

## National

## Upazila roundup

## SIRAJGANJ

## Rice prices mark rise

## From Our Correspondent

March 28 : The price of different varieties of rice in Sirajganj district has registered a rise by taka two per kilogram on an average. The price of rice has been showing upward trend during the last fortnight. The coarse varieties of rice which were sold at Taka 11 per kilogram 15 days back is now being sold at Taka 13.

The fine variety of rice is now available at Taka 15 compared to Taka 13 per kilogram last fortnight. The retailers in the open market have attributed the short supply price rise. The whole sellers have pointed out the same reason. Consumers suspect hoarding behind the reason for price hike.

## NARSINGDI

## One killed

## By DMCH Correspondent

March 28 : One person was killed on Wednesday at Narsingdi in a quarrel over a disputed land.

Hiron Mia, 35, received serious injuries on the head when he tried to stop two groups of feuding people at Satpara.

He was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital at 12.30 p.m. but succumbed to his injuries at 5 p.m.

## JHENIDAH

## Two electrocuted

## From Our Correspondent

March 28 : Two persons including a minor boy were electrocuted on Tuesday last evening at Dagbanga Bazar of Jhenidah Sadar Upazila of the district. While PDB workers were engaged in connecting a deep tubewell from an electric pole, the minor boy Jahr (10) touched the live wire which fell on the ground. One helper of the PDB Gaminuddin (20) who tried to save the boy was also electrocuted. PDB sources said. Two unnatural death cases were recorded with Jhenidah thana.

## BARISAL

## One shot dead

## From Our Correspondent

March 28 : Unidentified gunmen shot and killed one Humayun Kabir (37) at Garadighipar, 12 km off Barisal in Faridpur-Barisal highway on Monday evening, police said.

His body was brought to Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital for autopsy, hospital sources said.

The victim was possibly a member of outlawed Sharbhabara Party and the killing was a sequel to party's inner conflict, police suspected. Nobody was arrested in this connection.

## TANGAIL

## Discussion on Ramzan held

## From Our Correspondent

March 28 : A discussion meeting on Ramzan and our duty was held recently in the district conference room, reported BSS.

Mr. Khan Shahabuddin, Deputy Commissioner, Tangail presided over the meeting.

## Law, order situation deteriorates in Barisal

## From Our Correspondent

BARISAL, Mar 28 : The overall Law and Order situation mainly in village areas of the district is deteriorating day by day. Activities of armed miscreants are on rise in different upazilas alarmingly.

A group of armed miscreants numbering 25 to 26 attacked the house of Mongal Baroi in broad daylight recently and looted away valuables over Taka one lakh and destroyed almost all the household materials. Later the miscreants set ablaze the house in which property worth Taka two lakh were gutted.

The incident occurred in the village Indurkand of Wazirpur upazila. On the same day in the evening a group of miscreants attacked the house of Akhoy Kumar of Kuralia village of the same upazila and looted away valuables worth Taka 50,000.

It is alleged that Susanta, son of Mongal Chandra Baroi of Indurkand village was kidnapped in 1989 and the kidnappers demanded a ransom of Taka one lakh for his release. Though their demand was fulfilled Susanta did not come back.

Following a dispute over purchasing of a land in Bakerganj upazila one group attacked the house of the pur-

chaser and ransacked the belongings of the house.

In a written allegation to the Police Super of Bakerganj, Abdus Subhan of Boxkhali village of the upazila sought legal justice from the law enforcing agencies of the district.

SP, Bakerganj, directed the OC, Bakerganj police station, to investigate the matter immediately.

A Correspondent from Chuadanga adds : The Independence and National Day was observed here in a befitting manner. The day was heralded with boozing of 21 gun salute. National flag was hoisted atop public and private buildings.

SP, Bakerganj, directed the OC, Bakerganj police station, to investigate the matter immediately.

Two women commit suicide in Muktagacha

MYMENSINGH, Mar 28 : Two women allegedly committed suicide in Muktagacha upazila in two separate incidents last week, police here said, reports UNB.

Julekha (25), wife of Shohrab Ali of Taratichar Para village hanged herself to death.

Shilpi (18), daughter of Mokbul Hossain of Mugheltula village committed suicide by taking pesticides.

Family sources attributed the cause to family feud in both cases.

Two cases were filed with Muktagacha police.



Collecting IRRI seedlings for transplantation at Dhaka-Narayanganj-Demra (DND) project near Adamjee Nagar in Narayanganj district. — Star photo

## Tk 64 lakh already spent

## Khulna-Mongla rly project shelved

## From Our Correspondent

BAGERHAT, Mar 28 : The Khulna-Mongla Railway Project could not be implemented during the last 20 years though a sum of Taka 64 lakh has already been spent.

According to a knowledgeable source, importance of Mongla (previously Chalna) sea port under Bagerhat Sub-division (now district) the then East Pakistan government undertook 47 kilometre long Khulna-Mongla Railway project in 1965-66 to link Khulna and Chalna (now Mongla) where a permanent port was being constructed and an amount of Taka three crore 20 lakh 50 thousand was earmarked for the project.

The concluding session was presided over by Dr. Zobaida Hannan while Dr. Shamsul Haq, Civil Surgeon, Comilla was the chief guest. Messrs M. A. Awal, Dr. Wali Ullah, President Comilla Diabetic Association, A. K. M. Abdus Salam, Project Director, Abdul Mabood Chowdhury, Training and Extension Officer, attended it.

The workshop largely discussed the far reaching effect on the children caused by the dearth of natural behaviour of parents and their lack in sexual knowledge.

In order to implement the project some 100 acres of land were acquired and a sum of Taka 20 lakh was spent as compensation paid to the owners.

Besides, office and rest house buildings were constructed and a huge quantity of bricks was manufactured for the project at a cost of Taka 20 lakh.

In the year 1976 an amount of Taka five lakh was also sanctioned for the project. But for unknown reasons the project was shelved.

Not only that the bricks and acquired lands were handed over to the Roads and Highways Department. It now appears that there is no probability of executing this important railway project in near future.

The local people say that if this project is not implemented the importance of Mongla Sea Port and greater Khulna district will be lost.

After liberation the construction of a permanent port at Mongla began and by this time five jetties have been

completed which are ready for operation.

According to an estimate, after the implementation of other projects, the port will have a capacity to handle five million tons of import export cargoes annually.

At present, on an average, the port handles about 18 lakh tons of cargoes annually. To make it operational as well as financially viable the necessary infrastructure including improved communication with Khulna and rest of the country are needed. A road in between Khulna and Mongla has been completed a few years ago with the assistance of Asian Development Bank. But transport cost of goods through the road is much higher than that of railways or waterways.

The proposed railway link project between Khulna and Mongla, particularly in the northern and southern dis-

tricts, should immediately be taken up. Besides, the rail link project if implemented, will connect the entire western part of the country with other side of the river Ganges (Padma) and Nepal and Bhutan across Indian state of West Bengal.

It may be mentioned here that the Government of Nepal and Bhutan were willing to use the facilities of Mongla Port for shipment of their imported and exported cargoes because of congestion and delay of cargo handling at the Calcutta Port.

The informed sources feel that immediate measures should be taken by the government to implement the project which, according to railway sources, will be commercially viable and will open a new era of development in the northern part of the country.

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