

Upazila roundup

SYLHET

Demonstration to realise demands

From Our Correspondent
Mar 6: Greater Sylhet People's Demand Parishad, a non-partisan organisation held a sit-in-demonstration at the Court Point of Sylhet town on Monday (March 3) last.
The programme was called by the organisation with a view to expressing serious concern over the governments' attitude regarding a number of long-standing demands of Greater Sylhet region.
These include, conversion of Sylhet Osmany Airport into an international airport, implementation of Prime Minister's commitment to oil-gas sector, supply of gas in all upazilas of Greater Sylhet, construction of bridges at Sheola, Ilashpur and Bhasdeswar, introduction of all subjects in the newly started Shahjalal University of Science Technology, formation of Education Board for stoppage of corruption and irregularities in attestation of lands, reduction of Passport fees and immediate steps regarding erosion in different areas of Sylhet.
A meeting was also held with Mr. Mobaswir Ali, President of the organisation in the chair.
The speakers in the meeting urged upon the government to take immediate steps to resolve all these legitimate and long-standing demands.

MADARIPUR

Science exhibition

Mar 6: The 15th National Science Exhibition was held at Madaripur Government Nazimuddin College premises recently, reports BSS.
Mr Ashiqul Hoque Chowdhury, Deputy Commissioner, Madaripur inaugurated the three-day exhibition. Professor Amad Ali Khan, Principal of the college presided over the inaugural function.
About 20 educational institutions and science clubs participated at the exhibition.

BARISAL

Construction of road in progress

Mar 6: Construction work on Barisal-Banaripura Road is progressing fast and expected to be completed soon, reports BSS.
According to an official source, the government sanctioned Taka 10 lakh under Roads and Highways (R and H) Department for construction of the road in the current fiscal year.
Road communication between Barisal and Banaripura upazila will be improved to a greater extent after the construction of the road.

SHARIATPUR

Housewife commits suicide

Mar 6: A young housewife, 25, allegedly committed suicide at Dingamanik village in Sadar upazila on Tuesday, reports UNB.
According to police, Manizta Begum wife of Nazimuddin Begar allegedly killed herself by taking poison. The causes of her suicide could not be ascertained.
The body was sent to morgue for autopsy and a case has been filed with the local police.
A seminar on "Reader and Journalist" organised by the district Journalist Association was held at the premises of the local public library on Tuesday.
Shafi Ahmed was present as chief guest while MA Aziz Mia was special guest at the seminar.
Presided over by Sultan Mahmud, the seminar was addressed by a number of local politicians, journalists and newspaper readers.

FENI

Youngman crushed under wheels of bus

Mar 6: A young man of 30 was crushed under the wheels of the bus he was travelling in at Mohalpur on Feni Bypass highway on Monday, reports UNB.
He was identified as Taher of Charipur village of Sadar upazila of the district.
According to the police, when the bus reached Mohalpur the victim suddenly fell from it and got crushed under its wheels. He died on the spot.
Police seized the bus but its driver and helper managed to escape.

AGRI-VARSITY

Reception to VC of BAU

Mar 6: The annual prize giving ceremony of Bangladesh Agricultural University Club was held at the club premises last week, reports UNB.
Vice Chancellor Prof Ashraf Ali Khan distributed the prizes among the winners of indoor and outdoor competitions, a Press release said.
Earlier, a brief function was held to accord "warm reception to the newly appointed Vice Chancellor Prof Ashraf Ali Khan.
Presided over by Ibrahim Khullilullah, Treasurer of the BAU Club, the function was addressed, among others, by Prof Z H Bhuiyan and Prof Hafazuddin Sheikh. The address of welcome was read out by M Azizur Rahman.

SATKHIRA

Settlement office set on fire, documents gutted

Mar 6: Miscreants allegedly set ablaze all records and documents in the settlement office at Patkelghata in Taka Upazila of the district Monday night, reports UNB.
According to witnesses, the miscreants got into the office building at dead of night by breaking open the windows. Fire brigade extinguished the blaze which damaged the office building.
DC and ADC visited the site and lodged a case with the local police.
A report from Debbhata sub-police recovered one country made gun and pistol lying abandoned in Subarnabad Road side ditch Sunday.
Acting on secret information, police searched the area and recovered the arms. A case has been filed in this connection.

