

Upazila roundup

KISHOREGANJ
Housewife beaten to death

From Our Correspondent

March 20: Amena Akhtar Khatun (25) a housewife and mother of two children was allegedly beaten to death by her husband at village Char-kawna in Pakundia upazila on Sunday last.

It is learnt that Abdul Mazid, husband of the deceased, used to torture his wife Amena for bringing money from her parents. At the night of the incident Amena was severely beaten by her husband and she died. Abdul Mazid then poured poison into her mouth to cover it up as a suicidal case.

A case was registered with Pakundia police station in this connection. The deadbody was sent to the morgue of Kishoreganj hospital for post mortem. The accused is absconding.

Gambling

House, gambling and exhibition of obscene dances are going on unabated in the name of 'Ananda Mela' at different places of the district under the very nose of local administrations. Law and order situation has been deteriorated and criminal activities like theft, dacoity and robbery have increased abnormally in the district during the last few weeks.

Several processions were brought out and memoranda handed over to the DC and SP to press home the demand for stopping Ananda Mela. But no efforts have been made by the district administration to stop it, it is alleged.

SHARIATPUR

290 tubewells to be distributed

From A Correspondent

March 20: Public Health Engineering Department will distribute 290 sets of deep tubewells, in five upazilas of the district during the current fiscal year.

Official sources said of the total, 85 sets will be distributed in Sadar, 81 sets in Naria, 33 sets in Bhadarganj, 63 sets in Damudya and 28 sets in Goshalhat upazilas.

KUSHITIA

Miscreant arrested

From Our Correspondent

March 20: Alamdanga police arrested a miscreant with a short gun and eleven rounds of rifle bullets and some papers of 'Sarbahara Party' on March 14 in Nagdah village under Alamdanga upazila after exchanging 25 rounds of fire.

It is reported that the arrested miscreant Baten (24) is a man of Baidyanathpur under Bhanga upazila of Faridpur district.

A case has been lodged in this connection.

Govt employees sports held

Mr. A.K. Fazul Haque Mia, Commissioner, Khulna Division, opened the annual sports of government employees of Kushtia district at the local stadium on March 17.

It is reported that this is the first sports of the government employees in 20 years.

Mr. Syed Hafiz Ahmed, DC, presided over the prize distributing function.

The officers of district and upazila level and members K.D.S.A. co-operated to finish the competition peacefully.

SHERPUR

Fertilizer price up: farmers at stake

From Our Correspondent

March 20: Poor farmers are facing critical situation due to increase in price of chemical fertilizer throughout the district.

It is learnt that per bag of urea is sold at Taka 300 as against Taka 240 a few weeks back.

A bag of TSP is sold at Taka 360 as against Taka 280.

It is alleged by the farmers that dealers of fertilizer are not giving receipt of fertilizer price. Unscrupulous dealers of fertilizer in connivance with a section of dishonest officials are engaged in creating artificial scarcity in the market to earn maximum profit. It is further alleged.

NETRAKONA

Rickshaws cause traffic jam

March 20: Rickshaws have been creating manifold problems in and around the town due to lack of control by the

municipal authority, reports UNB. The number is multiplying and most of the rickshaws are not licensed. They do not use light or lamp after sunset and do not carry any fare chart. The pullers demand unreasonable fare from the passengers as the local authority did not fix-up rickshaw fare.

Town dwellers alleged that rickshawpullers had no regard for traffic rules and very often block the roads creating problems for other vehicles and pedestrians, mainly school-going girl students.

People urged the authorities to gear up traffic management in the town with a view to removing the inconvenience of the people of the area.

BOGRA

Indian sugar floods markets

March 20: Huge quantity of sugar remained unsold in the mills here due to glut in the market with smuggled Indian sugar, reports UNB

According to informed sources, 1.90 lakh metric tons of sugar worth about Taka 529.8 crore remained unsold in 17 sugar mills in the northern districts.

Sources said that only 24,000 metric tons of sugar worth about Taka 65.56 crore have been sold so far during this season.

Joypurhat Sugar Mills produced 17,200 metric tons of sugar of which only 1,155 tons were sold so far.

An official source said as sugar stock remained unsold, payment to growers remained outstanding to an extent of Taka seven crore in case of Joypurhat Sugar Mills alone.

Situation also similar in Panchagarh, Thakurgaon, Shyamkur, Setabganj, Rangpur, Rajshahi and Natore along with all other sugar mills in North Bengal.

