

Upazila roundup

MYMENSINGH

37 kutcha houses gutted

From A Correspondent
March 24: At least 37 kutcha houses and few betel leaf fields were gutted in separate fire incidents last week. The loss was estimated at about Taka 10 lakh in Iswarganj upazila.

Of them 18 kutcha houses and betel leaf field of village Pastori were gutted on March 9. 13 kutcha houses of village Suhaji were gutted on March 6, and four houses were gutted at village Panur and two houses at village Annayet Nagar in Iswarganj upazila.

NARAIL

Mosquito menace

From Our Correspondent
March 24: Mosquito menace has assumed an alarming proportion at Narail town and urban areas for the last few weeks causing much sufferings to the inhabitants.

It is hardly possible to work at night due to mosquito bite. The residents of the town particularly the students community are to undergo extreme troubles to prepare their lessons at night because of mosquito bite.

Almost all the drains of the town are full of garbage. Besides, uncleared jungles in and around the dwelling houses in the Purasabha area help increase mosquito breeding.

DINAJPUR

Soccer tourney

From Our Correspondent
March 24: Bheramara Judent Club became champion of Haktimpor Gold Cup Football Trophy Tournament-1991.

At least 16 teams from different districts of the country participated in the tournament. A large number of spectators including women and elite of the district witnessed the final match.

The final match was played between Bheramara Judent Club and Saldpur Khelwar Samity. Bheramara Judent won the match by 3-1 goals.

Mr. Md. Shahajahan Chowdhury, Deputy Commissioner, Dinajpur was present as chief guest and distributed prizes among the players. Mr. Md. Aziz, Upazila Chairman and donor of the gold trophy was present as special guest.

NARAYANGANJ

BTMC cotton yarn seized

March 24: Police seized a truck load of BTMC cotton yarn worth about 10 lakh Taka during an alleged bid at blackmarketing here Saturday night, reports UNB.

The truck was reportedly carrying cotton yarn allocated by Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC) for weavers in Pabna.

But the truck which loaded the yarn from Kohinoor Textile Mills at Savar was seized by police at Tanbazur Sutapatti at around 10 Saturday night during delivery to a local yarn merchant.

Police took the driver into custody but others in the truck managed to escape sensing the presence of police.

CHITTAGONG

Smuggled goods worth Tk 6 lakh recovered

March 24: Kotwali police raiding two shops at Riazuddin Bazar here recovered smuggled goods worth Taka six lakh and arrested one person in this connection, police sources said on Saturday, reports BSS.

Mujibul Haq, a sales man, was arrested when smuggled items including 298 pieces Indian lungi, 150 pieces of Indian saree, 1900 pieces of Chinese locks 100 bottles of Phenistyle syrup, 11 pieces of current fishing nets and 30 dozens of wood pencil were found at his shop at New Super Market of Riazuddin Bazar on Friday.

One hundred and nineteen pieces of Indian sarees, 85 Indian lungis, 336 pieces of Indian locks and some spurious cosmetics were recovered from a shop of Mohsin Market of Riazuddin Bazar on Saturday. Cases have been filed against them.

CHANDPUR

District level offices absent

March 24: Though Chandpur was made a district eight years back, district level

important offices are yet to be established.

The implementation of development projects and other administrative activities are being hampered due to the absence of district level offices. All district level development programmes and their executions are still being done from former district Headquarters Comilla.

The absence of youth development office, social welfare office, cottage industries office, offices of Executive Engineer, Roads and Highways, Executive Engineer, P.W.D. are hampering the development works of the district.

Besides, collectorate office, S. P. office, judges office, civil surgeon's office, circuit house have not been established.

SATKHIRA

2 housewives commit suicide

March 24: Two young housewives committed suicide and a child died after taking poisonous food in separate incidents in Sadar upazila, police said here today, reports UNB.

Fatima (15), wife of Islam at Debnagar village under sadar upazila took poison reportedly for economic hardship of the family on Sunday.

Olina Dasi (28), wife of Sontosh Kumar Das at Gaba village under sadar upazila also took poison following a family feud on the same day, family sources said.

Another incident took place at Hawl Khali village where a two-year-old child Shahn took poisonous food which was kept on the floor by his father Mohsin to kill rats. He died instantaneously.

Three separate cases were filed with the police.

One electrocuted
A youngman was electrocuted at Roddaya village in sadar upazila, police said here today.

The victim Abdulah (22) Sunday came in touch with a live wire which connected his pump machine. He died on the spot.

The body was sent to Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

A case was filed with local police in this connection.

NARAIL

Dacoits loot ornaments

March 24: Dacoits looted five kgs of silver, five tolas of gold ornaments and cash money Taka 15,000 from Haibaria village under sadar upazila, police said here today, reports UNB.

