

Upazila roundup

JHENIDAH

Storm damages 600 houses, crops

Feb 11: About 600 kancha houses and tin sheds including two high school buildings were damaged by the severe storm that lashed the district Friday, reports UNB.

According to informed sources, standing crops particularly virginia tobacco, wheat, lentil and betel leaf on about 1000 acres of land were also damaged.

The affected villages are: Dadpur, Baria, Mongalpoita, Shimla, Vadghara, Bakergachi, Sonalidanga in Kaliganj Upazila and Joradha, Vabanipur, Varakhali in Harinakundu Upazila.

Local MP, Shahiduzzaman has urged the government to help the affected people without further delay.

MAULVIBAZAR

One killed for cutting irrigation bundh canal

Feb 11: Two young farmers trying to divert irrigation water from a neighbour's paddy field were grievously wounded recently and one of them succumbed to his injuries the following day, reports UNB.

Ghani Mia, 26, and his elder brother Abdul Karim, 32, of Keola village in Rajnagar Upazila were attacked when found cutting a bundh in another plot by the owner of the plot and his associates.

According to police, the two injured brothers were taken to Maulvibazar Sadar Hospital where the younger one died.

A case of murder was filed with police, but no one has yet been arrested.

PATUAKHALI

Pak Air Force team visits BAF base

Feb 11: The visiting Pakistan Air Chief, Air Chief Marshal Farooq Feroze Khan and members of his delegation visited the Air Force Training School and other professional training institutions at BAF Base, Zahurul Haque here on Monday, reports BSS.

On arrival at Chittagong, Air Chief Marshal Farooq and the members of the delegation were received by the Base Commander, the senior officers of the base.

Air Chief Marshal Farooq was presented with a guard of honour by a smart contingent of Bangladesh Air Force. He inspected the guard and took salute.

Air Chief Marshal Farooq went round different sections of the training school and saw the training facilities being provided to the airmen.

He also visited other professional institutions engaged in providing professional training to the airmen of Bangladesh Air Force.

MAJDEE COURT

Tk one crore goods gutted

Feb 11: Fiftyfive shops including goods worth about Taka one crore were gutted in a devastating fire broke out at a market near Chowmuhani Railway Station Saturday night, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, the fire originated when a gas cylinder of a sweetmeat restaurant of the market exploded. The fire soon engulfed the adjacent areas.

Units of Majde Court and Chowmuhani Fire Brigades rushed to the spot and extinguished the fire after frantic efforts.

State Minister for Relief Lutfar Rahman Khan visited the spot and assured all possible help to the affected shopkeepers.

JESSORE

Dacoits loot Tk 58,000 from bank branch

Feb 11: Dacoits stormed Agram Bank branch at Siddhipasha Union of Amtola Upazila Saturday night and looted cash Taka 58,000 and prize bonds valued at Taka 6,750, police said, reports UNB.

The dacoits decamped with the booty leaving behind a gun with 14 cartridges. There was no bank guard during the dacoity.

A case has been lodged with the local police but no one has so far been arrested.

COMILLA

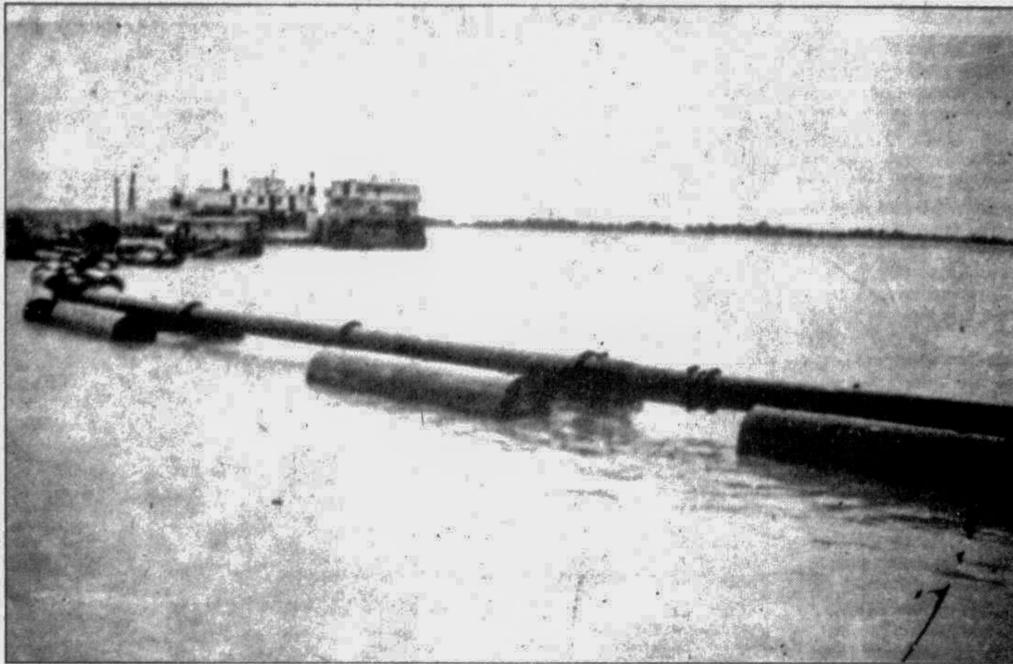
2.50 lakh acres to be brought under boro cultivation

