

National

Upazila roundup

MAULVI BAZAR

Coal price hike hits brick production

From Our Correspondent

March 11 : The Brick manufacturers of Maulvi Bazar district have long been incurring losses due to non-availability of coal at fair price.

Due to the unusual increase in coal price the local brick manufacturers have been compelled to increase the price of their product.

It may be mentioned here that price of bricks earlier went up considerably following imposition of ban on use of gas and firewood in brick fields.

KUSHITIA

Train derails

From Our Correspondent

March 11 : Train communication remained disrupted for four hours on Saturday derailing of two bogies of a goods train near Kushitia main railway station. This accident occurred within 24 hours of another accident at the same place.

As a result passengers travelling to Pordah and Rajbari section suffered a lot of inconveniences as all trains running within the time remained stranded. Absence of checking of railway track and utter negligence on the part of railway authority are the root cause of frequent derailment of bogies in this line.

BHARAMARA

Cyclonic storm damages houses

From A Correspondent

March 11 : A severe cyclonic storm at a speed of approximately 80 kilometer per hour swept over Bheramara upazila recently. As a result many of the dwelling houses were razed to the ground and many trees were uprooted. Temporary shades on Paksey and Bheramara ferryghat were blown away. Three persons are reported to have been injured.

Electricity was interrupted for 27 hours. The fault was in 11 kv main control room.

However, after frantic efforts power supply was restored on the following night at 11.30 p.m.

NANDAL

Teachers' Welfare Assoc executives

From A Correspondent

March 11 : The biennial general meeting of Secondary Teachers' and Employees' Welfare Association Kendua upazila was held at Joy Hor Pilot High School premises recently.

Presided over by Syed Abu Sadeq, Head master, Kendua Pilot High School the meeting was attended by Mr. Abdul Haq, U.N.O. Kendua as chief guest.

A 42 member executive committee was formed with Syed Abu Sadeq, Mr. Serajul Islam, A.S.M. Abdul Matin, Mr. Abdul Goni and Mr. Mohiuddin as President, Vice presidents, General Secretary and Assistant General Secretary respectively.

Arms recovered

Iswarganj police recovered one pipegun, two rounds of ammunition, a gun, a bayonet from Patkura and Sri Nagar villages in separate raids recently.

Jalaluddin (22) was arrested in this connection.

Separate cases in this regard were registered with Iswarganj police.

COMILLA

Discussion on Women's rights held

From Our Correspondent

March 11 : In observance of the International Women's Day Bangladesh Foundation of Human Rights (BFHR) organised a discussion meeting at Comilla Ushai Niketon. The discussion presided over by Mrs. Jahan Ara Begum. Principal Dewar Jahid was present as chief guest. It was addressed by Mr. Ramiz Khan and Sayed Nurur Rahman.

The meeting stressed the need for establishing the rights of rural women and the women of the slum.

KURIGRAM

Money lenders active

From Our Correspondent

March 11 : Money lenders are doing brick business in rural areas of the district taking advantage of the poverty of

Notes from Panchagarh

common people. According to sources, marginal farmers and poorer section of the villagers borrow money for cultivation and to meet emergency needs against mortgage of property.

Greedy money-lenders charge interest at the rate of Taka 10 to 15 per month or one and a half maunds of paddy against a loan of Taka 100 only.

The loans often fail to repay the loans and the money-lenders eventually confiscate their property making them destitute.

Tk 10 lakh property gutted

One cow, two goats, one sheep were roasted alive and properties worth about Taka 10,000 were gutted following a devastating fire that broke out recently in the house of Azgar Ali of village Reterbhita in Chilmari Upazila of Kurigram district. One person received burn injuries and was admitted to hospital in a critical condition.

It is reported that, the fire originated from the cow-shed of the house at dead of night and soon spread the entire surrounding areas which gutted ten tin-sheds and twenty four thatched houses with all household belongings.

Chilmari upazila Nirbahi Officer visited the spot.

PABNA

Ration goods sell at blackmarket

From Our Correspondent

Rice and wheat, sanctioned under Palli rationing system are being sold in black markets in new upazilas of the district, local people alleged.

Some dishonest dealers of Sadar, Ishwardi, Chatmohor, Atgaria, Santhia, Faridpur, Bera, Bhungra and Sujanpur upazilas are involved in the misappropriation of food grains earmarked for sale under the Palli ration system.

