

## Upazila roundup

### GAIBANDHA

**66 school houses declared dilapidated**

**From Our Correspondent**  
Feb 2: About 66 different school houses in the district were declared dilapidated by the Education Ministry.

The decision had been taken citing the example of Jagannath Hall tragedy that happened in 1985 where valuable lives of 35 students were lost.

According to survey conducted by Facilities Department that 66 houses of educational institutes declared dilapidated. Of that, 37 are govt. primary schools and 29 high schools.

Official sources said, out of the total dilapidated school houses, two primary schools and ten high schools at Sadar upazila, eight primary schools and three high schools at Shaghata, six primary schools and five high schools at Sunderganj, two primary schools and three high schools at Palashbari, 15 primary schools and seven high schools at Gobindaganj, one primary school and one high school at Fulchari upazila.

It is learnt, no step has yet been taken to replace the school houses despite frequent submission of report to concerned ministry.

### BARISAL

**2 killed in fire, Tk 30 lakh goods gutted**

**From Our Correspondent**

Feb 2: Wealth of about Taka 30 lakh was gutted including fifteen houses following a devastating fire originated from electric short circuit at Torkey Baudar area under Gournadi upazila of the district recently.

According to eyewitness and fire service sources, one Jallil (16) was killed on the spot in a Video Club and another Badaa (32) died of heart failure as he learnt that his house has been gutted by the devastating fire. At least 15 persons were injured during this incident.

Fire were from Barisal and Madaripur districts rushed to the spot and controlled the devastating fire after some hours.

### MYMENSINGH

**9 get life-term for dacoity, murder**

**From Our Correspondent**

Feb 2: Md Rafiqul Islam, Additional District and Sessions Judge, Mymensingh in a judgement sentenced nine persons to life-term for dacoity and murder recently.

The convicted persons are: Fazlullah, Dulal, Abdul Hassem, Hafiz, Maktul, Afiz, Abdul Helal and Mukter Hossain.

According to the prosecution, on the night of November 8, 1988, a gang of dacoits comprising about 40 to 50 stormed the house of Nazrul Islam of village Mirka under Bhaluka upazila. They beat the inmates mercilessly and looted valuables worth about taka 50,000 and killed one Tajul Islam.

A case was filed with the police in this regard. After investigation police chargesheeted 28 persons. The Judge after examining the evidences and witnesses sentenced nine persons to life-term.

### KUSHIA

**Landless people on rise**

**From Our Correspondent**

Feb 2: The number of landless and unemployed people are on rise in the district and gradually resulting economic hardship for the people.

The victims are living a miserable life as a result of erosion, flood and high cost of living. It is reported.

According to a survey, 35 per cent of the people are fully unemployed while nearly 55 per cent depend on agriculture and 10 per cent depend on other vocations.

Among the farmers 60 per cent have become landless, 20 per cent have few acres of land and only 20 per cent have adequate landed property.

Erosion by the river Gorai made many people landless. The farmers having few acres of land can not afford to buy necessary inputs like fertilizer, seeds, pesticides and even bullock for cultivation.

Marginal farmers are not getting fair prices of their produce.

The number of educated unemployed is also on rise creating social unrest here.

### SYLHET

**3.50 lakh pry students get free books**

Feb 2: About 14.20 lakh text books are being distributed among students of 1184 primary schools in 11 upazilas of the district, reports UNB.

According to official sources, distribution of text books has already been made to government and non-government primary schools in Biswanath, Jointapur, Guinghat, Companiganj, Jaktiganj, Beanibazar, Balaganj and Kanaihat upazilas.

After completion of distribution of these books about 3.50 lakh primary student will be benefited.

### RANGAMATI

**Arms recovered from Shantibahini hideouts**

Feb 2: Security forces, in last two days, recovered some arms and ammunition from hideouts of the outlawed Shantibahini in Kayenda and Mogban Mouzas of Sadar upazila, sources said Friday, reports UNB.

The captured arms include one SMC, one SMG, two grenades and two detonators.

Besides, 170 rounds of ammunition, some documents related to insurgency were also seized from the Shantibahini hideouts, the sources added.

### SATKHIRA

**Installation ceremony held**

**From Our Correspondent**

Feb 2: The installation ceremony of the newly elected office-bearers of Satkhira Government College Students Union was held at the college premises recently.

Principal Nurul Alam, president of the students union, presided over the function while Professor Nazmul Haq, Chairman Jessore Board and Professor A.H.M. Mohsin Ali Secretary, Jessore Board were present as chief and special guests respectively.

