

Upazila roundup

MAULVI BAZAR

Rice price up

From Our Correspondent

March 18 : The price of rice in all hats and bazars of Maulvi Bazar district has gone up causing great sufferings to the middle class people. The price of rice has increased by Taka 2 to 3 per kg during the last three days. A kg of rice which was sold between Taka 11 and 13 is now selling between Taka 12 and 15. There is no indication of coming down price before ensuing Boro season.

SHERPUR

Property worth Tk 10 lakh gutted

From Our Correspondent

March 18 : Property worth about Taka 10 lakh was gutted at village Satnuber Char in Kamarer Char Union under Sadar Upazila on Friday last.

It is learnt that the fire originating from a cow shed rapidly spread over other houses and burnt to ashes 35 dwelling houses, five cow sheds, agricultural products, household articles and cash Taka 4500. Three cattle were injured and eight goats and at least 300 poultry birds were roasted alive.

Education Week observed

Education Week was observed in the district with much enthusiasm recently. The week-long programme included cultural and literary competition and seminar.

Teachers and students of educational institutions from five upazilas in the district took part in the competition. Mr Ashrauddin, Principal, Sherpur Women's College and Mrs Ferdous Jahan Head Mistress, Sherpur Government Girls High School were selected best teachers.

Principal Md Hasmatullah of Taragar Senior Madrasa in Nalitabari upazila was selected best Madrasa teacher. Besides, Sherpur Government Womens College, Girls High School and Bashumay Tegharia Senior Madrasa were selected best educational institutions.

Mr AKM Kamaluddin, Deputy Commissioner distributed prizes among the winners as chief guest.

NETRAKONA

12 injured in road accident

From Our Correspondent

March 18 : Twelve persons including journalist and school teacher were injured when a Dhaka-bound BRTC bus from Netrakona had collided with another Dhaka-bound passenger bus from Kishoreganj at 8.15 am on Saturday in Digarkanda, 38 kilometre off here on Netrakona Dhaka highway, police and eyewitnesses said here.

All the injured persons were sent to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital.

The injured persons were Fazul Haq Ruman (30), Netrakona district based correspondent of Banglar Bani, Md Khalique (55), Headmaster of Milapur High School of Sherpur district, Sharif Hossain (27), Serajul Haq (38), Wahidul Islam (30), Abdul Mattin (40), Anil Paul (35), Mufazzal Hossain (38), Milton (20), Hafizuddin (55), Khurshed Mia (50) and Amir Hossain (34) driver of the BRTC bus. Both the buses were badly damaged, the sources added.

Bar Assoc executives

Meanwhile, election of Netrakona District Bar Association was held on March 15 at the Conference Room of the Association. Advocate Sadar Uddin Ahmed and Advocate Jinnatul Islam were elected President and Secretary respectively.

SATKHIRA

Drug addicts on rise

A Correspondent

March 18 : The Number of drug addicts is growing alarmingly at Satkhira.

It is learnt that even rural youths are being addicted to different kinds of intoxicants like wine, opium, country made wine and drug like morphine, pethidine, phensidyl, sedative tablets, palm juice and other liquid containing alcoholic ingredients.

According to a survey, Satkhira town and its suburbs have turned into open markets of drugs. All kinds of drugs are available in grocery and vendors shops. The number of teenaged addicts is alarmingly increasing. It is alleged that a well-organized circle of criminals has been smuggling

heroin from India into the country and selling the same in different local markets. When contacted, a police source denied the views.

4 commit suicide

UNB adds : Four people allegedly committed suicide in separate incidents in the district Friday, police said.

Family sources said Ashok Chandra Bachhar (25), a final year Chemistry student of Dhaka University, allegedly hanged himself to death due to frustration in family life. Ashok of Sadar upazila got married only eight months back.

Amena Khatun (32) of Raipur village, Sabina (28), wife of Atiar Rahman in Srangirdanga village and Laxmi Rani (20) of Janbazpur village in Sadar upazila allegedly committed suicide by taking poison. Family feuds were the reasons behind their suicide, relatives said.

Amena's husband Ahmad had a second wife while Laxmi got married to Krishnapada only a month back. Four separate cases were filed in this connection.

