

Upazila roundup

SYLHET

One killed by elder brother

From Our Correspondent
Mar 13: One Jabbar was killed by his elder brother at village Batoishal under Jakiganj upazila of the district recently.

According to a report, at about 5 pm on the day of incident the two sons of one Abdul Gani Miah namely Abdul Hannan and Abdul Jabbar had an exchange of hot words over shifting of a partition of their house. At one stage, the elder brother Hannan hit his younger brother Jabbar with a bamboo stick and he died on the spot.

The body was sent to the Sylhet M A G Osmany Medical College Hospital for post-mortem.

The elder brother Hannan had been absconding since the incident.

A case in this connection had been registered with the police.

JHENIDAH

Villagers attack bazar, 5 shops damaged

From Our Correspondent
Mar 13: At least five shops were damaged and three persons injured when the villagers of Gariala in Sadar upazila of the district attacked Bishoykhali bazar recently.

The attackers numbering about 30 equipped with lathi, shanki, sharp weapons suddenly attacked their rival at their shops and damaged goods worth about Taka seven thousand.

The names of the injured could not be known immediately.

It is learnt, the clash originated from a bicycle accident between the two boys of village Gariala and Bishoykhali.

Police rushed to the spot and picked up two persons Astruddin and Afsar.

No case was filed with the police till writing the report.

PABNA

Bar executives

From Our Correspondent
Mar 13: The election of local bar samity was held at bar samity office recently.

Advocate Abdur Razzak and Advocate Mirza Azizur Rahman were elected as President and General Secretary respectively.

The other elected members of the samity were as follows: Vice-Presidents — Md Shamsul Haq Tuku and Khondaker Md Abdul Hye, Treasurer — Mohammad Ali, Joint Secretaries — Md Azizul Haq, Md Ismail Hossain, and K M. Shahidul Islam, Auditor — Md Idris Ali.

Members: A K M Shamsul Huda, Md Abdul Hamid, Md Abul Kalam Azad and Khondaker Abdur Raquib.

SIRAJGANJ

15 sued for under-rating value of land

From Our Correspondent
Mar 13: Sub-Register, Sirajganj has lodged cases against 15 persons of Sadar upazila who allegedly under-rated the deeds in purchasing land property.

It is gathered that 15 purchasers of villages Fulbari, Shahangacha, Ghorachara, Charnadhab, Brahmankhola, Bahuka, Dattabari, Sukderpur Dhalchop, Saratia, Mahitunamura, Kadampal and Jagatbari mouzas purchased land at higher rate but submitted deeds with stamps of lower rate causing loss of Government revenue.

After enquiry, the charges were found correct and the purchasers are facing court case.

NETROKONA

Dacoits loot valuables

From Our Correspondent
Mar 13: A dacoity was committed in the house of one Kajal Chakraborty, political leader and Secretary of Netrokona press Samik Union of village Shingerganga under Sadar upazila of the districts recently.

The dacoits comprising of 10 to 15 and armed with deadly weapons entered into house by breaking open the door. They beat the inmates mercilessly and took away all valuables worth about Taka 20,000 including Taka 1200 in cash.

A case had been lodged with Netrokona thana in this connection.

FENI

Re-excavation of canal in progress

Mar 13: Re-excavation of Daudpur-Madhaic Canal under Barahipur Union in Feni Sadar is going on in full swing, reports BSS.

According to an official source, 151 metric tons of wheat were sanctioned under Food for Work Programme for the Re-excavation of the seven-kilometre long canal in the current dry season.

On completion of the project about ten thousand acres of land will get irrigation facilities for cultivation of IRRI-Boro during dry season, the source said.

KURIGRAM

JCD sweeps majority in college union

From Our Correspondent
Mar 13: The Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) won 14 seats out of total 16 seats in the Students union election of Kurigram Govt. College held here recently.

The other two seats namely A G S and Literary Secretary were captured by the pro-Awami League student organisation Bangladesh Chhatra League (A-A).

Md Abdur Rahim Shamim, Md Zahangir Alam Zuel, Md Abdul Wahab Mondol, all belonging to JCD were elected VP, pro-VP and GS respectively. A G S Nazmul Towhid (B.C.L.).

SHARIATPUR

Betel leaf growers facing manifold problems

From a Correspondent
Mar 13: The betel leaf growers of all the six upazilas of the district have been facing manifold problems due to price hike of necessary inputs and lack of marketing facilities.

