

Upazila roundup

MADARIPUR

Pragoti Club executives

From Our Correspondent
March 14: Election of the office-bearers of the Pragoti Club here was held amid much enthusiasm.

Md Hossain Akhand and Md. Sadekur Rahman Khan were elected President and Secretary respectively while Gopal Chandra Das was elected Treasurer.

Md. Alamgir Hossain, a businessman conducted the polls held recently.

KUSHITIA

Significance of women's day discussed

March 14: A symposium on international women's day was held at the auditorium of district office of Women Directorate.

The symposium was presided over by Mr. Razia Mannan, Chairperson, Jatiya Mohila Sangstha.

Mr Abu Taher Patwary, Mrs: Razia Aziz, Mrs Sandya Rani Biswas, Mrs Mustari and Mrs Nadira Begum addressed the symposium and they discussed the significance of the day.

Health department worker missing

Mizanur Rahman (35) of village Shawnta under Kumarkhali P.S, working as a field worker (vaccination) in Dawlatpur Upazila Public Health Department has been missing since October last year. His relatives have not got any trace of him after long effort.

A G.D has been lodged with Kumarkhali P.S in this connection.

BARISAL

Property worth Tk 7 lakh gutted

From Our Correspondent
March 14: Property about Taka seven lakh including 250 maunds of rice and paddy and five dwelling houses of Abdur Razzak Pandit of Kazirchar village of Mehendiganj upazila under Barisal district have been gutted in a fire on Thursday last.

Villagers at the time of incident shifted off 3 houses from that place and saved the belongings.

It is learnt that the fire originated from a kitchen.

NANDAIL

Seminar on Quranic education

From Our Correspondent
March 14: A seminar on "necessity of Quranic education in childhood" was held at Katakhal Ebtedal Madrasah under Nandail upazila recently.

Presided over by Al-haj Maulana Abdul Matin Pirshahib of Chapol the seminar was addressed by Maulana Aftab Uddin Hanafi, Principal, Targhat Senior Madrasah, Maulana Abdur Rahman Pesh Imam, Kaliganj Jami Masjid, Maulana Hafiz Mamtaz Uddin Lecturer, Kaliganj Babul Ulum Dakhil Madrasah, Musharrif Hossain Akhand, columnist, Dainik Jahan and Qari Md. Nawab Ali. The speakers emphasized on the necessity of teaching the holy Quran from the childhood.

In this regard the speakers urged the government to save the Ebtedal and Furkania Madrasahs of the country from the verge of ruin.

COX'S BAZAR

Tk 150 cr allocated for development of roads

From Our Correspondent
An amount of Taka 150 crore has been allocated for

development of communication net work in Cox's Bazar-Chittagong high way during the current year. The amount has been allocated for development and extension of about 150 km long Cox's Bazar-Chittagong highway, two by-pass and construction of about 50 culverts and 100 bridges.

PABNA

Heroin recovered, 5 arrested

From Our Correspondent
March 14: District police arrested five persons along with 35 gms of heroin from the house of Jamaluddin Hossain of Krishnapur village of the district recently.

Acting on a secret information, police surrounded the house of Jamaluddin and arrested Jamil Hossain, Md. Ranga, Lutfur Rahman, Alamgir and Shahid who were making tiny packets with the Heroin. A case has been filed at Pabna thana in this connection.

BRAHMANBARIA

50,000 weavers likely to be unemployed

March 14: The district's 50,000 weavers are likely to be thrown into unemployment as price hikes of necessary inputs have threatened the existence of factories, reports UNB.

About 13,000 weaving machines have already been closed down due to sharp price rise of cotton yarn, dyes and chemicals in the local markets.

According to sources, there are about 5,500 weaving machines in Bancharampur upazila while 2,800 of them were rendered inoperative during the 1988 devastating flood.

Besides, smuggled Indian textile goods, which flooded the markets, have further aggravated the situation.

