

## Upazila roundup

## RANGPUR

## One burnt alive, 5 injured

Feb 15: A boy was burnt alive, five others were injured and property worth Taka one lakh gutted as fire broke out at the house of Sultan Miah of Jalkar area in the town, reports UNB.

According to Fire Brigade sources, the victim was identified as Jewel (12) student of class seven of Rangpur Police Line High School.

Local people said the fire originated from electric short circuit and ill-fated Jewel was sleeping when fire engulfed the area.

## CHAPAINAWABGANJ

## BCL wins in college union election

Feb 15: Bangladesh Chhatra League (A-A) bagged all the posts of Adina Fazlul Haq College Students' Union election in Shibganj Upazila of the district recently, reports UNB.

Four panels including BCL and JCD took part in the elections.

BCL activists brought out a victory procession after the announcement of the election results.

However, BCL sources alleged that JCD activists attacked their procession injuring 5 of their members.

## KUSHTIA

## Tk one lakh for storm victims

Feb 15: Government has sanctioned house building grant of Taka one lakh for the families affected by the storm in Kushtia recently, reports BSS.

The administration has so far distributed about 30 tons of relief goods among the affected people.

The relief goods included cloths, foodstuffs and blankets. Taka twenty five thousand in cash were also distributed among the distressed families.

## MAULVIBAZAR

## Movement of gay girls free

Feb 15: The gay girls are seen moving freely at different places in the town causing concern among the dwellers, reports UNB.

These girls are engaged in immoral activities and spreading venereal diseases among the youths.

The gay girls, mostly from poor families, are found thronging near cinema halls, bus stations, rail station and road sides in search of clients.

Local elite urged the authorities to take necessary steps in this regard without further delay.

## BOGRA

## Woman smokers in rural areas

From Our Correspondent

Feb 15: The number of woman smokers is increasing in the rural areas of the district.

It is learnt that smoking habit among the mid old women has increased mainly in the areas of bidi factories. Besides in the rural areas it is found there were 20 women smokers out of 50 women when a survey conducted in Village Nijbalal of Shariatkandi Upazila in the district.

Most women smokers belong to poorer section of the society. About 30 per cent of them smoke bidis while 70 per cent addict with tobacco leaf dust locally known as 'Surti'.

Anti-smoking drives are always launched in the town areas of the district having the rural areas neglected.

## PAENA

## Heart, kidney camp held

Feb 15: A two-day heart and kidney camp, organised by Pioneer Lions Club was held at the diabetic centre here recently, reports UNB.

The first ever, heart and kidney camp in the town, was inaugurated by Prof. Abdul Wahed, Prof. of Surgery, Sylhet Osmani Medical College.

The operation of 200 heart patients and 124 kidney patients was performed. Another 905 heart patients and 307 people with kidney ailment got surgery.

Secretary General of the National Heart Foundation Brig M A Malek, Prof. Harun Ur Rashid of the department of Kidney, PG Hospital and other specialists in their respective field conducted the operation.

## SIRAJGANJ

## Housewife still missing

Feb 15: A house wife was still missing after she was forcibly taken away her husband from her father's house in Kaziup Upazila of the district two and half months ago, reports UNB.

Obiron Begum (27), daughter of Fahez Ali of village Vetua Jagannathpur of the upazila, was married to Rohzuddin of village Kumardha of the same upazila.

Rohzuddin went to his father-in-law's house on November 27 last year to bring back her wife and newly born child.

On the following day, one Mukbul Hossain found the newly born child of Obiron in a paddy field in abandoned condition. But since then, whereabouts of Obiron was not known.

Fahez Ali lodged a FIR with the Kaziup police in this connection.

Rohzuddin offered money to her father for compromising the matter.

Local people speculated that Obiron might have been killed by her husband. The newly born child of Obiron died after a month in absence of her mother.

## AGRI-VARSITY

## Six dacoities committed

From BAU Correspondent

Feb 15: Six separate dacoities were committed in Bhahuka and Nandail upazilas of the district recently.

It is gathered that a group of dacoits attacked the house of Afabbuddin Mullah of village Nizra of Bhahuka upazila and looted valuables worth about Taka one lakh and injured three persons at the dead of night.

On the same night another three dacoities took place at the same village in the houses of Shurab, Mustafa and Sona Mia.

They complained that Bhahuka Police did not take up any case against the dacoities.

A dacoity was committed at the house of Abu Nassar of Bati Pachani in Nandail. The dacoits looted valuables worth Taka 50,000 and injured one person by stab injury.

