

Upazila roundup

SYLHET
Valuables worth Tk 4 lakh gutted

From Our Correspondent
Mar 3: Valuables worth about Taka four lakh were gutted in a big fire at village Uttar Rajnagar under Companyganj Upazila of the district recently. According to a report, the fire suddenly originated from the kitchen of the house of one Sona Miah and soon engulfed to the adjacent houses. It is gathered that 15 houses were burnt to ashes and two cows were also roasted alive. On getting information, Upazila Nirbahi Officer of Tahirpur visited the spot. It is learnt, six families had been seriously affected by this incident.

MAULVIBAZAR
Annual Police rally, athletics meet held

From Our Correspondent
Mar 3: The annual police rally and athletics meet '92 of the district was held at local government high school play ground recently. Deputy Inspector General of Police, Chittagong Range, M. A. Khalique, PSC attended the rally as chief guest while Mazharul Islam, Police Super of Maulvibazar presided over the function. The chief guest in his speech called upon the members of police to discharge their duties with sincerity, devotion and impartiality. Later, he distributed prizes among the winners.

KURIGRAM
6 JP leaders arrested

From Our Correspondent
Mar 3: Six local leaders and workers of Jatiya Party and Juba Sanghati were arrested here for alleged involvement in beating one JCD leader recently. This incident occurred on the issue of the election of the Chhatra Sangsad, Kurigram Govt. College, it is learnt. Injured JCD leader Sohel was earlier sent to Rangpur Medical College Hospital in a critical condition. Those who arrested were: Abu Baker Siddique, Shaiful Islam Ruku, Delowar Hossain Marju, Abul Hossain, Mojibur Rahman and Farooque.

BOGRA
Substandard medicines flood markets

From Our Correspondent
Mar 3: Substandard medicines including the life saving drugs have flooded in the markets of rural and urban areas in the district. It is reported that fungus, flies etc are often found in many drug containers including the dextrose (saline) and life-saving injection. The effect of these contaminated drugs, endangering the life of the patients. The drug companies are marketing their product through attractive publicity. A section of physicians and the quacks in the villages prescribe these medicine. Patients complained that the agents and representative of these drug companies entice the physicians in different ways to prescribe their products. These substandard medicines are available in urban and rural areas at a comparatively cheaper rate. The patients informed that they were not getting any positive result after using these substandard medicine.

JHENIDAH
226 cataract patients operated upon

From Our Correspondent
Mar 3: A total of 226 cataract patients was operated upon and 3,000 others were treated in a 10-day-long eye camp held at local Primary Training Institute (PTI) recently. Dr Minhazur Rahman, Dr Abdur Rab and Dr Bahuddin Molk conducted the operations. A total of 275 volunteers from 19 organisations including schools and colleges served the patients during the camp period. The camp was assisted by BNSB, Khulna, Rotary Club of Jessore, Jhenidah Pourashava and Jhenidah District administration. Every patient was given spectacles free of cost.

RAJSHAHI
Ansar VDP rally held

Mar 3: A rally of the Nature district Ansar and VDP was held at Kanikhali field, Nature on Saturday, reports BSS. Sate Minister for Communications Fazlur Rahman Patal and Northern Zone, Ansar and VDP Deputy Director Munir Iqbal Hamid attended the rally as chief guest and special guest respectively. Cottage industry and rural sewerage system by Ansar and VDP were exhibited in the rally alongwith blood donation under voluntary blood donation programme.

KISHOREGANJ
Two dacoities committed

Mar 3: Two daring dacoities were committed at the houses of two brothers Bhabani Prasad Roy and Nabani Prasad Roy of village Panchrukht village of Sherpur Union in Nadail Upazila on Thursday. According to witnesses, about 50 dacoits armed with sophisticated weapons entered the houses by breaking open the windows at dead of night. They tied up all the male inmates of the two houses, beat them mercilessly and decamped with cash and valuables worth about Taka 2 lakh. While being chased by the villagers the dacoits also opened three rounds of blank fires. The Officer in Charge of Nadail Police Station visited the spot of the following day. A case was filed with the local police but none has been arrested so far.