Potato growers at stake

Potato farmers here have been forced to sell their produce at throw away prices in absence of storage facilities, reports UNB.

According to sources, potato worth lakhs of taka get rotten due to absence of cold storages.

Potato production during the current season has broken all previous records. But in absence of cold storages, farmers are selling potatoes between Taka 120 and 140 per maund, which is much below the production cost.

Titas rivers silted up

Massive siltation and emergence of shoals in Titas river have been posing serious threat to navigation.

According to sources, the river silted up alarmingly following the 1988 devastating floods. Besides, water carrying silt from the hilly areas have led to the accumulation of large quantities of alluvial soil on the river bed.

Meanwhile, with the onset of winter, water level of the river has fallen sharply, hampering transportation of merchandise. Irrigation of 1.90 lakh areas of land have also been adversely affected.

Gradual drying up of the river and its branches have also rendered many water pumps inoperative, official sources admitted.

TANGAIL

Minibus Owners' Assoc executives

March 14: The annual general meeting and election of Tangail District Minibus Owners Association was held on Friday at Madhupur National Park, reports BSS.

Mr. Parvez Ahmed Tablig and Mr. Kamruzzaman Khan have been elected President and Secretary respectively of the 21-man Executive Committee of the association.



With the advent of the summer, Sorahi—the earthen jar—traditionally popular among the rural people, is becoming an item of necessity among the lower middle class in urban areas too. Picture shows a line of exquisitely ornamented Sorahis which keep drinking water cooler in the summer days being readied for a sellers' market in Brahmanbaria —star photo

Indian sarees worth Tk 27 lakh seized

From Our Correspondent

COMILLA, Mar 14: Bangladesh Rifles 29 Battalion seized Indian sarees worth Taka 27 lakh and arrested six persons from Comilla Railway Station on Sunday.

According to the reports, on a secret information, BDR personnel searched the special train Trina Nisita and recovered the smuggled goods from the guard's room.

A case has been registered with the Kotwali police in this connection. Meanwhile, bus journey to and from the district headquarters has become hazardous because of overloading and rash driving.

The routes are Comilla-Barua, Comilla-Muradnagar,

Comilla-Chauddagram, Comilla-Laksham, Comilla-Burichang and Comilla-Devidwar.

Passengers complain that most buses plying on different routes carry passengers beyond capacity, risking the safety of their lives.

Besides, reckless driving and overtaking are said to be the reasons behind frequent accident.

Moreover, drivers stop buses at different points at their will causing traffic jams and delaying the journey. It may be mentioned that a good number of drivers has no valid licence. They also charge high fares which lead to frequent altercations with passengers.

Roads in the district are also in bad shape posing threat to vehicular movement. Cracks and pot-holes have developed at many points of the roads risking bus journey in the district.

HSC compartmental results

Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Comilla announced the HSC compartmental examination results of 1990 held on January 31 on Monday. Out of 10,257 examinees, 7674 were male and 2583 female. In all 6,420 candidates have been declared successful and the percentage of pass is 62.59.

2,500 cases pending in Pabna courts

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, March 14: About 2,500 civil and criminal cases are lying pending in Pabna district.

According to reliable sources, out of the total 1,150 criminal cases, 143 are from Bera upazila, 198 from Ishwardi, 245 from Pabna Sadar upazila, 69 from Atghoria, 136 from Chatmohor, 128 from Santhia, 99 from Sujaganar and 64 from Bhangura.

Out of total 1350 civil cases, 288 in District Judge Court, 26 in Additional District Court,

427 in Sub-judge Court, 246 in Sadar Assistant Judge Court, 32 in Atghoria, 35 in Chatmohor, 64 in Ishwardi, 18 in Bhangura, 29 in Bera, 28 in Faridpur, 116 in Santhia and 41 in Sujaganar upazila courts.

The Ministry of Education has created 18 additional new posts in Government Edward College recently.

