

## Upazila roundup

## AGRI-VARSITY

## BAU Ladies' Club annual sports held

## From Our Correspondent

Mar 4: The annual prize-giving ceremony of BAU Ladies' Club was held at the club premises recently.

The president of the club Mrs. Hosne Ara Khan gave away the prizes among the winners of indoor competitions and a drawing competition arranged in connection with observance of World Child Day.

It may be mentioned here that Mrs. Rizia Rahman and Mrs. Shefali Razaque bagged the glory of championship and runner-up respectively in the indoor competitions of the club.

Earlier, a brief function was arranged to accord reception to Mrs. Hosne Ara Khan as the new President of BAU Ladies' Club.

Presided over by Mrs. Nargis Bhuiyan, Vice-President of the club, the function was addressed by Prof. Dr. Lutfun Hossain.

The whole function was conducted by Mrs. Hasina Banu, General Secretary of the club.

## GAIBANDHA

## 15 injured, goods worth Tk 75,000 looted in highway dacoity

## From Our Correspondent

Mar 4: A highway dacoity was committed at Shakoa Bridge on Palashbari-Gaibandha road recently.

It is learnt, a night coach belongs to AL-Hamra Travels was robbed of and fifteen persons received stab injuries.

According to a report, the dacoits with deadly weapons stopped the vehicle at Shakoa Bridge creating barricade with a long tree. The miscreants raided the coach and stabbed the driver and the passengers mercilessly.

Later, they looted goods worth about Taka 75,000 including cash fifty thousand.

A case had lodged with Palashbari thana in this regard.

It can be mentioned here that ten dacoity took place here during the last six months.

## BARISAL

## BWDB to implement 26 projects

Mar 4: Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) will implement 26 projects at an allocation of 9,000 metric tons of wheat under Food For Work Programme (FWP) in five southern districts of Barisal Zone in the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

The districts are: Barisal, Jhalakathi, Pirojpur, Patuakhali and Barguna.

According to an official source, the projects include construction and reconstruction of embankments, excavation and re-excavation of canals.

Work on these projects has already been started and is expected to be completed in May next, the source said.

## KHAGRACHHARI

## 8-day eye camp opens

Mar 4: An eight-day eye camp began at Dhignala High School premises under Dhignala Upazila of Khagrachhari hill district on February 29, reports BSS.

The eye camp has been jointly organised by Bangladesh Jatiya Andha Khaliyan Samity and the local administration.

The specialists will treat various eye diseases and operate upon cataract patients. The eye camp will conclude on March 7.

## KISHOREGANJ

## Teacher dead

Mar 4: Shabani Prasad Roy, 67, a well-known school teacher and social worker of the district died of heart attack early hours of Wednesday, reports UNB.

Roy was a member of Sherpur Union Parishad for ten years. He left behind his wife, six sons, two daughters and a large number of relations to mourn his death.

One of his sons, Bidyut Prasad Roy, is the UNB Correspondent of the district.

## BHOLA

## Excavation of Ilisha-Katakhal Canal complete

Mar 4: The 8-km long Ilisha-Katakhal Canal has been excavated with spontaneous participation of local people, reports UNB.

Sources said, about 50 voluntary organisations, students, government employees and members of political parties took part in the work completing the excavation within three weeks.

With the excavation of the canal, about 5000 acres of land will get irrigation facility, officials sources said.

Meanwhile, construction of about 4-km long embankment in Sadar upazila is going on in full swing at an estimated cost of Taka 36 lakh.

The work begun July last year is expected to be completed soon.

The State Minister for Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control recently visited the site and asked all concerned to complete the work within the stipulated time.

## BOGRA

## 58 shop owners fined for not using metric system

Mar 4: A mobile court fined 58 owners of shops and establishments in seven upazilas of Bogra district recently for not using metric system of weighting, reports BSS.

According to an official source, Taka 9,280 were realised from them as fines.

36 cases were registered against other businessmen. The mobile court was jointly conducted by upazila administration, police and Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution, Rajshahi.