KISHOREGANJ

Bazitpur team win cricket league trophy

From Our Correspondent

March 18 : The final match of Kishoreganj Cricket League organised by District Sports Association was held at the local stadium on Sunday. Bazitpur Upazila Sports Association team won over Moynul Smriti Cricket Club by 44 runs. Bazitpur Upazila Sports Association Club batted first and were all out for 141 runs in 33 overs.

Moynul Smriti Cricket Club scored 97 runs in 32.4 overs. Kabir Ahmed Khan of Nagua Cricket Club and Azharuddin Ghantu of Bazitpur Upazila Sports Association team became man of the series and man of the match respectively.

Mr Iqbal Hossain Khan, ADC (General) distributed prizes as the chief guest.

BARISAL

Sher-e-Bangla Medical College annual sports held

From Our Correspondent

March 18 : The annual athletic meet of Sher-e-Bangla Medical College was held here at medical college play ground recently with great enthusiasm.

It was inaugurated by Dr Harun-ar-Rashid, Principal, Sher-e-Bangla Medical College and the prizes were given away by Dr Abdul Karim Mollah, Director, Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital. Hundreds of students participated in 21 events.

PIROJPUR

Malpractice in land recording

March 18 : Malpractice and irregularities in land recording, surveying and fixing of land revenue in Nazirpur upazila here have been going on unabated, it is alleged, reports UNB.

According to sources, many irregularities have been created in the absence of land surveyors in the upazila. Taking advantage of the situation, local touts in collaboration with the officials are allegedly depriving real owners of their land.

Sufferers alleged that some influential circles are grabbing their lands bribing the officials. As a result many of them turned destitute.

Local people have urged the authorities to take stringent action against the people responsible for this heinous activities and restore legal rights of actual owners.

FENI

Tk 4.74 lakh allocated for 30 projects

March 18 : Government has allocated Taka 4.74 lakh for the execution of 30 uplift projects in sadar upazila of the district during this financial year, reports UNB.

According to official sources, the projects include development of irrigation system, construction and reconstruction of roads, bridges and culverts, renovation of educational institutions, implementation of health and family planning programmes.

About 25 per cent work on the projects has already been completed and the rest is expected to be finished soon. After completion of the project about two lakh people of the upazila will get benefited.

New method may revolutionise country's sugarcane farming

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, March 18 : A newly developed method known as 'Spaced Transplanting Technique' (STP), modified by cane agronomists at Sugarcane Research and Training Institute (SRTI) may revolutionise sugarcane cultivation in Bangladesh.

The technique involves germination of 'one eyed seedlings' in poly-bags or two-eyed seedlings on soil bed and then transplanting those in the field after certain period with appropriate spacing.

The STP method eliminates haphazard, random and gapping growth of cane as per conventional way of cultivation. Another important aspect of STP is low utilisation of cane seed. Under the conventional cultivation, about seven tons of cane seeds are required in one hectare of land. STP needs only one quarter of this quantity. Whereas it produces twice as much as sugarcane. If the total area under sugarcane cultivation used the STP method, savings on account of seed cane alone would come to nine lakh tons per year.

In 1985, SRTI introduced the STP technique on trial basis under the 'farming systems research programme'. Under a pilot production programme form 1987-1988 initiated by SRTI, about 41 farmers of Ishurdi were encouraged to cultivate 13 hectares using the STP method. The average yield per hectare was 84 tons from

STP against 43 tons from the conventional method. A study of 94 farmers at five

locations in Ishurdi, Darsana, Jalpurhat, Thakurgaon and Rangpur Sugar Mills zone in

1989-1990 showed even better results. Each hectare yielded about 119 tons under STP against 47 tons with the conventional practices.

