

Upazila roundup

COMILLA

FF's for trial of Golam Azam

Mar 1: The Comilla Command of Mukti Joddha Sangsad brought out a torch procession in the town and held rally in front of its office to press home their 18-point demands, reports UNB.

Speakers at the rally demanded trial of war criminals including Jamaat-e-Islami leader Golam Azam and urged the government to ban communal politics.

After the torch procession in the evening, they burnt the effigy of Jamaat chief Prof Golam Azam at Kandirpar area of the town.

Presided over by Freedom Fighter Shaful Ahmed Babul, the rally was also attended by a large number of people from all walks of life.

NARAIL

School student hurt in fellow member's shot

Mar 1: A group of school students shot and injured a fellow member over an internal feud, reports UNB.

According to a police report, some JCD workers accused of involvement in the Chayan Malik murder case bailed out recently, called out of home one of their friends. Hero and took him to the government high school premises at about 10 pm on February 23.

They attacked him with ramdao and at one stage shot him with a gun. Hero ran away from the spot with serious injury.

He filed a case against JCD members Reza, Shoel, Sayeed and Mintu on charge of attempt to murder.

BRAHMANBARIA

Indians built 15 houses on zero line

Mar 1: Indian citizens are reported to have built houses on the zero line of Balla-Khual border area, reports UNB.

According to BDR sources, at least 15 houses had been built during the second week of this month.

Bangladesh Rifles personnel of Balla boarder protested the incident. A flag meeting was held between BDR and BSF on February 15 in this connection.

At the meeting, the BSF authority expressed total ignorance about the matter, but promised to consult the matter with their higher authorities.

BDR Commanding Officer of 32 Battalion, Major Khandaker Faridul Akbar sent a protest letter to the BSF officials in this connection. But no response was received so far from the BSF side.

BARGUNA

Bus terminal needed

Mar 1: The need for a bus terminal in the town is keenly felt by passengers and bus owners of the Barguna-Pourashava and Amtali-Patuakhali routes, reports UNB.

In the absence of a waiting shed, passengers have to wait under the open sky.

Entire bus stand goes under ankle-deep water even after a moderate rain.

Absence of toilets at the stand is also causing inconveniences to women and children.

People were often found responding to the call of nature by the roadside or beside walls and buildings.

Since there is no space earmarked for parking buses and other vehicles they are parked on the main roads creating obstacles to traffic.

JAMALPUR

Release of Ershad demanded

Mar 1: Jatiya Party (JP) recently brought out separate processions in different upazila headquarters of Jamalpur and Sherpur districts demanding immediate release of deposed President Ershad, reports UNB.

The JP activists brought out large processions and held rallies at Melandah of Jamalpur, Sreebardi and Jhinaitati upazilas of Sherpur.

Speakers at the rallies urged the party workers to make February 29 grand conference a success.

The JP leaders who spoke in the rallies included Shah Rajiqul Bari Chowdhury MP, Abdul Wadud, Kazi Matur Rahman and former MP Shaful Islam Khoka.

JHENIDAH

3 get 10-yr RI for dacoity in bus

Mar 1: Four dacoits were sentenced to different prison terms for committing a dacoity in a bus, courts sources said here on Thursday, reports UNB.

According to court sources, Abdul Wahab (30) and Toakkel (28) of village Shurat, Abdus Samad (32), of village Tetulbaria in Sadar were sentenced to 10 years RI and were fined Taka 5000 each, in default, to suffer RI for six months more. Another Almas (25), of village Jhapjhapia in the same upazila was awarded 7 years RI and fined Taka 1000, in default, to suffer 2 months more.

According to the prosecution story, they were arrested in connection with a bus dacoity at Alangi Bus Station in Kotchandpur thana on Kaliganj-Alamdanga Road at 8 pm on June 8, 1985.

The dacoits in the guise of passengers boarded a Kaliganj bound bus, attacked the passengers and decamped with cash and valuables worth about Taka 3000.

A case was filed and police after investigation submitted charge sheet against 14 people.

After examining the records and evidences the learned Sub-judge, Dik Praman Sarker delivered the judgement recently acquitting ten others.

MAJDEE COURT

Seminar on women development concludes

Mar 1: A three-day seminar on 'Woman Development in Bangladesh - its experience and prospect' ended here Thursday, reports UNB.

It was organised by Asian Cultural Forum on Development in Bangladesh and NRDP-2 Project the seminar was participated by 97 members representing 71 government donor agencies and sponsors.

Participants held threadbare discussions on various aspects of Women Development Programme and attitude in Bangladesh. They also exchanged views and identified prospects for drawing up future programmes on the matter.

A total of 14 articles were presented at the seminar on the activity of which also included group discussions, role of questionnaires and open discussions on different programmes of the government and non-government organisations.

