#### Upazila roundup

#### MANIKGANJ

#### 6 miscreants arrested

From Our Correspondent March 16 : Villagers of Rabraban under Damrai upazila of the district nabbed six armed miscreants and recovered three arms including a

The miscreants confessed that they had been engaged by some people of Saturia upazila to kill Saturia Upazila Chairman Md Bastruddin.

The arrested miscreants are Md Ali Bepari (28) of Baukhanda, Majibur Rahman Miju (30) of Konabari, Abdul Jalil (30) of Charrajapur all under Damrai upazila. Abdul Fazal (25) of Gori, Sayaad (18) of Gathail and Shahadat Hossain Litoon (27) of Chandpur in Tangail district.

A case has been registered with Dhamrai police in this connection and the miscreants were forwarded to Dhamrai upazila.

#### SATKHIRA

## Bank manager caught while taking bribe

#### From Our Correspondent

March 16: A Manager of Krishi Bank in Debhata upazila was caught red-handed by the people while he was taking a bride of Taka 1000 from Md Ali, a farmer of Nangla of the same upazila.

According to the reports, Manager Jahangir Hossain allegedly demanded the bribe for sanctioning loan to Md Ali. Being aware of the fact a large number of people with the help of the Upazila Chairman Abdur Rahman caught the Manager red-handed.

A case has been registered with Debhata police station.

#### COMILLA

#### Training course on animal husbandry

From Our Correspondent

March 16 : A week-long training course on 'Animal Husbandry' was inaugurated in Haratali of the district under the auspices of Haratali Juba Kalyan Sangha with the assistance of Department of Youth recently.

The inaugural session was addressed by the Deputy Director Mr Shamsul Huda and the club Secretary Mr Kamal Hossain.

About 20 members of the club took part in this training.

#### MADARIPUR

## Call to rehabilitate floating women

From Our Correspondent March 16: Abandoned and

divorced women are increasingly pouring in to the town adversely affecting socio-economic fabric of the society.

According to a private survey, these women belonging to breadline families were either abandoned or divorced for dowry and non-fulfillment of other financial commitments.

The survey revealed that due to the rise in broken homes these women are compelled to take up jobs as day labourers and house-maids for survival.

Besides, many young girls of the poverty-stricken families have resorted to prostitution to provide economic help to their family members.

Elite of the town urged the concerned authorities to take necessary steps for their early rehabilitation.

#### JHENIDAH

#### Houses damaged by storm From Our Correspondent

March 16: A cyclonic storm that swept over some villages of the district damaged houses, crops and uprooted some electric poles recently.

The affected villages are Ballon Majdia, Badurgacha, Kashtavanga of Kaliganj Upazila and Batthepara and Charpara of Harinakundu. The storm also damaged seven thatched houses and a huge number of banana and papaya trees.

#### FARIDPUR

#### Schoolboy stabbed to death

March 16: A schoolboy was stabbed to death by angry youths over a brawl on teasing his sister Thursday, police here said, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the victim Pradip Sarker, a student of class ten of local Maijuddin High School went to see the sports competition of his sister's Ishan Girls High School in the town. His sister also took part in the competition.

At one stage some unruly youths started teasing his sister while she was participating in an event in the competition. When Pradip raised objection to their indecent remarks, the youths got infurlated and stabbed him scriously. He was rushed to the local hospital where the doctors declared him dead. Police arrested one Munna

from Jheeltuly area of the town in this connection.

#### PIROJPUR

#### Dacoits loot valuables

March 16: Two people were injured and valuables looted in a daring dacotty at Garghate village under Nazirpur upazila Thursday, police here said, reports UNB.

Witnesses said a group of armed bandits stormed the house of Anil Krishna of the village at dead of night and asked him to hand over cash and valuables.

On refusal Anil and the inmate of the house Kalipada were shot at by the docoits injuring them grievously. They were rushed to local hospital. Upazila magistrate later visited

In another incident, two dacoits were caught redhanded by the villagers at Baitakata bazar area in Nazirpur upazila of the district Thursday.

When moving suspiciously in a boat, the villagers challenged them and were caught while trying to flee away. Later they confessed that they were preparing to commit a dacoity in a nearby house.

The dacoits were identified as Nazrul of Banaripara and Khaleque of Mugarjor of the same upaztla. They were later handed over to police.

#### TANGAIL

#### Housewife electrocuted

March 16: Mrs Angurbala Bhaumic (35), wife of Advocate Mukul Chandra Bhaumic of Adalatpara was electrocuted on Wednesday last, reports BSS. A primary school teacher

Mrs Bala, mother of three children met the accident while she was repairing an electric heater. Debi Rani Das about 25

years old, mother of a child of Akurtakurpara allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself recently.