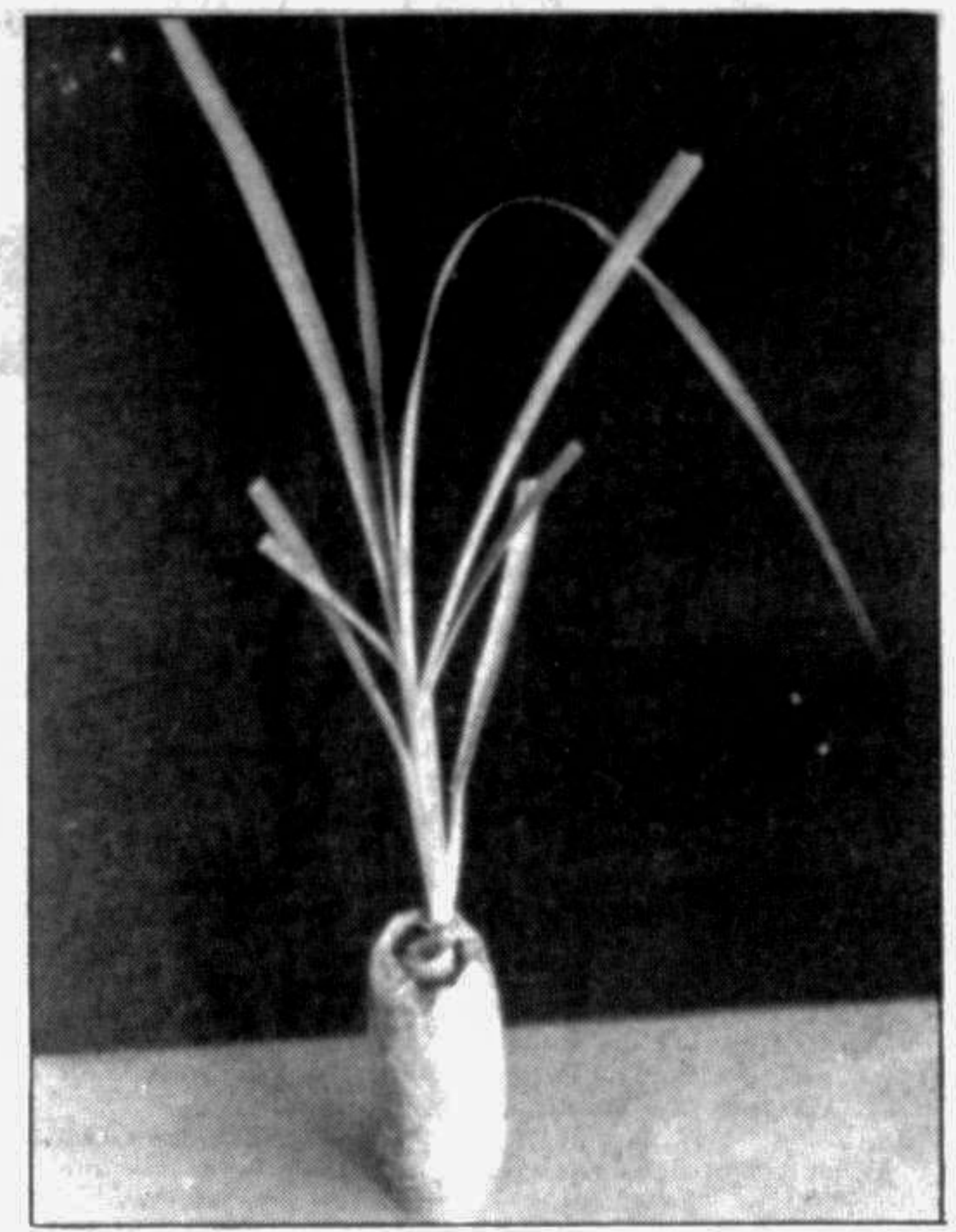
In terms of income, STP farmers got a net profit of Taka 62,000 per hectare, whereas traditional cultivators got only Taka 12,000 per hectare.

However, the most important feature of STP is employment generation for women-folk. In areas under STP, a woman worker earns Taka 40 a day for filling 1000 poly-bags with soil. On the other hand farmers have found the business potential in raising seedlings in his homesteads.

Country's current production from a total cultivated area of over 1,80,000 hectares now stands at 6.8 million tons of sugarcane, end product of which is 1,70,000 tons of sugar and 3,00,000 tons of gur, (molasses). The requirements per year are 11 million tons of sugarcane for the production of 3,00,000 tons of sugar and 6,00,000 tons of gur.

For obvious reasons the shortfall of over four million tons of sugarcane cannot be made up by increasing the volume of land under sugarcane cultivation. The simple solution lies with the efforts to increase yield per hectare.

Scientists at the SRTI hope that increasing per hectare yield of sugarcane through STP country can earn self-sufficiency in sugar and gur.



PABNA : Sugarcane seedling in a polybag ready for transplantation. —Star photo

Drama festival concludes

BARISAL, Mar 18 : Seven-day long drama festival on the completion of 23 years of Kheal Group theatre of Barisal concluded here in the Aswini Kumar Town Hall premises recently, reports BSS.