Indian sugar is being smuggled into the country in large quantities and selling in different markets at cheaper prices, sources alleged.

JAMALPUR

Obituary

From Our Correspondent

March 20: Mr. Aym Shamsul Haque, father of Shaheen Ahmed Sharif, district correspondent of 'Dainik Desh' Jamalpur, died recently at the local general hospital.

He was 65. He left behind his wife, four sons, two daughters and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

He was buried at Jamalpur Pura graveyard and his Qul Khawani was held at his residence at Bazrapur in Jamalpur town.

FENI

780 certificate cases filed

March 20: Bangladesh Krishi Bank has filed 780 certificate cases against 2,300 farmers of the five upazilas of the district for realisation of outstanding loans of Taka 17 crore.

BKB disbursed the loan from its 15 branches to augment agriculture, fisheries, poultry, and small scale industrial production.

The authority also issued distressed warrants and warrants of arrests against the defaulters.

The farmers said due to recurrent floodings and other natural calamities during the last few years they have incurred huge crop losses. This has prevented them from repaying the bank loans in time.

They urged the authorities to extend time to repay the arrears and sanction new loans to boost agri production in the district.

MANIKGANJ

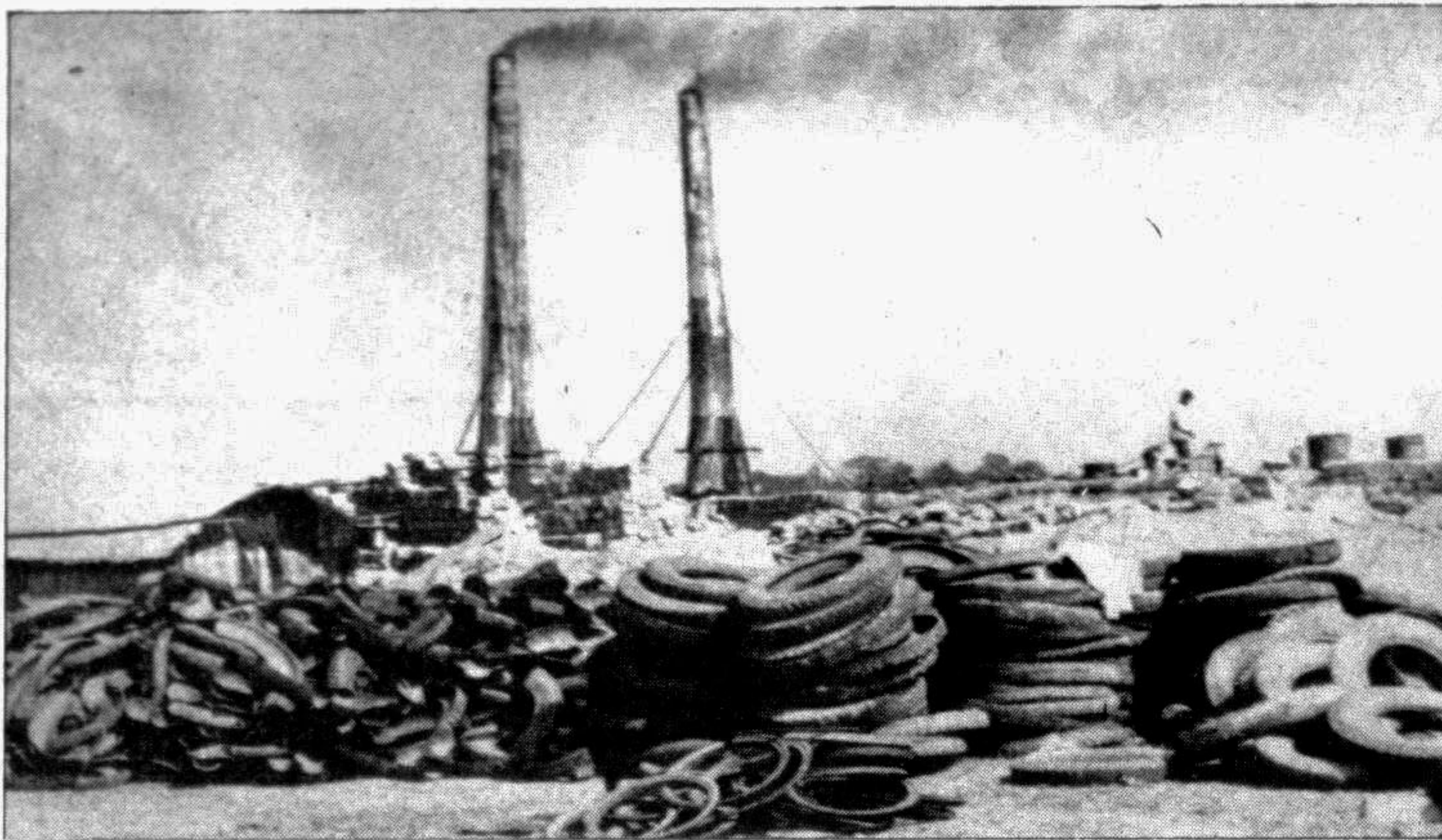
Transport workers clash: 8 hurt

March 20: Transport came to a standstill at Daulatdia ferry ghat for nearly three hours on Monday after a clash ensued between ferry and transport workers injuring eight, one of them seriously, police said, reports UNB.

Police and BIWTC officials said the clash started when a ferry ghat worker pushed a helper of a car from the ferry.

The hot exchange between the two workers later turned into a clash between the two groups when Salfuddin, a ferry worker, was attacked by a rod. He was rushed to the Goshalhat Health Complex in a serious condition.

The situation was brought under control by the police. A case has been filed with the local police in this connection.



Indiscriminate use of firewood across the country has considerably reduced forest resources. The bulk is used in brickfields. Of late the brickfield owners in many places do not get normal supply of firewood. Rejected automobile tyres are largely used instead of firewood. Here Tyres are stacked at a brickfield at Madanpur in Bandar upazila of Narayanganj for use as fuel. — Star photo

Most drivers lack basic training
Kishoreganj-Bhairab bus journey hazardous

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ Mar 20: Journey by bus on Kishoreganj-Bhairab road is extremely hazardous for an ever-increasing number of passengers in this section.