Meanwhile, a gang of dacoits looted valuables worth about Taka 50,000 from the houses of Dinesgupta of Bhati Savar and Khurshad of Shurashum of Nandail and injured two persons.

Separate cases have been filed with the police in this connection.

## NETROKONA

## Homeless people on rise

Feb 15: The number of homeless people pouring in the district town in search of work and food is increasing day by day, reports UNB.

It has been observed that most of the people were coming from different parts of the district severely affected by flood and erosion by rivers. Being rendered homeless and landless, these people start looking for work and food and ultimately reach the town.

In the town itself, many of them have taken to begging finding no other way to manage livelihood. The homeless people were erecting shacks in the town for their shelter which are polluting the environment.

Some of the destitute women were also reported to be engaged in immoral activities.

The elites of the town urged the authorities to provide job for the landless people in the villages to check the influx into the urban areas.

## CHITTAGONG

## One Stabbed to death

Feb 15: Shaheed Akther (24), a housewife was allegedly stabbed to death by her brother-in-law and two others were injured in a family quarrel at Takhtarpool, Chakhtal here recently, reports BSS.

According to Chandgaon Police, the quarrel ensued among the members of the family of the victim Shaheed Akther over some business affairs. At one stage her brother-in-law Younus stabbed on her right hand and leg injuring her seriously. He also blasted cocktail.

Shaheed Akther was admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital and later died. A case was filed with Chandgaon Police in this connection. No one was arrested till writing of this report.



CHAPAINAWABGANJ: Except the platform, Kakanhat Railway Station has no shed and waiting room for long time. — Star photo

## Indian, Thai trawlers fishing in our sea belt

From Our Correspondent

BARISAL, Feb 15: The piracy by armed men of Indian fishing trawlers is still going on unabated in the Bay of Bengal for the last few weeks.

It is informed that a number of Indian and Thai fishing trawlers are continuing fishing in our sea areas about 15 miles off the Sundarbans.

According to some fishermen, Indian fishing trawlers chase the Bangladeshi fishing trawlers and compel them to leave the fishing area. The fishermen of the Bangladeshi trawlers are being tortured by the Indians if they refuse to leave the area.

It is also reported that Indian naval ships were also seen near the big Indian trawlers engaged in fishing in

our area for the last few days.

Two Bangladeshi trawlers were reportedly attacked by Indian trawler, FB Uttam at Arpangasia about 40-mile off Patharghata. The Indians are also looting the fishing nets, cash and other fishing materials from the Bangladeshi trawlers.

It may be mentioned here that more than 50 Bangladeshi fishermen were kidnapped by the Indian Navy personnel from the area before a few days ago.

With the advent of winter season, heavy siltation in different rivers of the southern regions of the country have made the plying of riverine transports very difficult.

Since independence more than one thousand miles of

river routes have become almost unfit for navigation.

It is gathered that out of 20,000 km waterways of the country, five to seven km are more or less navigable for riverine transports.

It is learnt that due to fund shortage proper dredging and maintenance were not possible. The annual budget allocation for these purposes is Taka 2 crore as against the requirement of more than Taka six crore a year.

According to informed sources, for want of necessary dredging works some river routes have already become vulnerable and almost unnavi-gable affecting greatly the frequent movements of riverine transports.

## Irregular train services leave passengers in sufferings

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Feb 15: The train service on Kawnla-Santahar Railway Route is irregular and causing a lot of difficulties to the passengers.

The trains running on this route do not maintain any time-table. As a result, the passengers particularly the office-goers and students are experiencing immense sufferings. Moreover, withdrawal of several local trains in this route multiplying the problem.

It is alleged that the authority concerned did not take any measures for maintaining the time-table of train despite repeated appeal by the public.

Besides, trains move very slowly and are overcrowded all the times due to inadequate number of compartments. The sitting arrangements in the trains are deplorable and the trains run at night without light giving opportunity to the anti-social elements to carry on their nefarious activities.

The corrupt railway employees are allowing hundreds of ticketless passengers to travel by train with huge quantities of different kinds of

## BDR Habilder gets life-term for killing sepoy

NETRAKONA, Feb 15: Additional District and Sessions Judge sentenced one Habilder of Bangladesh Rifles and awarded life-term with fine of Taka 2000 for killing a sepoy, reports UNB.

According to the prosecution, Abbas Ali, sepoy of Langur Border Outpost while returned from his patrol duty accused Havilder Saiful Islam got agitated with him and hurled abusive words.

When Abbas rebuffed the Havilder became furious and at one stage snatched his rifle and fired at him. Abbas died on the spot on September 19, 1988.

