

Upazila roundup

KUSHITIA

Power failure, load shedding rampant

From Our Correspondent

Feb 25: Town dwellers of Kushitia have been adversely affected by the frequent power failure and load shedding.

Inhabitants complained that the area plunge into darkness after sundown paralysing their normal life.

Guardians said that their wards particularly the examinees were affected tremendously as they could not study properly.

Besides, Mills and factories were incurring huge losses for intermittent power supply which had already rendered many of the valuable equipment in operative. Dwellers said many of their household electric appliances went out of order because of erratic power supply and voltage fluctuations.

MYMENSINGH

591 patients get free treatment

From Our Correspondent

Feb 25: 'Save the young', a voluntary organisation arranged an Operation Health Care '92 to give free treatment of the distressed people at Haji Osman High School of the district recently.

At the day-long programme, free prescriptions and medicines were given to 591 patients by Dr Hafiz Khan, Dr Aminul Islam and Dr Kazimul Haque.

Dr Md Mazharul Haque, Civil Surgeon inaugurated the programme while Dr Aminul Islam was present as chief guest.

Chief advisor of the organisation presided over the inaugural function.

KURIGRAM

Press Club executives

From Our Correspondent

Feb 25: A 17-member executive committee of the local Press Club was formed recently at the biennial conference of the local journalists held at the Sadhuran Pathagar Bhaban with Majibur Rahman, BTW and Dainik Janata Correspondent of Kurigram in the chair.

To fall Hossain, Correspondent of Ittefaq and New Nation and Advocate Shariful Islam were elected President and General Secretary of the club.

Journalists from Ullapur, Chilmari, Fulbaria, Nagchowari, Rowmari, Bhurungamari, Kurigram Sadar and Rajshahi upazilas attended the biennial conference of the Press Club.

CHAPAINAWABGANJ

Ansar VDP members take part in canal digging

From Our Correspondent

Feb 25: The members of Ansar and VDP of Bholahat are voluntarily taking part in Canal Digging Programme.

On the occasion, a rally of the Ansar and VDP was held at Bholahat Ramshwar Institute ground. The Adjutant, Ansars VDP of the district was present at the rally. The UNO, Sadar upazila presided over the rally.

The annual sports of the Krishi Bank branch of the district was held at the ground of the local Harimohan Government High School recently.

Mobarak Hossain, Regional Manager, Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank and Ashraf Ali, DC were present on the occasion as chief and special guests.

JHENIDAH

Installation ceremony held

From Our Correspondent

Feb 25: The installation ceremony of the newly elected students' union of Govt K C College of the district held at college premises recently.

Chaired by Principal Abdul Rahim of the College, MP, Moshur Rahman and MP Abdul Wahab were present as chief and special guest respectively on the occasion.

The chief guest in his speech congratulated the newly elected students' union and urged upon all the students to keep the campus free from all untoward and terrorist activities.

GAZIPUR

Arms recovered, 10 persons including 3 women held

From Our Correspondent

Feb 25: The Tongi thana police recently recovered pipe gun, ramdao and other arms from Ershadnagar, Tongi and arrested 10 persons including three women in this connection.

It may be mentioned here that Kamal Hossain, Ward Commissioner, Ward No 3 of Tongi Paurasava has been killed by his rival group while he was trying to save one of his companions recently.

The companion of the Commissioner, Shahidul Islam was also severely beaten up by the miscreants.

According to police, a group of local mastans attacked Shahidul Islam when the victim reached Ershadnagar. The Ward Commissioner, Kamal who was passing by the place of occurrence protested the incident. The miscreants then attacked the Commissioner also.

The Commissioner died on way to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. A case was registered with the Tongi thana in this connection.

SIRAJGANJ

Students asked to maintain congenial atmosphere

From Our Correspondent

Feb 25: Professor Abdul Hamid, Vice-Chancellor, Islamic University asked the student community to uphold anti-terrorism sentiment to keep the educational institutions free from violence.

The Vice-Chancellor was addressing the installation ceremony of Belkuchi College Students' Union under the district recently which was presided over by Principal Alauddin Mia.

Among others, Vice-Principal, Lokendra Nath Ghosh, ex-VP Abdul Hannan, local UNO, Sumar Chandra Saha, VP Abdus Sabur, pro-VP Alhaj Ali and GS Sohel Rana Liton spoke on the occasion.

Professor Abdul Hamid stressed the need for maintaining congenial atmosphere on the campus for the greater interest of the student community.

