

## Upazila roundup

## KUSHITIA

## 10 hurt in clash over land

Feb 29: At least 10 people were injured in a clash over a disputed land in Jagannathpur village in Sadar upazila Wednesday, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, rival groups headed by Toyeb Mia and Shamsuddin Mondol attacked each other with fire arms and lethal weapons.

Three of the injured were admitted to Kushtia General Hospital. Kaku and Rajab Ali were hit by spears while Rana with bullets.

A case has been filed with the local police.

## PABNA

## Wheat stock nil, price up

Feb 29: The price of wheat has shot up in the district in the last two weeks as there is no stock of wheat in the food godowns, reports UNB.

When contacted officials of the government food godowns said the scarcity caused due to communication problems in the river routes following siltation on the rivers Padma and Jamuna.

Meanwhile, wheat is being sold at Taka 480 per maund while rice is selling between Taka 450 and 470 per maund in the local markets.

Local people said the Food for Works Programme is being hampered due to the scarcity of wheat.

They urged the authorities to take immediate steps to restore supply of wheat in the district.

## JAMALPUR

## AL workers assault BNP leader

From Our Correspondent.

Feb 29: Masudur Rahman Talukder, a BNP leader of Madarganj upazila headquarters was seriously injured by an attack of the activists of Awami League at Baltijuri Bazar recently.

The supporters of BNP in Madarganj upazila brought out a procession against the terrorist activities of the Awami League workers in the upazila. The processionists chanted various slogans and demanded immediate arrest of the persons responsible for the incident.

Meanwhile, AL supporters at Jamalpur brought out another procession on Tuesday in protest against the burning of AL unit office by the BNP workers. They demanded immediate release of Abu Syed, President of Madarganj Upazila Chhatra League. Abu Syed was arrested here on Monday in connection with a case.

## NETRAKONA

## 500 infants suffer from Vitamin-A deficiency

From Our Correspondent.

Feb 29: More than 500 infants in the district are suffering from Vitamin-A deficiency.

A recent survey shows that about 800 infants have already lost their eye sight during the last two months.

According to sources, the infant mortality rate is increasing in the district as mothers are reluctant to breast feeding. Most of the children are suffering from night blindness, malnutrition, skin and other gastro-intestinal disease.

## JHENIDAH

## Two injured in rival group clash

From Our Correspondent.

Feb 29: Two activists of Gonotantrik Chhatra Kendra were injured in a clash with BNP activists at Beparipara of the district recently.

Injured Firoz Ahmed and Abdul Khaled Mithu have been admitted to Jhenidah Sadar hospital.

Bricks, lathi, sharp-weapons were used during the clash.

The clash ensued at one stage after exchanging of hot words between some activists of the two rival groups, organisation sources said.

Later, Gonotantrik Chhatra Kendra brought out a procession at the town demanding punishment to the persons responsible for the incident.

## GAIBANDHA

## Press Club executives

From Our Correspondent.

Feb 29: The election of the local Press Club was held at the club premises recently.

A 17-member committee was formed in an election conducted by Strajul Islam.

Following office bearers were elected unanimously for the year 1992-93. Moklesur Rahman — President, Abu Zafar Sabu — VP, Abdus Samad Babu — VP, Mafizul Hoque Tara — Secretary, Abdul Mannan Chowdhury — AGS, Rabiul Hossain — Treasurer, Abdul Hamid — Sports, Rezaul Hoq Mita — Literature, Azad Hossain Sarker Office, Rajat Kanti Barman — Organizing, Asaduzzaman Mamun — Cultural, and Gobinda Lal Das, K M Rezaul Hoque, Strajul Islam, Safayet Ali Khandker and Babul Roy as members.

## PATUAKHALI

## No doctor in hospital

Feb 29: Patients of Aulapur Health Complex of Sadar upazila have been suffering much in the absence of doctor for long, reports UNB.

Local people said, only one doctor of the health complex Ali Akbar was transferred two months back and the post has been lying vacant since then.

Local people have urged the authorities to appoint a doctor immediately considering the plight of the patients.

## Principal needed

The post of the Principal in Patuakhali Krishi College has been lying vacant for long hampering academic and administrative works.

Students of the college informed that though Vice Principal Dr MA Bari is doing the job of the principal, he is not in a position to handle administrative problems requiring the approval of a full fledged Principal.

Students of the college urged the authorities to take up the matter immediately.

## SIRAJGANJ

## Erosion leaves 200 families homeless

Feb 29: About 200 families of three villages of Kazipur upazila were rendered homeless due to erosion of the Jamuna during the last one month, reports UNB.

