

## Upazila roundup

## THAKURGAON

## Rly station needs care

From Our Correspondent

March 30 : Anti-social activities are rampant at Thakurgaon railway station causing much troubles to the passengers.

Thakurgaon railway station is an important commercial centre. Everyday hundreds of passengers travel to and from Thakurgaon by train.

The condition of the waiting rooms are in a very pitiable condition. The waiting rooms always remain dirty and under lock and key, it is alleged.

There is no permanent arrangement to sweep and clean the platforms of the station. The booking counters start functioning just minute before the arrival of the trains. As a result many of the passengers can not buy tickets in time which causes heavy financial loss to the railway authority.

## MANIKGANJ

## Orphanage faces closure

March 30 : The Islamic Trust and Orphanage centre at Arua Union of Shibhalaya upazila is threatened with closure due to fund shortage, reports UNB.

According to sources, this organisation used to run with the financial assistance from Kuwait. But since the war began in the Gulf, the assistance for the organisation was suspended.

As a result the children of the orphanage are passing days in agony and hardship. The orphanage superintendent has appealed for immediate relief to keep the orphanage running.

## 2 killed in road mishap

Two people including a boy were killed in two separate road accidents here on Dhaka-Aricha highway Tuesday, police said.

In one incident Sheikh Hossain (25) died on the spot when a speeding truck knocked him down near Hemayetpur Bus stand in Savar upazila.

In another incident an unidentified boy crushed under the wheels of a Dhaka bound running truck at Nayading.

The bodies were sent to Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

Two separate cases were filed with the police.

## BAGERHAT

## One killed by man-eater in Sundarbans

From Our Correspondent

March 30 : One Krishna Kumar (25) was killed by a Royal Bengal tiger in the Sundarbans forest under Dhanagar forest office in the district of Bagerhat recently.

It is learnt that on the day of occurrence Krishna Kumar went to the Sundarbans to catch crabs and while he was catching the same from a canal along with some of his friends a man-eater appeared there, suddenly fell on him and took him into the deep forest. Later on, his friends and some forest guards recovered the dead body from the deep forest and sent it to his village home. He hailed from the village Jankhal under the adjacent Mathbari upazila in Pirojpur district.

According to the non-official reports, 13 persons have already been killed by the Royal Bengal tigers in different places of the Sundarbans within a month.

## KURIGRAM

## Independence Day celebrated

From Our Correspondent

March 30: The Independence and National Day was celebrated at Kurigram with pomp and grandeur.

An elaborate programme was chalked out by the local administration and different political and socio cultural organisations. The day was heralded with the booming of 21-gun fire at the local stadium maidan. Ceremonial parade by the Ansars, BNCD, Boys scouts girls guides, and other organisations was held at the stadium where the DC Kurigram hoisted the national flag and took the salute.

Before that the flag was hoisted atop all public and private buildings. Special prayers were offered for the progress of the nation and improved lets were served among the inmates of the hospital, jail and orphanage.

Sports for the children and friendly football match were also held. Main buildings were

illuminated in the evening.

In this connection a discussion meeting was held at Kurigram Muktijoddha Sangsad office which was chaired by Mr. Majibar Rahman, ADC (Rev) Kurigram. Mr. Anisur Rahman, DC Kurigram was present as chief guest. Among others, Mr. Shahidul Islam, Mr. Nazrul Islam, Mr. Ernadul Haque, Mr. Serajul Islam Tuku, Prof. Tapán Rudra, and Mr. Aminur Rahman participated in the discussion.

Samprotik shilpi Gosthi arranged a discussion meeting recitation and cultural function on this occasion under the chairmanship of Mr. Ashit Nandee.

## NETRAKONA

## 100 cattlehead perish

March 30 : At least 100 cattleheads perished over the last one month in seven upazilas of the district owing to various diseases including "khura", reports UNB.

Another 1000 have been affected by the disease of which 500 have been rendered unfit for draft.

According to sources, cattle diseases like Khura, jarka, badli are common in the affected parts of the district.

The worst affected areas are Sadar, Barahatta, Kendua, Alpara, Madan, Mohonganj and Khaljuri.

It is alleged that lack of veterinary medicines and surgeons have compounded the misery of the farmers.

The affected cultivators have urged the authority to take necessary steps immediately to combat the menace.

## CHANDPUR

## Separate FP ministry demanded

From Our Correspondent

March 30: A meeting of the district family planning officials and workers held recently demanded separate ministry for Family Planning.