RAJBARI

Re-excavation of canal begins

Mar 6: The re-excavation of Ujanchar Canal of Goalondo in the district began Tuesday. State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahannara Begum formally inaugurated the project, reports UNB.
The re-excavation work of 12 kilometre long, 36 metre wide and 7.5 metre depth canal will be completed at the middle of next month. After completion of work, 3000 acres of agri-land will come under water preservation and irrigation facilities. As a result, an additional amount of 2,000 metric tons of foodgrains will be produced, official sources said.
Speaking on the occasion, Jahannara Begum said Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman had undertaken the countrywide 19-point programme including the canal digging to attain food autarky as well as desired development on every field to enhance the image of the country abroad.
She called upon people of all walks of life to come forward for materialising the dream of Shaheed Zia under the dynamic leadership of Begum Khaleka Zia.
She stressed the need for active participation of women community to make the Canal Digging Programme a success.
Central leader of the JCD Moniruzzaman Manir and Goalondo Thana BNP President Moniruzzaman Monu also spoke on the occasion.

COMILLA

Workshop on mother, child health care

Mar 6: A three-day training workshop on Mother and Child Health Care (MCH) concluded at Chawddhagram Health Complex here on Thursday, reports UNB.
A total of 52 scouts, girls guide, rover rangers and health workers of the upazila took part in the workshop, organised by Bangladesh-Australia Child Health Care project.
The workshop was aimed at grooming workers to carry on MCH services in Sonakalia village scheduled to be launched from March 12. A scout team from Australia will join them on the day.
The concluding session of the workshop was presided over by Dr Shamsul Haque, Civil Surgeon, Comilla. Hedayetul Islam Chowdhury, Deputy Commissioner, distributed certificates among the participants as the chief guest.
Another report adds: Police acting on tip, recovered about 350 kgs of Indian sugar from Chawkbazar and police line junction on Friday.
None was arrested in this connection.



MYMENSINGH: Mahfuz Anam, Executive Editor, The Daily Star speaking at the prize giving ceremony of local Press Club Award 1990-91 as special guest held here on March 3. Information Minister, Barrister Nazmul Huda, Dr Ashraf Ali Khan, VC of BAU, Reazuddin Ahmed, President, BFUJ were present on the occasion. Helena Khan, an eminent litterateur and Insaf Uddin Ahmed, a noted journalist were given the award for their contributions in respective fields.

Increase in child smokers: lung diseases alarming

From Our Correspondent
RANGPUR, Mar 6: The child smokers are on increase in Haragach Bandar, about 7 miles off from Rangpur town and this has resulted in largescale lung diseases in the area.
Haragach Bandar is known for tobacco and bidi industries. There are about two lakh persons involved in it. Of whom 50 per cent are teenagers and minor boys. Most of the parent belong to labour class who are compelled to engage their children in manufacturing bids. Due to their long association with the tobacco, most of them become accustomed to smoking resulting in spread of various lung diseases.
The local people felt that the government should ensure proper execution of Internal Labour Law regarding the children so that lakhs of minor boys can be saved from the cause of lung diseases.
A procession was brought out at Pirgonj Upazila by the local traders and businessmen recently.
The processionists parading different roads of the upazila demanded immediate arrest of

the accused persons of Abdur Rashid kidnaping case. Abdur Rashid, a local cloth merchant was kidnapped and mercilessly beaten-up recently by some miscreants.
A case was lodged with the Pirgonj police in this connection, but none of the accused were so far been arrested, it is informed.
The processionist, however submitted a memorandum to local administration demanding arrest and exemplary punishment to the culprits immediately.

Lioness confce

The regional conference of Lioness of District-315 was held at local Tourist Hotel recently with Lioness Nargis Sultan in the chair.
Mr Anwarul Haque, Lt. Government of Lion District-315 attended the function as chief guest while Lioness District President, Latia Matin and Mr Abu Naser Ahmed, Additional Deputy Commissioner (General), Rangpur were special guests.
A number of Lioness and distinguished guests from

Dhaka and other areas attended conference.
The X function was followed by a musical soiree.