At present about 10,000 families of the 6 upazilas of the district have been passing their days in miseries due to lack of inputs, bank loans and marketing facilities causing rapid decline in betel leaf production.

When contacted, some betel leaf growers told this correspondent that the prices of inputs such as straw, bamboo, fixture, cot, oil cake, fertilizer and jute sticks have increased abnormally. But the market prices of their products have not increased proportionately.

CHANDPUR

Mosquito menace hampers normal life

From Our Correspondent
Mar 13: Mosquito menace has become an alarming problem in the district town causing the life of the dwellers miserable.

Due to attack of mosquitoes, it has become difficult for the students to prepare their lessons at night. Mosquitoes also bite the people in day time.

Doctors, nurses, Lawyers, journalists and shopkeepers who are to work at late hours of night are the worst sufferers.

The people live in sium and rural areas are also the sufferers. Ditches filled with dirty water litted drains, ponds, koncha latrines and water garbages are the ideal breeding grounds of the mosquitoes in the town.

SATKHIRA

Indian diesel damaging engine of vehicles

From Our Correspondent
Mar 13: The inferior quality Indian diesel smuggled into Bangladesh has flooded the markets of the district.

The inferior quality Indian diesel being used n machinery has been damaging the engines of vehicles, deep tubewells and shallow tubewells.

The farmers and vehicle owners of the district have been using Indian diesel comparatively at a cheaper rate than the imported diesel.

When contacted an agent of Meghna Petroleum Co told this correspondent that there are three agents of petroleum products of different companies and a take of 2.51659 litres of diesel was sold during the last wheat cultivation.

It is also learnt that 8 thousand litres of diesel are being smuggled into the district per month.



SYLHET: The employees of the local pourashava who are on strike from March 9 brought out a procession in support of their demands. — Star photo

Traditional paddy farming decreasing day by day

From Our Correspondent

KURIGRAM, Mar 13: The cultivating of local varieties of paddy is decreasing day by day in Rangpur Zone comprising Kurigram, Rangpur, Gaibandha, Lalmonirhat and Nilphamari districts.

The farmers of the region previously grew different local varieties of paddy. These are Panisail, Binpakri, Khirahabog, Kalijira Dudkumor, Dhyapa, Uknimodhu, Satia, Paraugi, Sada Aus and Kalamank on their land. These varieties grew abundantly. After the harvest of the varieties of paddy the farmers procure sufficient straws which were used as fodder.

Owing to sharp fall in the cultivation of local varieties of paddy many problems now prevails such as shortage of fodder. The production cost of IRRI-Boro is increasing day by day with the increased prices of agricultural inputs. The prices of agricultural inputs have now gone beyond purchasing capacity of the farmers.

Some farmers of Kurigram Sadar and Ulipur Upazila told this correspondent that local varieties of paddy could be cultivated without using fertilizers and irrigation facilities. The production cost was very low. They also said that the cultivation of IRRI-Boro was impossible without using fertilizers and irrigation facilities.

The per-acre production cost of IRRI-Boro is now nearly Taka 35000 to 40,000. Many farmers of the region are unable to spend this money. Many of them have run into debts.

Other crops cannot be cultivated after harvesting IRRI-Boro. As a result, the cultivation of these varieties of paddy has become less profitable.

Before the introduction of IRRI-Boro, the farmers could produce three crops in a year. They did not think of fertilizers and irrigation and their economic condition was better.

IRRI-Boro is now cultivated on large scales in Rangpur zone but the authorities have taken no steps to operate the power pumps in order to minimize the production cost of the paddy.

The local varieties of paddy are more nutritious than IRRI-Boro, it is learnt.

The ecological balance is also being affected owing to the fall in the underground water level in many areas of the country, it is gathered.

Child labourers
Child labourers are on members in Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Rangpur, Gaibandha and Nilphamari districts of greater Rangpur day by day.

With the influx of floating people in urban area in search of work, these minor children are compelled to take up any odd job to eke out a living.

From Our Correspondent

The tender aged boys are engaged mostly as helping hands in masonry work. Hotels, restaurants, factories like bidi factory, tobacco factory, bakery, motor garage, bicycle repairing shops, welding workshop, etc.

Besides, many more work as shoeshine boys, domestic servant and cowboys.