The meeting was presided over by Mr. Mahbubur Rahman, Deputy Director, Family Planning and addressed by different workers of the Family Planning department. After the meeting the officials and the workers of the Family Planning paraded the main streets of the town with different banners and festoons.

Later, they handed over a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner, Chandpur.

## FENI

## Dacoits loot valuables

March 30: A daring dacoity was committed in the house of Hossain Ahmed Chowdhury at village Anyetnagar under Dagonbhuyan upazila of the district Friday, reports UNB.

According to police, the dacoits numbering 10 to 12 raided the house at dead of night and decamped with valuables worth about Taka 54,000 at gun point.

A case was lodged in this connection.

## BARGUNA

## Diarrhoea claims 17 lives

March 30: Diarrhoeal diseases claimed 17 lives and attacked 226 other in four upazilas of the district over the last two weeks, reports UNB.

Official sources said of the total, seven died in Sadar, five in Patharghata, three in Betagi and three in Amtali upazilas.

Doctors attributed the cause of the outbreak of the diseases to paucity of drinking water and taking of adulterated food.

Local people have urged the authorities to take immediate steps to combat the diseases.

## NARAIL

## Public toilets absent

March 30: Absence of public toilets in the town has been causing inconvenience to the common people coming from far flung areas for various purposes, reports UNB.

According to sources, the shopkeepers, small traders, vendors and customers are compelled to defecate on road sides and drains polluting the environment of the town.

With the rise of the population here health and sanitation problems have become acute. Heaps of garbage dumped along the roads lie uncleared further compounding the problem.

Local people have urged the authorities to take urgent steps for improving sanitation.



A portion of Sundarbans area wears a desolate look following illegal extraction of trees. Indiscriminate felling of trees causing ecological imbalance. —Photo Asifur Rahman

## Measures to curb smuggling along borders discussed

From Our Correspondent

DARSANA, Mar 30: The Regional Task Force meeting on smuggling was held at Carew's Training Complex, Darsana in Chuadanga recently. Mr. A. K. M. Fazlul Haq Mia, Commissioner Khulna Division.

Many senior personalities and BDR engaged with customs and excise departments were present in the threadbare discussion on incoming and outgoing smuggled goods like Indian sugar, V. C. R. and V. C. P. and Polyester clothes. BDR Sector Commander, Khulna disclosed that 10,000

maunds of smuggled sugar worth Taka one crore ten lakh and 4000 maunds of sugar worth Taka 36,000 were seized in 1990 and upto February 28 this year.

The chairman pointed out that largescale smuggling of Indian goods is causing serious problem for our local industry. The poor people of border areas work as carriers of smuggled goods for their subsistence.

The sugar mills Managers disclosed the financial problems of the mills and stockpiling of Indian sugar in the

country which is sold at Taka 24 per kilogram while that sugar of our own product sells at Taka 30 per kg after imposition of government sales tax Taka 4.20 per kg. As the Indian sugar flooded the markets the government has sustained loss of huge amount of sales tax.

According to the sources, the Carew and Company produced 12,024 maunds of sugar out of which 9,800 maunds worth about Taka 27 crores remain stockpiled in Carew's godown.

The Deputy Commissioner of Chuadanga suggested that seized sugar should be sold to BDR, police and Army stores to prevent open sale in the market.

The Commissioner, Khulna Division requested all concerned to prevent smuggling of both incoming and outgoing goods by intensifying task force operations. He requested all Deputy Commissioners to cancel permits of polyester clothes to prevent widespread smuggling of polyester clothes to India.

## Notes from Narayanganj

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Mar 30 : Narayanganj CID police arrested a young man recently and recovered 130 gm of Heroin worth about Taka 26000.

Acting on a tip off CID police led by Inspector Abdul Kader, rushed to the Mohin Ganglee Road where the suspected Rafiqul Alam Bulbul (30) was sighted. The police after searching his body found two polythene bags one filled with 50 gm of brown Heroin about another with 80 gm of grey Heroin.

A case has been filed with Narayanganj thana in this connection.

## Birth anniversary

The 156th birth anniversary of Sree Ramkrishna Deb was observed at Narayanganj Ramkrishna Mission recently.

On the occasion Narayanganj Ramkrishna Mission chalked out a four-day long programme which included discussion meetings, presentation of Ramanam songs and a drama 'Thakurer Noran'.