Bhawaya Parishad

In view of upholding and improving the standard of the Bhawaya sangect of the northern region, a 15-member organisation has been formed here recently.
The new organisation has been named as "Bangladesh Bhawaya Parishad" with Nurul Islam Zahid, as President, Rokhana Afroz Ritka and SM Nurul Amin Labu as Vice Presidents, KM Mostafizur Rahman as Secretary, KM Shahannur Rahman as Assistant Secretary, Bhupati Bhushan Barma as Organising Secretary, Ananta Kumar Dev as Cultural Secretary, Hafizur Rahman as Social Secretary, SM Khalil Babu as Publicity Secretary, Khandkar Mohammad Ali Shamrat as Treasurer and Roksan Ara Sobeli as Office Secretary and Messers SM Nazrul Islam, Tajul Chowdhury, Radhanant Sarkar and Nasim Anin as executive members of the committee.

Notes from Jhenidah

JHENIDAH, Mar 6: Police seized 100 pieces of Indian clothes worth Taka 10,000 from a Dhaka bound night coach "Utara Paribahan" from Darshana at local Bata crossing recently, reports UNB.
Acting on secret information, police raided the coach and recovered the clothes including Indian saree and lungi. The contraband items were later handed over to the local customs authorities.
A case has been filed with local thana. None was arrested in this connection.

JCD sweeps union polls

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) swept the Keshab Chandra (KC) Government College Students' Union polls held recently bagging 30 out of 32 seats.
The two seats were captured by Chhatra Shibir and Sangram Chhatra Oikya.
JCD leaders Abu Jafar and Abdul Alim were elected VP and GS respectively.
Chhatra Shibir, Ganatantrik Chhatra Oikya and Sangram Chhatra Oikya contested the polls.
Minor boy run over by bus, killed
An eight year boy was killed by a speeding bus at Laudha, two kilometers off the town on Jhenidah-Jessore road recently.
Witnesses said, Jessore bound bus of Islamic University, Kushiha knocked down Shihul, son of Kawser AH of village Laudha in sadar upazila. He died on the spot.
A case was filed with the local police and the body was sent to the morgue for autopsy.

Goods worth Tk 147cr seized, 12 nabbed

Bangladesh Rifles seized contraband goods worth over Taka 1.47 crore and arrested 12 people from bordering districts of Jhenidah, Jessore and Magura during anti-smuggling drive in January last.
According to official sources, the goods smuggled into the country valued at over Taka 1 crore.
The goods include Indian sarrees, cloths, cattle, imitation ornaments, bi-cycle spare parts, VCR, VCP and old garments.
It may be mentioned that the goods seized in the month of December were worth over Taka 77 lakh only. This reveals that the volume of smuggled goods has nearly doubled after government crackdown on smuggling.

Installation ceremony held

Installation ceremony of the newly elected student union of Government K C College was held recently at college premises.
Presided over by Principal Abdur Rahim, the function was attended, among others, by Moshir Rahman MP and Abdul Wahab as chief and special guests respectively.
The chief guest, in his address, urged the students to resist terrorism on the campus and devote themselves to the paramount task of acquiring knowledge.

Old beggar crushed to death

An unidentified old beggar (70) was crushed to death under the wheels of a Jhenidah bound speeding coaster at Barobazar in Kaliganj Upazila recently.
Police acted the coaster but the driver managed to escape. The body was sent to morgue for autopsy.
A case has been filed in this connection.

2 dacoits caught with arms

Villagers felled a dacoity bid and caught red handed two dacoits with pipgun and two rounds of bullets from village Anipur in Shaikupa Upazila recently.
It is gathered that a gang of armed dacoits comprising of seven raided the house of one Basiruddin Khan. Being sensed the inmates of the house raised on hue and cry.