The villages are Natuarpara, North Tekani and Khas Surber.

Newly elected Chairman of Natuarpara union, Mozammel Hoque told UNB that at least, 150 acres of land have been devoured with crops like wheat, chilly, kolat and sweet potato valued about Taka 70 lakh.

The shelterless people are passing their days in extreme hardship as no relief materials have yet been reached them.

## CHANDPUR

## Anti-smoking rally

Feb 29: A mobile unit of "Adhunik", Dhaka organised an anti-smoking rally at Chandpur recently, reports BSS.

In this connection a meeting was held in front of Chandpur Press Club. The meeting was presided over by Dr. Noorur Rahman, President, Chandpur Unit of "Adhunik". It was addressed among others by Principal, Mattur Rahman, Mr. Nurul Islam, Principal, Khurshidul Islam and Mrs Shirin Banu.

The meeting was rounded off with jari songs based on anti-tobacco presented by the artists of anti-tobacco mobile unit.

## SATKHIRA

## One beaten to death

Feb 29: A man was allegedly beaten to death by some miscreants in Sadar upazila of the district on Saturday, reports UNB.

Police sources said Akram Ali, a truck driver of Rasulpur village was invited by one Abdul Hai to his house in Beladanga where altercation ensued between them on a trifling matter and Akram was beaten mercilessly by the host and his accomplices including Monirul, killing him on the spot in broad day light.

Body of Akram Ali was sent to the morgue for autopsy. A case has been filed with the local police.



SYLHET: The vendors and hawkers have occupied major portion of the road at Bandarabazar — Court Point of the district town. — Star photo

## Bullock shortage hampers cultivation in 5 N-dists

From Our Correspondent

KURIGRAM, Feb 29: Shortage of bullock in five districts of Greater Rangpur is posing a great problem to the seasonal cultivation.

More than 50 per cent of farmers in Kurigram, Rangpur, Lalmonirhat, Gaibandha and Nilphamari have been carrying their agricultural work on share basis due to shortage of bullock.

This shortage is becoming acute day by day due to slaughtering of at least 200 bullock per week in various hats and bazars of the region.

According to a source, there are about 24 lakh acres of cultivable land in the region which requires about one lakh 80 thousand pairs of bullock to cultivate this vast area. But it is reported that there are only 95 thousand pairs of bullock in the area.

It is also gathered that

slaughtering of bullock increases mainly due to shortage of fish supply to the markets. For the last two years, the cultivators are compelled to sell their cattle for want of fodder. If this situation is allowed to continue, cultivation in this region will undoubtedly be hampered.

Drought damaged about 40 per cent of the crops of this region. Continuous rain for the last two years and unprecedented flood destroyed almost all the grasses of the districts.

The unscrupulous cattle brokers avail themselves of this opportunity and buy cattle from the markets at a nominal price. The brokers supply the cattle to different districts and the butchers are carrying on a roaring business of beef at the expense of the farmers.

Every year, various diseases kill about 2,000 cattle in five

districts. This is also one of the reasons for bullock shortage. A good number of cattle have been suffering from various diseases this year. Cattle lifting is also increasing the sufferings of the farmers.

It can be mentioned here that annual expenditure per cow is only three to five paisa which is quite inadequate for an agro-based country like Bangladesh.

Our country imports powdered milk every year. During the last 20 years Bangladesh imported the same at a cost of Taka 3,000 crore. During the last year alone we imported powdered milk valued at Taka 400 crore to meet acute scarcity of milk in the country.

Observers think that if this amount were used to raise the number of milk cows and bullock, the shortage of bullock and requirement of milk might not exist in the country.

## Shantibahini men kill 2, abduct 4 others

RANGAMATI, Feb 29: Two non-tribals were killed and four others abducted by outlawed Shantibahini men in two separate incidents in the district during the last two days, reports UNB.

The victims Musharraf (30) and Ghilo Miah (28) were killed on the spot when the insurgents indiscriminately fired on them at Gilchhari Forest in Nantiarchar upazila on Wednesday.

They went to the forest with eleven others for collecting bamboos.

The insurgents later abducted two of the wood cutters identified as Ismail Hossain (28) and Sattar Chawkidar (38).

Two more non-tribals are still missing from Mahilla Forest of Baghaichhari upazila where they went to collect wood alongwith seven other people.

Meanwhile, security forces arrested a member of the outlawed Shantibahini. He was

caught with firearms from the village Shilachhari of Nantiarchar upazila.

According to sources, a group of Shantibahini went to the village for collecting fund.

Acting on a secret information police raided the village and arrested Batayan Chakma with a SBBL gun and a SMC magazine with 30 rounds of bullet, uniforms of Shantibahini and some insurgency related document.

