

Upazila roundup

MADARIPUR

Road extension work in progress

From Our Correspondent

February 18: Work on the extension and repair of Bhanga-Madaripur Road, at a cost of Taka 2 crore is going on in full swing. This road is expected to establish direct communication between Dhaka as well as other districts of the country, official sources said.

Funded by the World Bank, the project is due to be completed within this year.

Gambling on rise

Gambling a social crime, has become a matter of concern to the town dwellers. Informed sources said, mostly young people are engaged in gambling in different places vitiating the peaceful atmosphere here.

It is alleged that they even resort to hijacking or sell valuable household goods to procure money for gambling. Any resistance from the public turns the gamblers more furious, dwellers complained.

SIRAJGANJ

Arms recovered

From A Correspondent

February 18: Belkuchi police under Sirajganj district have recovered two pipeguns, four bullets and a knife from village Someshpur recently.

Acting on a secret information, police recovered arms in an abandoned state. None arrested in this connection.

PABNA

Dacoity at night coach

From Our Correspondent

February 18: Daring dacoity was committed at a night-coach bound for Kushtia from Dhaka at Santipur under Santhia Upazila on Pabna-Narail highway recently.

According to an eye-witness, in disguise of passenger a group of armed dacoits numbering 10-12 looted cash and valuables worth Taka five lakh. However, the dacoits managed to escape. During dacoity 25 passengers were hurt which includes 5 females.

Eye camp opens

Mr Abu Salaiman Chowdhury, Deputy Commissioners, Pabna inaugurated a seven day long free eye camp on 15 February at South Government Primary School, Ishwardi.

The camp has been jointly organised by the Bangladesh Jatiya Andha Kalyan Samity, Sirajganj and Ishwardi Paurashava. Poor and incapable eye patients will get free treatment.

KUSHTIA

Rheumatic heart camp opens

February 18: Rheumatic Fever and Rheumatic Heart Disease control pilot projects were opened here at Burn Hospital in Alampur Friday, reports UNB.

Dr. Katsuhiko Yoshitake, project team leader, opened the centre at a function held at the hospital premises.

Renowned heart surgeon Dr. S. R. Khan, Project Director Dr. K. M. S. Strajul Haq and a group of cardiologists from Dhaka also attended the function.

This satellite camp would ensure periodic visits of medical teams with medicines and other apparatus and regular monitoring of the activities of the hospital.

The centre would also take preventive measures to check rheumatic heart diseases particularly among the children.

Dr. Yoshitake later visited Kushtia Shishu Hospital and attended large number of child patients suffering from various diseases including rheumatic fever and heart diseases.

BHOLA

Politicians urged to abide by polls rules

February 18: Khulna Divisional Commissioner AKM Faisal Haq in a meeting with the officials of seven upazilas of the district stressed the need for holding the ensuing polls free and fair, reports UNB.

He called on the politicians to abide by rules set by the Election Commission for peaceful and impartial holding of the parliamentary election.

He cautioned that any impediments in peaceful conducting of polls will be dealt with severely. He also asked the law enforcing agencies to mop up criminals and recover illegal arms.

Deputy Commissioner, UNOs and other officials at-

tended the meeting held recently.

PANCHAGARH

2 get life term for murder

February 18: Two people of Teestapara village in Debiganj upazila were sentenced to life term in connection with a murder case, court sources here said, reports UNB.

The convicts were also fined Taka 5,000 each, in default, to suffer six months rigorous imprisonment more.

According to the prosecution story, the accused Fajur Rahman and Nuruzzaman attacked their co-villager Saiful Islam of the same village with deadly weapons while he was on his way home from Bogra on September 19, 1989. He died on the spot.

Following investigation, police charge-sheeted the accused people.

The District and Sessions Judge, Alauddin Sardar after examining the records and witnesses awarded the punishment recently.

MALDEE COURT

Press Club executives

February 18: The election of the office-bearers of Noakhali Press Club was held here amid much enthusiasm, reports UNB.

Rafiquddin Ahmed (Ittefaq) and Mohiuddin Tokan (Banglar Bani) were elected President and General Secretary respectively. Belaluddin Kiron (Dainik Dinkal) was elected Treasurer.

Abul Hashim, a senior journalist conducted the polls.

