

Upazila roundup

BRAHMANBARIA

Onion, garlic prices up

From Our Correspondent
February 13: The prices of onion and garlic have marked a sharp rise in the Brahmanbaria district markets within a week. Informed sources said, onion is being sold between taka 70 and Taka 80 per kg against Taka 40 and 45 last week and onion is being sold at Taka 24 per kg against Taka 12. Moreover the prices of red pepper and ginger have also shot up.

2 die in separate incidents

Two persons died in two separate incidents in Brahmanbaria district on Friday last. In one incident Shaikat Ali (65) of Kena village under Sadar Upazila was killed on the spot in a road mishap. According to police, the victim while crossing the Dhaka-Sylhet highway was knocked down and crushed to death by a speeding bus. But the vehicle could not be identified. The deadbody was sent to Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital for autopsy. A case was lodged with Brahmanbaria police station.

Meanwhile, one Marjina Akhtar (52), wife of late Shamsul Haque of Gopalpur village under Nabinagar upazila committed suicide by hanging. The cause of her suicide could not be ascertained. The body was sent to Sadar Hospital for autopsy. A case was lodged with Nabinagar police station.

PABNA

Bar executives

From Our Correspondent
February 13: The annual election Pabna district Bar Association was held on January recently at the Bar Association conference room. Advocate Alhaaz Gazir Rahman and Advocate Mirza Atzur Rahman were elected President and General Secretary respectively.

KHULNA

12 jute mills incur loss

February 13: Twelve jute mills of Khulna-Jessore industrial belt are facing acute financial crisis failing to market their jute products, reports UNB.

According to sources, these mills under BJMC have been incurring huge financial loss since the month of June last year due to stoppage of export of low quality production and stockpiling of products.

Jute sacks (25,000 metric tons) worth about Taka 35 crore and Hessian goods (15,000 metric tons) valued at Taka 36 crore of exportable quality are lying unsold in the godowns.

There has been no shipment from June 1990 as purchasers have stopped buying jute goods. A large number of countries in the Middle East, Africa, UK and USA are reported to have stopped their regular business with BJMC due to unavoidable reasons, sources said.

Workers and employees of these mills are not getting their salaries. The top ranking officials are being gheraoed almost everyday. The workers are staging demonstrations bringing out processions and holding meetings for their wages.

MAULVI BAZAR

Stray dogs on rise

February 13: Stray dogs are on rise in the town creating panic among the dwellers, eyewitnesses said, reports UNB.

The dogs with scabby skin and various diseases are seen coming here and there in the town. Pedestrians can hardly avoid their contact while walking through roads and lanes.

Besides, school-going children become panicky when these dogs follow them for food.

NARSINGDI

Miscreants hurl bombs on police, 3 injured

February 13: Three policemen were injured when miscreants hurled molotov cocktails on them at West Rangamati here recently, police said, reports UNB.

Sub-inspector Nazrul Islam, constable Abdul Ali and Havildar Wazuddin sustained bomb injury when they raided the house of one Sangkar Shaha, where the miscreants

were allegedly making bombs and pipe guns. Havildar Wazuddin was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital in a critical condition, police said.

Police took into custody Swapan Bhuiyan and recovered one country-made revolver and some materials for manufacturing cocktails and pipeguns from the spot.

Bhuiyan was reportedly a member of ousted Jatiya Party.

RANGAMATI

Firewood seized from brickfields

February 13: A huge quantity of firewood worth about Taka one lakh was seized from two brickfields, police said here, report UNB.

Acting on a tip, a team of Chittagong Hill Tracts south forest division assisted by law enforcing agencies recovered the firewood recently.

The illegally extracted firewood were stockpiled in the brickfields beside Ghagra-Borachari road.

The brick manufacturers are widely using firewood in their brickfields in spite of government ban. Trees are being felled indiscriminately in the area creating ecological imbalance.

Meanwhile, government has allowed gas in the brickfields for burning bricks to minimise use of coal to save foreign exchange.

NARAIL

Rectified spirit being used as wine

February 13: Rectified spirit is being freely used as wine in Narail and Kalia Pourashava towns including Bordia under the district.

According to informed sources, addicted people are using rectified spirit at wine by mixing water. As per government rule, licences of rectified spirit are only issued to the bonafide homoeopath practitioners and medicine manufacturers.

It is alleged that a number of people who do not practise homoeopathy at all or do not have manufacturing business possess licences. As a result, they sell out their quotas either to liquor shops or directly to the consumers.

Mentionable that there is only one liquor shop in the district where foreign liquor and opium are being openly sold.

COMILLA

Arms recovered

February 13: Police recovered two pipe guns and 80 rounds of rifle bullets from different parts of the town here, reports UNB.

According to police, the arms and ammunition seized recently were left abandoned at Daulatpur and Kaliajuri area of the town. Police also recovered ammunition from Kotbari upazila.