The posts include one Professor, one Assistant Professor and one Lecturer each for English, Chemistry, Botany, Accounting, Political Science

and Philosophy. The step has been taken to ensure higher education which was hampered previously due to non-creation of necessary posts and shortage of teachers.

The College also offers honours courses in Bengali, Economics, History, Physics, Mathematics and Management. The existing seven posts include one Professor, one Associate Professor, two Assistant Professors and three Lecturers each in 12 honours subjects.

Woes of Nabinagar people

From Our Correspondent

NABINAGAR (Brahmanbaria), Mar 14: About 10 thousand people residing at Nabinagar Sadar Upazila area are facing multiple problems.

Most of the roads at upazila sadar area are narrow and decayed and some of them are quite unfit for movement of vehicles as well as the people for want of proper maintenance.

Absence of proper drainage system is a big problem for the mini town dwellers. During the rainy season water remains stagnant on the roads. Some of the areas especially Adalat Para, Uttar Bazar, Shahid Salam Road, Sub Registrar Office Road, Padma Pukur Para remain under water causing health hazards to the inhabitants of the area.

Mosquito menace in this

area has assumed an alarming proportion causing untold sufferings to the dwellers. Stagnant water in the roadside ditches, derelict ponds and heaps of garbage beside the roads are ideal places for breeding of mosquitoes. Just after sunset nobody can sit peacefully in the house. The local authority seems to have turned a deaf ear to the public demand for immediate anti-mosquito measures.

The conservancy service in the town is completely absent. There are no public toilet on urinals in the upazila sadar. The roads are dirty, dusty and full of garbage. There is no arrangement for cleaning the roads and kutcha drains. The concerned authorities should initiate schemes to construct public toilets.

The town is complete without any bulbs or fused bulbs without any replacement. As a result, the town area plunges into darkness and the thieves and burglars are taking full advantages of this situation.

The Monomohan Park has now turned into an office para. Several bank branches, Red Crescent hospital, Sadar Union Parishad office are situated inside the park area. But the park is the only place for recreation of the local inhabitants. Once it was beautiful place with various kinds of trees but it lost its glory for ever.

Absence of sufficient street lights within the upazila sadar area has been causing much difficulties to the inhabitants.

Most light posts either have no bulbs or fused bulbs without any replacement. As a result, the town area plunges into darkness and the thieves and burglars are taking full advantages of this situation.

Potters in distress

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, March 14: Lack of requisite fund and price hike of raw materials have left about 2000 potters in financial crisis in different upazilas of the district.

The potters of Sadar, Debhata, Kaliganj, Shyamnagar, Assasuni, Kalarao and Tala upazilas are leaving their ancestral profession as they have no working capital and also cannot ensure any loan from banks. They cannot even effort to buy raw materials at high price which fluctuates very often and goes beyond their reach.

Besides, they are unable to compete with similar other products in respect of quality, volume and price in open markets.

According to the sources, there are industrial concerns and some commercial banks to look after the industry but no initiative has been taken.

Crimes galore

PIROJPUR, Mar 14: Elder brother was killed while his younger one sustained serious injury in a dacoity at village Kurmirara, police said here on Wednesday, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, a group of dacoits numbering about eight to 10 stormed the house recently and stabbed the house owner Fazul Haq and beat up his brother Shamsul Haq when they tried to resist the robbers. The dacoits decamped with booties after the incident.

Fazul Haq, knifed by the miscreants, died on way to hospital while Shamsul was admitted to the local health centre in a critical condition. None has been arrested so far.

Bogra

A report from Bogra adds: a gang of thieves stabbed to death a youngman and wounded another when they were attacked by the victims, police here said.

The dead was identified as Shamsuddin (30) of Mohismonda village of Dupchanchia upazila.

The injured Jahed was admitted to local Health complex.