Another report from Khagrachhari said security forces arrested two associates of outlawed Shantibahini from village Horirumpura in Sadar upazila.

The arrested persons, Nayan Joti Chakma (28) and Jiban Kumar Chakma (31), were identified by the villagers as close associates and auxiliary forces of the tribal terrorists.

Acting on a tip, the security forces raided the village where the tribal terrorists were planning to unleash atrocities.

## One gets life-term for killing wife

COMILLA, Feb 29: A man has been sentenced to life imprisonment here for killing his wife, reports UNB.

The court also fined the accused Abu Taher Taka 2,000, in default, to suffer rigorous imprisonment for one year more.

According to prosecution story, Abu Taher of Chandina Upazila married Rasheda Begum of village Mowtala of the same upazila two years back and lived in the same compound with his mother-in-law Rangmala.

Taher used to torture Rasheda on flimsy grounds. They also quarrelled on the fateful night of September 19, 1989, when Rasheda came out of her cottage to sleep with her mother. After midnight she came out again on nature's call but was caught by her husband who dragged her back to their cottage. Rangmala saw all these but kept silent. Around 2:30 am she came out hearing Rasheda screaming.

Most of the roads in the town are narrow and unfit for pedestrians or vehicular movement.

Breaches have developed at many points while roadside ditches, filled with garbage, are the breeding centres for mosquitoes. Even after a slight rain, these roads become muddy and slippery for lack of drainage.

Shortage of accommodation in the upazila headquarters is now acute since there was no public or private initiative to build new houses for residential purposes.

The only health complex with 31 beds is running short of surgical appliances for which patients requiring urgent operation are sent to district headquarters. Frequent power failure and voltage fluctuation have become a regular feature plunging the town into darkness almost every night.

Betagi Degree College are beset with various problems including poor accommodation,



MYMENSINGH: The Rotary Club, local unit at Dewanganj Islamia High School recently. A total of 1335 patients got free treatment here. — Star photo

## Vendors, hawkers create traffic jam

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Feb 29: The vendors and hawkers have occupied the major portion of different roads in Sylhet town causing great inconveniences to the pedestrians and smooth movement of vehicular traffic.

The situation has worsened by the mushroom growth of unauthorised stalls on the narrow roads in the busy areas of the town. It has endangered civic life here.

A large number of stalls of various items including food-stuff and household materials have gradually set up on both the sides of the roads leaving very narrow passage for the movement of the pedestrians, rickshaws and other vehicles.

It causes a serious traffic jam during most of the time of a day. In some areas, the roads have been made small kutcha bazar. The traders of different kinds of vegetables, onion, or-

ange, pineapple, garlic, and others have occupied the road. The traffic police normally do not take any measure against these traders due to unknown reasons. They are found acting as silent role.

Most of the busy roads like Bandarabazar, Court Road, Shidganj, Rikabi Bazar, Zindabazar, Subidbazar, South Surma, Kadamtali, Station Road are in a pitiable condition for a long due to grabbing of roadside spaces by the hawkers.

Immediate steps should be taken by the law enforcing agencies in this regard, it is widely felt.

Smuggled Indian rice worth about Taka 80,000 were seized by the police from a rice mill of Sylhet recently. One person was also arrested in this connection.

## Guardians for mahila college at Kushtia

From Our Correspondent

KUSHITIA, Feb 29: Female education is being hampered in the district due to absence of mahila college and hostel facilities for the girl students.

The town has four colleges — two government and non-government, four girls' high schools — one government and three non-government where 5000 girls students are studying but there is no residential accommodation facilities for them.

The guardians use to send their wards to the town for higher education in these institutions. But they are facing difficulties due to absence of hostel facilities.

Most of the guardians have to arrange accommodation for their wards their relations houses. People of the district have demanded early construction of two hostels for girls students without further delay in the town.

The potato farmers in Greater Kushtia district have been facing difficulties for want of storage facilities of their produce.

Potato has become one of the main cash crop of the farmers who cultivate High Yield Variety in their land. This High Yield Variety has attracted them and they are increasing potato cultivation.

Kushtia district has only one coldstorage with normal capacity and it can not accommodate the entire product of Greater Kushtia district.

Large number of growers come to store their products but they are to go back being disappointed.

ERRATA: We regret the mistake in the caption of the picture appearing on this page yesterday.

## Amtali UZ beset with manifold problems

BORGUNA, Feb 29: About one lakh dwellers of Amtali upazila have been languishing under multiple problems including deplorable condition of roads, shortage of accommodation, frequent power failures, paucity of pure water and the only health complex being in bad shape, reports UNB.