Feb 11: A scheme has been taken up to bring 2.50 lakh acres of land under boro cultivation in the district during the current season, reports UNB.

According to Agriculture Extension Department about one lakh acres of land have so far been brought under the scheme and the rest areas will be covered soon.

Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation has been disbursing High Yielding Variety of seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and other necessary inputs among the farmers at fair prices.

Agri loan amounting to Taka 2.90 crore was also disbursed among the farmers to make the programme a success.



DAULATDIA: Two dredgers are working since July last to keep Aricha-Daulatdia Ferry Route operative which is quite inadequate to the requirement. — Star photo

India erecting fences on 'no man's land'

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Feb 11: Avoiding the international laws and norms, Indian government has started constructing barbed wire fences along the border of Satkhira district despite repeated objections from the Bangladesh Rifles.

It may be mentioned here that erection of any structure and putting up any fences within the no man's land is prohibited by international law. But the Indian Border Security Forces (BSF) are erecting fences within the restricted areas.

It is learnt that Indian government had stock piled sands, boulders, wires and other construction materials for fencing at different points within the no man's land near Kalaroa, Satkhira sadar and Debhata upazilas.

The BDR personnel while

patrolling along the border areas of Bhadiat, Taluigachhi, Bhomra, Baikeri, Kuskhali and Debhata recently observed that the BSF personnel were engaged in carrying construction materials and erecting fences.

It is also learnt that the BDR authority had lodged complain with the BSF authority and proposed for flag meeting on this issue but no response has yet been received from them still.

A BSF man informed that the fences along the border are being erected to prevent miscreants and smugglers from stealing and smuggling of goods from Indian territory.

It may be mentioned here that India attempted to put up barbed wire fences in 1988-89 but abandoned the scheme in the face of vehement opposi-

tion from Bangladesh Rifles. Local people think that a high level meeting is necessary to settle the issue.

BSF men kill Bangladeshi

A UNB report from Khagrachhari adds: Indian Border Security Force (BSF) personnel crossed the Acharlong Border and shot dead a young villager in the hill district on Sunday.

Officials said three BSF men intruded Tanakya Para in Matiranga Upazila on Sunday morning and shot at Syed Hossain who was working in a field.

He died instantly. The body was sent to the district headquarters for autopsy.

Shortage of English teacher

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, Feb 11: About 80 per cent non-government colleges and madrasahs of the district have no requisite number of English teachers for a long time.

As a result, English teaching is being hampered in those educational institutions. According to government rules, each senior madrasa requires one lecturer in English, an intermediate college requires two lecturers in English, and a Degree college requires two or more lecturers in English.

It is reported that these posts had been lying vacant in most of the non-government educational institutions. Non-availability of sufficient Master Degree holders in English with requisite qualifications is one of the main reasons of the absence of English teachers.

Meanwhile, the government has stopped the recruitment of third class Master Degree holders in the educational institutions. English teachers holding

second class Master Degree with honours are not available.

Financial problem is another factor which compel the private institutions to appoint part time English lecturers.

Some institutions in the rural areas do not receive a single application after advertisement for appointment of teachers in English with requisite qualifications. Many educational institutions can not employ more than one teacher in English due to financial crisis.