JAMALPUR

Anniversary of Abdul Hamid's death observed

From Our Correspondent

Feb 25: The death anniversary of prominent journalist, Abdul Hamid was observed at the local office of Bangladesh Journalists' Association recently.

Special prayers and discussion meeting were arranged on the occasion which were attended by a large number of admirers and well-wishers of the late journalist.

Mosharruf Hossain presided over the discussion meeting and it was addressed among others by Meherullah, local correspondent, The Daily Star, Utpal Kanit Dhar, Shaikuzzaman and M A Jalil. The speakers paid rich tributes to late Abdul Hamid, a columnist for his remarkable contribution to the field of journalism.

KURIGRAM

Property worth Tk one crore gutted

From Our Correspondent

Feb 25: Property worth about Taka one crore was burnt to ashes in Kurigram Bazar under Kurigram Sadar upazila, recently.

According to report, at least 10 cloth shops and a jute godown situated between Bazar Jam-e-Masjid and Rupali Bank Bhaban namely, Musulli Cloth Store, Pabna Cloth Store, Satkania Cloth Store, Mita Cloth Store and Alamin Cloth Store were burnt to ashes in devastating fire on February 20. At least 10 persons were injured.

On getting information, Kurigram Fire Brigade men rushed to the spot and later the fire fighters from Ullapur, Lajmonirhat and Rangpur joined to help them and brought the fire under control after six hours heavy fight. The police and the BDR personnel of Kurigram also helped the fire brigade men in extinguishing the fire. Total loss was estimated nearly Taka one crore.



CHAPAINAWABGANJ: The golden buds on the twigs of the mango trees indicate that the production will be higher. But it depends on the weather. — Star photo

Administrative steps, people cooperation a must for peace

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Feb 25: The union parishad elections in Tala upazila were held in most peaceful atmosphere and the results can be undoubtedly claimed free and fair.

The holding of elections in congenial atmosphere was possible due to the administrative measures and ability of the concerned officials. After the liberation, no election in the area was so peaceful which was possible for appropriate and timely action taken up by the district administration.

It can be mentioned here that the law and order situation in the district could deteriorate at any time especially in the election time as the district is situated along the border area and there are plots

for shrimp culture where criminal activities are rampant. Many incidents resulting in even loss of lives were recorded in the past during the election after the liberation. Ballot boxes were hijacked and incidents of stabbing had occurred there in the past.

When contacted, Katebur Rahman, DC and Hasan Farid Ahmed, SP of Satkhira informed this correspondent that law and order situation of any place could be maintained through proper administrative steps. They also informed that the cooperation of the public is a must for making every thing successful.

To maintain the law and order situation during the

election, the district administration took bold and timely steps that included seizure of licensed arms, motor cycles from the known criminals and collected underwritings from the parties who may be involved in untoward incidents. The cooperation of the peace loving people helped much to maintain normalcy of the situation.

The district administration disclosed that they deployed requisite law enforcing agencies at different points to maintain law and order situation. They also deployed BDR personnel at few points to avert any kind of terrorist activities in the areas of the district.

Poor, meritorious student seeks help to continue studies

From Our Correspondent

KURIGRAM, Feb 25: Poverty pushes one to uncertainty but in case of Obaidul Hamid it was different. Obaidul (18) has been struggling much from his early boyhood to continue studies.

Obaid son of Abdul Wahab, a day labourer of village Putimari Kazoldanga in Chilmari upazila of the district started his student life in a Chilmari school. After that he got himself admitted to Thanahat High School from where he passed SSC Examination under Rajshahi Board securing 11th position in the combined merit list in the year 1989.

Due to poverty, he was unable to get admission to college for higher studies. A report on the pecuniary condition of Obaid helped him to get Taka 10,000 from the then Education Minister and Taka 5,000 from Secretary, Rajshahi Board.

After that he got himself admitted to Rangpur Charnichael College and this year he passed HSC Examination and secured 10th position in Humanities Group.

Now, he wants to be admitted to the Department of English in Dhaka University. But this time also he is unable to go to Dhaka even for financial crisis.

The affluent people of the country have been urged to extend helping hand to continue the studies of the poor and meritorious student.

Robbers stab 4, loot four villages

SIRAJGANJ, Feb 25: Armed robbers stabbed four people and robbed valuables worth over Tk 1.80 lakh in four villages of Ullapara and Raiganj early this morning, reports UNB.