The incident was first reported as a presumed to be a suicide case but a departmental committee later established the commission of murder.

Bamondanga Railway Station under Sunderganj Upazila has long been in multifarious problems and become a den of anti-social activities. Irregularities, extortion of excess fare and missing of Railway properties are everyday affairs of the station.

Unauthorised shops have been set up in and around the station yard under the implied contract of the station employees. The practice now increased in the platform creating trouble to the passengers and movement of consignments. Moreover, Railway properties including rails, sleepers and other equipments have also been missing under the nose of concerned authority and security force. Besides some organised gang of miscreants took away goods from the wagons detained at station.

It is alleged that the members of security force accompanied with some unscrupulous employees receive regular share from the miscreants.

The concerned authority should look into the matter to wipe out the crime from this area.

## Notes from Madaripur

MADARIPUR, Feb 15: Drug addiction among the youths has been increasing and the town is said to have turned into an open market for spurious drugs, reports UNB.

Rural youths are getting addicted to wine, opium, sedatives, Mrita Sanjibani Sura and other types of liquid containing alcohol giving rise to the anti-social activities, according to a random survey.

All kinds of drugs and wine are available in some medicine, grocery and vendor's shops, the report said.

It is alleged that an organised gang of criminals have been smuggling these items from India.

Secondary school students have been affected adversely by the scarcity of text books in all the four upazilas of the district.

Students are told that the new books would not be available in the market till the old ones were sold but in some shops new text books were found selling at an exorbitant price.

Guardians and students have urged the authorities to ensure supply of text books at fair prices.

## Shoals obstruct navigation

Riverine transport has been threatened by the emergence of innumerable shoals in the rivers Areal Khan, Kirtinasa, Padma, Kumar, Meghna and Madhumati.

According to informed sources, shoals and churs have mostly emerged in Takerhat-Khulna, Dhaka-Madaripur, Madaripur-Chandpur, Dhaka-Sureswar, Dhaka-Damudya, Narayanjan-Sureswar and Dhaka-Bahadurpur waterways.

Motor launch drivers complained that they could not run their vessels due to poor navigability in the waterways risking the lives of the passengers.

## Non-govt pry schools face problems

All the 62 non-government primary schools have been facing manifold problems hampering primary education in the district.

Of the total schools, 19 are in Sadar, 15 in Kalkini, 7 in Shibchar and 21 in Rajor upazilas.

Guardians complained that after long 12 years of normal functioning, government has not yet accorded recognition to these schools.

About 10,000 students have been enrolled in these schools which do not have requisite number of benches, chairs, blackboards and other necessary educational appliances.

## Tk 18.50 lakh smuggled goods seized, 8 held

COMILLA, Feb 15: Bangladesh Rifles arrested 8 smugglers and seized smuggled goods in the month of last January worth about Taka 18.50 lakh from border areas of the district, reports UNB.

Goods seized while being smuggled into Bangladesh included Indian sarars, lungis, luxury goods, cycle and rickshaw parts, medicines, onion, turmeric, black pepper, chilies, sugar worth about Taka 18.45 lakh.

Those seized while being smuggled out of the country included old garments, fish, dry fish, powder milk worth about Taka 4,600.

About 185 cases were also lodged with different police station during the period.

## Availability of drugs encourages addiction

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, Feb 15: The drug addicts are on increase all over the district for the past few months leading to rise or anti-social activities unabated.

The youths between 15 to 30 years age group in general are found habituated intaking drugs. Gradually the number of their associates have been shooting high causing a great concern to the guardians and parents who are seemed hostage in the hands of their wards. Children who turned disobedient and unruly following frustrations due to unemployment and poverty.

Besides, unemployed youths, the transport workers, hotel restaurants boys, shop keepers and students are mostly found addicted in large scale.

It is surprising that drugs are available abundantly in the medicine shops in town and villages and shop owners without considering impact of adverse affects of health hazards due to indiscriminate selling drugs to the younger generation have been continuing this harmful trade rampantly.

There are allegations that the drug addicts are involved in various anti-social activities such as hijackings, lootings, thefts, fraudings and even murders to manage money for drugs.

Besides these, a group of traders and anti-social persons are allegedly running trafficking of heroin and other costly drugs and slowly creating its addicts here for easy marketing.

According to the information, drug traffickers are getting blessing from the most influential persons of the society which made them desperate and daring in continuing this illegal trade of drugs.

The law enforcing agencies are allegedly maintaining quite silence to give a halt to rise of drug addicts and its trafficking.

