

## Upazila roundup

## BHERAMARA

## Relief work on in tornado-hit areas

Feb. 18: Relief and rehabilitation work in the tornado affected areas of Kushtia district is going on in full-swing, reports BSS.

Official sources said Taka one lakh and fifty thousand has been sanctioned by the government as house building grant and O R grant. Besides, fifty metric tons of wheat have been sanctioned for free distribution among the tornado affected people.

## KUSHTIA

## Highway robbery

Feb. 18: A highway robbery was committed in the outskirts of Kushtia on Friday night, reports BSS.

The robbers put a barricade on the Kushtia-Bheramara Road and looted about Taka fifty thousand from buses and trucks.

Police arrested a driver and a helper of a tractor of Kushtia Sugar Mills in connection of the robbery.

## NETRAKONA

## Annual Urs

Feb. 18: The three day-long annual Urs of Hazrat Shah Sultan Komoruddin Rumi (RA), a reputed Muslim saint of the sub-continent began Sunday at the major sharif at village Modanpur, about seven kms off here, reports BSS.

The programme includes holding of discussion on the life of the saint, milad mahfil and Quran Khwani and special prayer for peace, progress, welfare and solidarity of the Muslim Ummah.

## JHENIDAH

## 6 dacoits held

Feb. 18: Police arrested a gang of six dacoits from village Balarampur in Kotechandpur upazila of the district Saturday, reports UNB.

Acting on secret information, a police patrol party nabbed Abu Bakkar, Kabir Mondal, Moniruddin, Omed Ali, Shaheed and Abdul Gafur while they were preparing to commit a dacoity.

Police also recovered ramdao, knife, daggers and other lethal weapons from their possession.

A case has been registered in this connection.

## BORGUNA

## No pontoon at Fuljhuri Launch ghat

Feb. 18: Fuljhuri Launch Ghat in the district has been operating without a pontoon causing a havoc for passengers for a long time, reports UNB.

Fuljhuri, a famous commercial port since the British rule, ferries several thousand passengers and tons of cargoes daily. With more than 300 shops of different kinds, it is now humming with business and commercial activities.

About 15 to 16 launches touch the launch ghat daily. As there is a char attached to the bandar, the launches anchor about 2 kilometres off the bandar.

There is no jetty or rest house. The passengers are to ascend and descend from the launches crossing knee-deep water and mud. Besides, they have to wait there under the sky for hours together to avail a launch to reach their destinations.

It may be mentioned that there is no terminal at Taltali Launch Ghat of Amali Upazila causing immense suffering to the passengers for long.

## BRAHMANBARIA

## Boy crushed to death

Feb. 18: A boy was crushed to death under the wheels of a tractor near Bhadrughar on Brahmanbaria-Comilla Highway on February 11 last, police said, reports UNB.

Abu Bakar (8) of village Naogon in Sorail Upazila was runover while he was crossing the highway.

The body was sent to the sadar hospital where autopsy was performed.

Refusal to marry a man having eight children cost a teenage girl dearly.

According to family sources, Mohsena Begum, 16, of Goshapur village in sadar upazila received acid burns Sunday when she turned down a proposal for marriage from her elderly neighbour Tajul Islam.

She was rushed to the Nabinagar Health Complex where her condition was stated to be critical.

A case has been filed in this connection.

## FENI

## Accused of murder case held

Feb. 18: Police arrested a man Sunday in connection with the murder of Anwar Hossain, a student of class ten of Feni Central High School in August last year, reports UNB.

Saiful Islam of village Sonapur of Porshuram upazila was picked up from Mizan Road in the town. He was wanted by the police since the incident.

Anwar was pushed off the rooftop of a three storied National Life Insurance Building on the Trank Road causing his instantaneous death.

## RANGAMATI

## Teachers rally in support of demands

Feb. 18: Non-government teachers association of the hill district held a protest rally at Deputy Commissioner's office premises recently, reports UNB.

They pressed their 6-point demands including new national pay scale and hill allowance to be made effective from July 1991. They also wanted equal share in the privileges now given to government teachers.

About 500 teachers and organisers attended the protest rally, presided over by Shantimoy Chakma, President of Bangladesh Teachers Association Rangamati district branch. Among others, Moinuddin, Nurul Amin Patwari, Subashish Barua (Sibu) and Sahidullah — all from different upazila high schools addressed the meeting.

A memorandum was handed to the Chairman of Local Government Parishad Goutam Dewan and Deputy Commissioner of the district.