Prof Anis Uddin Sardar, Advocate Syed Ifekhar Ali, Rabiul Islam, he will elected Vice-President Abdul Kader and Secretary Kazi Selim Reza spoke on the occasion.

### KURIGRAM

**Press Club AGM held**

**From Our Correspondent**

Feb 2: Annual General Meeting of local Press Club was ended recently with a pledge to work honestly.

Mojibar Rahman, Vice-President of Kurigram Press Club was in the chair, and other who addressed on the occasion were Rabindra Nath Roy, district-correspondent of the Sangbad, Tofail Hossain, District Correspondent of the Ittefaq, K M Samrat, Editor of the local weekly Dharla, Shaiful Islam Editor of the local weekly Gonokatha, Sahabuddin district correspondent of the Banglar Bani, Majibar Rahman district correspondent of the Dainik Janata and H.B. Khan, district correspondent of The Daily Star.

Tofail Hossain the elderly journalist of Kurigram, in the speech urged upon journalists to perform their duties perfectly and honestly and not to indulge in personal interest.

### RANGPUR

**27,072-meter long canal to be excavated**

Feb 2: At least 464,206 metric tons of wheat have been allocated by the district administration under the Canal Digging Programme in 5 upazilas of the district, reports UNB.

Over 27,072 meter-long canal will be excavated with the allocation of the wheat.

According to official sources, 4300 meter long canal from Shogari beel to Nailya river in Pirganj upazila, 2512 meter long canal from Hoankuti to Gorai in Kaunia upazila, 2650 meter long canal from Dushmaradob to Bahmia in Pirgacha upazila, 11250 meter long canal from Cheikh river to Mora Teesta in Bederganj upazila and 6360 meter long canal from Edigapur to Sangrampur in Mithapukur upazila will be re-excavated.

A spokesman of the district administration said the work would start soon.



**EDIBLE HERBS:** The children are plucking edible herbs for consumption without knowing the vitality. —Star photo

## IRRI-boro output target may not be achieved

**From Our Correspondent**

SYLHET, Feb 2: The target of IRRI-boro cultivation through out the Sylhet region may not be achieved during the current season due to different problems.

Abnormal rise in the prices of different kinds of chemical fertilizers, non-availability of High Yielding Variety of seeds anomalies in distribution of agricultural loans to the poor and margin farmers are some of the main causes.

Irregularities in supplying the irrigation equipment has also attributed much to the situation, it is alleged.

It is learnt from an official source that an intensive programme had been taken up to bring 3 lakh 50 thousand hectares of land under IRRI-boro cultivation in all the four districts of the Greater Sylhet region during the current season.

The districts are Moulvibazar, Habiganj, Sunamganj and Sylhet. The total area includes, 1,97,987 hectares under the High Yielding Variety and the rest 1,53,055 hectares under the local variety.

The source further informed that the total target of paddy production had been fixed at 8,94,141 metric tons. It includes, 6,34,972 metric tons of High Yielding Variety and the rest 2,59,169 metric tons of the local variety.

Abnormal rise in the prices of different chemical fertilizers has pushed the poor farmers to great miseries. The supply of High Yielding Variety of seeds is also quite scanty. It is alleged. These are not at all available in the upazila-level offices of BADC at fixed prices.

In the open markets, these are found selling at exorbitant prices. It is learnt that the poor stock of seeds of the farmers even of the middle class farmers had been exhausted during the devastating floods.

It may be mentioned here that the government had withdrawn the system of renting the different irrigation equipment among the farmers. Now, these are to be sold out from BADC. Only a very small number of big farmers would be able to buy these, it is apprehended.

The poor and marginal farmers will have to buy water from them at high rates during the peak season of irrigation. Rise in the prices of fuel will also hit the farmers in general, it is learnt.

Disbursement of agricultural loans to the farmers is also not at all satisfactory. Though there is allocation of loans by the different commercial banks including the Bangladesh Krishi Bank, the officials and employees of the branches in the remote areas are not interested in disbursing the loans to the farmers, it is alleged.

**KURIGRAM:** Sk Abu Bakar, Principal-in-Charge, local government college speaking at the farewell reception which was accorded to Vice Principal of the college recently. —Star photo

## Most divorce cases take place in rural areas

**From Our Correspondent**

DINAJPUR, Feb 2: More than 50,000 divorces were recorded during the last three years in 23 upazilas of Greater Dinajpur District.

Non-payment of dowry, polygamy and immoral activities are mainly responsible for the large scale divorces.