The conductors often realise excess fares from the passengers and misbehave with them. Bus service is maintained whimsically and hardly any time-table is maintained by the drivers. It takes a long time to reach Bhairab from Kishoreganj though the distance is about 35 miles.

Most of the drivers are illiterate and lack basic training. A survey revealed that many of them do not have valid driving licence. Some drivers assume fake names and addresses to avoid detection by the law enforcing agency in the event of an accident.

The condition of the buses is too poor to be pressed into service. These frequently face engine trouble in course of plying and the passengers become stranded for long hours. If a bus goes out of order with full load of passengers at the crime spots during night all become exposed to insecurity.

The bus stands on this route are also in bad shape. There is no shed for the passengers who, at times, wait for a long time to avail a bus.

Pure drinking water scarce

Acute scarcity of pure drinking water causes serious

problems for the people in the rural areas of the district.

According to the reports, the existing number of tubewells in 13 upazilas of the district sunk by the department of Public Health Engineering (PHIE) is quite inadequate to meet the demand.

According to an official source, there are 18,366 tubewells in the district installed by the PHIE. The total population of the district is about 23 lakh. Of the total number of tubewells 959 are now lying out of order in different areas of the district, but unofficially the disordered tubewells are about 2000. Many tubewells went out of order since three or five years ago. But no effective measure has been taken by the authorities concerned.

It is further learnt that more tubewells are lying out of order for want of spare parts. Several representations for resinking the choked up tubewells were given to the authorities but no step has been taken.

The people have to depend on wells, tanks and rivers for drinking water. It has resulted in various water borne diseases in the rural areas of the district. Immediate effective measures should be taken by higher authorities with a view to sinking the choked tubewells in the district.

Sharp rise in prices of essentials

From Our Correspondent

CHIANDPUR, Mar 20: With the beginning of Holy Ramzan sharp rise in the prices of essential commodities has doubled the sufferings of the middle class people in the district.

Specially prices of the rice and ata have abnormally gone up. Fine quality rice in the market is being sold at Taka 15 to 16 per kg against Taka 13 to 14 a few days back. Course rice is being sold at Taka 12 to 13 per kg, ata at Taka 10 to 11 per kg, pulses at Taka 30 to 32 per kg against Taka 28, chihola gram at Taka 28 to 30 per kg, moog at Taka 30, soyabean oil at Taka 32 to 34 per kg against Taka 30.