## SATKHIRA

## 20 hurt in bus mishap

Mar 4: At least 20 people were injured when two Satkhira bound mini buses collided at Chandpur village on Satkhira-Kaliganj road Monday, reports UNB.

Witnesses said, the mishap took place while the drivers were vying to overtake each other on a narrow portion of the road.

All the injured were admitted to Satkhira Hospital. A case was filed with Debhata police none has been arrested so far.

## MAULVIBAZAR

## Timber seized

Mar 4: Local people of Baralekha upazila have seized about one hundred cubic feet of timber and huge quantity of fuel wood. These were illegally extracted from the rescue forest of Patharia under Baralekha upazila.

They also seized two track which were being used in stealing timber from the restricted forest.

They handed over these timber and fuel wood including two track to the Baralekha Police Station.

Two separate cases have been also registered with police in these connection.

## SYLHET

## Volleyball league begins

## From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Mar. 4: The First Division Volleyball League of Sunamganj began at the Sunamganj stadium recently under the auspices of District Sports Association.

Mr. Mushtaque Uddin Ahmed, Deputy Commissioner and President of the Association formally inaugurated the competition.

In total 29 teams are participating in the league, this year from different upazilas of the district.

The two-day long district-level competition of Jatio Shishu Parishad organised by the Bangladesh Shishu Academy was held in Sylhet recently.

A total of 248 participants from 10 upazilas of the district took part in different events of the competition in different groups.

Mr. Shahiduddin Ahmed, Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet gave away prizes among the winners at a function held at the Sylhet Auditorium.

The winning participants will now participate in the regional competition to be held at Comilla.



SYLHET: A cheque of Taka 56,000 is being handed over to Azizul Malik Chowdhury, Vice-Chairman of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, Sylhet unit by a leader of Bangladeshi Community in Birmingham as a part of donation for renovation of the Midwife Training Centre, Sylhet recently. The Sylhet Community living in Birmingham would bear the whole expenditure for the purpose. — Star photo

## Floating people on increase in northern districts

DINAJPUR, Mar 4: The number of floating people is rising in the towns of northern districts posing serious environmental and health problems, reports UNB.

It is learnt that erosion of rivers Teesta, Dharla, Brahmanputra, Jamuna and their tributaries have rendered many families homeless and landless.

These destitute families have been covering on the towns in search of work and food.

Finding no work, the men, women and children are being engaged in immoral and anti-social activities.

Concerned circles expressed the view that destitution of rural people could be checked if erosions of rivers are halted by practical protection measures.

The concerned authorities have been urged rehabilitate them so that they can earn their livelihood by honest means.

## Civic amenities absent at town

The town dwellers here have been languishing under multiple problems including poor roads, frequent power failure, insufficient street lights, paucity of drinking water and lack of proper drainage.

Most of the roads are narrow and unfit for pedestrian and vehicular movement.

Breaches have developed at many points and road side ditches being filled with garbage turned into breeding centres for mosquitoes.

Frequent power failure have become a regular feature plunging the town into darkness almost every sundown. Due to frequent power failure, the business establishments, mills and factories have been incurring huge losses.

There is no proper drainage system in the town. All the existing drains in the town are full of weeds. Water remains stagnant on roads creating inconvenience to the pedestrians.

Drinking water is in scarcity as most of the existing tubewells are out of order.

Bulb pilferage has become a regular feature in the town. Thieves and burglars are active for a long time. No steps are in sight to bring the thieves to book by the authorities.

Local elite urged the authorities to take remedial steps to mitigate the sufferings of the people.

Mosquito menace has taken a serious turn here in the last few weeks and made the life of the people of district town miserable.

Work is hampered, prayer and study are disturbed by

mosquitoes. The situation has turned worse because the drains, roadside ditches and derelict ponds of different areas have been left unclean and stagnated for long causing bulk breeding of mosquitoes.

Pourea dwellers have urged the authorities to take immediate steps for alleviating the suffering of the people.

## JCD wins in college union election

Jatayatbadi Chhatra Dal of Setabganj Degree College begged all seats in the student union election held recently.