The government has fixed the price of rice at Taka 7.34 per kg. for sale in the ration shops. But one kg. of ration rice is selling between Taka 10 and 11 in open markets.

District officials admitted that they were receiving complaints against the dishonest dealers and said steps were being taken in this connection.

BARISAL

Disciplinary action against 2889 HSC examinees taken

From Our Correspondent

March 11 : Jessor Education Board authority has taken several terms of disciplinary action against 2889 HSC examinees who appeared in 1990 HSC exams. This decision has been taken in a meeting of Disciplinary Committee of the Board held recently.

Actions have been taken against these examinees for adopting unfair means in the examination centres, corruption and other charges. These decisions have been taken according to the reports of examination controlling authorities and the head examiners.

In 1990, results of 1923 HSC examinees were kept withheld. According to the decision of the Board authority, 897 students were expelled for 2 years, 61 students for 3 years, 2 students for 5 years and one student was expelled for 4 years.

SIRAJGANJ

30 p.c VGD cards found false

March 11 : Thirty per cent VGD cards for foodgrains have been found false in three upazilas here. It is alleged, reports UNB.

Rice and wheat are distributed for flood affected people of the areas under the Vulnerable Group Development programme.

According to sources, government and various NGOs issued 5,734 cards under the programme for the distressed people of Belukuchi, Ullapara and Talash upazilas.

But 30 per cent cards were found issued against names of dead people and employees of various offices.

Under VGD programme, a state receives 32 seers of foodgrains per card. But some officials in charge of distribution were allegedly supplying only 25 seers of foodgrains instead.

Local people have expressed their resentment over the misappropriation of foodgrains and demanded probe into the matter.



Not all for her child to play with, but for the market the artisan woman gives finishing touch to her clay lions — to fetch pay off for the family.

— Star photo

Modern facilities absent in modernised hospital

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, Mar 11 : Chandpur Modernised Hospital is beset with problems including shortage of medicine, bed, food and inadequate number of doctors, nurses and other staff.

The hospital has only 50 beds which cannot cope with the needs of 20 lakh people of the district. Sometimes patients are compelled to stay on the floor of the hospital.

Cardiography, blood, eye E.C.G. and child departments are going without doctors for a long time. Besides due to shortage of doctors many other important departments cannot

be run properly. The existing doctors cannot cope with rush of patients everyday. Newly supplied X-ray machines, E.C.G. machines, dental and eye machines could not be installed due to shortage of accommodation in the hospital.

As a result important machines are lying on the footpath of the hospital. The hospital authorities said the hospital should be immediately turned into a 100-bed hospital to meet the growing need of the district.

According to hospital sources, medicines and food

supplied to the patients are quite insufficient. There is no blood bank and separate ward for infectious diseases in the hospital. Number of ward boys and sweepers is inadequate. Shortage of accommodation of doctors and nurses are reported. At present the hospital has only one ambulance which is out of order. The hospital has no oxygen to meet the emergency. Operation theatre in accommodated in a very short space. The air condition machine of the operation theatre remains sometimes out of order.

Pirates loot Tk 10 lakh valuables

Rivers alarmingly silted up in Manikganj

MANIKGANJ, Mar 11 : The rivers Dhaleshwari, Ichhamoti, Kalioganga and a portion of Jamuna and Padma, flowing through the district, are being alarmingly silted up posing threat to irrigation, pisciculture and navigation, reports UNB.

According to official sources, with the advent of dry season, the water level of these rivers fell sharply bringing threat to irrigation, pisciculture and navigation.

Meanwhile, about 20,669 metric tons of potato were produced in the district during the current season, official sources said.

Agriculture Extension Department under intensive scheme brought 1923 hectares of land under potato cultivation in the district.

100 cataract patients

At least 100 cataract patients were operated upon and 300 patients with eye complications treated in a week-long eye camp at Atwari upazila, organiser said here today.

The camp inaugurated by upazila parishad chairman Zafiruddin Ahmed was jointly organised by the upazila parishad and BNSB eye hospital, Dinajpur.

The operation was conducted by ophthalmologists from BNSB eye hospital. Spectacles were distributed free of cost among the patients.

Excess fares being realised from passengers

MAGURA, Mar 11 : Excess bus fare are allegedly being collected from passengers in different routes of the district, reports UNB.

According to sources, passengers are to pay Taka five to six distance of 8 miles from Magura to Khamarpur while travellers from Mohammadpur to Magura are charged Taka 10 to 12 for only 13 miles distance.