#### PABNA

#### 21,146 tons wheat sanctioned for 110 projects

March 16: A total of 21,146 metric tons of wheat were sanctioned to implement 110 projects in nine upazilas of the district under Food for Works Programme (FWP) during this financial year, reports UNB.

The upazila-wise breakup is as follows: 943 metric tons (MTs) for 19 projects in Sadar, 363 MTs for six projects in Atghoria, 633 MTs for 11 projects in Ishurdi, 683 MTs for 11 projects Chatmohar, 266 MTs for five projects in Vangura, 251 MTs for seven projects in Faridpur, 1238 MTs for 20 projects in Santhia, 881 MTs for 14 projects in Bera, 977 MTs for 14 projects in Sujanagar, 14701 MTs for three Water Development Board (WDB) projects and 32 MTs for one fisheries development project of Gouripur.

The projects include construction and reconstruction of roads and culverts, excavation and re-excavation of canals and derelict ponds. The works on the projects are expected to be completed by April next.

#### TANGAIL

#### Discussion on Women's Day

March 16: Tangail district Women Affaires Department held a discussion meeting on the International Women's Day Friday, reports BSS.

Three hundred women from the projects of the department at Shakhipur. Kalihati. Bashail and Tangail Sadar along with a large number of women from the town attended the meeting.

Mrs Zohora Khatoon, District Officer. Women Affairs was the main speaker. Mrs Rawshanara Begum presided over the function. Mrs Zohora Khatoon said that the government was implementing a good number of programmes and projects for the improvement of lot of the women community. She asked the women community to come forward and avail of the oppor-



NARAYANGANJ: A micro bus damaged in a road accident here recently.

-Star photo

brought about total closure at

many power pumps, paddy

husking, mills and other cot-

Sarishabari, Melandah,

Islampur, Dewanganj and

Sadar upazilas and most at the

jute industries in Sarishabari

upazila have been hard hit due

to continued power suspen-

When contacted, PDB office

Agricultural production in

tage industries.

#### Kishoreganj roads in bad shape

#### From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Mar 16: The Kishoreganj district headquarters road connecting different upazila headquarters which is in a very deplorable condition has become unfit for vehicular traffic creating sufferings to the public.

Numerous holes and potholes have developed on the roads of Mathakola Bazar-Pakundia and Mirzapur Bazar-Pakundia, Kishoreganj-Tarial upazila headquarters, Kishoregani to Chamtaghat via Karimganj upazila headquarters resulting in frequent accidents and traffic jams.

at Sarishabari failed to tell

anything positive about power

earth fault is the main cause of

upazilas have urged the au-

thorities to take steps for mit-

The consumers of these six

Jamalpur office of PDB.

igating their sufferings.

disruption.

## Power failure hits industries in Jamalpur

# Fertilizer, diesel price hike causes fall in Boro output

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Mar 16: Irriboro production in all the seven upazilas of the district has registered a sharp fall this year mainly due to short supply and price hike of fertilizers and diesel.

Official sources admitting the abnormal price hike said that Irri-Boro production has fallen by 30 per cent this year due to fertilizers and diesel shortage.

According to official sources and farmers, the prices of fertilizers on average rose to taka 500 per bag although the government fixed the price at taka 201.25.

The total requirement of urea fertilizers was 25,1077 tons in the district this year, whereas BADC supplied only 43,900 tons. As a result 60 per cent of the total land remained fallow. The target of Irri-Boro cultivation this year was fixed at 4.5 lakh acres. When contacted, a dealer

told this correspondent that

the fertilizer factories at Ashuganj and Ghorashal failed to supply fertilizers as per requirements.

Frequent disruption of power supply in six upazilas under Jamalpur district is causing heavy loss to industrial and agricultural sectors.

Bangladesh Power Development Board (PDB) maintains supply through Jamalpur distribution centre to Bakshiganj, Dewanganj Islampur, Sarishabari, Melandah and Jamalpur Sadar upazilas. In all these places many new industrial units have sprung up depending on electricity. Most of these units are incurring loss in production for erratic power failure.

Power supply remains suspended for about 40 to 50 hours in a week On Friday power supply is snapped in the morning and resumes after even 40 hours.

The power disruption has

# Illegal money lending rampant at Bheramara

From A Correspondent

BHERAMARA, Mar 16: The business of money lending at high interest including paddy and other security materials has become a regular feature in Bheramara upazila. Middle class families and small traders with less capital are the main victims of this unauthorised business.

The normal rate of interest is Taka 10 to 20 and sometimes Taka 20 to 30 per week and a maund of paddy which is usually realised at the end of every week. As the weaker sections unable to pay the interest of the amount they are compelled to give away their property to come out of the clutches of money lenders.