## KISHOREGANJ

## 7 houses, 50 maunds paddy gutted

Feb. 18: Three families were rendered homeless and property worth about two lakh taka were gutted in a fire that broke out at village Rajkhunt in Sadar upazila recently, reports UNB.

The fire originated from the kitchen of one Haasan Ali soon engulfed neighbouring areas destroying seven houses.

Besides, about 50 maunds of paddy, three goats and other household articles were burnt to ashes.

## NARAYANGANJ

## Mosquito menace hampers normal works

Feb. 18: Mosquito menace has assumed an alarming proportion causing untold suffering to the town dwellers, reports UNB.

Normal work at offices, business establishments, schools, colleges and hospitals are being hampered.

The waterbodies filled with water hyacinths, kutcha drains, marshy places, kutcha latrines, water pools around tubewells and garbages on road sides are the ideal breeding centres for mosquitoes.

Silted drains with stagnant waters in the town area have not been cleared for long and the drains have turned out to be main breeding ground.

Town-dwellers urged the Pura authorities to take necessary steps to combat the menace.

## MAGURA

## Over one lakh sets of text books distributed

Feb. 18: A total of 1,01,100 sets of text books have been distributed free of cost among the students of 267 government primary schools and 94 non-government primary schools in our upazilas this year under Universal Primary Education Programme, reports UNB.

According to District Primary Education Officer, 33,100 sets were distributed among the students of class one, 21,600 sets to students of class two, 18,600 sets to those of class three, 15,200 sets to class four and 12,600 to class five students.

All the text books have been distributed through upazila education offices, the source said.



KUSHTIA: Kaburhat High School was partly damaged by the storm that lashed Kushtia town and its adjoining areas on February 7. It also damaged several kuncha houses and standing crops of the locality. — Star photo

## Necessary steps can help potato production double

**From Our Correspondent**  
climate of the country including the northern zone are not less suitable for potato cultivation.

**Result of experiment positive**

In the year 1978-79, an experiment was conducted by the respective authority at Debiganj upazila in Panchagar district like other places of the country where the yield was 96 metric tons per acre.

Another similar experiments at Ishwardi, Pabna presented the same result. After the experiments, it was proved that prospect for potato cultivation throughout the country is bright.

After the experiments, fifteen years have already been passed but most of the farmers are cultivating local varieties of potatoes instead of High Yielding Varieties due to improper and untimely measures of the concerned authorities.

**Growers don't get HYV seeds**

The potato cultivators are unwilling to cultivate local variety of potato as the production is less. The High Yielding Variety of seeds, cardinal, mula, patronise and dzar and not supplied by the concerned authorities. Some of the farmers are cultivating HYV potato by their own initiatives.

Some farmers informed that the quantity of HYV potato seeds supplied by the authority is not imported seeds. The authority supplies the locally

produced HYV seeds which is comparatively less productive. Irrigation is another problem for the potato cultivation in the country especially in northern zone.

At the very beginning of potato cultivation, growers took keen interest to cultivate Holland variety and the soil then was wet. In spite of the obstacles, the farmers of the 16 northern districts produced huge quantity of potato every year.

During 1990-91, 3,10,000 acres were brought under potato cultivation in all over the country and the total production was estimated at 14 lakh tons.

**3.15 lakh acres under potato farming**

During the current year, 3,15,000 acres of land have been brought under potato cultivation. Of the total land, two lakh acres of land have been put under HYV while 1,15,000 acres under local variety. Total production target has been fixed at 15 lakh tons. Out of the total production, 10,60,000 tons of HYV and 3,40,000 tons of local variety.

The target of production in 16 northern districts is 6 lakh tons during the current season.

Potato cultivators expect that if concerned authorities take necessary steps about one million tons of potato can be produced alone in northern districts.

## Bamboo plantation, proper care needed to avoid crisis

**From Our Correspondent**

Sometimes, bamboo groves are also destroyed to extend land for house building or agricultural purposes.

The poverty-stricken people with scanty income are compelled to sell the last piece of bamboo of the cluster to earn their livelihood. The people not only sell their livelihood. The people not only sell their bamboo but also dig out the bamboo roots and sell them for necessities.

According to report, most of the bamboos were brought to the towns for selling those at higher prices by some

Farias. These bamboos were largely purchased by the contractors. Only a small number of bamboos are used for making kaucha houses. It may be mentioned here that bamboo is the main material for the construction of Kaucha houses and there are 80 per cent kaucha houses in the village all over the district.

