

Upazila roundup

BARISAL

Tk 2 cr uplift schemes

From Our Correspondent
March 4: Local Government and Engineering Bureau (LOEB) has undertaken two development projects for Barisal Sadar and Banarpara upazilas of the district with the estimated cost of more than Taka 20 lakhs during this fiscal year.

The development projects have included the development of upazila roads and reconstruction of an iron bridge in Banarpara upazila.

The projects will be started soon and will be completed by the end of this financial year, it is learnt.

Police asked to curb crimes

M. Anisur Rahman Khan, Superintendent of Police, Bakerganj met the police officers of the district at his office recently to review the overall law and order situation in the district.

Police Super urged the police personnel to maintain the law and order situation and curb the activities of miscreants. He also stressed on the recovery of illegal arms at any cost.

1125 tubewells to be installed

The Public Health Engineering Department (PHE) has undertaken a programme for installing 1125 deep tubewells in the district during this financial year.

With an expenditure of Taka four crore 50 lakhs this programme will be implemented under the village water supply project.

DINAJPUR

11 metric tons rice distributed

From Our Correspondent
March 4: Under special VGD programme, 11 metric tons of rice have been distributed among 550 distressed families in Dinajpur Sadar upazila. Maulana Mujibar Rahman, Sadar Upazila Chairman and local Union Parishad Chairmen jointly distributed the rice among VGD card holders during the last four months.

One killed

One Abdul Hannan (26) of village Palashbari in Chirribandar upazila died when he fell down from a running tractor near Bangkali at Ramirbandar on Saturday last. Hannan was admitted to the Dinajpur General Hospital where he died in the evening. However, the driver and helpers of the tractor managed to escape. A case has been registered in this regard.

The Bangladesh Human Rights Association, Bochaganj upazila unit arranged a discussion meeting with its President Advocate Nuruzzaman in the chair on Monday last. It was addressed by Advocate Mansur Rahman, Abdul Waresh, Saiful Alam, Mahinoor Ummul Wara Kumkum and Abdus Sattar.

MAULVI BAZAR

Boy crushed under wheels

March 4: A boy was crushed under the wheels of a speeding truck near Shahabandpur area under Sadar upazila, police said here on Sunday, reports UNB.

The victim was identified as Syed Abu Taher (14), son of Syed Akkadas Ali of village Srinagar.

Eye-witnesses said Taher was crossing a road near the area while the Sylhet bound truck knocked him down killing the victim on the spot.

Police seized the vehicle but the driver fled. A case was filed with the local police.

Another report adds: Bamboo production in the district is declining fast due to lack of maintenance of clusters and planned plantation.

Villager being ignored of proper maintenance, uproot the clusters and sell them as firewood in the markets.

According to sources, prices of bamboo have risen sharply following its scarcity.

Market sources say a medium size bamboo is selling between Tk 50 and 70 which is beyond the purchasing capacity of the poor villagers.

Meanwhile, repair and construction of kutcha houses in the district are being hampered badly for want of bamboos.

Besides, traditional cottage industries depended on bamboo is also facing extinction.

MYMENSINGH

Father killed by son

March 4: One person was killed by his son here at Jute quarter rally Sunday noon, police said, reports UNB.

Babul Singh (50) was allegedly killed by his son Tulsial Singh (22) following a hot exchange over a fish basket.

Babul was stabbed in the abdomen and died instantaneously. Police arrested Tulsial.

A case has been filed in this connection.

BARISAL

Dacoit held with gun

March 4: Villagers have caught red handed a notorious dacoit with a pipe gun at Mehdiganj upazila here, reports UNB.

Jamal Fakir (22), a terror in the area, was held by them on Wednesday while he was preparing to commit a dacoity at the house of Abdur Rahim.

He was later handed over to the police.

BRAHMANBARIA

Smuggled goods recovered

March 4: Smuggled goods worth about Taka 17.85 lakh were recovered from a mail train here by Bangladesh Rifles personnel, reports UNB.

Acting on a secret information, BDR jawans raided a Dhaka bound mail train from Sylhet at Brahmanbaria railway station recently and seized 280 bags of sugar, spices, sarees, hides and skins of different animals.

The goods were later handed over to Akhaura customs. A case was filed with Akhaura railway police in this connection.