A gang of dacoits raided the houses of Joydeb Kundu of the village on Wednesday night and opened fire injuring his son Kallol Kundu (18) and another inmate seriously. The dacoits later decamped with booty.

The injured were rushed to the hospital and a case has been filed in this connection.

SHERPUR

Death condoled

From Our Correspondent

March 24: Sherpur District Bar Council in a meeting condoled the death of former Ambassador and famous lawyer Syed Abdus Sultan. The condolence meeting was presided over by district Bar Council leader and ex-Chairman of Sherpur Pourashava Advocate Abdus Samad.

Advocates Habibur Rahman, Anisur Rahman, Aminal Islam, A. T. M. Zaker Hossain and A. K. M. Shaiful Islam Kalam also spoke in the meeting.

The speakers expressed deep sense of gratitude for his contribution he made towards the nation in the field of law and developing foreign relationship.

The Bar Council also condoled the sudden death of ex-district Judge of Sherpur, Mr. Manzurul Haque.

TANGAIL

Taxes Bar Assoc executives

From Our Correspondent

March 24: The election of the Tangail district Taxes Bar Association was held at Tangail recently.

Advocate Sayedur Rahman Khan, Advocate Haly Kenan and Ahindra Nath Kar were elected President, Secretary and Treasurer respectively.

Seminar on FP
Family Planning Association of Bangladesh (FPAB), Tangail unit arranged a seminar at Tangail Public Library recently. Dr. H. R. Khan, presided over the meeting and Additional District Magistrate Mr. Abdul Hannan was the chief guest.



Maize is not grown in abundance in Bangladesh. Modern methods applied, the yield can be considerably increased, say experts. Here a farmer at Savar harvesting the crop while his son looks on. —Star photo

Abnormal rise in price of essentials hits commonman

Star Report

The star outstation correspondents report about the sudden rise in prices of daily essentials across the country since the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan. A thorough survey conducted by the Star Correspondents suggest that the price hike is not always due to short supply of essential items. A section of the unscrupulous traders has seized the occasion, as usual, to raise the price much to the sufferings of the commonman. These businessmen have taken recourse to hoarding of the commodities for selling those at higher price.

Thakurgaon
Our Thakurgaon base in Thakurgaon writes: Prices of essentials showed a marked rise with the beginning of the holy Ramadan. Particularly, rice in price of atta and rice, is too high compared to the price of the items two weeks ago. The sudden rise in price has hit hard the low and fixed income group of people.

Coarse variety rice is now selling at Taka 400 to 425 per maund while the medium variety is being sold at Taka 450-460 per maund. Atta sells at Taka 9 per kg.

Prices of all varieties of pulses have registered a sharp rise. Mushur sells at Taka 28 per kg and gram at Taka 24.

Fish and meat prices have now gone beyond the purchasing capacity of commonman. Hilsa fish sells at Taka 50-55 per kg, Ruhi and Katla at Taka 80 per kg. Beef sells at Taka 50-55 and mutton Taka 65-75 per kg. A medium size poultry bird sells at Taka 60-65 and eggs are sold at Taka 13 per four.

Prices of spices have also gone up by Taka 8-10 per kg. Garlic is being sold at Taka 30 and ginger at Taka 28 per kg. While turmeric sells at Taka 50 per kg.

Bagerhat
Our Bagerhat Correspondent writes: With the advent of Holy Ramadan, prices of all commodities have shot up abnormally in the district affecting all section of people, specially the middle class.

Fish has now become the most costly consumable item due to the sharp rise in their prices. A small size Kol is sold at Taka 8 to 10 as against Taka two to three previously. A medium size Ruhi is sold at Taka 50 to 70 as against Taka 35 to 50.

Due to sharp rise in the prices of fishes poultry birds, beef and mutton are also being sold at high rates. Poultry birds are being sold at Taka 60 and more as against Taka 35 to 45 per kg. Mutton is sold at Taka 70 and beef at Taka 60 per kg.

Seasonal vegetables are scarce and costly in the markets. Karolla is being sold at Taka 16 against Taka 14 previously, lady fingers at Taka 15, brinjal at Taka 7 against Taka 5 and potatoes at Taka 6 per kg.

Prices of different kinds of pulses have also shot up. New pulses have appeared in the markets but their prices have gone up.

Masur is being sold at Taka 26 per kg as against Taka 25 previously, moog at Taka 28, gram Taka 22 and motor at Taka 20 per kg.

Onion the most important item particularly in the period of Ramadan is being sold at Taka 14 per kg as against Taka 12 previously, garlic at Taka 60 per kg. Besides, spices are also being sold at high rates. Mustard oil is sold at Taka 50 per kg and soyabean oil at Taka 35 to 36 per kg.

