

Upazila roundup

MANIKGANG

Science Week observed

February 8: The 14th National Science Week was observed at Government Debendra College here recently, reports BSS.

The science week was inaugurated by Mrs Khodja Azam, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Science and Technology. The inaugural function was presided over by Prof. Mohammad Saidul Iluq, Principal, Debendra College. Dr M. Mobarak Ali Akhand, Director, Science Museum and Mr. Murtaza Hossain Munshi, Deputy Commissioner, Manikganj among others spoke on the occasion.

Two colleges, two schools and 15 science clubs displayed about 200 science projects.

SATHIRA

Kaliganj School clinches volleyball title

February 8: Kaliganj Pilot School here clinched the title in the final round inter-school volleyball competition beating Polashpur High School by 15-7, 15-4 points on Saturday, reports UNB.

Different schools from seven upazilas participated in the competition which was held in local P.N. High School ground.

Kaliganj Pilot School will participate in the ensuing Khulna divisional competition as the champion of Sathira district.

MYMENSINGH

Students' reunion

February 8: A two-day celebration marking the completion of 90 years of the Mityunjoy High School and reunion of students will be held on February 8 and 9, reports BSS.

A detailed programme of cultural, literary and sports has been chalked out on the occasion.

All the old students of the school have been requested to attend the celebration.

KUSHTIA

Population Day observed

February 8: National Population Day was observed here in a befitting manner. Kushtia Sadar Upazila Parishad brought out a big procession with banner and festoon propagating Family Planning as a social movement. Chairman of Sadar Upazila Zafarullah Khan Choudhury led the procession and paraded the main streets of the town. Later they held a rally which was addressed by Chairman, UNO and other officials of Health and Family Planning Department. Speakers dealt at length various aspects and needs of Family planning to save the nation from population boom which remain a stumbling block in all the development activities to the country at large.

Earlier Sadar Upazila Parishad Chairman gave way prizes to 46 couples who have two children and 3 employees of the department whose performances were adjudged best in their respective field of activities.

GAZIPUR

Retrenched workers not getting dues

From Our Correspondent

February 8: The retrenched workers and employees of the Eastern Regal Industries Ltd, Tangi Industrial Area, finding no way, are to depend on the charitable feeding centre at the factory campus run by some local social workers.

The Managing Director, A. R. Laskar, issued retrenchment notice to the workers in September last year with out paying the outstanding bills. Regarding payment, an agreement was signed between a tripartite body, consisting 2 management, Jatiya Samik Party and the labour union of the firm.

MADARIPUR

Anti-war procession

From Our Correspondent

February 8: Special prayers were offered after the Juma congregation at Madaripur Jam-e-Mosque seeking divine blessings for an end to Gulf war. A large number of devotees

prayed for greater unity of the Muslim Ummah, the solution of Palestine problem and for liberation of Baitul Mu-kaddas from the Israeli occupation.

Later the devotees brought out an anti war procession in the town. The processionists raised slogans "stop war in dialogue", "solve Palestine problem". The procession paraded the main roads of the town.

COX'S BAZAR

Draft cattle shortage

From Our Correspondent

February 8: Acute shortage of bullocks is prevailing in the rural areas of this district adversely affecting the cultivation. About 45 to 60 per cent farmers are cultivation their lands on share basis hiring bullocks as they have no bullocks of their own.

They have been compelled to use milch cows for tilling the lands. Shortage of bullocks is largely due to heavy toll of cattlehead caused by various diseases.

Lack of necessary medicare in the veterinary hospitals is also responsible for loss of cattlehead.

PABNA

Training on fisheries concludes

From Our Correspondent

February 8: A two-day training programme on 6 development of fisheries and livestock arranged by the Regional Information Department of Fisheries and Livestock, Rajshahi, ended recently at Agriculture Extension Department office.

The programme was inaugurated by Dr. M.A. Hamid Mia, Member, Director of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council, and ended with distribution of certificates among the participants by Dr. Ziauddin Ahmed, Additional Director, Directorate of Livestock.