The incident occurred on Sunday night when Shamsuddin and Jahed attacked the thieves numbering about 5 to 6 as they attempted to steal a shallow tubewell from their house.

A case was registered with local police in this connection.

Bagerhat

Dacoits shot dead an old man and injured two others at Bhandarkhola village in Kachua upazila, police said here on Wednesday.

Witnesses said, a gang of armed dacoits numbering about 15 raided the house of Azhar on Sunday night. While the owner of the house raised alarm villagers rushed to the spot and gheraoed the dacoits. The dacoits then opened fire on them killing Fazlur Rahman (60) on the spot.

Dacoits also decamped with cash and valuables. The body was sent to morgue for autopsy. The injured were rushed to the Sadar hospital.

Khulna

Electronic goods worth about Taka 1.5 lakh were looted in a dacoity at a shop in the town here, police said on Wednesday.

Political scene

Fresh enthusiasm over bye-election at Rangpur

Starreport

Acting Chairman of the reorganised Jatiya Party, Mr. Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury may contest from a Rangpur seat to be vacated by the ousted President H. M. Ershad in the forthcoming bye-election. Mr. Chowdhury lost the February 27 parliamentary polls to a BNP candidate at his home constituency, Chandpur. Former President Ershad won five seats at his home district Rangpur. He will vacate four seats and retain one as per rule.

Our Rangpur Correspondent adds: A fresh excitement is being generated among the people of the district over bye-election in four Jatiya Sangsad seats to be vacated shortly by deposed President Ershad. Strong speculation and whispering are sweeping all over the district which four JS seats out of five to be vacated by the former president. At this uncertainty top JP sources here hinted that former President was preferring to remain as Parliament Member in Pirgonj constituency (Rangpur-6) while four other JS seats Rangpur Sadar (Rangpur-3), Mithapukur (Rangpur-5), Badarganj-Targan (Rangpur-2) and Gangachara (Rangpur-1) to be vacated JP in the meantime has almost finalised candidates for these four seats.

A strong rumour on candidature of Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury from a Rangpur bye-election seat is not yet ruled out and feasibility is being deeply examined by experts of JP. Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury during his recent visit to Rangpur on March 12 and 13 held talks with some top local JP leaders but did not pass opinion considering the stage as immature. In Tuesday's mammoth public meeting held at Rangpur Public Library ground in demand of release of deposed president Ershad, the Acting Chairman of JP Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury was conferred with citizenship of Rangpur by local JP leaders. Mr Chowdhury was the main speaker of this public meeting. It indicates a preliminary net work underfoot by JP to ease any bottlenecks on way of candidature of Mizanur Chowdhury in JS bye-election from a Rangpur seat probably that is Rangpur-5 (Mithapukur).

Deposed president who hinted to keep in his hand Rangpur-6 (Pirgonj) seat obviously to block prospect of former Awami League Minister Matur Rahman whom he defeated by a narrow margin of 327 (three hundred twenty seven) votes in recent JS polls. It may be noted in last February 27 JS polls in six seats of Rangpur district except candidates with 'boat' symbol belonging to Awami League and Eight-Party Alliance, all other 41 candidates of parties including BNP, Jamaat-e-Islami, Oikya Jote, Jaker Party, NAP, (M), JSD (Rab), JSD (Inu), United Communist League, JSD (Shahjahan), Freedom Party, CPB and Workers Party lost security money.

There is a strong speculation that in the ensuing JS bye-election in four Rangpur seats which to be vacated shortly by deposed president Ershad light to be locked between JP, Awami League, Jamaat, and BNP candidates.

Begum Khaleda Zia, Sheikh Hasina and JP top leaders would hold massive electioneering.

8 to contest in Kushtia-2 seat

Our Kushtia Correspondent writes: The postponed election of Jatiya Sangsad in Kushtia-2 constituency (Mirpur-Bheramara) will be held on March 28.