College sources said Masudul Parshad nominated by JCD has captured full panel defeating the pro-Awami League Chhatra League in the election held peacefully.

Shafiqul Alam and Abdul Wali were elected as Vice President and General Secretary respectively.

Other office-bearers are: AGS-Masudul Rahman Khan, Athletic Secretary-Selim Khan, Religious and Social Welfare Secretary-Shafiqul Alam, Literary and Debate Secretary-Anisul Karim, Common Room Secretaries-Reazul Islam and Nazimul Nehar Mukti, Cultural Secretary-Kamruzzaman Shah.

Other members are: Abu Azmur, Shah Sekandar Ali, Subhash Chandra Dey, Nazmun Nahar and Selina Akhter.



SATKHIRA: Lt Col K M Anwar Hossain, Sector Commander, BDR, Khulna Sector distributing champion's trophy to 25 Rifles Battalion competitors who won wrestling contest held at the local battalion playground. — Star photo

## Non-stop irrigation, same crop farming affect land fertility

## From Our Correspondent

RAJBARI, Mar. 4: Fertility of the land in northern region is decreasing day by day due to the non-stop irrigation, cultivation of same crop throughout the year.

Non-stop irrigation keeps the soil wet. The result is that crop plants can not take nutrients like zinc and sulphur from the land for which the land becomes harder day by day, agricultural scientists informed.

The adverse impact of non-stop irrigation was detected first by the scientists of Soil Research Development Institute at Rajbari in 1975-76. Principal Scientific Officer of the institute, K M Idris told this correspondent that zinc and sulphur contents of soil had reduced due to wet condition for years together.

He said that the increased compactness and hardness of the soil were also harmful to agriculture. Roots of the crop

plants can not enter deep into the strong soil and hence can not take vitality properly.

Production of the same crop also affects the soil properties since roots of the crop plants penetrate into the same level only, Dr Idris said.

Dr Mohammad Iqbal, Professor of Rajshahi University endorsed the view of Dr. Idris. They said that cropping twice or thrice a year was also affecting the fertility of the land. Since crop residue is removed from the land soon after the harvest to prepare it for the next cropping, soil is deprived of the organic manure expected from the rotten residue, they said.

When asked about the impact of irrigation in Japan and other countries, both the scientists said, arrangements were made in these countries, to keep the land dry at least for some time. Moreover, land composed of coarse particles

does easily get very hard due to irrigation.

Land in Chittagong region is not being affected by wet condition but the land in northern and southern regions of the country, are affected, they pointed out.

They suggested crop rotation, use of organic manure as much as possible, organic recycling through allowing leaves and crop residue of the farm land, interval between irrigation and cultivation of land to save it from further deterioration.

Death condoled Local Sangbadik Sangtha expressed deep condolence at the death of Md Bashu Miah, Gopalganj Correspondent of the Bangladesh Observer recently.

The meeting was presided over by president of the local Sangbadik Sangtha.

## Notes from Kushtia

KUSHTIA, Mar 4: One Naushad (24) owner of MN Video of Majampur Raigate was allegedly murdered by a group of armed assailants in broad day light on Thursday in his shop, reports BSS.

The miscreants caused multiple injuries by knife, Chinese axes and other sharp weapons killing him on the spot.

Police said the murder might be sequel to a clash that had ensured on January 26 at Courtpara between two rival groups.

## Re-excavation of canal begins

State Minister In-Charge of the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism, Abdul Mannan on Monday inaugurated the re-excavation work of Jhaodia-Madia Canal at Sadar upazila of Kushtia district.

This is the fourth canal so far taken for re-excavation in Kushtia district. After completion of the re-excavation of the canal, irrigation facilities would be created for about five hundred acres of land and help produce additional fifteen thousand mounds of crops.

Members of Parliament Ahsanul Haq Mollah, Abdul Khaleque Chantui, Abdur Rouf Chowdhury and Selina Shahid were also present on the inaugural occasion.

## Smuggled goods seized

UNB reports: District Task Force in its anti-smuggling drive recently at Poradah and Bheramara markets seized 90 pieces of Indian sarees and 57 blouse pieces worth about Taka 15 thousand.