In most cases, women from the lower class have become the victims. Due to non-registration of marriages, the oppressed women do not get any legal protection.

In cases of registered marriages, the divorced women can approach to the courts for necessary measures against their husbands. At least, they can claim the amount of moharana and other demands according to the marriage deeds by which they can find a way to survive.

**3 get life-term for murder**

Three accused persons of a sensational murder case of Sylhet town were sentenced to suffer imprisonment for life-term and to pay a fine of Taka 5000 each in default of which to suffer rigorous imprisonment for one year more by Mr Binoy Kumar Bose, Additional District and Session Judge, Sylhet recently.

According to the prosecution case, Ayub Ali, Shahed Ali and Shamsuddin, the accused persons of the case killed a 15-year-old school boy named Khokan, son of one Sona Miah of Kalbakhani area at Sylhet town on December 12, 1989.

The brutal murder took place at a place near the Dargah of Hazrat Shahparan (RA) about 5 miles off Sylhet town.

The accused persons kept the body under ground at a nearby place. It was recovered after long 8 days by the police.

A case in this connection was registered with the police. After enquiry, chargesheet was submitted against the accused persons.

The court after examining the records and witnesses of the case found the said accused persons guilty under different sections and delivered the aforesaid judgement.

## Notes from Feni

FENI, Feb 2: International Finance Investment and Commerce (IFIC) Bank Limited has opened its branch at Islampur road in the town here recently, reports UNB.

Deputy Commissioner of the district Delwar Hossain inaugurated the branch while Director of the Bank MA Aga Yusuf was present on the occasion as chief guest.

It is the 39th branch of the bank in the town, official sources said.

**One gets 10-yr RI for possessing arms**

FENI Feb. 2: A man has been sentenced to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment for possessing unauthorised arms and fined Taka 10,000, in default, to suffer one year more, reports UNB.

The convicted Jafar Ahmed, son of Idris Chowdhury of Mahipal area of the town was arrested in January last year and police recovered one revolver and two rounds of bullets from his possession.

Police after investigation submitted charge-sheet against him.

District Sub Judge Abdur Rashid Mia, after examining the evidences and records awarded the punishment recently.

**Tk 4.50 lakh for nine cyclone centres**

Nine cyclone centres will be constructed in Feni Sadar upazila at a cost of Taka 4.50 lakh in the current fiscal year.

According to an official source, each three-storey centre will have a community centre, a school and a health complex. The project is being financed by the government of Saudi Arabia.

**Indian timber worth Tk 60,000 seized**

Police seized a truck loaded with Indian timber worth about Taka 60,000 and arrested the driver from a saw mill in the town recently.

Acting on a secret information, police raided the saw mill near at Comilla Bus Stand, caught red-handed the driver Kabir Ahmed and seized the truck with 1000 feet timber.

A case was filed with respective police station in this connection.

**Accomplice of Jafar Imam held**

Police arrested Advocate Kamaluddin former Union Parishad Chairman of Gopal Union in Chagalnia upazila on charges of arson and murder.

According to police sources, he was an accomplice in the two cases of murder and arson filed against the former Minister Jafar Imam.

Kamal was in the wanted list and rounded up on Thursday from a restaurant in the town. Further investigation is on.

**One to die for killing wife**

BRAHMANBARIA, Feb 2: District and Sessions Judge here awarded Thursday death penalty to a man in absentia for killing his wife, reports UNB.

According to court sources, Musa Miah of village Poniout of Sadar upazila following a family feud mercilessly beat his wife Sharifa Khatun to death on February 18, 1990.

A case was lodged with Brahmanbaria police against Musa Miah and his mother in this connection. Police after investigation submitted charge sheet against them.

The learned Judge after examining evidences and records awarded the punishment and acquitted co-accused Asia Khatun, the mother of Musa Miah of the charge.

**Phonex chief visits burn hospital**

KUSHIA, Feb 2: Colonel Bill Clark Collins, President of Phonex International USA visited the first National Burn Hospital now under construction at Alampur, eight miles away from here, reports UNB.

He was accompanied by noted heart surgeon Dr. SR Khan and Dr Hasina Begum.

Speaking to a reception accorded to him at the hospital site, Collins hoped that the hospital would be the biggest of its kind in South Asia. A huge consignment of the latest equipment for the hospital has arrived at the Chittagong Port, he said.

The consignment is worth about 21 lakh US dollars, equivalent to Taka 8.40 crore.

