

## Upazila roundup

## MAULVIBAZAR

## One killed in road mishap

## From Our Correspondent

March 29: A Ramjan Ullah (65) of village Suddikhola of Balagonj upazila was run over by a truck and died on the spot on Maulvibazar-Sylhet road at Sherpur Bridge recently.

The truck fled away. An unnatural death case has been registered with Balagonj police.

## BARISAL

## Pest menace

## From Our Correspondent

March 29: More than 10 thousand acres of rice and boro crops have gone in the grip of "mazorpest", according to Agriculture Extension Department.

But according to informed sources, the pest infested land will be more than what is said by the government sources.

AED sources said that the pest attack is on rise in Uzirpur, Agailghara, Gournadi, Muladi and Bakerganj upazilas of the district.

AED sources also informed that in about two thousand five hundred acres of land have been saved from pest menace out of 8 thousand 163 acres of affected land in the district.

Peasants of different upazilas have urged the concerned authority to check the pest attack, immediately.

## KISHOREGANJ

## Development work reviewed

## From Our Correspondent

March 29: The monthly meeting of the Kishoreganj District Development Co-ordination Committee was held in the conference room of the Deputy Commissioner, Kishoreganj recently.

Kazi Nasirul Islam, Deputy Commissioner, presided over the meeting while all the Upazila Chairmen of the district, UNO's and other district officials attended the meeting. The meeting reviewed the progress of development work and the problems facing the development projects.

## Massive Boro farming plan

A massive programme has been undertaken to bring 1,32,923 hectares of land under Boro cultivation in 13 upazila here during the current season.

According to the Agriculture Extension Department, 1,18,171 will be brought under high yielding variety, 8306 hectares under Pajam and the rest 6446 hectares under local variety. The production target has been set at 3,30,501.81 metric tons of rice.

BADC has distributed seeds, fertilizers, insecticides and other inputs to the farmers for proper implementation of the programme.

Bangladesh Krishi Bank and other Commercial Banks have already distributed loans to make the plan a success.

Besides, BADC has arranged 256 demonstration plots for teaching the farmers the modern methods of Boro cultivation in the district.

## MADARIPUR

## Dacoity at night coach

## From Our Correspondent

March 29: A bus dacoity was committed at Madaripur recently. It is known from a police source, a Barisal bound night coach from Dhaka when reached near Kamaldi bridge of Rajoir upazila, a group of dacoits stopped the coach at gun point and robbed valuables from the passengers worth about Taka 37 thousand.

The dacoits injured the driver and three passengers. The driver and the injured passengers were admitted to Madaripur hospital. A case has been registered with Rajoir PS in this connection.

Two trawlers collided head on in the Arial Khan river near Charnaguria bandar and one Hafiz Miah (30) is missing and three passengers were injured.

## GAIBANDHA

## Huge property gutted

March 29: Property worth several lakh Taka was burnt to ashes in four fire incidents in different upazilas of Gaibandha district during the last few days, reports BSS.

In a fire property worth about Taka two lakh was gutted at village Anantapur under Gobindaganj upazila recently.

Another fire broke out at village Ramdev under Sundarganj upazila and burnt to ashes several dwelling houses. The loss was estimated at about Taka three lakh.

In another incident at Ganchachara upazila fire gutted

several houses.

Property of about Taka 2.5 lakh was destroyed at village Kuptala under Gaibandha Sadar upazila.

In these fire incidents at least 13 cattle and 10 goats were roasted alive. Seven tinshed houses, 50 thatched houses, about 230 maunds of paddy and 20 maunds of molasses were gutted. At least 15 families were rendered homeless.

## NANDAIL

## Seminar on Ramzan

## From Our Correspondent

A seminar on "our duty in the month of Holy Ramzan," was held under the auspices of Babul Jannat Jami Maszid Committee at the Maszid premises recently.

Presided over by Maulana Golam Mawla the seminar was addressed by Mr Abdul Gafur Akhand, Maulana Abdul Kalyum, Maulana Mohsin and Musharraf Hussain Akhand.

The speakers explained the significance of the Holy Ramzan in building up a happy society.

The speakers urged the authority to remain strict in maintenance of the sanctity of the holy month — throughout the upazila.