MAGURA

Number of unlicensed rickshaws rising

February 8: Indiscriminate parking of rickshaws in busy commercial areas of the town has been causing much inconvenience to vehicular and pedestrian movement, reports UNB.

According to Vice-Chairman of Magura Pourashava, unlicensed three-wheelers outnumbering the licensed ones have been crowding the town making frequent traffic jam. At least 500 rickshaws in the town have valid licences, he said adding that rickshaws having licences are also thronging the town from nearby unions worsening the situation.

Rickshaw-pullers' unawareness of traffic and vendors have narrowed the space making journey risky.

BOGRA

7 get life term for murder

February 8: Seven people have been sentenced for life term in connection with a murder case, court sources said here, reports UNB.

The convicts were also fined Taka 5,000 each, in default, to suffer rigorous imprisonment for one year more.

The convicted are: A. Hamid, Samaul Alam, A. Mati, Farajuddin Kazi, A. Rashid, Poyuzuddin and Abu Zafar.

According to prosecution story, the accused people equipped with deadly weapons attacked co-villagers Kasimuddin and his sons while they were cutting bamboos in a field in Shibganj upazila on May, 1990.

The victims were rushed to Shibganj health complex where Kasim later succumbed.

Following investigation, police charge-sheeted nine persons.

District and sessions judge, Jashidur Rahman after examining the records and witnesses awarded the punishment recently to seven people and acquitted two others.

BHOLA

Tk 2.10cr Red Crescent plan in coastal districts

February 8: Bangladesh Red Crescent Society is implementing 14 projects at a cost of Tk 2.10 crore in three coastal districts in this fiscal year, reports UNB.



An ancient Hindu temple (Mandir) believed to be built during the reign of King Laxman Sen at Atpara, Munshiganj, is in a shambles calling for immediate renovation in historical interest. —Star photo by Mohsin

Reform in agricultural research underscored

AGRI-VARSITY (Mymensingh), Feb 8: The concluding session of a two week-long training programme on Research Planning and Evaluation under the joint auspices of the Graduate Training Institute of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) and the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC), was held at the conference room of the GTI Dormitory on January 31, says a press release.

The session was presided over by Prof. M. Mustafizur Rahman, Director of GTI and it was attended by the Vice-Chancellor of BAU Prof. M. Asadur Rahman as the chief guest.

In his address as the chief

guest, the Vice-Chancellor urged upon all concerned to recognise the importance and urgency of agricultural research for attaining the goal of self-sufficiency in food in an agro-based country like Bangladesh. He further put forward the necessity to ensure a thorough reformation in the current trends of agricultural research to bring them into agreement with the socio-economic and agroecological demands of our country. For this, we require to take up an intensive and integrated approach of research planning and management and, thus, we can develop a strong national agricultural research system much needed to overcome the problems of rural development

on priority basis; he further said.

The session was addressed, among others, by the course coordinators Mr. Amir Hossain, Associate Professor of GTI and Mr. Md. Abdul Momen Mian, Assistant Professor of GTI and four trainees Messrs J.U.M. Shoyeb, Monjure Alam Tarifer, Gurudas Mondal and Akbar Rahman.

The chief guest distributed certificates among the participating trainees.

It may be mentioned here that the training course, which was inaugurated on January 19 has been participated by a total of 20 senior scientists representing BARI, BFRI, BTRI and SRDI.

Notes from Dinajpur

From Our Correspondent

DINAJPUR, Feb 8: A meeting to review law and order situation of the district was held at Dinajpur Police Super's office premises with Mr. Md. Hadeuddin, SP in the chair recently. It was addressed, among others by Mr. Md. Shahjahan Ali, Acting Deputy Commissioner, Major Alam, Commander of 23 BDR Battalion, UNO of Sadar Upazila, public prosecutor and Mr. Osman Safi, OC of Kotwali PS.

Muktijoddha Command Council executives

The annual election of Muktijoddha Command Council, Nawabganj upazila unit was held peacefully recently with Mr. Shahjahan Ali in the chair. A six-member Command Council of the unit elected for the year 1991 is as follows: Commander-Akbar Hossain, Deputy Commander-Abdul Hachim, Organising Commander Tofazzal Hossain, Publicity Commander Imran Hossain, member-Shahjahan Ali and Dabirul Islam.