Most of the roads in the town are narrow and unfit for pedestrians or vehicular movement.

Breaches have developed at many points while roadside ditches, filled with garbage, are the breeding centres for mosquitoes. Even after a slight rain, these roads become muddy and slippery for lack of drainage.

Shortage of accommodation in the upazila headquarters is now acute since there was no public or private initiative to build new houses for residential purposes.

The only health complex with 31 beds is running short of surgical appliances for which patients requiring urgent operation are sent to district headquarters. Frequent power failure and voltage fluctuation have become a regular feature plunging the town into darkness almost every night.

Betagi Degree College are beset with various problems including poor accommodation,

lack of furniture, common room, library, science laboratory and sports appliances.

The college, established in 1972, has also been facing financial problem.

BA and BCom classes were introduced here four years back but no new teachers have yet been appointed.

The college having at least 500 students do not have requisite number of classrooms to accommodate the students. As a result, the students have to use the cyclone shelter to hold classes.

The only residential hostel cannot accommodate the students. The old hostel building is dilapidated and developed cracks in its roof, making it unsafe for living.

The library has very few books and seats. Lack of modern instruments in the science laboratory is hampering science lessons.

The main tin-shed building of the college was completely damaged during the devastating cyclone of last April, and has not yet been reconstructed.

A total of Taka 76 thousand was sanctioned for reconstruction of the building but the amount was stated to be too small to execute the scheme.

## Kuakata yet to draw attention as tourist spot

BORGUNA, Feb 29: Kuakata, an enchanting tourist spot, is yet to draw attention of the authorities for development while the nation is observing the Tourism Week with much ado, reports UNB.

Local leaders have demanded that the picturesque pan-handle from where one can enjoy both sun rise and sun set be taken up for development without further delay.

Situated at the southern tip of Bangladesh, the spot could be made attractive to tourists if only the authorities wanted to do it.

Enchanting natural beauty apart, the area is dotted with innumerable ancient relics which are running into decay due to lack of proper care. Local people said these treasures could be better maintained if preserved in a museum.

People in hundreds, mostly young boys and girls from all over the country visit the place every winter for picnic and of course, to enjoy the panoramic view of the break water beach.

However, lack of hotels, motels or other kinds of accommodation deter many enthusiastic people from visiting the spot, local people observed.

## Divorce cases on increase

BORGUNA, Feb 29: Incidence of divorce in the rural areas has assumed an alarming proportion. More than 40,000 marriages were terminated during the last three years in 49 upazilas of Greater Barisal district, reports UNB.

According to informed sources, the primary causes of divorces have been identified as dowry, polygamy and immoral activities.

In most cases, women of the lowest strata of the society have become the victims. Due to non-registration of their marriages, they could not get legal protection from harassment. Had their marriages been registered they could approach the court either to prevent the divorce or to obtain compensation from their husbands.

It is alleged that the marriage registrars in the remote areas demand higher fees which poor guardians are unable to pay.

Despite legal restrictions, many people take more than one wife in far flung areas without the written permission of the first wife.

It is felt that the government should take measures to ensure registration of marriages at a reasonable fee so that the oppressed women could get legal action against their husbands in the court of law.

## Forest on the verge of extinction

NETRAKONA, Feb 29: Forest resources in the district are on the verge of extinction as brickfield owners are using trees as firewood in burning bricks, reports UNB.

A large quantity of firewood is being consumed by about 50 brickfields in the district because of alleged scarcity of coal. Firewood is now being sold between Taka 60 and 70 per maund in the markets.

Indiscriminate felling of trees by traders in collaboration with some unscrupulous officials have made forest almost deserted causing ecological imbalance.

Experts feel that the problem could have been overcome if arrangements could be made for the supply of L.P. gas in the district.

Fruit trees like palm, mango, lichi, jackfruit and other local varieties like goat and gojare are being felled indiscriminately causing extinction of fruit-bearing trees in the district.

About 25 maunds of fuel are needed to burn 100 bricks. The daily requirement of all the brickfields are over one lakh maunds.

## Baby roasted alive, Tk 10 lakh property gutted in fire

SHERPUR, Feb 29: A baby was roasted alive ad 22 families were rendered homeless in a devastating fire that broke out in Raghunathpur village of Sadar upazila of the district Tuesday, reports UNB.

The fire originated from a kitchen immediately engulfed the adjacent kutcha houses. At least 29 houses were damaged and property worth about Taka 10 lakh were burnt to ashes, witnesses said.

The shelterless families are passing their days extreme hardships. The local UNO visited the spot but no government relief has yet been despatched to the distressed people.