Kidnapped girl yet to be rescued

BRAHMANBARIA, Feb 11: Police could not rescue a kidnapped girl of the district after two months of her abduction, reports UNB.

Parveen Begum (16), daughter of Yaru Miah of village Birshar of Kasba Upazila was kidnapped on November 30 by a gang of miscreants.

A case was filed with Kasba police but no one has been arrested so far.

Husbands' will

SIRAJGANJ, Feb 11: Two housewives of Sadar upazila of the district were divorced for casting votes against their husbands' will in the Union Parishad elections held on February 6, reports UNB.

According to villagers, Moti, husband of Rubi (26) and Siddique, husband of Rehana (27) instructed their wives to cast their votes in favour of chairman candidate Siddique Hossain. But defying the instructions they voted in favour of another candidate Mujibur Rahman who defeated Siddique Hossain by 350 votes.

The matter was brought to notice of village elders for arbitration which yielded no results. Both the furious husbands finally divorced their wives. The incident has created a sensation among the villagers.

3-day literary, cultural contest concludes

FARIDPUR, Feb 11: A three-day long literary and cultural competition of local Government Yasin College concluded here recently.

The competition included recitations from religious books, textbooks extempore speeches and songs.

About fifty students of the college participated in the competition. Tanzina Afrose became champion in the literary section while Abul Hossain Mia became champion in the cultural section.

Mian Lutfar Rahman, Principal of Government Sarada Sundari Mahila College was the chief guest at the Prize giving function.

20 persons get life-term imprisonment

From Our Correspondent

NETRAKONA, Feb 11: Additional District Judge, Netrakona Shem Narayan Paul sentenced 20 persons to life-term imprisonment and fined Taka one thousand in connection with murder case recently.

It is gathered that the convicted Mujibur Rahman and his sons including 16 persons attacked the victims Santush and Beal with deadly weapons while they were tempered with a land dispute. Both died on the spot on 10, August 1989.

All the convicted persons had from village Birmori in Kendua upazila of the district. The victims were also of the same village.

After investigation, Kendua thana police filed charge-sheet against the accused.

Examining the records and witnesses, Additional District Judge awarded 20 persons to life-term.

City dwellers deprived of civic amenities

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Feb 11: The deplorable condition of roads, inadequate street lights, absence of proper drainage system, accommodation problem, lack of medical facility, mosquito menace, frequent power failure and inadequate recreation facilities have made the life of residents of Rajshahi City Corporation miserable.

The area of the city is extending with the increase of population but the city corporation authority have failed to provide with minimum civic facilities to the city dwellers.

Creeks and potholes have developed at many points in most of the roads of the city and water remains stagnant even after slight rainfall. Moreover, roadside ditches filled up with filth and garbage have not been cleaned regularly causing health hazards.

The drainage system in the city is very defective to drain out rainwater from city areas. With the advent of monsoon, Tinara, Luxmipur, Shaheb Bazar and Belderpara areas remain waterlogged for want of proper drainage system.

Mosquito menace in the city has assumed in an alarming proportion causing untold sufferings to the dwellers. There are a good number of

ditches in the city which are filled up with water-hyacinths act as the breeding centres for mosquitos. These ponds are not cleaned and even DDT powder is not spread out in the drains and dustbins.

Most of the street lights are out of order and many areas of the city plunge into darkness after sun set giving rise to anti-social activities.

Due to absence of requisite public toilets, people who come from outside the city areas are to face much troubles. Finding no other alternatives, they often respond to the call of nature beside the roads polluting the atmosphere.

Absence of waiting shed at bus stand causes much inconveniences to the travellers. Besides, mushroom growth of stalls beside narrow roads and footpaths of the city is causing much problems to the smooth movement of vehicles and the pedestrians.

Recreation facilities are also inadequate in the city. With the very limited scope for amusement, the necessity for a children park is keenly felt here.

City dwellers have urged the city corporation authorities to take necessary steps to alleviate the sufferings of the city inhabitants.

Out of 900, 157 people carry malaria germ

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, Feb 11: The germ of malaria has been traced in the bodies of some 157 persons at Kukrul village in Rangpur Sadar upazila recently.

The Health Department had conducted the test of bloods of 900 persons of the village and detected malaria virus germs in the bloods of those 157 persons.