MANIKGANJ

Fuel price hike hampers irrigation

February 18: About 12,000 acres of land are likely to remain uncultivated as irrigation in two upazilas here suffered setbacks due to fuel price hikes, reports UNB.

According to sources, 93 deep tubewells, 250 shallow tubewells and 50 power tillers of Shibabala and Harirampur upazilas are lying idle due to fuel crisis. The farmers have completed the bedding but the seedlings are drying fast in absence of irrigation facilities.

It is learnt that despite depositing money, the owners of the oil depots are not lifting their quotas. As a result, 90 per cent irrigation machines have now remained inoperative in the area.

The dealers are also allegedly selling diesel at exorbitant prices.

The Upazila Nirbahi Officer was informed of the situation but no action has yet been taken to solve the problem.

C' NAWABGANJ

Teachers, students boycott classes

February 18: Students and teachers of all secondary schools of the town boycotted their classes Thursday last in protest against the humiliation of the Headmaster of Chhainawabganj High School, reports UNB.

The incident occurred when the Headmaster Manjur Hossain was requesting Sadar hospital doctor Shamsul Alam Chowdhury to take intensive care of a jaundice attacked student of his school. At one stage the doctor got irritated and ousted the Headmaster from the hospital.

The teachers and students at a meeting condemned the incident. They later brought out a procession, gheraoed the hospital and demanded punishment of the doctor.

NARAIL

Steps to curb drug addiction needed

February 18: Numbers of drug addicts are increasing jeopardising social security of the town, reports UNB.

According to sources, drugs are sold openly in medicine stores and grocery shops with impunity.

Sedatives of different kinds, country-made and foreign liquor are abundant in supply and are being consumed publicly.

A well-organised group has been smuggling different kinds of drugs from India into the country, it is alleged.

In addition, addicts are resorting to various crimes like hijacking and money extortion for buying drugs.

Local guardians have urged the authorities to arrange police vigil in the town to curb the rising menace.



TONGIBARI: Spraying insecticide to protect potato field from pest menace. — Star photo

Hosiery faces closure in Pabna

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Feb 18: The hosiery industry of Pabna district is on the verge of collapse.

According to a survey, out of 200 big and small hosiery factories in the districts only 75 are functioning.

Meanwhile, 215 industries have been closed down and 1500 workers were rendered jobless.

Hosiery yarn, main raw material of this industry is not only in short supply but also sub-standard. It is necessary to import hosiery yarn to meet the demand.

Out of 250 industries, only 12 are getting bank loans. Besides, the rate of interest has increased by 13%. Two per cent to 13 per cent. Loans are given to only export-oriented hosiery to import modern

machinery under Balancing, Modernisation, Replacement and Expansion (BMRE) but was not available for its modernisation.

Lack of capital and absence of modern-dyeing factory is another barrier for improving the quality of the product.

The owners urged the government to provide necessary facilities for building a modern dyeing factory immediately to help improve quality product.

Due to high rates of sales tax the production cost of the hosiery goods are pushing up very rapidly. Thus the hosiery industry of Pabna district is on the wane in recent days.

Turmeric output

Due to some adverse effects

arising in the local markets out of low price and marketing facilities the cultivation of turmeric has been considerably decreased during the last season.

There is a bright prospect for large scale turmeric cultivation in most areas Bhurdi upazila of Pabna district.

According to the sources the soil as well as weather of the district is highly suitable for turmeric cultivation.

Bhurdi area is being considered as a principal turmeric producing zone in northern region. Some 1000 to 2500 acres of land are being brought under turmeric cultivation here annually. Since last year turmeric was cultivated on about 1000 acres of land.

According to the report, a total 10,000 acres of land in Pabna district has been found most suitable for turmeric cultivation. Of the total some negligible portion are being used for the cultivation of this item so far. If it is cultivated on more land Pabna district can produce exportable quantity.

According to an estimate, a total of 1000 tons of dry turmeric could easily be produced in the district annually. The price in the International market is about Taka two crore and demand for this item in the International market is also very high, it is learnt.

The turmeric is highly profitable exporting agricultural item if it is widely cultivated.

Shahjalal Varsity opens

Students urged to develop latent talents

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Feb 18: Shahjalal Science and Technology University took off on Thursday culminating a seven decade struggle for the university at Sylhet.