Prices of milk and milk products have also marked a sharp rise causing inconvenience to the devotees. A 2 kg Red Cow powdered milk is being sold at Taka 265 while the same in Khulna market is being sold at Taka 253.

Barisal
Our Barisal Correspondent adds: With the starting of Holy month of Ramadan prices of different essential commodities have shown a sharp rise in the markets of the district head-

quarter and its adjoining areas.

Particularly the prices of rice, flour and edible oils have gone up abnormally in every markets. Rice is being sold at Taka 13-16 per kg, atta at Taka 11-12 per kg, masur pulse at Taka 32-34 per kg while soyabean oil is being sold at Taka 32-36 per kg. Prices of mutton and beef have also been marked a sharp rise. Inhabitants of the district urged the concerned authority to check the market price immediately.

Pabna

A Correspondent from Pabna says: The sudden price hike of some daily essentials in the hats and bazars is causing sufferings to the consumers and put the low income group in a miserable condition.

Soyabean oil is now sells between Taka 35 and 36 per kg as against Taka 30 last week. IRRI variety of rice is being sold in the local markets between Taka 11 and Taka 13 per kg as against Taka 10 and Tk. 11.

A tin of dano milk is being sold at Taka 290 and Red Cow at Taka 280 per tin.

Prices of fish, vegetable, green chilli, masur dal, powdered milk have also shot up in the local markets.

A fatal play

From Our Correspondent

DINAJPUR, Mar 24: Because of fun only, one Alaka Bala (20), a newly married girl lost her life in a tragic drama that took place in Kherali village under Chitribandar Upazila recently.

According to a report, Alaka Bala was married only 13 days back. Her sister-in-laws and neighbouring young girls started playing with coloured water on the occasion of 'Bau Bhat'. Alaka Bala was also forcibly included in the play. Later, all the women and girls went in a big pond in the village for bath. At one stage, some young girls forcibly took Alaka Bala in deep water. Alaka Bala was crying and shouting loudly that she did not know how to swim.

But the young girls, did not pay attention to Alaka's shouting and left her in the deep water and return back quickly. When Alaka Bala drowned, the young girls were thinking that she will come out of water shortly. After ten minutes, all the women and girls started crying and shouting for her rescue. The villagers rushed to the spot and managed to recover the body after one hour search. Later, a tragic scene engulfed the village. No case was registered in this regard.

Kidnapped housewife rescued

SIRAJGONJ, Mar 24: Police here Friday rescued one housewife after twelve hours of abduction, reports UNB.

According to police sources, Sajeda Begum (28), wife of Abdul Aziz Mondal was kidnapped by a gang led by Sahidul Islam. She was confined in a house at Guripara of the town.

The kidnapers tortured her mercilessly.

Police, on a tip, raided the house and rescued Sajeda with serious injuries and she was rushed to the hospital where her condition was stated to be critical.

1.75 lakh acres lying fallow in N. dists Crops worth Tk 500 cr can be produced annually

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, March 24: Crops worth Taka 500 crore can be produced in the fallow lands of the northern areas if modern methods are applied in cultivation.

One lakh 75 acres of land of the Chapainawabganj, Rajshahi, Natore, Naogaon, Pabna, Sirajganj, Bogra, Joypurhat, Dinajpur, Panchagar, Thakurgaon, Rangpur, Kurigram, Nilphamari, Gaibandha and Lalmonirhat are left uncultivated.

As the per head area of land of the farmers of the northern areas of Bangladesh are greater than that of the other areas of

the country, they are not interested in utilising the uncultivated lands.

Besides, they use the ancient methods of agriculture. Only eight per cent cultivated lands are under irrigation system. Chemical Fertilizers are used in seven per cent of lands. In this situation if the government takes the initiative to cultivate these lands and apply the modern methods, a remarkable amount of crops can be produced in 16 northern districts of the country.

From the statistics it is known that the arable lands in the districts of Chapainawabganj, Rajshahi, Natore, Naogaon are 46,000 acres, Gaibandha, Nilphamari, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat are 31,000 acres and in the districts of Dinajpur, Thakurgaon, Panchagar are 52,000 acres.

Bagerhat needs night post office

From Our Correspondent
BAGERHAT, Mar 24: Bagerhat district town being an important business centre with a growing population requires a night post office to facilitate daily postal transactions to the people especially the businessmen and service holders. The existing post office which remains open at day time cannot cope

with the heavy postal transactions in an expanding town like Bagerhat and as such opening of a night post office brooks no delay, it is widely felt.

It may be mentioned here that the people of Bagerhat have been demanding a night post office here since 1966.