A discussion meeting about Swami Vivekananda was held at the Ramkrishna Mission premises.

Justice Sree Ranadhir Shen was the chief guest while the local SP Mr Habibur Rahman was the special guest. The meeting was presided over by Mr Swami Aukharanada.

## Debate contest

Inter school debate competition was held at Narayanganj Government Girls High School Auditorium recently.

The debate competition was organised by Inter School Extra Curricular Activities Development Committee which was formed this year.

Margan Girls High School became champion and Goobidda Niketan became runners up in the debate.

The local Additional Deputy Commissioner Mr Shahidullah Miah was the chief guest who also distributed prizes among the champion and runners up while District Education Officer Mr Sayed Shamsul Khaliq presided over it.

## Savings bureau achieves 70 pc target in Barisal

BARISAL, Mar 30 : The National Savings Bureau of Barisal district achieved 70 per cent of its target of selling different saving certificates in ten upazilas of the district till January 31, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the target of selling of the saving certificates were fixed at Taka 7.87 crore in ten upazilas of this district of which certificates worth Taka 5.50 crore were sold till January 31.

## Kerosene changes hands secretly in mid-river

From Our Correspondent

BARISAL, Mar 30: Illegal trade of kerosene is rampant in different points of Mehdiaganj Upazila and its adjoining areas of the district since long.

Oil tankers carrying crude and refined oil putting out in huge quantities regularly from Tetulia River on way from Chittagong to Jhalakathi and Khulna and from Mongla port to Chittagong port.

It is learnt that after arriving at certain points, signals are sent from the vessels to the concerned people who come to the spot with specially made boats which are meant only for carrying oil having a capacity of holding more than 500 barrels of oil. The oil is withdrawn from the vessels through pipelines into barrels and sent to some particular hats and bazars where it is sold in open markets.

Crude oil is normally purchased by the brickfield owners.

Local people alleged that this illegal business of kerosene oil is going on since long with the knowledge of local law enforcing agencies but they do not pay any heed to the matter.

It is further learnt that about 14 to 15 influential persons are entangled with this business.

More than 600 barrels of crude oil with two boats were seized by the police personnel recently from Anandabazar area. Police also arrested Majhe Apan Bepari and Shahid Shaikh with five barrels of refined oil.

Brickfields use firewood

A large number of brickfield owners is using firewood for manufacturing bricks instead of coal in six southern districts of the country.

It is learnt that there are more than 4000 tons of coal in the government coal storage of Barisal. The government price of coal per ton is Taka 2,964. Normally, 25-30 tons of coal are necessary to manufacture one lakh bricks.

But more than 50 per cent brickfield owners use firewood (mainly Jhara wood) in lieu of coal. In this respect brickfield owners alleged that the quality of government imported coal is not good having huge quantity of coal dust which is not really useable in brick fields for manufacturing good quality bricks. So owners of the brickfields try to use firewoods.

There are 150 brickfields in the districts Barisal, Patuakhali, Jhalakathi, Bhola, Borguna and Pirojpur.

Sometimes, concerned authority i.e. Forest Department with the help of law enforcing agencies try to check use of firewood in brickfields. In this connection, it is learnt, five cases were lodged against some brickfield owners and each case was settled with a fine of Taka 10,000 maximum instead of 6 months jail.

## 11 arrested for selling hilsha fry

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, Mar 30 : Chandpur Fishery Department has organised a mobile court in cooperation with police and arrested 11 fisher men for selling unauthorised 'hilsha fish fry' called 'garka'. The fishermen are selling hilsha fry in different markets of Chandpur town and rural areas.

Police has seized 15 maunds of hilsha fry from different markets, some fishermen have fled away from the market out of fear. Fishery Department has earlier cautioned the fishermen not to catch the 'hilsha fry'.

It is reported that a large number of fishermen is catching daily hilsha fry from the river areas of Chandpur, Hatratra, Dhala, Hizia, Barisal. The fishermen are carrying hilsha fry from there areas to different markets of Dhaka and Narayanganj.

It may be mentioned that this is the season of hilsha fish breeding.

## 5 killed in road mishap

GAZIPUR, Mar 30 :

Five people were killed and four others sustained serious injuries in a road accident at Sutrapur near Kaliakoir here on Dhaka-Tangail road Friday night, reports UNB.