On the otherhand, no efforts are being taken to save bamboo clusters from decay in these areas. The bamboos are also used as fuel on large scale in some of the areas of the district.



AGRI-VARSITY: The Vice-Chancellor, BAU, Prof Ashraf Ali Khan at a photographic exhibition arranged on the occasion of the 20th founding anniversary of pilus, a cultural organisation of the varsity held at the Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin auditorium recently. — Star photo

## Notes from Jamalpur

JAMALPUR, Feb. 18: The district unit of Bangladesh Federation of Teachers Association recently brought out a procession in support of their 15-point demand, reports BSS.

Parading town the processionist held a rally at Kachari ground with Unit Chief Professor Mozaffar Hossain in the chair.

The rally was addressed among others by Yousuf Ali, Secretary of the unit.

**67 metric tons wheat for re-excitation work**

Work on re-excitation of 10,000-foot long Charshid-Dublikhal in Titpallah Union under Sadar upazila against sixtyseven metric tons of wheat under dry season World Food Programme is going on smoothly.

Re-excitation work was inaugurated by Union Parishad Chairman Idris Ali in presence of parishad members and elite of the locality.

Mafizuddin Ahmed, Project Chairman and Secretary union unit of Bangladesh Nationalist Party urged the local people to give their all out cooperation to the programme.

The Khal re-excitation programme was introduced by Shahid President Ziaur Rahman to attain self-reliance in foodgrains. Crops on ten thousand acres of land in Mesta Kendua and Titpallah unions will be saved from flood water, during monsoon. But get irrigation facility during dry season after re-excitation of the Khal.

**Workshop on improved cooker ends**

A five-day long workshop on the use of improved indigenous cooker ended here under the auspices of Sadar Upazila Central Cooperative Association recently.

The course was inaugurated by Association Chairman Abdul Awal.

Assadullah, Unit Secretary spoke on the importance of the programme. Thirtyfive trainees including women took part in the course.

**Sadar Hospital beset with problems**

The 100-bed District General Hospital is beset with multifarious problems including lack of accommodation, children ward and a blood bank and scarcity of essential medicines.

Ambulances of the hospital have been lying out of order for want of necessary repair.

The emergency patients have to be shifted to Myemensingh or Dhaka Medical College Hospital for lack of facilities in the hospital.

The ambulances of Jamalpur Zila Parishad and Fire Service are also out of order and have been lying idle for the last two years.

**PWD staff gherao office**

Employees of Public Works Department recently gheraoed the local office of PWD to press home their four-point demand, including withdrawal of 'Mint-PWD' administration introduced during Ershad's regime.

Witnesses said about 100 employees of the department staged the five-hour demonstration at the call of PWD Action Committee.

They later held a rally at the PWD premises where local action committee leaders Abdul Awal and Md Shahjahan urged the authorities to accept their demands immediately.

**Hats, bazars in deplorable condition**

Almost all the hats and bazars of Sadar upazila are in a deplorable condition for long causing much suffering to both buyers and sellers.

## Akhaura Fire Brigade Station

## 24-yr-old scheme yet to be implemented

BRAHMANBARIA, Feb. 18: The Akhaura fire station scheme taken up 24 years ago is yet to be implemented, reports UNB.

The scheme was duly approved by the authorities in 1968 and a plot of land was purchased in this regard but for some unknown reasons it was abandoned. Some primary works were also done.

Akhaura being an industrial area and having an important railway junction, fire incidents often take place here causing substantial damage to property every year.

Local leaders have urged the authorities to implement the scheme for the convenience of the people.

## 860 tubewells lying out of order

At least 860 tubewells have been lying out of order causing acute scarcity of pure water in 7 upazilas of the district for the last few months.

Villagers said, the tubewells having plastic pipes choked up after a few months of the installation. The existing tubewells cannot meet the requirement of the villagers.

Meanwhile, due to paucity of pure water, the villagers have been using water from tanks, ponds, canals and rivers causing widespread outbreak

of intestinal diseases. Local leaders have urged the authorities to take immediate arrangements for the re-installation of choked up tubewells.

## Teachers rally

A protest rally of school teachers association (Nazrul) was held Thursday last at Brahmanbaria High School premises with Abdul Jalil, Headmaster, Ram Kanai Academy in the chair.