The dacoits numbering about 12 to 13, attacked the house of Guljar Hossain of Bonchi village in Ullapara upazila at about 1.30 am today. They struck Guljar and his wife with sharp-edged knives when they attempted to resist.

Later, the dacoits raided three other adjacent houses where the brothers of Guljar Hossain lived and looted goods and valuables worth Tk 52,000.

Jamaat workers confce held

RAJSHAHI, Feb 25: Annual Najem and workers conference of Jamaat-e-Islami, Rajshahi district unit was held Friday at its office at Baneshwar, reports UNB.

Presided over by Prof Moksed Ali, it was addressed, among others, by the central Organising Secretary of the party, ex-MP Maulana Obaedullah as the chief guest and the district secretary Abu Shahin.

Maulana Obaedullah urged the Najems and workers to continue to serve the cause of Islam with a missionary zeal.

He said the present government should run through its full term for the sake of institutionalisation of democracy.

One arrested with forged notes amounting to Tk 13,900

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Feb 25: Police has arrested a boarder of Government MM University College Hostel, Jessore with forged notes amounting to Taka 13,900 recently.

It is reported that when one Jiban Kumar Banerjee paid a note of Taka 500 as the price of a calculator, the salesman of the shop returned the note terming it as forged one and demanded a genuine note. A watcher of SI, who was after him on a secret information, caught Jiban red-handed and seized three notes of Taka 500 and two forged notes of Taka 50 from his possession. He was immediately handed over to the Kotwali police.

Jiban Kumar, in a statement to the police, said that out of the seized taka, one hundred was given to him as loan by his room-mate and the rest amount was given for buying a calculator.

According to the statement of Jiban, the police went to his hostel and made a thorough search of their room.

The police found 21 forged

notes of Taka 500,36 forged notes of Taka 50 which was recovered from the trunk of Jiban's room-mate, Sajedur Rahman. The police also recovered note-books of Dainik Bangla, Dhaka, 2 Press release

6 injured in bird hunter's gunshots

KHULNA, Feb 25: A bird hunter's gunshots aimed at a flock of storks injured six people working in a paddy field in Fultaleshari Dighi Area of Fultala thana here Sunday afternoon, reports UNB.

Police said Faruk Bhuiyan's fire from a double barrel gun missed the fleeing seasonal birds and hit Selim Bhuiyan (18), Gias (25), Khaleque Hossain (22), Farshkar Mandal (40), Rafiqul Islam (25), and Ansar (20).

Police said, the gunman abandoned his gun in the field and was absconding.



JESSORE: Police recovered forged notes amounting to Taka 13,900, notebooks of Dainik Bangla and USIS envelope recently. — Star Photo

EPI fails to achieve target in Rajbari

From Our Correspondent

RAJBARI, Feb 25: The Expanded Programme of Immunisation (EPI) failed to achieve its target this year in four upazilas of the district due to negligence of doctors and the concerned staff.

The upazilas are: Rajbari sadar, Pangsra, Baliakandi and Gosalundo.

Thousands of children have been suffering from polio, diphtheria, measles, whooping cough, phthisis and tetanus in 16 south-western districts of the country.

According to an official source, 27,420 children were given the 3rd dose, 26,265 were given BCG and 25,100 children were given DIT in the districts.

A total of 200 staff and 15 officers including Civil Surgeon had been working in 4 upazilas of the district for the successful implementation of the programme.

A high inspection team from Dhaka recently visited the area to verify the performance on EPI and expressed dissatisfaction over the failure of the programme. Non-payment of salaries to the staff reported to be the cause of the failure of the programme.

One Health Inspector informed that most of the field staff filled up the forms without going to the field. A inquiry report reveals that regularly in giving doses was hardly maintained. It is also informed that field workers were not available to give successive doses.

When contacted, Dr. Hafizur Rahman, Civil Surgeon of the district admitted that there had been lapses in implementation of the EPI and confirmed the non-payment of salary. He continued that this year all out efforts would be taken up to achieve the target.

Public Health Engineering Department (PHIED) has taken up a programme to sink 120 deep tubewells in the district during the current year.

Officials said that the tubewells would be installed jointly by the UNICEF and PHIED. The installation of the tubewells is expected to be completed by June next. About 12,000 people of the district will be benefited after the successful implementation of the programme.

According to another source, Bangladesh Water Development Board is implementing 5 projects in Sadar upazila of the district at a cost of Taka 1.10 crore.