The peace loving people of the district felt that the authority concerned should could chalk-out effective programmes to crack down on both the drug traders, traffickers and its users to save the future generations from total ruin.

## Facilities of sports meagre in Satkhira

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Feb 15: Sports facilities are inadequate at all the educational institutions and clubs of the district.

The situation was quite different a few years back when different kinds of games both domestic and foreign were played with enthusiasm. The people especially the student community took active part in these games. Games like kabadi, wrestling, football, cricket and swimming were very popular.

But now a days, the situation has completely changed. Facilities of different games and sports are very meager and consequently popularity of different games is on decline.

Lack of fund, absence of initiative and interest of the leading people and the local administration have contributed to the dismal condition.

The local stadium once a center of sports and games wears a desolate look due to negligence and indifferent attitude of the authorities concerned. Now the stadium has become a grazing field.

The district gymnasium has no adequate training arrangement and instruments for exercise. As a result, the boys are seen loitering here and there.

The local district sports association which look after the development and promotion sports in the areas has failed to come up the expectation.

The educational institutions and the sporting clubs suffer due to lack of cooperation from the district sports association committee. The DSA authority can not provide with suitable funds and sports materials to the educational institutions and sporting clubs.

## Pitiable condition of hats, bazars

PATUAKHALI, Feb 15: Most of the hats and bazars in the district are in a pitiable condition causing untold sufferings to both buyers and sellers, reports UNB.

Lack of proper care and maintenance are said to be the main cause of gradual deterioration of their condition.

The hats and bazars setup at the local initiative, have hardly been extended in proportionate to manifold increase of population of the area, local people said.

Transaction are mostly being carried out in bazars of Kalisuri Hat, Kanakdia Hat, Kalaya Hat, Boga Bazar, Galachipa Bazar, Zhilna Bazar, Karkhana Hat, Kalapara Bazar, Mirzanagar Bazar, Bauphal Bazar, Purn Bazar and Dashmina Bazar.

Movement along the bazar area is a distressing experience for the consumers due to insufficient space, they complained. The situation deteriorates during the rainy season as it gets muddy and slippery after a slight rainfall.

Moreover, the rain water remain stagnant for days together due to the absence of proper drainage system. Environment pollution is severe as filth and garbage are not cleared regularly.

Consumers also complained of paucity of drinking water in these markets as most of the tubewells in the area are out of order.

Power failure has become a regular feature in the town and its adjoining areas causing much inconvenience to the consumers.

The production and productivity of the mills and factories are greatly hampered due to frequent power interruption to the area.

SA Kaiser, Executive Engineer of local PDB said due to fault in Barisal-Patuaakhali transmission line, power supply is often hampered.

## Call to maintain communal harmony

RANGAMATI, Feb 15: The Parbatya Gono Parishad, a social welfare organisation Sunday called upon all concerned to maintain the existing communal harmony at any cost in the region, reports UNB.

The call was given in the wake of protests and rallies over the attack of a Chakma woman by some miscreants.

In a memorandum submitted to the Chairman of Local Government Parishad of the hill district, the Gono Parishad, demanded immediate arrest and trial of the miscreants who assaulted Shaahi Rani Chakma at Krishnamachara of Naniarchar Upazila of February 6.

Chairman of the Local Government Parishad Gautam Dewan visited Rangamati Sadar Hospital Monday to see the seriously injured victim Shaahi Rani and gave her an amount of money for her treatment.

Meanwhile, Barimattar Parbatya Chattagram Pahari Chhatra Parishad, Rangamati Government College Unit, held a protest meeting and brought out processions in protest against the incident.

Work on 16 pry schools complete

Chairman of the Local Government Parishad of the hill

district said, construction and renovation works of 16 primary schools have been completed and work is on to establish 20 junior high schools.

Saching Prue Zerry was in-auguration Sangu Junior High School at Al Farooque Institute in the district headquarters as chief guest Sunday.

He said ten of the high schools will be established in the remote areas in the current fiscal year.

Referring to 59 primary schools in the district which are running short of teachers, Zerry said recruitment of teachers and reconstruction of those schools which were damaged by the last devastating cyclone will be made in phases.

He said the schools will be established at Waizangshon, Tarsamukh, Roanchari, Reninpara, Raicha, Fatang, Chakdholi, Betchara, Kachabelli, Galenga, Sorai, Antnagar, Altkadam and Lama villages.

Later, the chief guest distributed books, and other educational appliances to the students of Sangu Junior High School free of cost.

Local elite, parishad members and government officials were present on the occasion.