The seminar came out with a number of recommendations for employment, bank loan co-ordination assistance and rights of the women.

PABNA

2-day eye camp opens

Mar 1: A two-day eye camp under the auspices of Shah Mahtabuddin Andah Kalayan Samity started treating the patients in the district since Thursday, reports UNB.

About 200 eye patients were operated upon at the camp set up at Talimnagar Sagarkandi of Sujanagar Upazila of the district.

More than 2000 persons have already registered themselves for check-ups at the camp.

Prof Md Abdus Sattar, Director of Sir Salimullah Medical College Hospital was present as chief guest while senior medical representative of UPSO Salfine Limited Md Shahidul Karim Mukul attend as special guest.

Dr Yousuf Ali of Strajganj Eye Hospital conducted the operations.

KUSHITIA

Dacoity in customs godown

Mar 1: Dacoits looted goods worth about Taka 3 lakh from the local Customs Godown on Tuesday night, reports UNB.

Police said, a gang of dacoits numbering about 15 equipped with arms and wearing musks broke the collapsible gate of the godown overpowering three guards and decamped with huge goods loaded in their trucks.

Police said guards in the neighbouring house did not hear nor the godown guards themselves did raise any hue and cry during the dacoity.

Police took the three guards into custody for interrogation.

A case has been filed in this connection.

It may mentioned that other godowns had been looted in the past in the same manner. The dacoits brought truck with them to carry the looted goods.



SYLHET: Artistes rendering songs at the inaugural session of the 3-day-long Jatiya Rabindra Sangeet Sammelon which began here on February 26 last. —Star photo

Jatiya Rabindra Sangeet Sammelon

From Our Correspondent SYLHET, Mar 1: The three-day-long Jatiya Rabindra Sangeet Sammelon began here on February 26 amidst much enthusiasm.

Mrs. Jahanara Imam formally inaugurated the occasion at the local stadium.

She said in her speech, the songs and poetry of Tagore inspired us to a great extent during the period of Liberation War. She stressed the need for upholding spirit for our existence as an independent nation.

The inaugural function was presided over by poet Sufia Kamal while it was addressed among others by Ataur Rahman, Secretary, Jatiya Rabindra Sangeet Sammelon Parishad, Supriya Chakravarty, Convener of the preparatory committee and Principal Abul Bashar. The programme was started through presentation of a chorus.

In the second session of the inaugural function, poet Shamsur Rahman, Syed Shamsul Haque and Marjam Mannan read out some press of Tagore. Prof. Kabir Chowdhury also addressed the session.

Later, Tagore songs were rendered by the local artistes. The day's programme was rounded off with a dance drama and folksongs.

A large number of people attended the inaugural session of the three-day occasion.

Water level fall abnormal Navigation, irrigation disrupted

From Our Correspondent BOGRA, Mar 1: The river communication of the district has been totally disrupted for abnormal fall of water level in the rivers Karotoa and the Bengalee.

The rivers flow through Bogra, Shariatkandi, Dhunot and Sonatola have fallen to knee-deep. The vast river bed is now used as crop land. Siltation of the rivers has also hampered the irrigation, pisciculture and navigation of the district.

Emergence of chars in those rivers including the main river, Jamuna and abnormal fall of water level in the winter season have made the rivers commercially useless.

The traders who used to bring their merchandise through these rivers are now compelled to carry their goods by road. This has increased the prices of the goods as the traders are to pay higher transport fare.

Meanwhile, the farmers have been facing very much difficulties to irrigate their lands due to the abnormal fall in water level of the rivers.

A vast tract of land beside the rivers remains fallow every year in the absence of irrigation.

Train journey hazardous

Train journey to Santahar, Bonerpara and Lalmonirhat has become hazardous due to the irregularity of the services and pitiable condition of the trains.

The local and mail trains which have been running in between Santahar and Lalmonirhat, Santahar and Bonerpara do not maintain any time-table. The other train services including the intercity Karotoa Express run 4 to 5 hours late every day on the lines causing untold sufferings to the waiting passengers at different stations.

Travelling on roofs of the bogies has become a regular feature for want of requisite bogies.

The Railway Department is deprived of huge amount of revenue as some dishonest staff taking personal benefit allow a good number passengers to travel without ticket. The passengers travel without ticket also carry goods.

Progress on FWP in Jessore unsatisfactory

From Our Correspondent JESSORE, Mar 1: The progress of the works on Food for Works Programme (FWP) in 8 upazilas of the district during the current fiscal year is unsatisfactory.

It is learnt that the works would not be completed within the stipulated time and are likely to end in fiasco.

It is also learnt that 20 per cent works of the projects taken up by CARE and 25 per cent works of World Food Programme projects have so far been completed in the meantime while the date for completion will be expired on April 30 next.