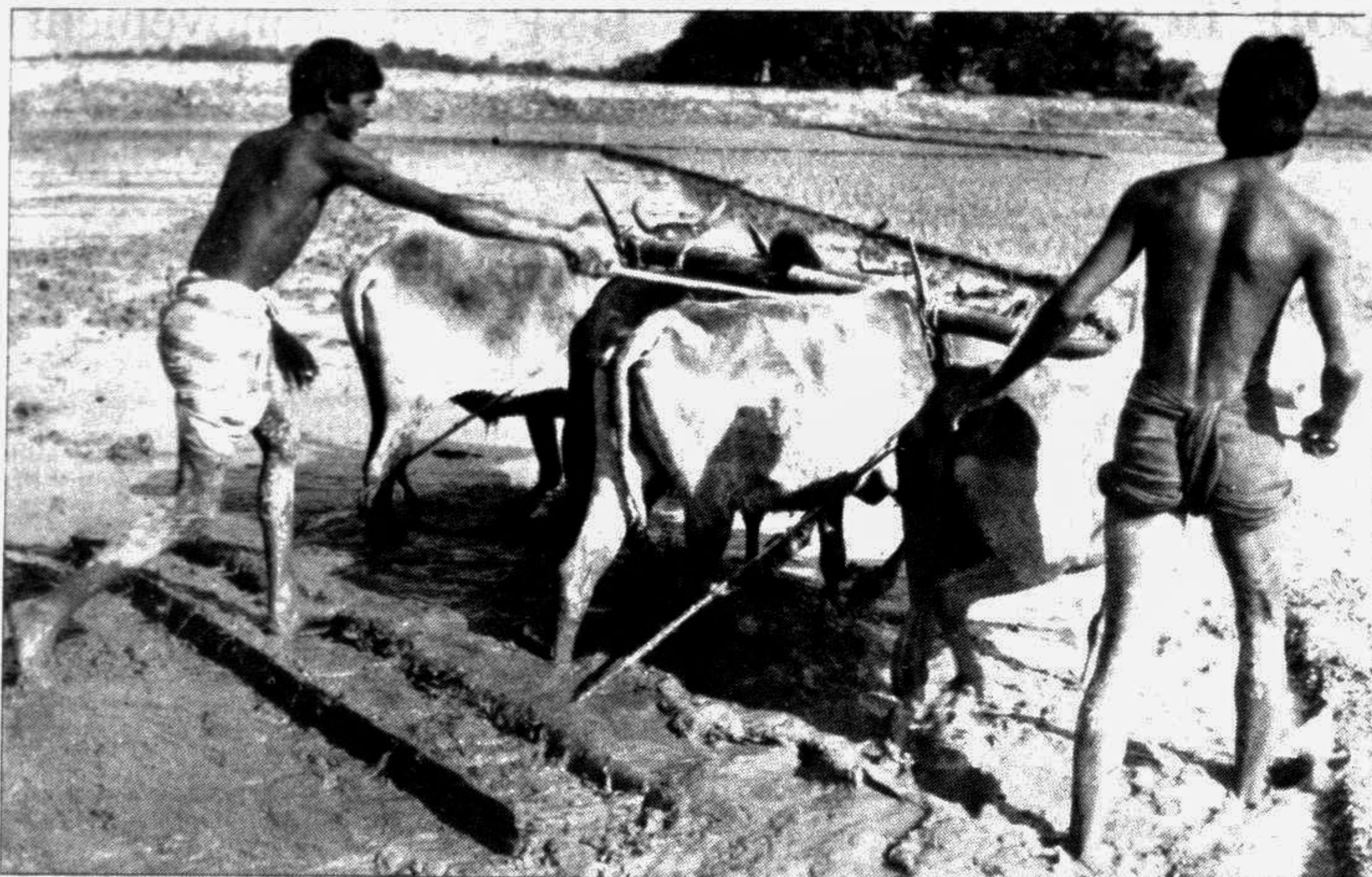
NETRAKONA

Transport worker killed

From Our Correspondent
March 4: A transport worker was run over by a truck Thursday last at Satpal area in Netrakona town.

Police said the victim Husain Ali (19) while trying to get down from the speeding truck he slipped off and went under the wheels. He was rushed to Netrakona Sadar Hospital, but on way to Mymensingh Hospital he died.

A case has been recorded with Netrakona Kotwali police.



Farmers preparing land with draft animals for sowing seeds at a village in Narayanganj district. —Star photo by Shafuddin Bitu

Zinc, sulphur proportion alarmingly low

Fertility of farmland decaying fast

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, Mar 4: Cultivable lands of the district have lost fertility to produce crop.

The fertility of the lands have been decreasing fast due to extensive use of soil to increase production all the year round.

The population boom has made an unprecedented pressure to farm-lands to grow more food for additional mouths to eat.

The farmers of the district do not keep their lands fallow after harvesting of crops, they prepare the same land for other crops soon after harvesting.

It is disclosed by a soil scientist of the Regional Research Centre, Jessore that the production capacity of cultivable lands have diminished gradually owing to exhaustive use and application of chemical fertilizers.

It is also learnt that 60 to 80 per cent cultivable lands of the district have lost sulphur and zinc resulting in 40 per cent of crop shortage.