Professor Zillur Rahman Siddiqui, Presidential Advisor for Education formally inaugurating its programme called upon all to learn from failures and weaknesses in campus and accordingly fashion the education in a peaceful and congenial atmosphere. He stressed the need for an education policy in the country, in place of disorganised haphazard education programmes of the past that were bereft of continuity and direction.

Professor Samsul Haq

Chowdhury, Chairman of University Grant Commission speaking on the occasion urged the students to keep campus free of arms which he said arose from financial, and political indoctrination. He advised the teachers to teach students how to learn and study to develop their individual talents and genius.

Others who spoke included Jamil Chowdhury Additional Secretary, Ministry of Education, Nurul Hassan Khan, Chairman, Board of Revenue and Kazi Fazlur Rahman, Presidential Advisor for Environment and Irrigation. This year the University admitted 150 students in physics, chemistry, economics and honours classes.

Civic amenities absent at Narail

From Our Correspondent

NARAIL, Feb 18: About 65,000 residents of Narail Municipal Area are facing multiple problems due to absence of necessary amenities and civic facilities in the town.

The roads are narrow and numerous potholes have developed at different points causing untold sufferings to both vehicles and pedestrians. On the other hand truck drivers park their vehicles on the sides of the main roads which cause serious difficulties to the pedestrians.

Moreover, due to absence of proper drainage system specially in the areas of Dhapkhola, Bethoria, Bahirdanga water remains stagnant on the roads in the rainy season. As a result mosquito menace assumed an alarming proportion causing unbearable sufferings even at day time. Stagnant wa-

ter in the ditches and ponds and heaps of garbage on the road sides are ideal mosquito breeding centres. The situation becomes more worse just after sunset as nobody can pass a single moment peacefully. The municipal authorities seems to have deaf ear to the public sufferings.

Acute shortage of public toilets and urinals poses problem to numerous town dwellers especially of Rugganj and Narail towns.

People coming from outside the town are the worst sufferers who often respond to nature's call on roadsides thereby polluting the atmosphere of the town.

Besides, lack of adequate street lights have been causing much inconvenience to the residents.



MYMENSINGH: The students of Teachers Training College for Women presenting a Gato dance in the inaugural ceremony of the annual sports in the college premises recently. — Star photo

Political scene

Campaigns keep them away from flying kites

Star report

Flying of kites is a popular game for the children during this part of the year. But no kite is seen in the sky because of hectic electioneering across the country. Most teenagers in rural and urban areas are now busy in poll campaigns.

In Demra area of Dhaka 'kite' is the election symbol of Jatiya Biplobi Front candidate, Abul Hossain. Supporters of Mr. Hossain carry variety of large-size kites during processions and rallies urging people to vote for them. Posters with photographs of kites have also been hung on walls, roofs and trees.

But the young boys still find no charm in flying kites.

Syed Isa from Khulna Bureau adds: With intensive polls campaigning all the six parliamentary constituencies are in grip of election fever. According to latest survey excepting one seat, BNP and Awami League are contesting the polls to beg the seats.

In Khulna-one, constituency CPB candidate Prof. Achintya Biswas is still ahead of his arch rival SK. Harunur Rashid of Awami League and Binoy Krishna Roy of Jatiya Party. Even after Jamaat candidate's withdrawal of candidature could not help much the BNP runner M. Nurul Islam who is a stranger to the local voters.

In Khulna-two constituency SK. Razzaque Ali who could have an easy passage after successfully crossing the

constituency.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Ashraf Hossain said the 19 point programme of BNP which included provision for the employment of women in all fields of activities would be implemented. He also said that if the BNP is again voted to power, it would make adequate provision for the women so that they could work side by side with their menfolk.

Others who spoke in the meeting included Salma Aktar Tuli and Panna Sultana.

Thakurgaon

Three members of Parliament will be elected by 280413 men and 25,8151 women voters in the coming general election in Thakurgaon district.



Candidates contesting from Khulna district: From top left A. K. M. Ziauddin (BNP), S. M. Moinuddin (BNP), SK. Razzaq Ali (BNP), Advocate Firoz Ahmed (C.P.B.), S. M. A. Rab (JP), A. U. Ahmed (Independent), Saidur Rahman (UCL), Prof. Achintya Biswas (CPB) and Susanta Nandi (JSD-Rab).