## JHENIDAH

## SSC candidate commits suicide

## From Our Correspondent

March 29: One S.S.C examinee Monirul 18, son of Mohammad Mondol of village Jalipur under Moheshpur upazila of Jhenidah district committed suicide on Wednesday. He committed suicide by taking pesticides after a quarrel with his mother, family sources said.

## BOGRA

## 18 injured in road mishap

March 29: At least 18 passengers were injured in a road accident at Fultoli near the town on Bogra-Nagarbari highway Tuesday last, police said, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the mishap occurred when a Bagra bound night coach (Dhaka Metro 4916) hit an oil tanker which was lying on the road damaged due to an accident in the morning.

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

## PABNA

## Pilferage of phone wires rampant

March 29: Pilferage of telephone wires from different lines is going on unabated in the district, it is alleged, reports UNB.

According to sources, nearly 60,000 metres of telephone lines worth about Taka 10 lakh were stolen during last three months.

As a result, a total of 300 telephone connections have been disrupted causing untold sufferings to the subscribers.

It is learnt that due to improper tele-communication link the railway authorities are facing acute problems in contacting other stations.

The pilferage of telephone wires have affected areas of Sing, Laskarpur and Nazirpur in Sadar and Ishardi upazilas. Despite repeated appeal to solve the problem nothing has been done yet, it is alleged.

## BHOLA

## UZ chairman suspended for pre-polls violence

March 29: Charfession Upazila chairman Abdus Shahid Maitia was suspended for inciting pre-election violence and involvement in a corruption case official sources said here on Thursday, reports UNB.

The Deputy Commissioner, Bhola, conveying the suspension said the Upazila chairman with 50 to 60 unruly people on February attacked and damaged property of Principal Nazrul Islam, who was a candidate in the last parliamentary election from Bhola-4.

Shahid, he said, was also charge-sheeted in a corruption case by the anti-corruption department.

## MANIKGANJ

## Heat wave claims one life

March 29: Heat wave claimed one life in Daulatdia ferry ghat Wednesday, hospital sources said, reports UNB.

## English teacher shortage in colleges, madrasahs

## From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, March 29: Over 95 per cent senior Madrasahs and 80 per cent non-government intermediate and degree colleges of the country lack requisite number of English teachers. High percentage of failure in English at intermediate and Degree classes offers a miserable state of English education.

In many cases, guardians have to spend a large sum of money every year for their wards enabling them to appear at examination again and again till they pass the subject.

According to the prevailing rule, each senior Madrasah has to employ one regular lecturer in English, intermediate college—two lecturers and a degree college—three lecturers having at least two second divisions.

College authorities have problems in appointing English teachers. One is non-availability of adequate number of Masters Degree holders in English with requisite qualifications set by the former government who stopped appointment of Third Class masters Degree holders after December 31, 1984.

Despite good financial position the college authorities could not appoint two or three English teachers while many other colleges have one or no teachers. Many new Madrasahs and colleges were set up in the country since 1984 but the number of Masters Degree holders in English did not increase proportionately.

Besides, the educationists

having general university education do not like job in Madrasahs. As a result, madrasah students do not have preliminary knowledge in English.

According to the survey reports, the Madrasah authorities advertise several times a year only to show the D.C. that they were trying to appoint an English lecturer. Applicants are very few. At times no candidate appear at the time of interview. The non-government colleges and madrasahs of greater Barisal, greater Mymensingh, greater Khulna and Jessore are reportedly worst sufferers.

On the other hand teachers of other subjects started private English coaching due to absence of English lecturers

and are earning a large sum of money in illegal way. If a new teacher joins in a college those teachers of vested interest take every measure to drive the English teacher out shortly. As a result, the posts of English teachers in those colleges remain vacant for years.

The survey reports say that some teachers serving in different colleges in Bangladesh holding Third Class Masters Degree from Indian Universities were enjoying full financial and other benefits, whereas experienced teachers holding the same qualification have to suffer much financial hardship.

Principals of non-government colleges and senior Madrasahs narrated their bitter experience of non-availability of English lecturers.

## Fire havoc in districts

## Properties gutted: many rendered homeless

## From Our Correspondent

BAGERHAT, Mar 29: Properties worth Taka five lakh were burnt to ashes when a devastating fire broke out in Maulovirhat, a village market of Nishanbaria Union under Morrelganj upazila in the district recently.