PATUAKHALI
Prices of sugar, flour up

Mar 3: Prices of sugar and flour registered sharp increase in the local markets of the district, reports UNB. Local people said about a fortnight ago, one kg of sugar was sold at Taka 27, but it is now selling at Taka 30 to 32 per kg. The price of flour also increased by Taka 3 per kg. People are anxious about the upward trend in the prices of sugar and other commodities as the holy month of Ramjan is approaching. Common people urged the authority to bring down the price of sugar at previous rate and check the increase of other commodity's price. Patuakhali district administration has also taken all preparations to start the Canal Digging Programme in the rural areas of the district.

BANDARBAN
Implementation of works stopped for fund shortage

Mar 3: Project implementation works under Bandarban Roads and Highways Division remained stopped for the last nine months due to lack of funds, reports UNB. About Taka 7 crore had been lying outstanding for arrears payment to the contractors who have partly completed the works assigned to them. Work on the repair of two roads could not be started due to non-availability of funds, official sources said. Established in 1976, the Bandarban Roads and Highways Division has started functioning in 1981-85 financial year. The division has implemented different road projects.

FARIDPUR
2 killed in incidents

Mar 3: A bus employee was killed after being stabbed by an unidentified miscreant at the local Bus terminal here on Sunday police said, reports UNB. Yahia (24), a supervisor of Zaker Paribahan was stabbed repeatedly by an unknown assailant at about 5.30 this afternoon. He was rushed to Faridpur General Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries. Another report from Pabna said Farhadullah (35), a local BNP leader was also stabbed by some unknown miscreants near the Police Station here. He was admitted to Sadar hospital where his condition was stated to be critical. Separate cases were filed with respective police stations.



CHANDPUR: Md Matur Rahman, Principal local Government College distributing prizes among the winners of the annual sports. --Star photo

Most madrasahs, colleges have no English teacher

From Our Correspondent
SHERPUR, 3: Over 80 per cent of non-government colleges and 90 per cent of senior madrasahs in the district have no requisite number of English teachers. As a result, English teaching in the colleges and madrasahs is being hampered. According to the existing government rules, each senior madrasah requires an English teacher, an intermediate college two teachers and a degree college requires three or more English teachers. The institutions of the districts are unable to fulfil the existing government rules for non-availability of requisite number of Masters degree holders in English with requisite qualifications. The institutions which are not financially sound can not recruit English teachers. The number of successful candidates of Masters degree in English per year is poor in proportion with the demand. Most of the madrasahs and colleges are to appoint part-time lecturers in English who serve at the nearest institutions. The governing bodies of some madrasahs and colleges informed this correspondent that they did not get a single application after advertising in the national dailies for recruitment of English teachers. Sometimes, the applicants do not appear before the interview board even after submitting application.

Cabbage extensively grown in N-dists

PABNA, Mar 3: Winter vegetable, cabbage has extensively grown in 16 northern districts during the current season, reports UNB. It is estimated that some 50,000 acres of land were brought under cabbage cultivation in these districts in the current season. More than 50 lakh metric tons of winter vegetable worth about Taka 175 crore is expected to be produced in the districts at the rate of 200 to 215 metric tons per acre. The district-wise breakup of the expected production of cabbage in Pabna-5 lakh metric tons, Bogra-2 lakh metric tons, Serajganj-3 lakh metric tons, Joypurhat-2 lakh metric tons, Rajshahi-1 lakh metric tons, Naogaon-4 lakh metric tons, Nature-2 lakh metric tons, Chapainawabganj-2 lakh metric tons, Rangpur 5 lakh metric tons, Lalmonirhat-3 lakh metric tons, Nilphamari-2 lakh metric tons, Gaibandha 3 lakh metric tons, Kurigram-3 lakh metric tons, Dinajpur 4 lakh metric tons and Panchagarh 4 lakh metric tons. At present the market price of cabbage is Taka 350 per metric ton. One ideal farmer, Md Akhtaruddin Sheikh, a member of agricultural cooperative society and contact grower of Teburnia in Pabna Sadar upazila expects to earn taka five lakh from his cabbage crops on ten acres of land this season. According to district Agriculture Extension Department 240 metric tons per acre is a record in cabbage production in the district. Bids being sold without handrolls Bids without handrolls are being sold in rural, hats and bazars of the district depriving the government considerable amount of revenue. Official sources said, under the existing law Taka 37 is to be paid as excise duty for every one hundred packets of bidi through handrolls. But used handrolls are being stocked to evade the excise duty. Actual figures of production are also kept secret to hoodwink tax officials. It was alleged that concerned officials remain indifferent to this malpractice for unknown reasons. Meanwhile, consumption of bidi is increasing day by day following the price hike of different low brand cigarettes throughout the district.