Some staff of the buses even behave very badly with the travellers to realise excess fare, passengers alleged.

Stewards have urged the authorities to take necessary action in this regard.

Body recovered

Police recovered the body of Javed Ali a member of outlawed Sarbabora Party, from Panchakunda village in Saltila upazila.

The body was found lying in a latrine of Satkhali Government Primary School on March 2.

The body bore marks of stab injuries.

Javed Ali (35) was killed by his fellow party members following a rift over sharing of looted money, villagers said.

The body was sent to morgue for autopsy and a case was filed.

It is learnt that the thieves

beside, ferries and launches plying between Aricha-Nagarbari and Padma and Aricha-Daulatdia ghats are taking on and a half hours extra time to reach their destinations.

Another report from Sherpur adds: Massive siltation in the river Brahmaputra has caused great inconvenience to riverine transportation as well as irrigation.

According to official sources, over 10,000 acres of Irri-boro fields are drying up as irrigation suffered setback due to shortage of river water.

Another report from Manikganj adds: At least 20 people were injured and valuables worth over Taka 10 lakh looted in 15 piracies in different routes of Jamuna and Padma rivers during last one and a half months, police here said.

According to sources, goods by riverine transports have become almost impossible as pirates increased in those points.

Passengers alleged that poorly equipped river police are simply ineffective to put down the rising menace.

Besides, 12 dacoits were reported to have taken place in small boats during the last month. A boat carrying cattleheads and fish were looted on February 28.

Meanwhile, movement of goods by riverine transports have become almost impossible as pirates increased in those points.

Passengers alleged that poorly equipped river police are simply ineffective to put down the rising menace.

Witnesses said they died instantly after the accident at about 5.15 pm.

Ershad's wife Nur Ayesha (32) and her two-month-old baby were critically injured in the accident.

Police sent all the bodies and the injured to Ramu Hospital.

Arms recovered

Police have recovered four rifles during two separate raids in the Subdarbar recently and arrested two miscreants in this connection, an officials handout said in Dhaka on Thursday, reports BSS.

The raids were conducted on February 26 and March 2 recovering the rifles with a total of 73 bullets. Some miscreants have made good escape but two of them have been arrested during the raids, the handout said.

An Ansar commander fled with these rifles from a passenger launch from Shaplaqa of Mathbaria Upazila under Pirozpur district on February 11, the handout added.

Meanwhile, the Kotwali police of Jessor conducted a raid in Rajnagar village of the district on March 4 and recovered 12 left-away magazines of light machine gun (LMG), 310 round of bullet, one grenade and a few pots of explosives from there, the handout said.

The people of the area demanded the concerned authorities to take immediate measures to control the situation.

After extracting paddy from stalks it is isolated from dirt etc. in a number of ways: Here a Comilla village woman is winnowing the crop — a common scene in rural Bangladesh.

— Star photo

Cattle lifting on rise in Chuadanga

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, Mar 11 : Cattle lifting has become a frequent menace in the border areas of Chuadanga district.

According to reports, during the last fortnight about 23 cattlehead have been stolen from 11 villages of which five are under Jibana Nagar upazila of Chuadanga.

It is learnt that the villagers have become panicky and some of them are passing their nights in cow-sheds to protect their cattle.

It is learnt that the thieves

Political scene

But the friendship is ever lasting

Star report

Altercations between two friends over the formation of incoming government led to violent clash at Rajshahi on March 3. The clash left both the friends and several of their supporters injured, one of them seriously.

The storm literally originated from tea cups — between the two close friends, Zahid and Bulu, at a stall in Boaliahat of Lalpur upazila. They belong to two political parties.

Exchange of hot words attracted a large number of supporters of Zahid and Bulu. At one stage clash between rival groups ensued which lasted for over half an hour. The tea stall was badly damaged.

All the five injured persons were taken to Lalpur upazila health complex and admitted there. The condition of one injured man was stated to be critical.

A correspondent of the Star visited the health complex later and found to his astonishment that both the injured friends were lying on two separate beds, side by side, exchanging sweet words.

Our Patuakhali Correspondent adds : To mark the landslide victory in the Parliamentary election and subsequently with the victory of BNP nominated candidate Keramat Ali in Patuakhali-1 constituency, BNP supporters brought out a colorful victory procession in Patuakhali town on Thursday. The jubilant rally paraded the roads of Patuakh