The projects include construction of embankment, sluice gates and excavation of canals. On completion of the projects, about 58,000 acres of land will be saved from flood water.

The total amount will be distributed in four districts—Rajbari, Faridpur, Manikganj and Dhaka. Of the total amount, Taka 25 lakh will be spent in Dhaka, Taka 25 lakh in Faridpur, Taka 25 lakh in Rajbari and Taka 25 lakh will be spent in Manikganj.

Text books shortage: students suffer

BORGUNA, Feb 25: Education is suffering a lot in all the high schools of the district due to shortage of text books, reports UNB.

Guardians complained that they could not afford to buy them at a price far beyond their purchasing capacity. Book sellers attributed the high price to short supply and they said no new supply will be brought until their old stock is exhausted.

Buyers alleged that due to flaws in the distribution system, unscrupulous traders were making profit adding to the sufferings of the students.

Guardians have urged the authorities to ensure smooth supply of text books so that they could purchase at fair prices.

Acute shortage of bamboo has been seriously hampering house building and repair in five upazilas of the district.

The traditional cottage industries using bamboo as raw material are also facing setback due to the shortage of bamboo, concerned sources said.

Growth of bamboo has been hindered due to lack of adequate bamboo roots which are being sold to the brick manufacturers as firewood.

Whatever supply comes from outside is sold at so high a price that the poor villagers cannot afford, the sources said. As a result, most of the bamboo made houses are without roof and essential repair season is approaching.

Barisal Division: Work in progress

From Our Correspondent

BARISAL, Feb 25: The process of setting up of a separate fullfledged divisional headquarters at Barisal is going on.

According to a reliable source, a high ranking committee has already been formed and the members of the committee are likely to reach Barisal by the end of this month.

The committee members, it is learnt, are coming Barisal for finding out process and scopes for immediate set up of necessary important offices and to include the probable districts under this division.

It is also learnt that except Barisal, Patuakhali, Bhola, Jhalokhati, Borguna and Pirojpur districts two more new districts of Greater Faridpur may be included under this proposed Barisal Division.

A high ranking committee meanwhile has sent a letter to the Commissioner of Khulna Division asking for detail suggestions for setting up important offices and the possible primary expenditure for the proposed Barisal division.

It may be mentioned here that some decisions were taken to set up a divisional

headquarter, a fullfledged university and an airport in Barisal at a cabinet meeting held at Barisal Circuit House on November 23, 1979 during the regime of late President Ziaur Rahman.

It can be mentioned here that the process of setting up the divisional headquarter at Barisal was geared up following the announcement of Begum Khaleda Zia in an election campaign during her visit to Barisal on December 14, 1991.

Mohiuddin Ahmed MP has demanded immediate declaration of date for setting up divisional headquarter at Barisal.

Tk 4cr Gramin Bank loan outstanding

About Taka four crore have been lying outstanding as loan in Barisal Zone for the last four years.

A total of Taka 16 crore was disbursed by the Gramin Bank among 15,000 distressed families of the zone.

It is learnt that the Gramin Bank under Khulna Zone disbursed Taka 16 crore 4 lakh 47 thousand 325 among 14,605 distressed families during the last four years.

20 get life-term for double murder

NETRAKONA, Feb 25: Twenty people were sentenced to life imprisonment along with a fine of Taka 1000 each, in default, to suffer another six months of rigorous imprisonment in a sensational double murder case here, reports UNB.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Babu Shyam Narayan Paul delivered the judgment on February 8.

The convicted are: Hafizur Rahman, Khokan, Rukan Mia, Dulal, Mojibur Rahman Bhuiyan, Soeb Ali, Chanlar, Ruhul Amin, Badrul, Asimuddin, Kamruddin, Saitar, Safar Uddin, Mannan, Nazrul, Rashid, Afzuddin, Saderuddin, Jashim Uddin, Hadis Mia and Bachchu.

Prosecution story dates back to 9.8.1989 when a clash occurred at village Bir Mohari in Kendua upazila over a land dispute between two rival groups each attacking the other with deadly weapons.

In the clash, Santosh and Atikur Rahman were fatally injured. Santosh died on the date of occurrence but Atikur Rahman was taken to hospital in a critical condition where he died the next day.

A murder case was filed with the local police station accusing 20 people. Another case was also filed by the rival group.

Police after investigation submitted charge sheets against the accused in both cases.