The soil scientists have advised the farmers to use sulphur and zinc fertilizer to add fertility of the farmlands.

There are 2,12,019 acres of cultivable land in the district. Owing to use of chemical fertilizers on the soil organic value of the land has been diminished to five per cent and acidity of the lands has also been increased and loss of manganese has also been experienced.

The lands are gradually turning barren and unproductive.

In the past lands were kept fallow to improve this facility but now it is not done for food autarky for increased population.

Use of cowdung as fertilizer and organic manure prepared from plants and green leaves have been stopped. The farmers of the district told this correspondent that they cannot prepare cowdung manure for want of adequate live stock. Good result has been achieved in boosting production by using cowdung manure.

Our Bhola Correspondent adds: The unscientific and excessive application of chemical fertilizer specially urea affected the fertility of soil and hampered the desired production of the land.

This correspondent visited six southern districts Bhola, Barisal, Patuakhali, Pirojpur, Barguna, and Jhalakathi, accompanied by Mr. AHM Shamsul Islam Prodhon who has been working and monitoring different crops projects in Barisal as an agricultural scientist under a leading NGO for socio-economic development, Barisal Development Society (BDS) since 1980.

During their visit they found that leaves of potato, banana, green chillies, paddy (IRRI) etc. were being affected by cloudiness etc.

The cultivators said that the plants had been attacked by virus.

Mr Islam said that the appearance of plants, the leaves and branches, though looked like viral attack was in effect the results of unscientific and excessive application of chemical fertilizer specially urea which hampered desired crop production and affected fertility of soil.

Mr S. Islam explained that plants were very sensitive to fertilizer, climate, heat,

cloudiness etc.

Bad impact of excessive fertilizer

When the cultivators apply excessive urea on plants then the roots of plants want to keep themselves away from strong fume of ammonia gas defused from the urea. Urea is nothing but a chemical composition of ammonia which becomes nitrate and then plants absorb it from soil as vital force of energy.

As a result, the roots do not get sufficient oxygen from soilpore easily which is essential for photosynthesis and respiratory mechanism of plants.

Mr. Islam added that if cultivators of southern part of Bangladesh apply urea, TSP, MP etc. scientifically on crop-land —3 tolas (34 grams) per square feet of land — it would be helpful to the growth of plants and desired crop production.

It will also help prevent decaying of land fertility.

During our visit we found most of the farmers are habituated to use more fertilizer to yield more crops.

Mr S. Islam explained that plants were very sensitive to fertilizer, climate, heat,

No students' hostel at Maulvi Bazar

Roadside shops create traffic jam

From Our Correspondent

MAULVI BAZAR, Mar 4: Shops by the side of old Hospital Road in West Market and Court Road at T.C. market have been creating traffic jam for a long time.

It may be mentioned here that due to small space in the fish and vegetable markets at Maulvi Bazar District Headquarters the sellers sit regularly on the roads at least twice a week on hot days causing untold sufferings to the buyers, sellers and vehicular traffic and passers-by.

The population of this district town has been triple in the recent years and as a result, the number of buyers and sellers have also gone up in the fish and vegetable markets.

Besides, hundreds of consumers from rural areas and suburbs also come to the markets regularly. But the expansion of the market place by the authority concerned is yet to be ensured.

The acute accommodation problem in these markets could easily be solved if the meat and dry fish market of attached space is shifted to a suitable place at old T. C. market.

Maulvi Bazar district town does not have any hostel for either school or college girls and it is also strange enough that there has not been a move of any kind so far from any quarter to meet this problem.

It may be mentioned here that there are two colleges, one co-education and other women's, and two girls' high school in this town and there is no hostel for female students.

Since Maulvi Bazar is a District town guardians send their wards for better education but as there are no hostels, there is always an acute problem for lodge and boarding. The problem reaches its climax during secondary and higher secondary examinations when thousands of female students come from far flung areas. Guardians feel themselves harassed as they can't cope with the situation.

It may well be mentioned here that the only girls' hostel attached to the Ali Amzad Government Girls' High School is being used as class rooms of the said school as the old school building has become unfit for use and been abandoned for quite a long time.

It is an urgent need of the hour to get at least two female hostels constructed — one for the college and the other for the school — in the interest of female education.

Roadside hotels

Mushroom growth of roadside hotels and restaurants in the district has long been posing threat to public health. Most of these hotels and restaurants have sprung up by the side of lanes and by-lanes amid unhygienic condition.

Kaliakorr-Boliadi Road in Gazipur is lying dilapidated for the last 14 years. Rickshawpullers feel comfortable to use the lane meant for passers-by rather than the road itself. —Star photo

Political scene

Public resistance against violence encouraging

Star Report

Post election violence across the country has so far claimed four lives besides injuries to over 500 people during the last five days. Clashes among the rival political workers still continue.