Indian goods recovered

The BDR personnel of 16 battalion at Phulbari managed to recover Indian made goods worth about Taka 1,02,950 from Atpara village near Bangla Hill border recently. The BDR patrol party, challenged a group of smugglers near the border while they were trying to enter Bangladesh territory. The bewildered smugglers threw their goods and managed to escape. The recovered goods were deposited with the Bangla Hill Custom office. A case has been registered with the Birampur PS in this regard.

Arms recovered

Chiribandar PS police recovered one pipegun and arrested one alleged dacoit on Wednesday last.

Acting on secret information, Mr. Zahedul Alam, OC of Chiribandar raided the house of one Mozammel Haque in the village Hasimpur under the same upazila and recovered one pipegun from the house. Mozammel Haque an alleged notorious dacoit was also held from the house. A case has been registered in this regard.

Fake NGO officials arrested

Two false NGO officials namely Anwarul Islam and Nurul Alam of 'Cooperative Rural Development Project', Phulbari bus stand, Rangpur were arrested by the Kotwali police recently. They were collecting money giving false appointment letters to job-seekers. A case has been registered in this regard.

3 electrocuted

Three persons of a family were electrocuted in a tragic incident in the village Shitalai under kaharol upazila recently.

One Rubel (5) son of Besharuddin Ahmed was electrocuted when he touched an uncovered wire in the house. His mother and grand mother were also electrocuted when they tried to rescue Rubel. All of them died on the spot.

Text books shortage in Chandpur

CHANDPUR, Feb 8: Students here are being affected adversely by shortage of text books from class six to nine in the district, reports UNB.

Book-sellers say English, Science, Maths, Bengali, Social Studies books of class six and nine are not at all available.

But it is alleged that unscrupulous traders do not want to sell text books without note-books, selling of which is banned under government law.

Political scene

Victory to Arab cause now an election issue

Star Report

Portrait of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has replaced the photographs of candidates in party posters in many village areas of the country. Election campaigns in those places focus more on Gulf war instead of political programmes. Speakers in mass rallies wish victory to the Arabs to the tune of the public sentiments.

Election camps set up at upazila headquarters and in hats and bazars also exhibit wall pictures to draw crowd. In addition, radio and television sets are kept at the camps for public view throughout the whole transmission hours.

Cox's Bazar

Our Cox's Bazar Correspondent says: Canvassing for collecting votes in the ensuing parliamentary election has started in full surging throughout Cox's Bazar district and hectic lobbying has also been continuing for respective party candidates.

In restaurant and teastall, it has become a hot topic of discussion. All the candidates of the area are now busy with canvassing and meeting. Election symbols like "paddy sheafs", "Boat", "Tiger" have been hung in prominent places of Cox's Bazar town and other rural areas.

Besides, posters, banners, festoons have already been posted on walls, trees and houses of the area. Several election meetings were held this week at several hats and bazars under the auspices of different political parties. Speakers at the meetings called for casting votes in favour of their respective party candidates in the coming parliamentary polls on February 27. Most of the voters seemed to be eager to use their franchise to elect public representative capable of working to bring economic emancipation.

A total of 31 candidates including one woman from four constituencies of the district are contesting the forthcoming election is Cox's Bazar district.

The constituency wise break-up of the candidates are: Cox's Bazar-1: Salauddin Quader Chowdhury (NDP), Zahurul Islam Advocate (A.L.), Mahmudul Karim Chowdhury (B.N.P.), Enamul Haq (Jamaat).

Cox's Bazar-2: Ishaq Mia (BKSAL, 8-party Alliance), Md. Rashid (B.N.P.), Mostaq Ahmed (N.D.P.), Shafulquallah (Jamaat).

Cox's Bazar-3: Salamul Ullah Advocate (Jamaat), Mostaq Ahmed Chowdhury (A.L.), Khalequzzaman Advocate (B.N.P.), Shahjahan Chowdhury (N.D.P.), Korshed Ara Begum (Jatiya Party).