— Star photo

Jamaat hurdle of Alhaj Md. Shamsur Rahman if the J.P. turned 'independent' runner SK. Abul Kashem was not there. Solid organisational background and reserve votes were the two weapons left for the Awami League contender Advocate Manjurul Imam to be victorious in this seat. Like the BNP candidate Awami League contender also has a definite hazard in his way as the C.P.B. candidate young-turk Advocate Firoz Ahmed is determined to curb him in the fight.

In Khulna-three once a legendary figure in labour politics and a former M.P. from the same constituency Ashraf Hossain of BNP leaving Jamaat candidate Maulana A.K.M. Yusuf far behind confronting Awami League central labour Secretary and the lone female candidate from the district Mrs. Mannujan Sufian to bag the seat. Local and non-local issue along with other typical equations of this industrial area constituency may decide the fate of any candidate where Mannujan has a plus point of being a local girl. The J.P. candidate S.M.A. Rab who is also a non local from the neighbouring district of Mr. Ashraf is a serious threat to Ashraf Hossain in the triangular fight.

In Khulna-four constituency Awami League candidate Mustafa Rashid Suja is still ahead of the race followed by A.K.M. Ziauddin of BNP, Kazi Aminul Haque of J.P. and former Minister S.M. Amjad Hossain of the Muslim League. Ziauddin who was an M.P. from this seat in 1979 election is reportedly progressing very fast after Begum Zia's visit.

In Khulna-five constituency Awami League central leader and a senior parliamentarian Advocate Salahuddin Yusuf is almost sure to bag the seat from his nearest rival the BNP fresher Prof. Majedul Islam. Things could be more easier for Mr. Yusuf if former minister Col. Gaffar could continue electioneering who has recently left the race following a case of misappropriation against him.

In Khulna-six constituency both Awami League and BNP seemed to have tried their luck by nominating two freshers of the soil but who were never to their places for any political purpose. On the other hand Jamaat candidate Shah Mohd. Ruhul Kuddus because of his organisational strength is almost sure to bag the seat from his nearest rival Awami League's Advocate Nurul Haque. BNP candidate Sardar Md. Moeuddin's is also reported to be improving.

A workers meeting of the Mohila wing of the BNP, Khulna, was held recently at the residence of BNP leader Mr. Ashraf Hossain who is also a candidate from Khulna-3

The total number of voters is 538,564 in the district. According to an official source, 243 Presiding Officers, 902 Assistant Presiding Officers and 1804 Polling Officers will perform their duties in three constituencies.

Twenty three candidates are contesting in three constituencies of the district. Party-wise breakup of candidates is as follows: Awami League-2, Bangladesh Nationalist Party-3, Jatiya Party-3, Jaker Party-3, Jamaat-e-Islam-3, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (Rob)-1, Bangladesh United Communist League-1, Freedom Party-1, Bangladesh Krishak Samik Awami League-1, National Awami Party (Mozaffar)-1 and Communist Party of Bangladesh-1. Besides, there are three independent candidates.

Sathkira

A meeting of all parliamentary election candidates from Sathkira district was held at the Deputy Commissioner's office for discussing 16 point-election 'acharan bidhis' and peaceful election.

Presided over by Mr. Kabeer Rahman, Deputy Commissioner, Sathkira the meeting urged all to follow the 'acharan bidhis' for holding a free and fair election.

Mr. Mohiuddin Siddique, ADC (General), Superintendent of Police, and Commanding Officer of BDR also attended the meeting.

Barisal

BSS further adds: General Secretary of Bangladesh Workers Party and leader of the Five-Party Alliance Rashed Khan Menon recently said that his alliance would revoke the denationalisation policy if voted to power.

Addressing a rally of workers at Barisal Textile Mills gate, Mr. Menon said the alliance would also implement the five-point demands of Sramik-Karmachari Oikya Parishad.

The Five-Party leader said minimum wages of workers would be fixed at the market price of five maunds of rice. He also addressed public meeting at Shaheer Hat a workers rally at Karikar Biri Factory.

Later addressing a rally of primary teachers here, Mr. Menon said the Five-Party would introduce corruption free education system if voted to power.

Referring to the crisis in educational arena, Mr. Menon said mismanagement-cropped up in the educational institutions due to autocratic ruling system. The party, he said, would make education free upto class Ten.