Our outstation correspondents have reported death and injuries due to clashes from Khulna, Mymensingh, Bhola, Patuakhali, Kurigram, Pabna, Jessore, Barisal, Sunamganj, Gopalganj, Nawabganj, Narsingdi and Keraniganj.

In most cases clash originated from spraying of coloured water or provocative utterances on the part of one section of supporters of a party against another.

A Star Correspondent from Jessore reported that a 25-year-old man, Biplob was killed on the spot and two others were seriously injured in a bomb explosion at Kashba Sunday night. The bomb was kept planted on the main thoroughfare in the town.

In another clash, 10 persons belonging to two rival groups of workers were injured, three of them seriously in Patuakhali on Saturday. Over 30 shops were damaged and another 15 looted following the incident. The local Merchants Association observed a full day hartal in protest against the damage and looting of the shops. The members of the association also brought out a protest procession in the town.

In an encouraging that public response to the incidents in many places was quick. Local leaders came forward and helped members of the law enforcing agency to bring the situation under control. The leaders held meetings and called upon the people of all sections of the society to desist from using force. This must stop, they told the gatherings.

Separate clashes between two rival political parties left 21 people including two women injured since the announcement of election results on Thursday. Police and hospital sources here said, reports UNB.

The incidents occurred when the activists of Awami League and BNP clashed between Friday and Sunday in Shingashalpur, Dariapur, Dhalaitala, Arajbasgram, Sumerukhola, Ruppaganj Bazar, Nakhosi, Muldair, daitapara villages and Narail town.

Among the injured, 12 were taken to the Narail Sadar Hospital and two to Jessore Hospital while the rest were released after first aid. The condition of four people were stated to be critical, the sources added.

Twelve people have so far been arrested in this connection.

4 fake voters held in Kushtia

Our Kushtia Correspondent adds: Four persons were caught red handed while they went to cast false votes.

It is reported that at the time of election one Salim (20) was taken to the Presiding Officer at Mazempur Primary School who claimed to be a polling agent.

He confessed his guilt to the Presiding Officer. Later he was handed over to police. The other three persons were arrested from different polling centres.

Manikganj

A message from Manikganj adds: At least 10 people were injured in a clash between supporters of two political parties at Joipurhat village in Daulatpur upazila, police said here Saturday.

According to witnesses, activists of Awami League and Jamaat-e-Islami clashed exchanging brickbats and bombs.

The injured were released after first aid at Daulatpur upazila health complex. No case was, however, filed.

Arrest of UNO, UZ Chairman demanded

SIRAJGANJ, March 4: The District BNP has demanded arrest of Upazila Chairman and Upazila Nirbahi Officer of Kazipur as well as local Awami League activists accusing them of rigging in Wednesday's polls and creating terror in six polling centres, reports UNB.

The BNP district committee in a meeting at Kazipur on Sunday threatened to call hartal if the demand was not met within three days.

Chaired by Amir Hossain Bhulu, the BNP candidate who lost in the election in Sirajganj-1 constituency, the meeting was also addressed by Nure Alam Helal, Abdul Mannan, Saidur Rahman Bachchu and Prof Aminul Islam.

Awami League Public Secretary Mohammad Nasim

has been unofficially declared elected from the constituency. Nasim polled 48,338 votes compared to 26,618 by his nearest rival, Amir Hossain Bhulu of BNP.

The speakers alleged that the AL activists, in collusion with Upazila Chairman and the UNO, resorted to large scale rigging in six centres—Kotgar High school, Kachihara primary school, Beripatal primary school, Ghoragacha primary school, Rehaigari primary school and Raghunathpur High school.

They also alleged that out of 1900 votes at Raghunathpur centre, the AL workers rigged 1700 votes by driving out the BNP polling agents forcibly, beat former Upazila Chairman Abdul Majid and damaged his house.

847 killed in train mishaps in 10 years

From Our Correspondent

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, March 4: At least 847 persons were killed and 6780 injured in 2680 train accidents during the last 10 years.

According to a survey, these accidents mainly occurred due to wrong connections in setting up of points, faulty signals, technological defects and various other reasons.

It is learnt that of the total accident 209 were due to collision, 2305 for derailment, 33 fire and 133 due to obstacles in running trains. Out of the total deceased 287 were passengers, 107 were railway employees and 476 were others, and of the total injured persons, 1,488 were passengers, 4,596 were railway employees and 624 were unidentified.

According to the sources, Bangladesh Railway has incurred a loss of Taka 10 crore because of these accidents.

Ration goods in blackmarket

From A Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, Mar 3: The poor people of Mymensingh district are being deprived of the rural rationing facilities allegedly due to the lack of necessary supervision of the concerned departments.