One killed, 125 hurt in Sirajganj clashes

SIRAJGANJ, Mar 6: A fierce clash between villagers at Kalibarar near the town on Thursday left one dead and at least 100 injured, reports UNB.
Villagers informed that one person was killed and three others were missing during police action on the two belligerent groups.
They said Yusuf (22) died when he and four others jumped from the roof of Vocational Training Institute at Ekdala into a nearby ditch.
His body could not be traced and police also didn't confirm the death.
The condition of 10 of the injured was reported to be serious. They were admitted to General Hospital.
The clash was a sequel to an incident on Tuesday last in which some unruly young men fought pitched battles with organisers of sports at the local Gouri Urban High School.
It started when the inhabitants of Ekdala, while visiting the bazar, were attacked by villagers of Amlapara.
The villagers fought with sticks and stones for a hours Thursday morning at Gouri Urban Girls High School.
Police intervened and lath-

Master plan on river erosion underway

MANIKGANJ, Mar 6: Government is preparing a Master Plan for protecting the country from river-erosion, flood, cyclone, tornado and other natural calamities with the advice and counsel of the foreign and local experts, reports UNB.
Agriculture and Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Minister Major General M Majid-ul-Haq (Retd) said on Tuesday while he was addressing a public meeting as chief guest at the premises of Patgram Ananthbandhu Government High School in Harirampur upazila here.
State Minister for Land Muhammad Kabir Hossain, local Member of the Parliament Harunur Rashid Khan Nunno and the local leaders including the chairmen of some union parishads of the upazila also spoke on the occasion.
The leaders described the sufferings of thousands of landless and homeless people who had lost their all assets and properties due to erosion of the mighty Padma.
Majid-ul-Haq said the government was determined to extend all possible help and assistance in rehabilitating the affected people of the area. He said the government was pledge bound to give a permanent and durable solution of the problem by materialising the flood control action plan.
The State Minister of Land urged the officials to identify the khas lands of the country and distributed them among the landless people. He said a model village would be implemented in the Harirampur upazila at the government initiatives.

Sugar mill earns profit of Tk 45 lakh

From Our Correspondent
RAJBARI, Mar 6: Faridpur Sugar Mills earned Taka 45 lakh profit during the year 1991.
It can be mentioned here that the mill was declared sick as it incurred Taka 4.96 crore loss during the last three years. Taka 3.17 crore were shown as net loss alone in the year 1990.
The mills crushed 1,62,128 metric tons of sugarcane and produced 12,880 metric tons of sugar exceeding the target this year. The sugarcane recovery percentage was 7.93 which was the highest recovery percentage during the last three years.
Besides, the sugar mills this year produced 26.76 per cent above the production capacity while the percentage of production were 31.06, 43.12 and 0.6 per cent less than the production capacity during 1988-89, 1989-90, 1990-91 crushing season respectively.
The mills distributed Taka 1,20,98,000 in last year among the farmers where as outstanding loan of Taka 2,30,93,000 have also been recovered.
The mill authority spent Taka 52 lakh for development of roads, earth raising, construction of new roads and culvert in the mill area this year.
General Manager of the mills informed this correspondent that such achievement was possible due to whole-hearted cooperation of the growers and sincere services of the staff of the mills.

10 brickfield owners sued for burning wood

FARIDPUR, Mar 6: Police has lodged cases against 10 brick-field owners of the district for violating law. All the offenders surrendered to the respective upazila courts and were granted bail, reports UNB.
Under the existing law, use of wood as fuel in burning brick is prohibited and offender is to be punished six months, jail term or maximum fine of Taka 10,000 or both.
According to the informed sources, only 15 licensed brick-field owners have started their kilns during the current season in the district. Sixty licensed and about 40 unlicensed owners produced bricks in the district last year.
Local coal depot sources said 825 metric tons of coal were sold to brickfield owners during this season so far as against 620 tons of coals sold during last year.
The district administration has taken effective measures in stopping burning of wood in brick manufacturing which would certainly help selling more 800 to 900 tons of coals before the current season ends.
A brick manufacturer M A Latif of Sadar upazila and one of the accused against whom police filed cases said, the measures taken by the district and police administration for implementing the brick burning control law is praiseworthy. About 3 to 4 lakh maunds of fire woods are saved per day in the district due to enforcement of the law.
Asked why he used wood in his kiln violating government ban, Latif said the situation prevailing in the adjacent districts inspired him to do so. He, however, hoped that measures would be taken up by the authorities in other districts to implement the law.
The brick burning control law, if implemented properly, will help upkeep the environment and save the forest, local leaders hoped.