The last date for filing the nomination papers was March 4 and withdrawal was March 10. The election was postponed due to the death of Mr. Marfat Ali, J.S.D (Rab) candidate who was killed by some miscreants on February 17.

As soon as the date for withdrawal was ended the election campaign started again. Wall writings, posters and election meetings are in progress in the district.

Eight candidates including Mrs. Arijumand Marfat, wife of deceased Marfat Ali filed the nomination paper on March 4. The nominated candidates are:

Mr. Abdur Rauf Chowdhury (BNP), Mr. Hasanul Haq Inu JSD(Inu), Mr. Abdul Wahed (Jamaat), Mr. Shaful Islam Kubbad (AL), Mr. Ahsan Habib Linkan (JP), Mr. Shoukat ibne Moim Chowdhury (Freedom Party) and Mr. Saderul Biswas (Jaker Party).

Mr. Abdur Rauf Chowdhury, one of the important contesting BNP candidates from Kushtia-2 constituency said that he would materialise the ideals of Shaheed Zia and will also solve the local problems.

Mr. Hasanul Haq Inu, central leader of JSD (Inu) said he would materialise the ideals of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) and will also solve local problems.

Our Pabna Correspondent adds: A big public meeting was held in Pabna Town Hall maidan on Wednesday in protest against attack on Awami League workers in various places in the district by Zammat-shibir and BNP.

The meeting organised by Pabna Sadar Awami League under the presidentship of Nazrul Islam Nannu was addressed by Wazuddin Khan, Rafiqul Islam Bakul, Amzad Hossain, Zamal Ahmed, Mahtabuddin Nishu, Muhammad Nasim and Khandker Muhammad Hasan Arif.

The meeting demanded immediate steps to stop attack on Awami League workers.

Our Madaripur Correspondent adds: A procession led by Jatiya Party leaders paraded main thorough fares of Madaripur Sadar and Shibechar upazila demanding immediate release of president Ershad.

In the February 27 parliamentary election he contested from five constituencies in his own district Rangpur and won all the seats. As the news spread that he has been elected in all the five constituencies Jatiya Party leaders and supporters were for so long inactive burst out with great joy.

BSS from Madaripur adds: A meeting of Madaripur district BNP workers was held at Madaripur Bar Association conference room recently.

A large number of workers, supporters and local BNP leaders attended the meeting. Abdul Mannan Sikder, President district BNP was in the chair.

Speakers hailed BNP's victory in the parliamentary election.

Problems grip Patuakhali

PATUAKHALI, Mar 14: Deploable condition of roads, absence of drainage system, lack of sanitation, poor arrangements of recreational facilities and mosquito menace have made the civic life in the town miserable, reports UNB.

According to sources, most roads are narrow and uneven. Cracks and pot-holes have developed in many points creating problems to pedestrians as well as vehicles. Situation worsens after a slight rainfall.

The roadside ditches are filled with filths and garbage which are not cleaned regularly. These have turned into ideal breeding centres for mosquitoes. The town lacks sufficient drainage system and as a result rain water remains stagnant on the roads for days together.

Problems grip Pabna General Hospital

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Mar 14:- The general hospital of the district headquarters is now under the grip of manifold problems. The 100-bed hospital is reported to have been lacking many facilities such as life-saving medicine, ambulance, modern medical equipment, improved diet, cleanliness, and necessary beds to accommodate growing patients seeking admission to it.

Moreover, physicians and nurses were alleged to be negligent in their duties as well as the patients.

Patients undergoing treatment at the departments of ophthalmic, paediatric and orthopedics of the hospital are worst sufferers besides, absence of essential drugs like antibiotics, and blood transfusion bags, gauze, cotton, plaster etc are not available in the hospital.



Agri-Varsity (Mymensingh): Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh Agricultural University Prof. M. Asadur Rahman speaking as chief guest in the inaugural session of a two-day long workshop on Irrigation Management for Crop Diversification held at the GTI dormitory on March 5.