four persons died Saturday night namely Faizunnessa Begum, 2 Anowara Khatun, Rashida and Rathan of the same family of Mohor Ali at village Pachkanua under Kalmakanda Upazila.

He also said that due to lack of proper treatment and medicine the situation had aggravated and the disease is spreading to other places. He urged the concerned authority to take immediate measures in this regard.

UNB from Burguna adds: Diarrhoeal diseases that broke out in five upazilas of the dis-

trict in alarming proportion have so far claimed 17 lives.

According to informed sources, the diseases which are spreading rapidly claimed in seven Sadar Upazila, five in Patharghata, three in Betagi and two in Amtali upazilas of the district.

Patients in large numbers are rushing to the hospitals and health complexes seeking treatment.

Taking advantage of the situation, some dishonest traders have already increased the price of oral saline packet in the local market.

Local people alleged that the district administration took no initiative to check the diseases after repeated appeal.