Facilities inadequate in Faridpur sadar UZ

From Our Correspondent
FARIDPUR, Mar 3: The deplorable condition of roads, shortage of drinking water, lack of educational facilities, inadequate street lights, erratic power supply and residential problems have made the life in the Faridpur sadar upazila miserable. Recreational facilities are meagre at the upazila headquarters. There is no park for the children of the upazila. Absence of toilets causes much sufferings to the people who come from villages and other places. The people are to respond to the call of nature by the road side or beside walls of the houses. The residential accommodation here is quite inadequate to meet the increasing demand. The local people are not constructing new houses for the high cost of housing materials. Consequently, the house rent is up. Most of the educational institutions have no requisite furniture, laboratory apparatus, sports materials and above all teachers. Scarcity of pure drinking water at poura area has become acute.

Lathyrism patients need care

From Our Correspondent
JAMALPUR, Mar 3: The lathyrism patients in seven upazilas of the district are not getting proper treatment at the local hospitals. Most of the lathyrism patients are found moving door to door for alms. Their handicap and helplessness are quite evident in their mien and movement. Lathyrism broke out epidemically in several regions of the country including Jamalpur district after the Liberation War in 1971. District Civil Surgeon office, Jamalpur informed that the number of lathyrism patients in the district will exceed 500. After a wide Press coverage, the government carried out a survey on lathyrism to envisage a plan 16 years back but nothing was done in this respect. However, at the first stage a foreign health organisation took up projects but misappropriation and forgery resulted the closure of the projects. Later, Mother Project entitled "Self development" was under taken. That project too met with the same fate. The government started issuing cards to the suffering kids and mothers for wheat distribution. But it is learnt that the concerned chairmen and members had grabbed the lion portion of the allotted wheat. The local people feel that a survey should be done to find out the exact number of lathyrism patients and ensure proper treatment and rehabilitation of the patients.

Villagers attack on jatra pandal, 22 hurt

SIRAJGANJ, Mar 3: At least 22 people were injured, two of them seriously, when villagers attacked and ransacked a jatra pandal at Mamudpur village in the district Saturday night, reports UNB. Witnesses said, the villagers protested to the Deputy Commissioner last week against jatra and gambling going on for two months. They grew violent after the local administration allowed the jatra show to continue in spite of their objection. When contacted police confirmed the attack but denied the injuries. Local elite urged the authorities to take necessary steps to stop gambling and other immoral activities at the jatra immediately for the sake of social peace. Pirates attacked a boat on the river Jamuna recently and injured 20 people including 2 women, 2 of them seriously and looted valuables worth about Taka 2 lakh. According to police, a gang of 20 dacoits raided the Chowdhali bound engine boat from Bera with 35 passengers on board, near Venanbari village, at about 10.00 am. When resisted they beat up the passengers mercilessly and decamped with ornaments, clothes and cash Taka 80,000. A case has been filed with Shahjadpur police who arrested two suspects in this connection.

FFs for banishing anti-liberation forces

THAKURGAON, Mar 3: Freedom Fighters of the district have held a rally here to press home their demand for banishing anti-liberation forces from the country, reports UNB. Freedom Fighters Command Council held the rally recently at the Chourasta Square of town and burnt an effigy of the Jamaat Chief, Golam Azam. The meeting was addressed by Akhtar Hossain, General Secretary of the Bangladesh Communist Party, Shamim Hossain, Organising Secretary of NAP district unit and Anwarul Haque, Deputy Commander of Freedom Fighters Sangsad, district unit and others. The speakers called upon the people to resist the Jammat-Shibir elements by any means and not to be confused by their provocative propaganda in the name of Islam. A young man allegedly committed suicide here recently by taking poison following quarrel with his wife. Family sources said, Ibrahim, 28, of Pirganj Upazila took poison after altercation with his wife. He was rushed to Pirganj hospital where the doctors declared him dead. The body was sent to morgue for autopsy and a case has been filed with the police.