Sometimes, these money lenders keep shops and gold as security to lend money. Ultimately the poor people lose their belongings as they are unable to repay the money. It is felt that these money

lending business should be controlled by the administration to save the poor people.

PABNA: Selling of betel leaf in progress at a village market.

# Siltation, water salinity hamper cultivation in Narail

From Our Correspondent

NARAIL: Massive salinity and siltation in the rivers of Narail district are jeopardising agriculture and navigation.

According to an informed source, the salinity in almost all the rivers have increased surpassing all previous records. On the other hand, siltation continues to increase blocking up marine communication in and around the dis-

Dependable sources said, saline water enters crop-fields in river side areas through damaged embankments and sluice gates.

Meanwhile, all the four rivers of the district are drying up with the sharp fall in water level and emergence of shoals.

Even the country boats can not ply at the time of ebbtides. Communication between Narad and its southern parts was easier in river routes even a few years back. But at present the passengers have got sheer apathy towards travelling on the river routes and taken up other means despite excess

Besides, siltation threatens ruination of fishery in the distriet. Once Narail was famous Pests damage

#### mango buds From Our Correspondent

PABNA, March, 16: "Mango Buds" are being damaged due to massive attack of pest known as "jab" in different

parts of the district.

Mango growers alleged that after the attack, the buds change blackish in colour and subsequently dry up causing extensive damage to a large scale. Insecticides available in the local markets provide to be ineffective as they are of inferior quality.

for producing fishes, by exporting which the country could earn huge foreign currency from the overseas mar-

But due to alarming increase of salinity in the river water, growth of fish is being

Experts opined that immediate dredging could restore the normal flow of rivers.

#### Health complex in sorry state

The health complex at Kalia Upazila under Narail district is plagued with various problems such as lack of accommodation facilities, medicines, water supply and other necessary ac-

Every day a large number of patients both males and females coming from far-flung areas for treatment to the hospital go back home disappointed

Not to speak of life saving medicines like antibiotics and penicillin, even ordinary medicines which are needed daily in the hospital for out door patients are not available in the hospital. Moreover, the poor patients who are admitted in the hospital are to buy medicine from the markets.

There is no X-ray machine in the hospital. The supply of drinking water has been hampered due to the leakage in the reservoir of the hospital

causing untold sufferings to the patients. Most doors and windows of the hospital have been damaged. As a result in the rainy season rain waters enter the rooms of the patients causing immense sufferings to them.

The approach road of the hospital is now in deplorable condition. This road becomes muddy even after a light shower. It is impossible to walk through this road.

The post of dental surgeon in the hospital has been lying vacant for a long time.

Besides, the existing number of nurses and other employees in the hospital is insufficient to cope with the rush of patients.



Commandant of the Ordnance Centre and School Colonel M. Nurul Hug reviewing the attestation parade of new recruits which held at Rajendrapur Cantonment on Thursday -ISPR photo

# Crimes galore

KHULNA, March 16: Two people were killed in two separate incidents at Batiaghata and Dumuria upazilas, police said here today. reports UNB.

Witnesses said, Mujibur Rahman (50), a shrimp trader, was killed by his rival group following a quarrel over payment of dues recently.

His body was later found at Kishanhat area under Dumuria upazila.

In another incident, Golam Sheikh (25) of Batiaghata upazila was killed recently by his close associates due to his alleged involvement in love affair with a woman.

A procession was brought out Thursday by the teachers and students of all educational institution of the town protesting the kidnapping of a female student by miscreants.

Yasmin Ara Begum Jostna (15), a resident of the town was kidnapped by some youths on March 11 while she was returning from her school.

A cased was lodged but none was so far arrested in this connection.

The processionists paraded the main streets of the town demanding immediate recovery of the girl. They also demanded exemplary punishment to those responsible for this heinous act.

disruption as it is controlled by Later they submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Talking over telephone with Commissioner and Superinan Executive Engineer of PDB tendent of Police. at Jamalpur it is gathered that

Manikganj

At least 10 people were injured in two dacoities over the

last week at Shibalaya upazila and on Dhaka-Aricha highway,

In one incident, the dacoits numbering about eight attacked the waiting passengers Monday night at Zigir bus stand and decamped with cash and valuables. At least eight passengers were injured by the

sist. The injured were rushed to Manikgonj Hospital. In another incident, a gang of dacoits numbering about 15 to 20 entered the house of former union parishad chairman Tara Mia of Shibalaya upazila on Friday and looted cash and valuables worth about Tk one lakh. The dacoits injured two inmates of the house including the chairman.

dacoits while they tried to re-

Police arrested a co-villager Kabir Hossain in this connection.

#### Magura

Gambling is on rise in the town here vitiating the peaceful social atmosphere.