None was, however, arrested in this connection.

Another message adds: Mobile court has fined 14 shopkeepers of Shashangacha and Kadirpur markets for keeping their shops open after 8 pm.

According to official sources, the mobile court, headed by Magistrate Rita Sen, realised a fine of Taka 1950 from the shopkeepers.

SATKHIRA

Dacoit killed

February 13: Angry people here Friday killed an alleged dacoit Abul Kashem of Dhangora village under Kalarna upazila, police here said, reports UNB.

According to sources, Kashem was called out from his house by some unidentified people in the evening and he did not return. Later his body was found in a nearby roadside ditch with some cut marks.

The body has been sent to morgue for autopsy and a case was registered with the Kalarna police.

GAZIPUR

Bail petition of ex-MP rejected

February 13: Bail petition of Hasanuddin Sarkar, ex-MP and ex-Chairman of Gazipur Zila Parishad was rejected by the court here, reports UNB.

Police sources said Hasan was accused of misappropriating the fund for the construction of a road under Tongi Pourashava in 1978 during his tenure of office as poura chairman.

A case was instituted with Tongi police in this connection. Hasanuddin surrendered to the police and was sent to court. Assistant and Special Judge rejected his bail petition recently and sent him to Jail.



AMUSING PUNISHMENT: Village children seemingly get as much amused in being taken to task as in the lessons they receive from their Hujur (religious teacher) who holds his classes in the open air, with a cane in hand. The typical scene holds good even today as in the old days. —Star photo.

Power failure hampers industrial production

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Feb 13: Frequent power failure and load shedding have become regular feature in the town and adjoining areas causing much inconvenience to the town dwellers and loss to businessmen, and industrialists.

Hardly a day or night passes without power disruption. Almost every night electricity goes off plunging the entire town into darkness. As a result students and businessmen have been suffering much. Erratic power supply has also affected production in local mills and workshops. Irrigation in the Irr-boro block with power connection is also affected at the sowing stage. The price hike of food stuff

in the market is largely attributed to frequent power failure. The people can not crush their paddy and wheat due to electric power disruption.

Besides fluctuation of voltage causes damage to electronic goods.

Traffic jam

A huge number of rickshaws, push carts and rickshaw vans on Kushtia roads and indiscriminate parking of vehicles at busy areas and occupation of footpaths by small traders creates traffic jams endangering the safety of the pedestrians and hampering the traffic movement. According to Pourashava sources, there

are 5000 rickshaws which have valid licences but the number of rickshaws plying on the roads of the town without licences is more than double.

Negligence of duty

Primary education in the district has been seriously hampered due to lack of facilities in the institution. Moreover negligence of duty on the part of the teachers create obstacle on the way of Universal Primary Education.

Sources said shortage of furniture, teaching materials like black boards, chalk and dusters and accommodation have impeded the academic

pursuit in all the primary schools of six upazilas of the district. Besides, dearth of trained and dedicated teachers has aggravated the problem. Sources further say that 50 per cent of the existing teachers remain on unauthorised leave while others who remain present continue their jobs as well as the job of proxy of the absentees and vice-versa as per their mutual routine prepared. In this way teachers remaining absent can have the opportunity to perform their personal jobs of those days. As there is none to look after all these irregularities this practice is going unabated in most of the primary schools.

Population Day observed in Chuadanga

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, Feb 13: The National Population Day '91 was observed here with a set programme arranged by the Family Planning and Population Control Department, Chuadanga.

A big procession paraded the main streets of the district with banners and placards inscribing slogans on population control.

A seminar was also held in the local Sreemantha Town Hall, and it was presided over by Mr. M. Tajul Islam, Deputy Commissioner, Chuadanga.

Dr. Amirul Rahman Shah, Civil Surgeon, Mr. Saiful Islam, Chairman, Chuadanga Sadar, Mr. Md. Fazul Haq, Deputy Director, Agricultural Extension Department, Dr. Anup Kumar Biswas, Dr. Flara Dhaly and Mrs. Mahabuba Khatun, Project Manager, also spoke on the occasion.

2 housewives allegedly commit suicide

DINAJPUR, Feb 13: Police here Friday recovered the body of a housewife from her house in Hhustirbandar village under Chhristbandar upazila, reports UNB.

Family sources said, Alaka (20) committed suicide by hanging herself from the ceiling of her house. Her husband Jagdish Chandra's alleged affair with other women forced her to kill herself.

Another report from Brahmanbaria says that Marjina Akhtar (52), wife of late Shamsul Haque of Gopalpur village under Nabinagar upazila hanged herself to death on Friday.