Roads need reconstruction

From Our Correspondent
GAZIPUR, Mar 3: The road communication of the district has become worse as almost all the connecting roads have become unfit for vehicular movement. The road that link Kaliganj Upazila with the district headquarters needs urgent repair and reconstruction as the condition of the road has become deplorable. The road that runs from Kaliganj to Tongi Station Road is in pitiable condition. Innumerable cracks and potholes have developed on this road at different points. The condition of most of the bridges on this road is dilapidated and most of the rail crossing have no signal post. Hundreds of buses and other vehicles ply on this road every day. The owners of buses and mini-buses informed that the cracks and potholes cause damages to their vehicles. For this, they have to change spare parts of the vehicles very often and that involves a considerable amount of money. The Tongi-Kaliganj Road is very important because over one lakh people of Pubail and Kaliganj travel on this road everyday. This is the only road to Dhaka via Tongi. The cracks and potholes developed on this road are obstructing the movement of transport and the pedestrians. The reconstruction of the road began but due to fund constraints the work could not be completed. The repaired portion of the road is being damaged day by day. The concerned authorities have been urged to take immediate steps to complete the work on this road to mitigate the sufferings of thousands of travelling passengers. A huge number of rickshaws parked on the roads near Tongibazar and Station Road create traffic jam and obstructing the movement of transports and pedestrians.

Police-arms activists gun battle, 2 killed

From Our Correspondent
JHENIDAH, Mar 3: Two persons were killed and two policemen injured during a gun fight between the policemen and Sarbahara Party Saturday last at Shekhrabazar in Shalakuppa upazila. This gun battle lasted for an hour. According to a report, a police contingent from Jhenidah raided the area. The arms activists started firing from all direction after the arrival of police. Police replied 181 round of bullets. Sarbahara Party men fired about 1500 rounds and used sophisticated automatic weapons like LMG, SMG, SLR, rifle and bombs. After firing, police recovered the body from the house of Pachu who later identified as Mustafizur Rahman Baeku (28), a timber merchant from Kaliganj. Another Shaheb Ali, a day labourer received critical injuries and was admitted to Jhenidah Sadar hospital. Besides, the injured policemen Foyez and Abul Kalam Azad rushed to the Shalakuppa hospital. Police arrested nine persons including an injured in this connection. A case was registered with Shalakuppa thana. Panic is still prevailing in the area, it is learnt.

Cancellation of exam centre protested

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Mar 3: The student of the government college here brought out a procession and staged rally at Mohananda Market and Hajrapur, protesting the cancellation of the degree examination centre at the college by the Rajshahi University authority, reports UNB. The rally was addressed, among others, by Bulbul Alim, Anwarul Kabir, Omar Faroque, Nuruzzaman Tunu and Niamul Haq. They urged the university authority to withdraw the cancellation order. The speakers said cancellation of the centre is not the remedy but strict enforcement of law in the examination hall to foil the unfair means attempt or misconduct by anybody is the main panacea.

Tk 4 cr Grameen Bank loan outstanding

BARISAL, Mar 3: About Taka 4 crore have been lying outstanding out of over Taka 16 crore loan disbursed by Grameen Bank of the district during the last four years, reports UNB. Sources said, the Grameen Bank under Khulna Zone through its 11 branches disbursed Taka 16,04,47,323 among 14,605 distressed families during the period. Bank officials said, though the loanes have been paying up their loan in phases, but still up to last January, the amount of outstanding loan stood at Taka 3,60,58,736 in this area.

221 cataract patients operated upon

THAKURGAON, Mar 3: At least 221 cataract patients were operated upon in a week-long eye camp held at the Jagarani Club premises in the town here, reports UNB. The Humanitarian Agency for Development Services (HADS) organised the eye camp, concluded on Saturday, as part of its yearly programme. About 650 patients with eye complications were also treated free of cost in the camp. Spectacles were also distributed by the HADS among the operated patients. The Surgeon of Gousal Azam BNSB Eye Hospital, Dinajpur, conducted the operation.

Elephants kill one, hurt 8 others

BANDARBAN, Mar 3: One person was killed and eight others were injured in an attack by a flock of wild elephants in Lama upazila of the hill district on Friday, reports UNB. The dead was named Sardar Dudu Miah (45). All the injured were admitted into Lama Upazila Health Complex. They came under the attack while returning home from a hill, official sources said on Saturday.



KISHOREGANJ: One Dewanar-ma and her two daughters, Khodeja and Hajera are pickpockets. They were recently arrested by the Nandail Police. --Star photo