According to residents, mostly young people are engaged in gambling and law enforcing agencies remain indifferent to it.

Gamblers are allegedly resorting to hijacking to keep going their practice.

Local people complain that some policemen are involved in gambling and collect money from gamblers regularly.

Officer incharge of Sreepur police station, however, denied the allegation.

Local people urged the authorities to take necessary measures in this regard.

# Tk 21cr Chandpur town protection scheme

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, March 16 The government has undertaken a comprehensive scheme to protect Chandpur town from the erosion of the river Meghna at a cost of Taka 21 crore.

According to Chandpur Water Development Board sources, six engineering consultants including Dr. Gibs of England have been working to implement the scheme. The work of the scheme is going on in full swing. Under the scheme a total of

two lakh thirteen thousand blocks of cement concrete were placed in erosion affected areas at a cost of Taka 12 Crore. These Blocks are between 21 and 15 inches in diametre. Besides, one lakh three thousand geotextile bags loaded with sands were dumped in the eroded area. About 200 metre area along the Bank of the river Meghna at Natun and Puran Bazar sides were dumped with the blocks.

Earlier to check the erosion of the river Meghna at Chandpur boulders were dumped. But according to new scheme, cement concrete blocks were dumped to protect the erosion affected area of the river Meghna.

#### Nandail rivers need dredging From Our Correspondent

NANDAIL, Mar 16: Aman and Irri-Boro crops on thousands of acres of land under Nandail upazila are washed away every year as the rain water of Raigate, Bilbhadira, Hijaljani, Passdarilla, Dhonorama and Uluhati of eastern part of Nandail remain stagnant causing untime flood as the river Betai is quite unable to let the water pass quickly

To save the standing crops of the aforesaid areas re-excavation of the river Betai from Chikni to Karomshi is most essential, it is felt.

after the heavy downpour.

Another source told this correspondent that "Jali Amon" crops of Bouail, Khanabil. Kanchabeel, Borhawr, Damira beel and Bahir Chapra are the worst affected as the only water passage of aforesaid beels the river Fuliajuri has been silted up during the recent years. In this connection, re-excavation of the river Fuliajuri is also essential, the sources told.

#### Enforcement of anti-dowry law demanded

From Our Correspondent CHAPAINAWABGANJ, March 16: Increasing demand for dowry has left a large number

of poor young girls unmarried in the district. According to a survey report, about 5000 girls in Bholahat, Shibganj, Nachoul, Gomostapur and Sadar upazilas whose parents are mostly pea-

sants and day-labourers can

hardly provide endowments. Due to the continues aggravation of economic condition they think the sympathy of the "boon" is now only their hope in this situation.

It may be mentioned here that the work of Chandpur town protection scheme was started 14/1972. So far about 80 lakh cubic feet boulders were dumped to check the erosion of the river at a cost of Taka cight crore.

## Notes from Narayanganj

From Our Correspondent NARAYANGANJ, March 16: Four youngmen have been apprehended while they tried to

abduct a boy. Police sources informed, Maksudor Rahman, Zahangir Hossain, Babul and Ismail were arrested on Saturday last while taking away Shafiqul Islam (12) son of late Mostak Mia of Deobhog Nagor at dead of night.

The kidnappers said failing to get back some gold from the boy's maternal uncle Mr. Baten, a goldsmith, for a long time they hatched the abduc-

tion plan. A case has been registered with Narayangani thana in this

#### One crushed under

wheels Gauranga (18) was crushed under the wheels of a bus recently near Balur Math. The victim was killed on the spot.

the victim was engaged in re-

According to police source,

pairing a bus and suddenly the bus and suddenly the bus took start and crushed the boy working under it. It is learnt, he was a mechanic of a workshop.

Gaurango was the son of Giban Mandal of Pachkani. Mirpur. Police seized the vehicle

but the driver fled. A case was filed with

#### One stabbed

nection.

Narayangani thana in this con-

Some miscreants fatally wounded Mr. Belal (18), a dealer in potato, and left him in a wheat field at Charkashipur.

The next morning he was recovered in an unconscious

state with stab wounds. It is reported that Mr. Belal remained missing since Saturday night when he was returning home with Taka nine thousand and eight hun-

The victim was admitted to DMC hospital in a critical

#### **Education** week The National Education

Week was observed here re-Various socio-cultural organisations, educational institutions including Narayanganj

district administration drawn up programmes of their own to mark the occasion. A 4-day long programme was organised by district administration at Government Girls High School auditorium on the occasion. The pro-

cultural and literary competition for the students of the school. Md. Ayub. Additional District Magistrate gave away

the prizes among the winners.

grammes included seminar,

# police said here on Thursday.