It was presided over by Prof. Begum Firoza, Mr. Hasan Imam a noted cinema and television artist inaugurated the function while Mr. Nurul Alam Khan, Deputy Commissioner, Bakerganj was the chief guest. Noted drama and dance artist Laila Hasan was the special guest.

Seven dramas were staged by different theatres in this connections.

Ticketless train passengers on rise

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Mar 18 : Ticketless passengers are on the rise in the trains running between Kishoreganj-Barisal, Kishoreganj-Mymensingh and Kishoreganj-Gauripur, Shyamganj-Jariatjanjail and Muhaganj routes creating problems to the genuine travellers.

These ticketless passengers mostly day-labourers, beggars and women engaged in flying business of various items like Indian sarais, hawkers and

subscription collectors cause sufferings to the genuine passengers are occupy seats of ordinary passengers and make the compartments and tiolet of the trains dirty.

It is further learnt that the railway security men and the ticket checkers are reluctant to face these ticketless passengers. Besides, the passengers are also reluctant to buy tickets because of the abnormal rise in the train fares.

2 killed in road mishaps

TANGAIL, Mar 18 : Two persons - a college student and a minor boy - were killed and several others injured in two separate road accidents here on Thursday, reports BSS.

A Z M Tangila Islam, a final year zoology honours student of Sadat College was killed at Zamurki and several others were injured when a minibus fell into a ditch.

In an other accident near Kagmari a minor boy was run over by a truck.

Two cases were registered with Mirzapur and Tangail Sadar thanas.

Work on 300 km road network in Mymensingh in progress

From A Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, Mar 18,

The Government has decided to take up a project for improvement of nearly 300 kilometres of roads in greater Mymensingh district to provide all weather access at reasonable cost to selected productive and marketing centres. The main objective of the project is to facilitate transportation of agricultural surplus of the area and to develop the infrastructure for other development activities.

For implementation of the project an agreement was signed with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in 1986 for financial assistance. As per agreement, the Bank shall provide fund to cover the entire cost of consultancy service and 80 per cent of the cost of civil work. The Government of Bangladesh shall bear the cost of land, rest 20 per cent of the cost of work and other related local expenditures.

The project includes 46 km long Tangail-Modhupur Road, 10 km long Karatia (Bhatkura)-Basal Road and seven km-long Porabari-Gopalpur Road in the district of Tangail, 20 km long Mymensingh-Phulbaria Road and 86 km long Halaughat-Raghurampur (Mymensingh)-Netrakona-Thakurakona Road in the districts of Mymensingh and Netrakona, 20 km long Kishoreganj-Chamraghat Road and 12 km long Kishoreganj-Hossainpur Road in the district of Kishoreganj, 27 km long Jamalpur-Sherpur-Jhulgaon Road, 40 km Sherpur-Nakla-Phulpur Road and 24 km long Jhenagati-Jhulgaon-Nalitabari Road in the district of Sherpur.

Arrangement for acquisition of land, engineering design tender documents, specifications, drawings and estimates and other preliminary work were completed first and approval of the Government and the ADB was then taken. Tenders were invited from the per-qualified contractors and were received, scrutinized and evaluated for the approval of Government and Bank. Eight contracts out of total 10 contracts have been approved. It took three years to complete these initial formalities.

At the time of pre-qualification of contractors it has been

observed that no big construction company with adequate experience and sufficient equipment and machinery has been emerged in the country as construction has not been grown up here as industry. Local construction firms are lacking in experience of big construction work. For the reason, for all the big contracts of the project joint venture of local and foreign firms have been selected.

The work on Mymensingh-Fulbaria Road and Tangail-Modhupur Road were awarded in 1989 to joint venture construction company Solitech-IJM of Bangladesh and Malaysia and work of Halaughat-Raghurampur-Netrakona-Thakurakona Road to the joint venture company of RDC-TPL of Singapore and Bangladesh. Due to difficulties in land acquisition, political disturbances, frequent hartals and mainly due to early and prolonged rains in 1989-90 physical target of work could not be achieved. In the first year of the three year period of contract, the contractors have constructed godowns, repairing shop and set up site offices, field laboratories, stack-yard, mixing yard, batching yard, machinery yard and collected equipment and machinery required for the job. Besides, the contractors have collected reasonable quantity of different materials and have executed some physical work.