Cox's Bazar 4: Shahjahan Chowdhury (B.N.P.), Hajee Abdul Gani (Independent), Mohammed Ali (A.L.), Shahjalal Chowdhury (Jamaat).

Chudanga

A report from Chudanga adds: Despite war in the Gulf electrifying in two seats of Chudanga district is going on in full swing.

Fifteen candidates from 12 political parties and independents are contesting the Jatiya Sangsad election in the district.

Of the total candidates, six are contesting the Chudanga-1 while nine are contesting Chudanga-2 seat.

The total number of voters in two constituencies are 4,56,811 of which 2,33,989 are male.

Faridpur

BSS from Faridpur adds: Election momentum is going a slow but steady pace throughout the district.

The enthusiasm which was found high in mid-January suddenly ebbed following the outbreak of the Gulf war.

Forty candidates are contesting the February 27 polls from five constituencies of the district. Ten candidates are contesting from Faridpur-1 (Boalmari-Alfadanga).

Madhukhal, Former Jatiya Party MP and Zila Parishad Chairman and presently Jatiya Samik Party President Shah Mohammad Abu Zafar is a candidate from this constituency.

In Faridpur-2 (Nager Kanda) eight candidates are contesting the polls including Awami League General Secretary Mrs. Sajeda Chowdhury and Bangladesh Janata Dal (BJD) chief Mr. K.M. Obaidur Rahman.

In Faridpur-3 (Faridpur Sadar) nine candidates, including BJD chief Mr. K.A. Obaidur Rahman, former B.N.P. Minister Chowdhury Kamal Yusuf and Joint Secretary General of Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh, Mr. Ali Ahsan Md. Mujahid are in the run.

Four candidates are in the field in Faridpur-4 (Sadarpur and Charbhadrassan) constituency including the son-in-law of Pirshahab of Atarshi Advocate Aduluddin Howladar from Zaker Party.

There are nine candidates for Faridpur-5 (Bhanga) seat. Besides, major political parties, some independent candidates are also contesting the election in this district.



Mrs. Munnun Begum contesting from B'baria

B'baria

Our Brahmanbaria Correspondent adds: Though Gulf war had initially shadowed election campaign, now it has reached its peak among the candidates of different political parties under Brahmanbaria district. The supporters of candidates have been holding in different parts of the town, bazars and in the remotest corners of the villages making pledges to attractive the voters.

All candidates are very much hopeful with the assurance of the care-taker government for conducting a free, fair and impartial election. The leaders of different parties called upon the people to come under their banner to help establish a welfare state. The candidates and their supporters have been making house to house campaign from dawn to dusk in the villages during the people to cast votes in their favour.

UNB from Barisal says: Three journalists will contest the upcoming February 27 parliamentary polls from different constituencies of the district.

According to political circle, Mustafizur Rahman, Editor of daily "Probas" will run in the election from Jhalakati-Nalchity constituency on Zaker Party tickets.

Shudhir Sen, district correspondent of the Dainik Bangla

From our Correspondent

disappointed daily without having any price of their sugarcane supplied to the Mills.

When contacted, Kushtia Sugar Mills authority told this Correspondent that they require Taka three crore immediately to pay the price of sugarcane supplied to the Mills by the growers. Same condition prevails in other Mills also. Mills authority said they were being gheraoed by the growers for the last seven days demanding prices of sugarcane. The present stock of sugar in the Mills stands now 10,000 Metric tons remaining unsold the price of which comes to Taka 29 crores 74 lakhs. The Mill has so far crushed 34.53

lakh maunds of sugarcane in 92 days of operation. Similar quantity of sugarcane is now standing in the fields.

Last year kushtia Sugar Mills sold 4730 metric tons of sugar by January and this year only 179 metric tons of sugar have been sold putting the Mills authority in a delicate position.

Mills authority admitted that enhanced excise duty and inflow of Indian sugar has created this grave crisis and unless and until the enhanced duty is withdrawn or sale price is reduced condition of all the 16 sugar Mills will continue to deteriorate.



BNP chairperson and 7-party alliance leader Begum Khaleida Zia addressing a public meeting at Khalishpur recently. —Star photo.