NARAIL: Heaps of garbage lying near the main road of Rupanji Bazar causing health hazard to the people. —Star photo

Krishi Unnayan Bank to disburse Tk 56 cr loan

From Our Correspondent

THAKURGAON, Feb 13: The Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank, Rangpur Zone undertook a massive loan-giving programme of about Taka 56 crores during 1990-91.

According to the sources, the loan will help increase agricultural production, agro-based industries, and employment opportunities by establishing small scale industries and other socio-economic activities in the rural areas of the northern parts of the country.

Of the total Taka 34 crore seven lakh will be disbursed as short-term, Taka 12 crore 87 lakh as medium term, and 8 crore 88 lakh as long term loan.

District wise break up is Dinajpur Taka 10 crore 10 lakh Panchagarh Taka five

crore 46 lakh, Thakurgaon Taka four crore 87 lakh, Rangpur Taka eight crore 17 lakh, Gaibandha Taka seven crore 55 lakh, Nilphamari Taka seven crore 19 lakh, Lalmonirhat Taka four crore 76 lakh and Taka seven crore 10 lakh for Kurigram district.

The bank will extend credit facility under special Agricultural credit programme, in different areas like irrigation equipment, DTW and STW utilization loan, Swarnirwar credit programme, potato cultivation, pesticide and fertilizer, fish cultivation, purchase of draft animal, and milch cows, small cottage industry, cotton cultivation, Tobacco cultivation and processing, processing of agri-products, land mortgage and financing of projects established under foreign loan.

Notes from C' Nawabganj

From Our Correspondent

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Feb 13: Advocate Mr. Ehteshamul-Mulk and Advocate Mr. Gulam Kabir were elected President and Secretary respectively of the Chapainawabganj Bar Association in the polls held at local Bar office recently.

Mr. Ehteshamul Mulk bagged 57 votes while Gulam Kabir got 87.

Krishi Unnayan Bank

A general meeting of Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank employees Association Chapainawabganj unit was held here at the auditorium of the local women's college recently.

Presided over by Abdul Mannan the meeting was addressed by Mahtabuddin, Shamsul Islam Jona, Advocate Sadiqul Bari, Hossain Ali-Pecar and Nurul Islam. The employees of the Association demanded rehabilitation of 111 employees who were retrenched in 1981.

Newsman humiliated

Mr. Shahidullah, a local reporter of Daily Mijlat was humiliated and threatened by an independent candidate contesting from Chapainawabganj 3 seat in the ensuing polls at Jhore village under Nachaul upazila. The members of the local Press Club strongly condemned the incident and demanded an immediate exemplary punishment to the candidate.

It is learnt that Mr. Khaleque, a member of Jatiya Party earlier insulted a few reporters when he was holding the office of Upazila Chairman.

Eye camp

An eye camp organised by Kansat Club under the auspices of Rajshahi Lions Club was held at Kansat recently. Out of 242 eye patients 60 had major operations. Dr. Mr. Torafdar operated the patients led by the medical team.

Litterateur dead

Mr. Mojibur Rahman a litterateur died of heart attack on January 25. He was 55. He had been involved in literary pursuit for a long time and composed many short stories, essays and a few plays which were staged later on several occasions.

Political scene

'Microphone race' causes sound pollution

Star report

Unconcerned about the solemnity of immortal Ekushey February, election camps set up across the country are playing popular Hindi songs along with Bangla over microphones. There has been a competition among the political parties and independent candidates to operate their camps as longer period as possible.

In doing so the competitors are using songs, either in Hindi or in Bangla indiscriminately to draw the attention of the electorates. Many other camps have begun playing historical dramas, particularly "Nawab Sirajuddowla", "Mir Kashmir", "Emperor Shahjahan", etc almost round the clock.

The "microphone race" is so intense that in each area it has taken the shape of one single show instead of separate exercises by various parties. Experts may call it sound pollution.

A Correspondent from Kurigram writes: The forthcoming parliamentary election has generated great enthusiasm among people with the expectation that this time they would be able to exercise their franchise freely and without fear.

A cross-section of people from different areas of the district was interviewed by this correspondent and they expressed their optimism that there will be a direct fight between Jatiya Party candidate

Mr. AKM Shahidul Islam and Jamaat nominee Principal Komar Uddin in Kurigram-1 consisting of Nagerswari and Bhurungamari Upazila-seat. The other candidates are: Kafilur Rahman (Zaker Party), Khairul Alam (BNP), Abdus Sobur Chowdhury (AL), Zahedul Haque (BSD) and Fazlul Haque (Muslim League).

Mention may be made that Awami League and BNP candidates are the newcomers in parliamentary polls this year. There are 2,59,793 voters in Kurigram-1.

Puraton Town, held many important posts during Ershad regime.

M. Com degree holder Tajul Islam was elected M.P thrice in 1979, 1986 and 1988. Even he was the last Land Minister of Ershad.

His father late Ponir Uddin Ahmed was a veteran Muslim Leaguer and MNA of the then Pakistan National Assembly. He is optimistic of his victory in the election race.