**Preliminary work**  
It took very long time in preparatory and preliminary work. Moreover in the first

year, practically, no physical road work was done. For this reason people got frustrated about the future of the project. But at present all the officers and staff associated with the project, the consultants and company Samwhan-Mir Akhter Hossain Ltd. of South Korea and Bangladesh in last October. In the meantime they have procured huge quantity of equipment and machinery at site, set up their site offices, field laboratories, different yards and constructed godowns. Due to difficulty in land acquisition start of earthwork has been delayed. However the contractor has now started the earthwork and some bridges and also collected good quantity of construction materials. This South Korean construction firm has recently completed World Bank aided road development work in North Bengal.

contractors are making all out efforts for the progress of the work. Work is going on in full swing at the moment. In the meantime 15 km earthwork and 60 per cent of pavement work for 12 km and 26 culverts have been completed on Halaughat-Raghurampur-Netrakona Road. Besides, construction of four bridges is in progress.

So far 20 per cent progress has been achieved. It is expected that nearly 50 per cent work will be completed on this road during the current financial year.

Eight km of earthwork and eight culverts have been completed on Mymensingh-Fulbaria Road. Earthwork of

remaining portion and pavement work for six km have been taken up. Nearly 40 to 50 per cent work of the road is expected to be completed during this financial year. Twelve km earthwork, six culverts and 70 per cent of pavement work of 12 km have been completed in the meantime. Progress of 18 per cent of total work has been achieved. Nearly 40 to 50 per cent work of the road is likely to be completed during this year.

The work of Jamalpur-Sherpur-Jhulgaon Road, Sherpur-Nakla-Phulpur Road and Jhenagati-Jhulgaon-Nalitabari Road have been awarded to the joint venture

Problem of land acquisition

It is gathered from the concerned source that the main bottleneck in the progress of the work is the problem of land acquisition. It has been observed not only in this project but in almost all the development projects of the country that the progress of work is being delayed substantially due to delay in the progress of land acquisition. Land Administration should take proper step to simplify the procedure and there should be a time limit for the same. Delay in the execution of the work contributes to the increase in the cost of the project. There is no justification to spend more public money and increase public suffering for nothing.

The concerned department says that the whole project will be completed in 1993. With the completion of the project there will be a great qualitative change in the road communication system of Greater Mymensingh area. Far flung areas of districts and district headquarters of Jamalpur, Sherpur and Netrakona will be connected with the national road network. These district headquarters will directly be linked with the capital with shorter but very high quality road. This much faster and easier road network will greatly contribute to the socio-economic development of the area and ultimately to the development of the whole country.

Its effect will be far reaching.



Development work of Mymensingh-Netrakona road in progress. —Star photo

Political scene

Show cause on eight AL leaders

From Our Correspondent

Manikganj March 18

Eight leaders of Manikganj district Awami League were served with show cause notices on charge of anti-party activities.

The decision was taken in an extended meeting of the party with district Awami League President (former Minister) Moslemuddin Khan Hlubumia in the chair. AL sources said on Sunday.

The leaders include district Agriculture Affairs Secretary Md. Nurul Amin and a top insider of district Awami League Md. Zainal Abedin, the source added. The accused leaders were blamed for anti-party activities during the last parliamentary election.

APSU demands arrest of criminals

Our Khulna Bureau adds : All Party Students Unity of Khulna on Saturday demanded arrest of criminals of the city area within seven days otherwise they will launch a movement.

In a joint meeting of the students and workers at Baro Bazar area, APSU leaders Md. Ismail, Golam Mustafa, Maruf Hossain, Shawkat Mahmood Chowdhury and Uday Das Gupta called upon the administration to nab those criminals who are still involved in anti-social activities under the shelter of Jatiya Party.

Mujib's birth anniversary

The 71st birth anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was observed by Khulna district and city units of Awami League here yesterday. Pro-AL Chhatra League and Pro-BAKSAL Chhatra League, Sramik League, Khulna district and city units of BAKSAL also arranged different programmes to mark the day.

AL and BAKSAL hoisted Na-

tional and Party flags at their respective party offices and garlanded portraits of the late leader. Both AL and BAKSAL held two separate discussion meetings in their respective offices. AL city unit President Advocate Manjurul Imam presided over the AL discussion meeting, where the speakers were Messrs Shamsur Rahman Mani, Md. Lutfur Rahman and others. Juvenile rally also held in the AL office where sweets were distributed.