According to an information, a total of 43 projects under CARE and 59 under WFP was taken up during the current dry season. A total of 2127 metric tons of wheat was allocated by CARE for 43 projects and 3166 metric tons of wheat was allocated by WFP for 59 projects.

Out of the 43 projects under CARE, 7 have been taken up in sadar, 8 in Monirampur, 5 in Keshabpur, 4 in Jhikargacha, 5 in Sharara, 5 in Abhainagar, 5 in Bangharpara, and 4 in Chaugacha.

Out of the 57 projects under WFP, 11 were taken up in sadar, 10 in Monirampur, 7 in Keshabpur, 7 in Jhikargacha, 8 in Abhainagar, 6 in Bangharpara, and 4 were taken up in Chougacha Upazila this year.

Delay in forming the project committees and supplying guidelines to conduct the work and consequently delay in starting the works were the main reasons for the slow progress of the works on the projects.

Work on FWP plans complete

BSS from Patuakhali adds: A total of 407 projects were completed in six upazilas of Patuakhali district under Food for Works Programme during the current fiscal year.

According to an official source, 630 metric tons of wheat were allocated for the projects. The projects include the reconstruction of roads and embankments, levelling of school fields, development of hats and bazars and clearing of water-hyacinth.

Overloading, goods make bus journey risky

From Our Correspondent SHERPUR, Mar 1: Overloading of buses, trucks and reckless driving on different routes have left the lives of passengers and pedestrians at risk.

Local people complained that the drivers of buses and trucks on Sherpur-Dhaka, Sherpur-Sreebordi, Sherpur-Nakla, Sherpur-Jhenigathi, Sherpur-Bakshiganj, Sherpur-Nalitabari and Sherpur-Tinanibazar are violating the traffic rules in presence of the law enforcing agencies. The staff of the buses even accommodate the passengers on the roofs.

Moreover, the staff of buses use to load different goods causing sufferings to the passengers. The loading of huge goods on the roofs also helps occur accident.

The delay in loading and unloading the goods at different stations also increases sufferings to the passengers.

The shopkeepers on both sides of the roads at stations

Pilferage of phone wires rampant in Rly W Zone

From Our Correspondent RAJBARI, Mar 1: Pilferage of telephone wires in Western Zone of Bangladesh Railway has become rampant.

According to a source, nearly one lakh-metre long digital telephone wires worth about Taka eight lakh were stolen from the Western Zone of Bangladesh Railway during the four months.

The source said that some known persons steal the wires in presence of the railway security guards and intelligence branch personnel.

Due to lack of proper tele-link, the railway staff have been facing problems to contact other railway stations. For this, the passengers do not get the informations of arrival and departure times of different trains. It hampers smooth operation of railway services.

The affected areas are: Pukuria and Goalundo Station area.

Moreover, nearly 2,000-metre long telephone wire worth Taka two lakh were stolen from different lines during the last two months causing serious problems to the subscribers of the western districts. Many telephone sets have become out of order in the areas.

Several cases have been lodged with the police in this connections by the T and T Department staff but no action has yet been taken by the law enforcing agencies.

Housewife beaten to death

A housewife was beaten to death recently at Khankhapur village in sadar upazila for dowry.

Chaina Begum who was married to one Abdus Salam Sheikh four years back was mercilessly beaten by her husband as her father was unable to pay the dowry. Chaina succumbed to injuries.

A case was registered with the local police in this connection.

Saju Begum (22) daughter of late Abdur Rahman of village Kalyanpur under sadar upazila met the tragic end of her life in a similar incident.

Police informed that Saju was beaten to death by her husband. She was married to one Mokbul son of Noor Mohammad of village Ujanchar in the same upazila last December.

On the night of the incident, Mokbul asked her wife, Saju to bring Taka 30,000 from her father. Saju was severely beaten by Mokbul when she refused to do so. She died on way to hospital.

A case was registered with local police in this connection. But the police is yet to arrest the accused.

Tuberculosis patients on increase

Tuberculosis patients have been increasing gradually in Madaripur and Shariatpur districts.

It is learnt, tuberculosis patients are getting themselves admitted to the local hospitals and health complexes. It is complained that patients are not getting proper medical facilities.

Doctors told this correspondent that 45 per cent of the children up to 14 years are suffering from this disease while about 15,000 adults have been affected.

More phones needed

The existing number of telephones in the district is quite inadequate according to the growing demands of the one lakh town dwellers of the district.

According to an official source, at present there are only 400 phone connections in the town while a large number of applications had been pending at local office for a long time.

Local people have demanded to take necessary steps to expand the capacity of telephone exchange.

13 degree examinees expelled

Degree examinations are going on peacefully in the district without any untoward incident.