The prices of all sorts of fishes like Ruhi, Katal, Mrigal, Koi, and Magur have also gone

up. Besides, prices of mutton and beef have marked a sharp rise. Even vegetables are being sold at high rates.

People of the district have urged the concerned authorities to check the price rise to minimise the sufferings of the people.

Mosquito menace

Mosquitoes has made the life of the people miserable in Chandpur and adjacent areas. People and particularly the students are the easy prey of mosquitoes, nobody can sit peacefully without mosquito nets after dusk, use of mosquito coils also does not make any difference.

The unclean drains, stagnant water in the roads side ditches are the main breeding centres, also they breed in

large numbers in the derelict ponds covered with water hyacinth.

Govt college sports

Chandpur Government College held the Annual Sports at college ground with great enthusiasm.

About 150 students participated in 20 events in three groups. Mr. Abul Kasem, D.C. Chandpur inaugurated the sports and Professor Md. Abdullah M.P. distributed the prizes among the winners.

The prize-giving ceremony was addressed by Principal Matmur Rahman, Professor Humayun Azad, Professor Shahidullah, and Mizanur Rahman Mazhi.



While running his shop at a rural hat this potter is enjoying radio programmes. — Star photo

Notes from Madaripur

From Our Correspondent

MADARIPUR, Mar 20: Zubair Ahmed (18), son of Master Ali Ahmed of Charmugria under Madaripur Sadar upazila was stabbed by some miscreants at Madaripur new bus stand recently.

He was rushed to the Madaripur Sadar Hospital in serious condition. A case has been registered with Madaripur thana in this connection.

Polythene pollution

Polythene bags, dumped indiscriminately in drains are posing threat to health and sanitation of the town dwellers here.

According to sources, these bags block easy flow of rain water, filths and dirt causing environmental pollution. About 20 factories are manufacturing polythene bags in the country. Local elite have called for creating awareness among the people about the hazardous effects of polythene.

Shortage of religious teachers

Education of students in religious subject is greatly hampered due to absence of religious teachers in different government primary schools of Madaripur and Shariatpur districts.

There are only Hindu teachers in some schools. Muslim students of those schools are being deprived of religious education. On the other hand, many schools have only Muslim teachers and consequently the Hindu students of those schools are deprived of religious education. This anomaly was created due to non-compliance of transfer order of teachers of different primary schools.

BRDB projects

Bangladesh Rural Development Board will implement 5 projects in 4 upazilas of Madaripur district against a total allocation of Taka 3 lakh and 50 thousand during the current financial year.

According to an official source, the projects include reconstruction of roads and construction of culverts. The schemes fall in Madaripur, Sadar, Rajitor, Shibechar and Kalkini upazilas.

Food crisis in Jamalpur

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR Mar 20: Serious food crisis has been persisting all over the district resulting in further increase in prices of essentials. The government has recently started selling of rice in open markets (OMS) here. The quantity of rice is too meagre to meet the requirements of the people.

Food crisis has been very acute in rural areas of the district. At present rice is selling at Taka 16 per kg in different hats and bazars of the district. As a result poor people are suffering much for want of food.

160 kg hemp recovered

BARISAL, Mar 20: The Narcotics Department has recovered 160 kilograms of hemp, a large number of hemp plants and some rectified spirit from two places of Gourmadi upazila of Barisal district on Wednesday, a police source said reports BSS.

According to the source a huge quantity of hemp and its plants were recovered from the village of Banglia and wine from Batagore town.

Four persons were arrested in this connection. The arrested persons were sent to the court, the source said.

Political scene

8 AL leaders expelled in Netrakona

From Our Correspondent

NETRAKONA, March 20: Eight leaders including one Vice-President of Netrakona district Awami League were expelled from the party in an extended meeting of the party members held Friday. A resolution was taken to expel the above mentioned leaders from the party for their anti-party activities.

The expelled leaders are Advocate Sadiruddin Ahmed, Vice President, Mr. Ali Osman Talukder, Secretary, Advocate Amirul Islam, members of Netrakona district Awami League, Mr. Abu Siddique Ahmed, President of Netrakona thana AL, Mr. Ibrahim Vice President of Netrakona thana AL, Mr. Tarikul Islam Raja, Organising Secretary of Netrakona thana AL, Master Abu Siddique, President of Purbadhala thana AL and Mr Nurul Islam, Secretary of Netrakona district Krishak League.