A health official termed this kind of malaria germ less harmful and no death is occurred from it.

It may be mentioned here that on January 17 and 18 last, six persons were claimed by unknown disease at this Kukrul village which was also published in different news papers. The health officials

rushed to the spot to provide medical aid to the suffering people.

The Health Department also formed a 3 teams to find out reasons of the death of those persons and ailing of many others.

However, after a thorough investigation, it was determined by the teams that a harmless malaria broke out in the area which caused illness to several hundred people but the death of six persons occurred there by other diseases. Health Department claims.

The medical teams are yet functioning at Kukrul village to conduct further investigation about the disease, it is gathered.

Five killed, 14 hurt in accidents

MAULVIBAZAR, Feb 11: Three people including a boy were killed in separate road accidents in the district recently, reports UNB.

According to police, Liton (12) of village Baurbhag in Sadar upazila was crushed under the wheels of a speeding bus (No-Chatta Metro Ja-927) on Sylhet-Dhaka Highway.

Jakir Hossain (25), a labourer was hit by a Sylhet bound coach (No-Dhaka Ja-4483) and was injured seriously. He died on way to hospital.

Abdul Matin (25) of village Joypur in Bahubal upazila was killed by a speeding truck (No-Chatta Ja-3215) near Mirpur Bridge on Sylhet-Dhaka Highway.

The drivers of the killer vehicles managed to escape.

A report from Jhenidah says: A man was killed and eight others were injured when a Kushtia bound bus collided head on with a Jhenidah bound baby taxi near Jhenidah Cadet College on Jhenidah-Kushtia road Friday.

According to witnesses and police, Manali (50) of village Krishnapur in Sadar upazila died on the spot. All the injured were the passengers of the baby taxi. They were admitted to Jhenidah Sadar

Hospital. The body was sent to Jhenidah morgue for post-mortem.

A report from Rangpur says: A man was crushed under the wheels of a speeding truck here near Saidpur Bus Terminal on Saturday.

According to the police, while the victim, Ayub Ali (32) was riding a bicycle, a Saidpur bound speeding truck knocked him to death.

The driver managed to escape with the vehicle. His body was sent to the morgue for autopsy.

A Jhenidah report says: Five people, including two women and three children, were injured when a bomb was lobbed into the house of a newly elected UP Chairman Sunday night.

All the injured were admitted into Sadar Hospital where the condition of Tosam (7) a nephew to chairman Hafizur Rahman of Kalkcharanpur Union in Sadar upazila was stated to be critical.

Another report from Kushtia adds: Three police constables were injured in a road mishap near Mohammadpur Bridge on Kushtia-Jhenidah road here Saturday.

809 tubewells to be installed in UZs

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Feb 11: A total of 809 tubewells will be installed by the district health engineering bureau in the current season to mitigate the crisis of pure drinking water in villages of the district.

According to official sources, out of the 809 tubewells, 759 are tara pumps and the rest 50 are tubewells. Upazila-wise break up of the distribution of the pumps are: 121 tara pumps in Chatmohor Upazila, 110 tara pumps each in Pabna Sadar, Vanguara and Sujanagar upazilas, 77 tara pumps and four tubewells in Ishwardi Upazila, 55 tara pumps and 26 tubewells in Bera Upazila, 55 tara pumps in each Ataghoria and Faridpur upazilas and 20 tubewells in Sathia Upazila.

With the successful implementation of the programme, supply of pure drinking water will be improved to a great

extend and about five lakh people will be benefited. The second general meeting of the local Sangbadpata Parishad was held at Sugar cane Research Institute auditorium, Ishwardi recently.

Presided over by Shaibur Rahman Khan, Editor, Ichamatti and Weekly Pabna Barta, the meeting was addressed among others by Alauddin Ahmed, Editor, Weekly Janadabi and Reza Kadir, Editor, Weekly Naya Rajnity.

Population and Family Welfare Day was observed here recently.

On this occasion, procession, sports contest, discussion meeting were arranged by the Family Planning Department, local unit and other non-government organisations.

Abu Solaiman Chowdhury, DC, Pabna attended the programme as chief guests.



RANGPUR: A local mahila sangstha recently launched a tree plantation programme in the town. — Star photo