AGRI-VARSITY (Mymensingh): The Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh Agricultural University Prof. M. Asadur Rahman speaking as chief guest in the inaugural function of the 16th National Convention of Bangladesh Apexians held at the Mymensingh Teacher's Training College premises recently. —Star photo

Where every villager is literate

JHENIDAH, Mar 24: Believe it or not, there is a village in the country where none is illiterate. Every villager can write his name, reports UNB.

The proud name of the village is Maidhorpur located in Sadar upazila of the district. It is gathered that a literacy programme was taken up by some teachers of the village on September 27 last year. They rendered voluntary services dividing the village into 10 blocks and each block was put under supervision of one volunteer teacher.

All the 1047 people of 234 families were imparted literacy within a few months.

UNB correspondent found one Omed Ali (74) capable of writing his name and signature clearly.

There are other noteworthy attributes of the village, it has no beggars as all villagers are solvent financially. There has been no police case in the village in last five years.

Besides, there are eight

deep tubewells in the village to facilitate irrigation in crop fields.

The villagers have taken up an afforestation project. At least 2100 saplings including fruit-bearing trees have been planted along the both sides of the village roads. Each family supervises at least four trees.

A praiseworthy initiative has been undertaken to motivate the villagers to give up smoking. The number of present smokers stands at 90 and 25 per cent of the smokers have recently vowed openly to quit smoking habit.

All these developments were possible through "Maidhorpur Samabaya Samity," and the remarkable achievements have been possible without any government assistance.

Visitors consider the village to be worthy of being made a model for rural development and a demonstration of success with cooperative approach.

Record production in Kishoreganj Textile Mills

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Mar 24: Kishoreganj Textile Mills is an enterprise of Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC) which has successfully produced one lakh 50 thousands kg of yarn during the month of January last, the highest record during the last few years. The mill also earned incentive bonus for higher production and sale. It may be noted that the mill did not get any incentive bonus during the last few years.

Official sources informed this correspondent that the present General Manager who joined the mills last December had motivated all the workers, staff and officers for production and profit.

The work of establishing the Radio Link Telephone Exchange (RLTE) to connect the district Headquarters with all the upazilas through direct dialling system has long been completed by T&T Board but not yet introduced the system, as a result, thousands of subscribers are suffering a lot.

It is learnt that the project which was completed with the financial and engineering assistance with the Finnish Government, was imported by the Ershad government in 1986 without consent of the T&T Board, which now needs proper training for obtaining the "NOKIA" system of RLTE from Finland.



KISHOREGANJ: The 20 km long Kishoreganj-Karimganj-Chamra Bandar road is in a bad shape. Cracks and big holes have developed in several portion of the road making journey risky.

Illegal slaughtering of animals pollute environment in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Mar 24: Unauthorised and scattered slaughtering of animals in unhygienic conditions at different spots within Chittagong Metropolitan area is posing a serious threat to the public health, Department of Environment Pollution Control sources said, reports BSS.

Cattle, rams and buffaloes are indiscriminately slaughtered in Panchalaish, west and east Sholashahr, Mohara, Jalalabad, Pahartali, Patenga and Halishahr wards under Chittagong City Corporation without making necessary hygienic arrangements.

It is alleged that the meats of the slaughtered animals are distributed in city markets without medical examinations. Aged, sick and injured animals are also slaughtered there and their meats are also sold at high price in local markets.

Under the City Corporation there are two approved slaughter houses both at Firingee Bazar under Kotwali police station. The slaughter houses remain open for four days a week.

One hundred fifty goats and rams, 60 bullocks and five buffaloes are slaughtered daily on an average at these slaughter houses.

Seventeen officials including two doctors and three meat inspectors are employed to oversee the slaughtering and distribution of the meat in the city markets.

According to knowledgeable sources, only one tenth of the total requirement of meats are supplied from there to slaughter houses among 25 bazars in the city area. The bulk of the daily requirements of meat are supplied from unauthorised and unhygienic places.

Substandard drugs flood markets

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Mar 24: Sub-standard life saving drugs have flooded the markets of the district, reports UNB.

Worms, fungus, flies are often found in many drug containers including saline and injection, it is alleged.

The mushroom growth of many drug companies are responsible for manufacturing of the sub-standard drugs, knowledgeable sources opined.

It is alleged that the companies do not bother to collect certificates from the authorities for marketing their products.

It is learnt that a section of physicians are patronising the sub-standard drugs by prescribing it to the patients at the undue request from the

drug dealers. Many medicine shops have been opened in remote areas of villages without the proper drug licence which are allegedly selling contaminated medicines risking the lives of the patients.

The local people have demanded punishment of the persons responsible for manufacturing and selling spurious drugs endangering the lives of the patients.

30 injured

GHORASHAL (Narsingdi), Mar 24: At least 30 people were injured in a clash between two rival group of workers at Bangladesh Jute Mills here early this morning, reports UNB.