Witnesses said a Kaliakoir-bound tempo (Dhaka-05-204) carrying nine passengers from Gazipur collided head-on with a Dhaka-bound speeding truck.

The deceased were identified as: Afazuddin Master (50), Jalaluddin (28), Shamsul Haq (36), Amzad Hossain (36) and Sumon Ali (30) the driver of the ill-fated tempo.

The injured Rathan (20), Jahiruddin (25), Munir Sarkar (40) and another unidentified young man were admitted to Mirzapur Hospital.

The driver of the truck, however, managed to escape with his vehicle.

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## Political scene

## 5 more Jatiya Party leaders resign

GAIBANDHA, Mar 30 : Five more Jatiya Party leaders of the district tendered their resignation, Party sources said yesterday.

In a press statement, they blamed JP for countrywide corruption and dislodging of the democratic institutions through its anarchic rule during the last nine years. They called on the people to work hard to improve the lot of the downtrodden.

About 500 JP workers and leaders of the district resigned last week.

The five leaders are: Asharul Islam, Union Parishad Chairman of Kanchitpara, Momtazul Islam, district Publicity Secretary, Abdul Matin Sarkar, Joint Publicity Secretary, Abdul Mannan, Sadar Upazila Publicity Secretary, Abdul Quddus Chowdhury, Office Secretary of the district Jatiya Sramik Party.

## BNP to fulfil

BSS form Pabna adds : State Minister for Establishment Osman Ghani Khan on Friday said the BNP Government was pledged bound to the people to fulfill its electoral promises.

Talking to the local newsmen at the Pabna Press Club Mr Khan said the new Government would take initiative to implement the 19-point programme of the Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman.

He sought cooperation of the people of the people of all spheres of life to complete the unfinished tasks of late President Ziaur Rahman.

Referring to different black laws, the State Minister said the Government was examining those for abrogation.

Mr Khan called upon the journalists to be more active in projecting the news of development activities.

## Zia's education policy

A report from Bhola says : State Minister for Education, Principal Yunus Khan, said here on Friday that the objective of his government was to start a mass-oriented education system with the introduction of a uniform policy throughout the country.

He was addressing the teachers and students of



Kushtia : Ripon injured in police firing at Bheramara on March 26 fighting for life at Kushtia General Hospital. —Star photo

Borhanuddin College.

Principal Khan said the autocratic regime during the past nine years had destroyed the education system through nationalisation of educational institutions indiscriminately to achieve their own political interests.

He said that an acceptable education policy would be adopted through holding of a grand education conference with the renowned educationists of the country.

The State Minister further said that the mass education programme of late Ziaur Rahman would be started soon.

He also addressed similar meetings at Bhola College and Daulatkhana Abdullah College.

## Govt aims at people's welfare

A message from Raozari states : Mr Abdullah Al Noman, State Minister for Environment and Forest, Fisheries and Livestock said here on Friday that the BNP government was pledged to remove all sorts of violence and corruption from the society.

He was addressing a cross section of people at Gohira College here Friday afternoon.

He called upon the people to extend their support to the government so that country's prosperity could be achieved.

Earlier, the State Minister visited the Urea Fertilizer Factory and also the site of Karnafuly Fertilizer Factory (KAFTO).

## Chandpur Govt College allowed honours course

CHANDPUR, Mar 30 :

Chittagong University in principle has agreed to allow Chandpur Government College to open honours course in four subjects, reports UNB.

College sources said the subjects in honours courses are: Bangla language and literature, political science, economics and accounting.

For each subject in honours class, posts of seven teachers including one Professor, one Associate Professor, two Assistant Professors and three Lecturers have been created.

official sources said.

Meanwhile, a team of Chittagong University has already inspected the college and expressed satisfaction over the facilities now existing.

The team suggested that if Education Ministry provides at least five teachers for each honours subject in this college the university would accord formal affiliation to start honours course.

The college authority, has already applied to the relevant ministry in this regard, it is learnt.

## Patgram beset with multiple problems

From Our Correspondent

KURIGRAM, Mar 30 : The inhabitants of Patgram upazila in Lalmonirhat district have been facing multifarious problems due to lack of basic amenities.

Out of over 1.25 lakh inhabitants in seven unions 60 per cent of them are landless where agriculture is the main source of their livelihood and cultivation depends upon the mercy of the nature.

The farmers of the upazilas are not provided with necessary agricultural loans, seeds and fertilizers. As a result, the agricultural sector is still undeveloped resulting in poor output.