The fire originated from a burn oven and spread to the nearby shops and engulfed the entire market within a few minutes. The neighbouring people and the villagers rushed to the spot and tried their best to bring the fire under control. A large number of shops and dwelling houses of the market with their all belongings were burnt to ashes.

Mufti Mawana Abdus Sattar, newly elected MP from Morrelganj constituency visited the affected village market and urged the Government to help the fire victims.

Mr. Aminul Islam, General Secretary of Bagerhat district unit of Bangladesh Zamaat-Islam in a statement urged the government and the well-to-do persons to extend their helping hands to the fire victims of Maulovirhat village market.

Another report states that at least 28 shops were gutted when a big fire broke out in Khawlia bazar under Khawlia Union Parishad of the same upazila on March 19.

According to the Chairman

of Khawlia Union Parishad, the fire originated from a kerosene lamp of a tea-stall of the market and spread to the nearby shops and went out of control within minutes. On seeing the flame of fire the villagers rushed to the spot to extinguish the fire. But the high powered electric line that went over the market caught fire and fell on the nearby canal. So for fear the villagers could not use the water of the canal. As a result, all the shops and dwelling houses with their belongings were completely gutted. Only a mosque and a tea-stall of the market were miraculously saved. The loss of fire is estimated to be more than Taka three lakh.

## Thakurgaon

Our Thakurgaon Correspondent adds: Thirty houses were gutted in two separate devastating fire incidents at Nayanpur under Ranisankail upazila and at Raghunathpur under Pirganj Pourashava recently.

It is learnt that the two fire incidents occurred in the evening and originated from the kitchen which engulfed the neighbouring houses within a few minutes. On receipt of information, Thakurgaon fire brigade personnel rushed to the place of occurrence.

rence at Pirganj within half an hour. But, before their arrival all including household articles were burnt to ashes.

The loss of properties were estimated at Taka four lakh. The fire victims need immediate help.

It is a long felt demand of the people of Pirganj, Ranisankail and Haripur upazilas of the district to establish a fire station at Pirganj Pourashava. But there is none to look into the matter. The fire station at Thakurgaon District headquarters can not rush in time to face the situation as the distance is so long with bad communication.

## Jhenidah

Our Jhenidah correspondent adds: Property worth about Taka four and a half lakh were gutted in three separate fire incidents at Jhenidah Sadar and Alamdanga upazilas recently. Fire service source said in the first incident at village Teorbilla of Alamdanga upazila of Chudandanga district adjacent to Jhenidah district fire originated from the kitchen of Gafur's house and soon it engulfed the neighbouring areas gutting at least 30 houses including house hold materials of Mojahar Ali, Gafur Ali, Abdullah Sobahan, Mohammad Ali, Azgar

## Notes from Pabna

## From A Correspondent

PABNA, Mar 29: The residents of Pabna town and nine upazilas are facing scarcity of drinking water.

According to informed sources, the underground water level in the district fell alarmingly resulting in scarcity of drinking water.

About 70 to 80 per cent tubewells of the district can not provide drinking water. The people of the rural areas are hit hard.

Younger brother Shafiqul Islam (20) was killed by the elder Nasiruddin (22) in the village Hundel under Chatmohor upazila recently. Family feud and land dispute were the causes of his murder, the police sources said.

The body of the deceased was brought of Pabna morgue for post mortem. The Chatmohor police registered a case with the thana.

## 8 absconding criminals arrested

Acting on a secret information the police of Chatmohor PS arrested eight absconding criminals recently.

A police team led by Mr Suman, sub-inspector of Chatmohor PS arrested the alleged criminals from their home. The arrested criminals are Moktar Hossain, Jamal Uddin, Motlab Ali, Moksad Ali, Abdus Sammad, Siful, Sofy and Mokul.

## BAU rotaract club executives

AGRIVARSITY (Mymensingh), Mar 29: A 12-member executive committee of Agri-Varsity Rotaract Club has recently been elected with Rtn. Adhir Kumar Biswas as its President and Rtn. Nirmal Kumar Dutta as Secretary, says a press release.

Other office-bearers of the executive committee include Vice-Presidents Rtn. Probash Chandra Biswas, Rtn. M A Ahad, Joint Secretary Rtn. Shafiqul Islam Dulal, Treasurer: Rtn. S M Iqramul Huq, Director (club service) Rtn. Fatema Kamrun Naz Rtn, Director (Social Service) Rtn. Tayebur Rahman, Director (Professional Development) Rtn. Mahbur Rahman, Director (International Service) Rtn. Moslehuddin Rana, Sergeants-at-Arms Rtn. Anisur Rahman Mridha, and Sergeant Rtn. Syed Kamrul Huq Arif.