The function was presided over by Anwar Ali, Former Pura Chairman and addressed among others by Dr SR Khan, Dr Hasina Banu, Dr Moudud Hossain Alamgir, Mattar Rahman Laitu, Secretary General National Burn Society, Prof Abul Ahsan Chowdhury.

It was rounded off lathi khela and musical sootree.

## Tk 40.24 cr bank loan outstanding, 2,465 cases filed

**From Our Correspondent**

RAJBARI, Feb 2: A total of 2,465 certificate cases for the recovery of bank loans of Taka 40 crore and 24 lakh throughout the district has been filed by the six commercial banks.

According to bank sources, Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Rajbari Branch has filed 500 cases for Taka 12 crore and 25 lakh, Agrani Bank 700 cases for Taka 18 crore and 10 lakh, Sonali Bank 300 cases for Taka three crore, Janata Bank 200 cases for Taka 38 crore and Pubali Bank has filed 765 cases for Taka two crore and 15 lakh.

It can be mentioned here that details about the disbursed loans and its recovery after the cases could not be gathered till writing of this report.

A total of 699 criminal cases were registered in four police stations of the district during last year.

According to reliable source, 61 persons were murdered in the district during the period.

The other recorded cases are as follows: dacoity-13, robbery-6, burglary-28, theft-19, rioting-127, riot with murder-11, abduction-12, cattle lifting-3, women trafficking-1, smuggling-64, assault-1, and other 367 cases were recorded include 15 arms cases.

Out of 4762 accused in different cases, 959 persons were arrested and after investigation on 489 cases. The investigation officers submitted chargesheet against 3901 persons.

It is learnt that some cases like dacoity, robbery, theft and

## Power supply erratic

**From Our Correspondent**

SIRAJGANJ, Feb 2: Regular power failure and stoppage of electricity supply for hours together in the district have been creating much sufferings both to domestic and industrial consumers.

It is learnt that loadshedding continues mainly in the upazilas for about 16 hours every day. Power supply is extended to the areas at 10 p.m. and it continues up to the next morning in the upazilas of Kazipur, Belkuchi, Chowhali and Kawarkanda.

Even in Sirajganj town, power supply disruption is observed frequently. Power failure at day time and first half of the night causing problems mainly to the domestic consumers. Power supply at midnight and after wards is almost of no use.

Due to erratic power supply, production in small and large industries including local Quami Jute Mills, cotton mills, twisting mills, zari mills and power looms in the district have fallen much.

Irrigation to IRRI-boro fields is also hampered due to power disruption. In rural areas of the upazilas, paddy fields have turned yellowish due to inadequate supply of electricity to these areas for irrigation.

While contacted, a source of Sirajganj PDB told this correspondent, that due to short power supply from freed and maintenance work on the lines power supply can not keep regular.

**Housewife missing**  
One Nurmahal (25), a housewife and her minor son of village Kurulia under Sadar upazila have been missing since January 2 and could not be traced out even after three weeks.

It is learnt that Nurmahal was married to one Shahidul Islam of village Kurulia about seven years ago. She left her husband's house for torture about two years ago. She was again taken back by her husband.

On January 3, Shahidul Islam told everybody that Nurmahal had left the house with the son. But the father of Nurmahal contradicted the statement and lodged a FIR with the Sirajganj Police Station in this connection.

## Cold storage needed

**From Our Correspondent**

CHUADANGA, Feb 2: Huge quantity of agricultural products worth lakhs of Taka are being damaged every year in the district for want of cold storage.

The agricultural products which are being damaged for want of cold storage include potato, onion, tomato, turmeric, green pepper and zinger.

For want of preservation facility and fund crisis, the producers of the above agricultural products of four upazilas of the district are compelled to sell their products at a lower price which sometimes stands less than the production cost.

The above mentioned perishable items can not be transported to other places for preservation for want of transport facilities. On the other hand price would be much for the higher transport fare. As a result, the producers sell their products at a lower price in the local market as there is no storage facility, in the district.

It can be mentioned here that a large quantity of potato, onion, tomato, turmeric and green pepper remain unsold and these are perished for want of cold storage. The cultivators of these products become disheartened and loss the interest of cultivating these products.

Every year, a huge tract of land in four upazilas of the district are brought under the cultivation of potato, onion, tomato, turmeric, and green pepper and the production is also satisfactory.

The elections to Banks, Jibannagar, Uthali and Andulbaria unions under Jibannagar upazila of the district held peacefully.

Golan Mortuza was elected Chairman of Banks Union, Ashrafu Hque of Jibannagar Union, Sharifuddin of Uthali Union and sheik Akbar Ali of Andulbari Union.