Maulana ANM Solaiman Mammad:

Moulana Solaiman hails from village Nakkati of Rajarhat Upazila. He is the Zila Ameer of Kurigram Jamaat-e-Islami.

He is determined to establish Islamic State in the light of Quran and Sunnah for an exploitation-free society.

AKM Samsujjoha (Janata Party):

Mr. Samsujjoha born at Kurigram Eidgha Para and graduated from Rajshahi, is determined to establish the people's right if voted to power.



Candidates contesting from Kurigram district. From top left: Abdus Salam (BNP), Zafar Ali (AL), Al-haj Tajul Islam Chowdhury (JP), Maulana A.N.M. Solaiman (Jamaat), A. K. M. Shamsujjoha (Janata Party), Shubhrangshu Chakravarty (BSD-Khaleque), A.K.M. Mayedul Islam (Independent) and Principal Serajul Haque (Jamaat). —Star photo

There will be four-pronged fight between BNP nominated Abdus Salam, Awami League candidate Zafar Ali, Jatiya Party candidate Alhaj Tajul Islam Chowdhury and Jamaat nominated Maulana ANM Solaiman in Kurigram-2 seat consisting of Kurigram Sadar, Rajarhat and Fulbari Upazilas. There are 2,76,811 voters in this constituency.

Other contesting candidates are Motlubar Rahman (JSD-Rob), Sayeda Gulrukh Mohal Seraji (Muslim League), Advocate Karam Ali (Zaker Party), AKM Samsujjoha (Janata Party), Advocate Zakaria (Islami Oikya Jote), Subhrangshu Chakravarty (BSD-Khalequzzaman), Ansar Ali (JSD-Intu) and Advocate Khaja Golam Murshid (Independent).

Recently this correspondent interviewed some of the candidates separately. Their views are given below:

Mr. Abdus Salam (BNP): Mr. Salam/hails from Nazira, Kurigram Sadar Upazila and graduated from Kurigram College in commerce. He was elected Pourashava Chairman and was sent to Korea for training during the reign of Zia. He is the Vice-President of Kurigram Zila BNP.

Answering to a question Mr. Salam said once he is elected he would make about efforts to find out solution to Dharia bridge. He considers Awami League candidate as his rival.

Mr. Zafar Ali (Awami League): Zafar Ali was born in village Kanthalbari of Kurigram Sadar Upazila and graduated from Kurigram College. He was elected VP of Kurigram College Students Union in 1973. He is the Union Parishad Chairman of Kanthalbari.

Zafar said, if elected he would fight for giving independence and democracy a constitutional shape. He would persuade the elected government to take up measures to construct Dharia bridge, save Kurigram people from floods and ensure supply of agri-inputs to the farmers.

Alhaj Tajul Islam Chowdhury (Jatiya Party): Tajul Chowdhury, who comes of a family of Kurigram

Subhrangshu Chakravarty (BSD): Mr. Subhrangshu, a central leader of BSD (Khalequzzaman) was born in Senai of Rajarhat Upazila.

Answering to a question, Mr. Chakravarty said, he will help solve unemployment crisis in the locality. He also expressed his determination to ensure power supply to irrigation-pumps in village areas of Kurigram-2 constituency, if voted to power.

There will be a triangular fight between independent candidate AKM Mayedul Islam, BNP nominee Mohul Islam Hokkani and Awami League nominee Amjad Hossain Talukder in Kurigram-3 consisting of Ulipur Upazila, according to views collected from a large number of voters of the area. There are 1,98,497 voters in Kurigram-3.

Other candidates for this seat are: Moulana Abdul Quddus (Jamaat), Mattiar Rahman (Islami Oikya Jote), Lutfar Rahman (JSD-Intu), Golam Mostafa (Jatiya Party), Aminul Islam (Zaker Party) and Abdul Jalil (Independent).

Interview with: AKM Mayedul Islam (Independent): Mr. Mayedul Islam, who hails from Ulipur proper held many important posts during Zia and Ershad regime. Even he was Minister of Ershad regime and resigned just before the fall of Ershad.

He was elected MP thrice in 1979, 1986 and 1988. This year he is contesting as an independent candidate for Kurigram-3 seat.

His father, Late Abul Kashem was also a prominent political leader and Deputy-Speaker of the National Assembly of the then Pakistan.

M.A. degree holder Mr. Islam's concern has always been to stand by the side of the distressed humanity and help them build up as self-reliant and productive force. He always believes in constructive work and politics of production. He is an industrialist and chairman of the Board of Editors of the Dainik Desh. He was over-confident of his victory.



RAJSHAHI: Vice-Chancellor of Rajshahi University Professor Amanullah Ahmed administering oath to the RUCSU executives at the installation ceremony recently. —Star photo.