The election was conducted by Rotarian Advocate Syed Anwarul Kadir, President, Rotary Club of Mymensingh as the chief election commissioner and Rotarian Prof. M. A. Wahid and Rtn. Oluzzaman Rashed, outgoing President of Agri-varsity Rotaract Club as the election commissioners.

## Painting contest

BARISAL, Mar 29: The Barisal Public Library organised a three-day literary and painting competition in observance of National and Independence Day on March 21-23, reports BSS.

The programme included recitations, extempore speeches, debate and essays and paintings competitions.

A total of 179 boys and girls took part in the competition. Mr. Nurul Alam Khan, Deputy Commissioner of Bakerganj, gave away the prizes among the winners as chief guest at a function held on March 24 at public library premises.

A general meeting of the Barisal city Lions Club was held at its office here on Sunday.

A 17-member committee of the club was formed in the meeting with Md. Shahjan as its President and Dr. Sunil Baran Halder as General Secretary for the year 1991-92.



Eight persons were killed and at least 100 others injured in an armed clash between the rebellious prisoners and the jail guards in Comilla on Wednesday last. Photo shows some of the injured now undergoing treatment (from top left): Abdul Matin, jail guard, police constable Kazi Farid, prisoner Abul Hashem, prisoner Shahjahan, prisoner Mongal, jail guard Abul Kalam, jail guard Fazul Haq and prisoner Makbul. Photo: Shafiqul Islam Bitu

## Lawyers boycott courts

## Withdrawal of HC benches protested

## From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Mar 29: The lawyers in the district on Monday last boycotted courts protesting withdrawal of High Court benches in six places outside Dhaka and brought out a procession shouting slogans for the revival of the benches immediately and setting up of full fledged high courts in those places after amending the Constitution.

In Sylhet town the lawyers after the march held a rally at the court compound and vowed to foil the design of some vested interests who they termed as anti-people.

## Road link disrupted

Road communication between Sylhet-Sunamganj, Sylhet-Chattak and Sylhet-Badaghat remained suspended for the fourth consecutive day on Monday last as a sequel to an accident in which a SSC girl student was run over and killed on the spot by a bus on

Saturday last at Pathantula area in Sylhet suburban. The enraged people set fire to the bus and have since been interfering with passenger buses plying on the route, drivers allege. The involved bus was burnt to ashes.

Sheuli Pal, a SSC candidate was returning home after attending coaching classes at the Pathantulla High School when she was hit by the bus and died on the spot. The driver who reportedly hails from the same area fled after the accident.

Meanwhile bus owners and bus drivers are abstaining from putting the vehicles on the road fearing damages and assaults.

Some political leaders of Sylhet demanded arrest and punishment of the killer driver alleging that the bus owners were trying to brush away the case.

## Accommodation problem may hamper wheat procurement

## From Our Correspondent

THAKURGAON, Mar 29: Lack of space in godowns, warehouse and silo, may hamper wheat procurement drive this season in the district.

On the other hand, due to shortage of railway wagons, Thakurgaon Food Department has failed to transit its previous food stock to different places.

According to the District Food Controller, Thakurgaon, a quantity of 24 thousand 400 hundred metric tons of rice paddy and wheat are stockpiled in 15 godowns of the district and at present no space is available. To clear the old stock with a view to making the space at least 1286 railway wagons are required, he said. But the Department has been supplied with only

118 wagons till March 17. It is also learnt that during the period of last October to March this year, indent was sent through telegram to the authority seeking 1637 wagons whereas only 648 wagons were supplied.

According to the source, as per transit schedule 10 wagon is required for Thakurgaon godown, 10 for Ruha, five for Shibganj and five for Pirganj godown, everyday.

Though there is an instruction by the higher authority to shift the stock to Dewanganj, Netrakona, Bhairab, Morachar, Jaria, Fenchuganj, Kishoreganj and Sreepur, but the Thakurgaon Food Department cannot transit the same for lack of railway wagons.



With the advent of holy Ramzan, prices of essentials including fruits have marked a sharp rise. The price of banana has also gone up. Here the item is stored at a wholesale market at Munshiganj. —Star photo