It may be mentioned here that Advocate Jinnatul Islam has been made acting Secretary of Netrakona district Awami League.

Razzaque
A Correspondent from

Shariatpur adds: Newly elected MP of eight-party alliance from Shariatpur-3 and BKSAL General Secretary, Abdur Razzak called upon the people of his constituency to be ready to fight for parliamentary form of government. Addressing public reception meetings at Shariatpur, Taraburia and Damudia, the leader congratulated the people on their victory. He urged all parties to fulfil their pledge by making parliamentary form of government.

He advised his party leaders and workers to show tolerance and work for the poor people.

36 lose security money in Chandpur

Our Chandpur Correspondent adds: The security money of 36 candidates out of 57 from six constituencies of Chandpur district have been forfeited in the parliamentary election held on February 27.

The candidates who lost security money are 4 from Chandpur-1, 7 from Chandpur-2, 6 from Chandpur-3, 5 from Chandpur-4, 8 from Chandpur-5, 6 from Chandpur-6.

Timber worth Tk 20cr pilfered in a year

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, March 20: The government has incurred a loss of Taka 20 crore for pilferage of timber from forest areas during the last one year in greater Jamalpur district.

According to the sources, deforestation in the district continuing unabated and has now assumed an alarming proportion affecting the ecological balance of the area.

This illegal activity is rampant in Nandina, Shilaguri, Shrcpur, Ghenaighatt, Nakhla, Sriboardi and Dikpaith.

Some unscrupulous persons are illegally felling down many species of trees from almost all the forests which include Garjan, Jackfruit, Spalish Shikprai, Gamar, Gazari, Segoan

and Teak. The organised gangs in connivance with a section of unscrupulous forest officials are engaged in this activity.

Besides, it is learnt that the local people are also involved in pilferage of timber. The pilfered timber is brought to Dhaka by trucks and sold in blackmarkets and also dispatched to other places of the country at mid-night.

It is further learnt that the pilfered timber is even smuggled to India along some hilly rivers.

It is alleged that the forest security guards are helpless to control the situation as most of the guards are injured in their bid to resist the pilferage.

Comilla lawyers demand restoration of HC bench

From Our Correspondent

COMILLA, Mar 20: A procession was brought out by Comilla High Court Implementation Committee and Lawyers demanding withdrawal of order rescinding holding of High Court sessions outside the capital and restoration of High Court bench in Comilla immediately.

A meeting was held at the auditorium of Law College presided over by Principal AW Towha, Convener of Implementation Committee.

Speakers at the meeting said that the recent order rescinding the sitting of High

Court benches outside Dhaka was unlawful as the Article 100 of the Constitution says that the Chief Justice was not empowered to rescind the High Court sessions and hence the recent order was not constitutional. They mentioned that any change in the Constitution must be done only by the sovereign Parliament through amendment.

The Lawyers demonstrated in front of Comilla High Court and expressed their determination of not giving any chance to the authority to transfer any document from here to Dhaka.

Anti-social elements active at Poradah

From Our Correspondent

KUSHITIA, Mar 20: Poradah Railway junction is now the centre place of floating prostitutes, smugglers and musclemen.

The activities of the miscreants have increased so much due to the silence of Railway authority.

Poradah junction is one of the busiest places of Railway in southern Bengal.

It has a very important role in the railway transportation between South and North Bengal. Thousands of passengers come here round the clock to reach their destinations. Many people have to wait here for trains bound for various places.

these elements. The prostitutes can easily go to any place without obstruction.

The prohibited Indian goods are carried by a group of smugglers with the help of railway police and it is a very profitable business to them.

Waiting passengers can easily hire a mat by four Taka but it is very hard to manage a small place for buying.

Mymensingh Press Club annual dinner

From Our Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, Mar 20: The prize-giving ceremony and annual dinner of Mymensingh Press Club was held on March 18 at the Club auditorium.

Mr. Mohammad Ashraf, Deputy Commissioner was present as chief guest and distributed prizes to the winners while Prof. Nurul Islam presided over the function.

The chief guest in his speech said that he would give all kinds of help and co-operations to the club for its smooth running. General Secretary of the club Md. Nawab Ali presented on address of welcome and Sports Secretary Md. Nurullah conducted the function.

One stabbed

Raju (21), a young man of Daratana Road, Jessore was stabbed by a group of miscreants at Chundanga bus stand of Jessore recently.