Sirajganj

Our Sirajganj Correspondent adds : The 71st birth anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was observed in district headquarters and upazilas including Belkuchi and Shahjadpur on Sunday.

Awami League, BKSAL, Bangabandhu Parishad and other front organizations took up massive programme which included Quran Khwani, Millad Mahfil and discussion meetings.

Speakers at a discussion meeting at Shahjadpur with Advocate Abdur Rahman in the chair called upon the people to materialise ideals of Bangabandhu. Our Sherpur Correspondent adds: The district unit of Bangladesh Awami League observed 71st birth day of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman with due respect.

On the occasion national and party flags were hoisted at district Awami League office.

A party meeting was held in the evening at Pourashava New Market compound with Dr. Md. Mozammel Hoque, Secretary General of district Awami League presiding.

Ziaul Hoque, Organising Secretary district AL, Mr. Abdul Khalique, Benoy Kumar Shah of Chhatra League spoke in the meeting.

A millad mahfil was also arranged and the destitute were served with food.

Family planning officers' confce held

From Our Correspondent

MAULVI BAZAR, Mar 18 : A conference of government and non-governmental officers and employees of Family Planning was held at Maulvi Bazar on March 15 with Mr Sayed Mohsin Ali, Chairman of Maulvi Bazar Pourashava in the chair.

Price spiral of inputs hampers betel leaf output

From Our Correspondent

MAULVI BAZAR, Mar 18 : Betel leaf production in Maulvi Bazar district has been adversely affected by the price rise of fertilizers, oil-cake and pesticides.

Sylhet lawyers resent withdrawal of HC bench

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, March 18 : The Government order rescinding the sitting of High Court Bench in Sylhet and other places outside the capital has created great resentment among the lawyers and members of the public in Sylhet.

A public rally held at Court Point vehemently protesting the order threatened to launch a mass movement unless the "unlawful and prejudiced order" was rescinded.

Addressing the rally speakers from all walks of life accused the government of serving the interest of a few Dhaka lawyers at the cost of litigant public and contended that when the Article 100 of the Constitution allows such High Court Circuit benches outside the capital this hurried order of the caretaker government at its life end could have no motive other than serving parochial ends of a few metropolis advocates and

allowing an uninterrupted easy metropolitan life to some court officers.

They charged the Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed of nepotism and partiality for taking this decision when parliament is being formed soon. It demanded the withdrawal of the order for the sake of Justice to the mofussil litigants.

Earlier, a delegation of lawyers and others met the Deputy Register Sylhet High Court Division and the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet and presented memorandum demanding the withdrawal of the order. They also asked not the authorities concerned to transfer bills, records, furniture and officials of high courts, Sylhet till the order was withdrawn by the Acting President for next Parliament. The delegation was headed by Advocate A.K. Hamid Bakht Chowdhury.

Suicide cases increase

From Our Correspondent

DINAJPUR, March 18 : Suicide cases are increasing alarmingly in the district. Eight persons including three women committed suicide while another 16 persons tried to commit suicide during last one week. Mahmuda Begum (20) and Marina Begum (32) of village Mohamudullapur and Khalkhali of Sadar upazila, Panchami Rani Roy (14) of Chhribanda upazila, Khoka Mia (70) of Kharol upazila, Smritimoy Datta alias Kalu (28) of Ramnagar Mohalla in Dinajpur town, Abu Sufian (20) of village Panchabari, Yousuf Ali (25) of village Shankerpur and Md. Jamal (22) of village Kamalpur all of Sadar upazila committed suicide by taking endrine. All the dead bodies were sent to the morgue for autopsy.

Besides, nine women and seven men also tried to com-

mit suicide by taking endrine. Victims were admitted to Dinajpur General Hospital for treatment.

Cases have been registered with the respective police stations in this connection.

**3 arrested**  
Three persons were arrested and huge quantity of local made wine was recovered recently.

According to the reports acting on a secret information the police raided a house at Pulhat under Dinajpur town and recovered two maunds of local made wine. Ramesh Chandra, Ashraf Ali and Lahu Miah were arrested in this connection.

A case has been registered by Kotwali police and further investigation is proceeding.