It was addressed, among others, by Homayun Kabir, Muhammad Ali, Jahirul Islam Chowdhury and Zakaria. The speakers urged the government to fulfill their just demands without further delay. They said in a developing country like ours there should be a uniform pay scale for the teaching community.

They regretted that discriminatory pay scales among the government and non-government teachers with same curriculum and syllabus are in vogue even after 20 years of independence. They expressed their hope that the present democratic government will do justice in this regard.

Later a big procession was brought in the town chanting various slogans in favour of their demands. They also submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner.

## Technical institute at Comilla faces closure

COMILLA, Feb. 18: Shahid Shamsul Hoque Technical Institute having diploma course in Civil Engineering run by Zila Parishad is on the verge of closure due to financial constraints, reports UNB.

Bangladesh Technical Education Board (BTEB) required a teaching set up which would incur a monthly expenditure of Taka 35 lakh in terms of salaries and allowances. The Zila Parishad can not afford this amount as its income had reduced due to bifurcation of Greater Comilla into three districts.

Moreover, setting up a workshop as required by the BTEB would cost another about Taka 65 lakh at a time.

Comilla Zila Parishad stopped admission from 1991-92 session, which would cause complete closure of the institute by May, 1992.

Zila Parishad source said that parishad applied to concerned ministries for financial assistance but did not get any response. The institution can only be salvaged if government takes it up, concerned citizens said.

The technical school was set up by the then Maharaja of Agortala in 1935.

**119 FWP plans taken up**

BSS adds: A total of 119 projects has been taken up for implementation under Food for Work Programme in Comilla district in the current fiscal year.

According to an officials source, 5,464 metric tons of wheat were sanctioned for implementation of the projects.

Works of the projects include reconstruction of roads and culverts in the rural areas and re-excitation of canals.

## Pathakali school faces acute fund crisis

**From Our Correspondent**

KUSHTIA, Feb. 18: Pathakali school of Kushtia established in the month of September, 1990 is facing a serious setback due to non-payment of salary to its four teachers and non-supply of books to the students.

The teachers informed that they did not receive their salary from the very inception of the school due to indifferent attitude of the concerned authorities.

It may be mentioned here that as the chairman of the school the local DC is not looking after the school. The teachers said that in spite of their serious financial difficulties, they were continuing their duties in the hope that the problems would be solved in the near future.

The teachers also said that they had contacted with the Deputy Commissioner and requested him to arrange payment of their salary but till today they were not getting the payment.

Teachers added that 5 classes in the school are being held regularly at Kushtia High School premises in the evening and 307 students are studying from class I to class V.

Teachers also informed that necessary materials like chalk, duster, pencil, khata, register books have not been regularly supplied by the concerned authority.

It may be mentioned here that Pathakali Trust has constituted the local present body who assurance of all possible help. But the authority is yet to gear up its activities in the greater interest of those unfortunate boys and girls who are expected to have education.

**Drug addiction**

Drug addiction is on the rise in six upazilas of the district. Liquor, opium and ganja are being openly sold at shops in towns, dwellers complained.

Besides, many drug stores in the upazilas are selling sedatives under different names without doctor's prescription increasing drug addiction among the youths.

These youths have been resorting to various crimes like hijacking and loot for collecting money to buy drugs.

A well organised crime circle is allegedly smuggling drugs into the country from India through different border points in greater Jessore and Kushtia districts.

**BKB disburses Tk 16 cr loan in 11 dists**

BARISAL, Feb. 18: Bangladesh Krishi Bank has disbursed about Tk 16 crore as agriculture loan among the farmers of 11 southern districts during the last season, reports UNB.

The districts are: Barisal, Patuakhali, Bhola, Borguna, Projpur, Jhalakathi, Faridpur, Madaripur, Sariapur, Gopalganj and Rajbari.

This loan would be utilised for cultivation of aman, boro, triti and aus paddy, fish culture, purchasing cattle and other inputs.

Moreover, government has sanctioned about Tk 57 crore for disbursement of agriculture loan during the current season. Meanwhile, the bank has realised about Taka 12 crore as outstanding agriculture loan.

Ever since the Sonali Bank Zonal Office started operation in 1977, it distributed loans totalling Tk 32.7 crore from its 30 branches.

According to an official source, certificate cases have already been lodged against 324 defaulters.

It may be mentioned, Tk 7.45 crore have already been exempted under Tk 5,000 agri loan exemption programme.

Meanwhile, Taka 2.77 crore have been distributed as agriculture loan among 6,203 loanees under this zone during this season.