There was none to claim the goods.

In another raid, the Sadar police seized 24 Indian cattle-head from Jugia and Kushtia-Dhaka Road on February 18 worth Taka 1.31 lakh.

Police arrested four alleged smugglers and filed a case in this connection.

## CBA unit polls

CBA election of Kushtia Sugar Mills Limited was held peacefully at the mills premises recently.

Mr Zahidul Islam Latif and Mr Attar Rahman have been elected President and General Secretary respectively of the trade union.

A total of 109 candidates contested for 25 posts including 13 members.

## Coordination body of bank staff

Officers and employees of Coordination Council of local branch of Sonali Bank have demanded immediate implementation of their 10-point demand.

They also vowed to resist all conspiracies to reduce Sonali Bank into a non-profit institution.

The Coordination Council of officials and employees meeting in the Bank's Principal office here with Md Abdus Samad in the chair also demanded immediate restoration of normal atmospheres in the bank.

The gathering was addressed, among others, by Md Golam Rahman, Manager N S Road Branch, Md Shahabuddin Ahmed, Manager Court Building Branch on behalf of officers welfare association and AKM Helaluddin, Md Kutubuddin, Md Fazlur Rahim, Abdul Wadud, Md Abdul Momen and Md Nazrul Islam on behalf of CBA.

## 10-day-long eye camp

A ten-day-long eye camp organised jointly by Rotary and Rotaract Clubs of Kushtia and BNSB Khulna concluded here recently.

One thousand and six hundred patients were given treatment and one hundred and fifty one patients were opened upon for cataract.

On the concluding day, all the patients were given spectacles, by BNSB, Khulna free of cost.

## Dacoit caught red handed

GAIBANDHA, Mar 4: A dacoit was caught red handed after being hit on the head by the son of the houseowner at Mohimong in Gobindganj upazila Saturday night, reports UNB.

The miscreant was identified as Mofazzal of village Kachua in Shagata upazila of the district.

According to the villagers, a gang of about 15 dacoits armed with sophisticated weapons attacked the house of Abinash Shaha with a blank shot.

They broke into the room of Bimal Shaha, son of Abinash and one of them held him at gun point. At this moment Bhola, younger brother of Bimal hit the dacoit with a lathi who instantaneously fell down on the ground.

Hearing the hue and cry of the inmates, local people gheraoed the house, but the dacoits managed to escape leaving behind the injured accomplice.

## Shortage of primary teachers in UZs

PATUAKHALI, Mar 4: Primary schools in Sadar, Mirzaganj and Galachipa upazilas of the district are running with difficulty for shortage of teaching staff, reports UNB.

Sources said, 33 posts of teachers in the upazilas have been lying vacant for long hampering education greatly.

The posts lying vacant are 11 of headmasters and one of assistant teacher in Sadar upazila, 6 of headmasters and 2 of assistant teachers in Mirzaganj and 11 of headmasters in Galachipa.

According to official sources, there are 576 government and 226 non-government schools and the total number of the students are about 1,38,841.

Guardians urged the authorities to take measures to fill up the vacant posts to

ensure progress of the primary education programme.

## Guava farmers to get loans

Bangladesh Krishi Bank has taken up a programme to disburse loans among the farmers for production of guava.

The BKB management has authorised the branch managers to sanction Taka 10,000 to each interested producers.

It is reported that Jhalakathi and Pirojpur districts are famous for guava production. Kuriana in Jhalakathi district is particularly famous for its variety and taste.

The bank sources said, farmers who are interested in guava farming have been asked to contact the local bank managers for loan.

## Kaliganj College beset with manifold problems

## From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Mar 4: Kaliganj College of the district is beset with manifold problems.

Shortage of accommodation, furniture, teachers and inadequate science apparatus and lack of necessary appliances for games and sports, are hampering the education of the college.

This college was established at the upazila headquarter in 1969 by the contribution of local elites. But no development has been done since its establishment causing problems 1200 students of the college.