According to official sources, 13 examinees were expelled for adapting unfair means in the examination hall.

It may be mentioned here that 922 students have appeared in the examination.

Fodder scarcity hits cattle

From Our Correspondent CHANDPUR, Mar 1: Acute scarcity of fodder has been prevailing throughout the district for a long time.

As a result, hundreds of cattle are not getting requisite food. Consequently, the cultivation and milk production in the district are greatly hampered.

It is reported that the present shortage of fodder is the result of largescale damage of Irri-boro paddy in the rural areas of the district. The continuous floods and incessant rains in the district have destroyed the fodder in large quantity.

The cultivators of the district preserve their hole year's requirement of straw after the Irri-boro harvest. But last year, the cultivators could not preserve the requisite quantity straw is the paddy production was not up to the mark. So, the straw is selling at a very high price.

The cultivators of the district are unable to procure requisite quantity of straw for their cattle as the price is high. So, they are compelled keep their cattle half fed. Some cultivators expressed that straw has become luxury food for the cattle.

The traditional grazing field is now rare. With the increase in population, the fallow lands have been turned into crop fields to meet the food demand of the increasing population.

558 shallow tubewells to be installed in Khulna

GOPALGANJ, Mar 1: The construction of the district Pourashava Bhaban in on progress at a cost of Taka 17 lakh, official sources said, reports UNB.

It is gathered that the construction work will be completed by this month. With the completion of the project, accommodation problem of officers and staff will be solved.

Another report from Khulna adds: Public Health Engineering Department will install 558 shallow tubewells in nine upazilas of district in the current fiscal year.

Of the total tubewells, 160 will be sunk in Dumuria, 124 in Dakop, 124 in Batiaghata, 45 in Fultala, 20 in Kaira, 45 in Paikgacha, 62 in Rupsha, 7 in Dighulla and 60 in Terokheda.

It is learnt that the installation work will be started soon

cattle at a very low price as they are unable to feed those.

Consequently, the scarcity of bullock for cultivation and milch cows to give milk has been prevailing all over the district.

Dinajpur

A UNB report from Dinajpur adds: Acute scarcity of fodder has been persisting in the district for a long time causing inconvenience to the farmers.

The scarcity is due to large scale damage of Irri and boro crops including aus and aman throughout the district following incessant rains and flash-floods last year.

Farmers normally preserve their annual stock of straw from boro, aus and aman crops. But it was not possible for them to do so on account of heavy damage to the crops.

On the other hand, traditional preserve, grass fields have now been turned into agricultural land to grow more food depriving the cattle.

Moreover, prices of oil-cake used for fodder have also gone up. As a result, livestock throughout the district have been reduced to skeleton and thousands of cattlehead are at the point of death for want of fodder.

Besides, a large number of cattlehead have also fallen prey to various diseases due to malnutrition.

Notes from Madaripur

From Our Correspondent

March 1: A nine-day eye camp was held here recently under the auspices of 'Gano Unnayan Prachashta', an NGO of Rajpur Upazila of the district.

It is gathered that about 1200 eye patients were examined and 91 eye patients were operated upon. Besides, medicines were distributed among them free of cost.

It can be mentioned here that Madaripur 'Gano Unnayan Prachashta' had been arranging the Winter-Season Eye Camp every year since 1975. A total of 19,498 patients was given free treatment and 1,758 were operated upon.

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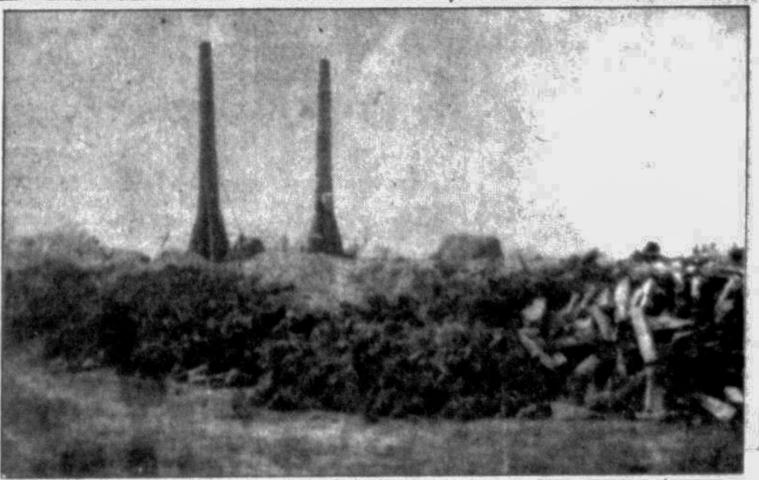
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RANGPUR: The use of firewood in local brickfields is rampant. — Star photo