Staff abstain from work, train services disrupted

NETRAKONA, Mar 6: Train services between Mohanganj and Mymensingh remained disrupted for the second consecutive day on Thursday as railway employees abstained from work protesting assault on officials and employees, reports UNB.
Witnesses said about 25 railway officials and employees, including station masters, guard, ticket collectors and driver of an express train, were seriously injured by members of a mob on Wednesday at Netrakona Station.
The mobile court men, waiting at the station to check the ticketless passengers, beat them up indiscriminately for halting the 42 UP "Mahua Express" a quarter mile away from the station.
Station masters Abul Kashem and Matur Rahman of Netrakona and Hironpur, Guard Zainul Abidin, Ticket Collector AK Das, Driver Shahidul Haque Bhuiyan and two other employees Shamul Haque and A Jall were admitted to sadar hospital.
Railway sources said they were shifted to Mymensingh Railway Hospital on Thursday.
The disruption in the rail communications caused sufferings to hundreds of passengers in different stations on the railroad from Mymensingh to Mohanganj.
18 fire incidents occurred in '91
BSS adds: properties worth Taka 44,46,000 lakh were burnt to ashes in 18 fire incidents occurred in 1991 in different areas under Netrakona district.
The fire accidents occurred due to various causes including electric short circuit. This was disclosed at a discussion meeting on fire incident and anti-fire operation held Sunday under the auspices of Fire Service and Civil Defence Department, Netrakona in observance of Fire Service and Civil Defence Week '92.
Additional Deputy Commissioner, Netrakona, Ibrahim Khan attended the meeting as chief guest while Nabi Hossain, Assistant Deputy Director of Fire Service and Civil Defence Department, Netrakona was in the chair.
The meeting as followed by a spectacular display of fire service rescue operation.

2 fishermen abducted, tribal insurgents held

RANGAMATI, Mar 6: Two fishermen of village Kamarpara of Kaptai Upazila, abducted by terrorists six days earlier, were yet to be traced out, family sources said, reports UNB.
They were found missing since February 28 from the river Karnafuli while they fishing, the sources said.
They went in the evening and as per their routine and were supposed to come back in the following morning. They had started fishing from Sitaghat of Sitapahar near Shilchari. The boat and the fishing appliances could not be traced.
Earlier, four workers of Karnafuli Rayan and Paper Mills were kidnapped from Naobhang of Rampahar, opposite of Sitapahar, by Shantibahini, who were also not rescued as yet.
Another report says: Villagers captured two tribal insurgents trying to collect tolls at Bakhari in Borkal upazila of the district on Tuesday and handed them over to the security forces, official sources said.
Barua Lal Chakma (30) and Sureshchandra Chakma (25), members of the outlawed Shantibahini, threatened the tribals living in the hamlet to pay tolls or desert the village.
But, the villagers put up united resistance and caught them while they were trying to flee away swimming across a nearby canal, the sources said.

Rice mill boiler blasts, 2 killed

MAGURA, Mar 6: A boiler of a rice mill in Salikha Upazila of the district exploded recently killing two people and seriously injuring 3 others, reports UNB.
Eyewitnesses said the explosion occurred at the mill of one Moslem Uddin of village Chukingnar near Arpara Bazar while rice was being boiled.
Five labourers working at the mill received serious injuries and of them Sukurnanna (30) and Abdul Jall died soon after being admitted to hospital in critical condition.
The dead bodies were sent to the morgue for autopsy.
A case has been lodged with the police in this connection.
Miscreants poison bus passenger, snatch Tk 40,000
SIRAJGANJ, Mar 6: A group of miscreants poisoned a bus passenger near the town on Wednesday and snatched away Taka 40,000 from him, reports UNB.
Hospital sources said Akshed Ali Munshi (50), a local businessman was travelling from Moken with the cash. He stopped at the newmarket bus stand where he suddenly fell ill and was soon unconscious.
The passengers waiting at the bus stand rushed him to the Seraganj General Hospital. His condition is stated to be critical. Munshi hailed from Chala village under Belkuchi Upazila.