The number of classroom is inadequate to cope with the rising number of students. As a result, the students face seating problems.

The post of principal has been lying vacant for last 2 years. The Vice-Principal of the college discharging the duties of Principal since the death of then Principal, Golam Rahman in 1990.

The poorly equipped laboratory room can not accommodate science students. The collection of books is very poor in the library.

The seating arrangement of the student is not sufficient. The students are deprived of sports appliances and recreational facilities. The play ground gets water logged during the rainy season.

People of the upazila and the students of the college urged the government to take steps on urgent basis for the overall development of the college.

Another report adds: One Rajab Ali (50) was killed by his younger brother Enayetullah (45) over planting of coconut tree, sapling dispute.

It is reported that Rajab Ali of village Kharlahati under Assassuni Upazila was planting a coconut sapling near his homestead. At that time, his younger brother resisted him to plant the sapling.

At one at age, Enayetullah and his sons hit the victim with by-cycle rod on his head. As a result, he died on the spot.

A case was lodged with Assassuni police station in this connection.

## Paddy output target may not be achieved

## From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Mar. 4: The IRRI-boro production target in the district is likely to fail this year due to shortage of seeds, fertilizers, insecticides, diesel and inadequate supply of electricity.

The target of IRRI-boro in the district was fixed at 20 lakh tons. The achievement of the target is yet to be ascertained as the harvest of IRRI-boro has not yet been completed.

It can be mentioned here that the IRRI-boro cultivation in the district was failed last year.

It is learnt that a large number of farmers of the district could not cultivate IRRI-boro paddy for want of adequate supply of seeds by the Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation. It is informed that the BADC supplied seeds in many areas after the expiry of sowing season.

Many farmers of the area failed to prepare their lands because of bullock shortage and also for non-availability of fertilizers.

Some farmers informed this

correspondent that they could not procure the seeds and fertilizers from the godowns of BADC. They further informed that the high prices of inputs affected the cultivation.

The incessant rainfall during the sowing season damaged the seedlings.

The irrigation in the district was greatly hampered by the erratic supply by the Power Development Board (PDB).

Some farmers complained that the irrigation to the paddy fields was irregular as they failed to pay unofficial monthly payments to the employees of the Power Development Board.

## Bar executives

Election of Jamalpur District Bar Association was held at Jamalpur Judge Court premises recently.

A 19-member executive committee of the association was elected with Advocate Nazrul Islam Dulu and Advocate Shawkat Ali as President and General Secretary respectively. The election was conducted by Senior Advocate Abdul Haq Prodhan.

## Call to maintain peace in hill districts

BANDARBAN, Mar. 4: Communications Minister Oli Ahmed recently called upon the people of hill districts to help maintain peace and tranquility for rearing the benefits of development activities, reports BSS.

He was inaugurating the newly built complex of Bandarban Local Government Council.

Mr. Ahmed said acts of terrorism and insurgency could bring about no good to the people of the hill districts, rather it pulled them back and alienated them from the stream of development.

He said government had been paying heed to all problems and demands of the hill districts with utmost sincerity.

The Minister mentioned that the democratic government was committed to develop all parts of the country equally.

Presided over by Chairman of the Local Government Council Shaqing Prue, the gathering was also addressed by Mrs Mamyia Ching MP, Bir

Bahadur MP, ex-State Minister Aung Soe Prue Chowdhury and Bomang King Mong Soe Prue Chowdhury.

Earlier, the Minister formally inaugurated the re-excavation of Prantik Lake under Bandarban district and 6.09-km long Chato-Khagrachhari, Khal at Khagrachhari.

Addressing the people of all walks of life at Khagrachhari on the occasion of re-excavation of Chato-Khagrachhari, Khal, Mr Ahmed said "political freedom is meaningless without economic emancipation."

He called upon the people irrespective of political ideology and belief to stand unitedly to lead the country towards progress and prosperity.

He also inaugurated a water-treatment plant at Khagrachhari and visited Natun Kurl, Junior High School there.

In the evening, the Communications Minister formally inaugurated the newly built school building of Don Bosco High School at Bandarban.