According to International Labour Laws children below the age of 15 are not allowed to take up hard work. In Bangladesh this age limit has apparently been relaxed because most of the children when are seen engaged in such various work are mostly 10 years of age or below.

In a survey by this correspondent, it has been found these children are compelled to take up hard work only because of their poverty finding no other alternatives. In whole of Greater Rangpur comprising of five districts, there are about 25,000 such child labourers working for this own livelihood. And in source cares they are maintaining their families.

Most of them have no shelter or house to live and as such after the day's hard work, they spend the night at their master's places or in railway platform or in the verandah of other's house. During the winter, their condition are really pitiable. As they cannot afford bedding and other wares to cover their body with none to look after them.

Hotel owners observe strike
The owners of hotels and restaurants of the district observed a 24-hour strike here recently to press home their five-point demand.

The demands include repeal of VAT and turn over tax. During the strike, services by all hotels and restaurants remained suspended.

The owners held a demonstration in front of the district administration office and handed over memorandum to the officials of the district administration and customs department.

Unidentified body recovered
Kotwali police recovered a body of an unidentified woman aged about 50 from Radhabollab area of the town recently.

On information from the local people, police rushed to the spot and recovered the body from a field.

Police sent the body to the morgue for autopsy and lodged a case.

Call to restore academic atmosphere
Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar said the present government is taking all steps towards improving the standard of education at all levels.

The minister was addressing a gathering of teachers and students at Pirgachha College here recently.

He said the government has given top priority to education sector in the national budget and taken steps towards spreading education among the common people. He added that the government has already introduced honours and master's degree courses in some colleges to facilitate higher education in the rural areas.

Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar said the present government is determined to restore peaceful atmosphere in the campus through resisting violence and anarchy.

Trunk facility needed
Telephone subscribers here suffer from shortage of trunk operating facilities hampering official and business activities.

Only one trunk booking board operates here with a lone operator. During peak hours it becomes very tough to get the line through. Local journalists and businessmen have to wait long hours to get their connections.

According to official sources, the local exchange has capacity for 1000 telephone connections and about 2000 applicants have been waiting for a long time.

Over 5000 tubewells out of order

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Mar 13: Acute scarcity of drinking water has been causing immense suffering to rural people of the district for a long time, reports UNB.

The number of tubewells maintained by the Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) is quite inadequate to meet the need of the rural people, said sources.

About 12,000 tube-wells were sunk in the district during the last 15 years. About 6,000 tubewells were rendered useless by their pump handles stolen with their heads.

Besides, 5000 tubewells remain out of order for a long time and still no effective measures have yet been taken for repair or replacement.

The rural people alleged that despite repeated appeals, neither the Public Health Engineering Department nor concerned Union Parishad took any remedial action.

Ambulance lying out of order for 2 yrs
The only ambulance of the Pabna General Hospital is lying inoperative for the last two years causing great sufferings to the people especially the poor patients.

Hospital authorities are using the ambulances of Fire Service and Zila Parishad in case of emergency.

As the expenses of these ambulances are very high, poor people are unable to avail of the facilities in their emergency need.

It is reported that a pregnant woman, named Mayna (22), delivered her child in a van on her way to the hospital in the absence of ambulance recently.

Health care programme in progress
TANGAIL, Mar 13: The Primary Health Care Intensification Programme in the Kalihati Upazila of Tangail district has made significant progress sparking a ray of hope among 3.53 lakh people of the upazila situated at 120 kilometre north-west of the metropolis, says a press release.

The plan of action for the programme, taken up with the support of World Health Organisation (WHO), has been prepared jointly by the Health and Family Planning staff with definite priorities and targets.

A total of 334 health and family planning personnel is now working in the upazila to ensure primary health care to its people. Two hundred and fortyseven health and family planning staff have given orientation training in primary health care and 2085 village health volunteers have been trained under the programme.

The posts of 288 village health care have been setup and out patients services have been re-organised as specific service delivery clinics. Health education is now a regular activity in all out patient facilities.

Primary Health Care teams have been formed at each union and upazila levels with one medical officer assigned as team leader for each union. All houses of the upazila have already been surveyed for registration of children, pregnant mothers and women in the reproductive age.

The Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (CPR) in the upazila increased to 44% in 1991 from 26% in 1988. The number of visits for maternal care and TT immunization rose from 4983 to 10,568 during the same period.

In the field of child care, 8238 children were given measles immunisation in 1991 as against 4,590 in 1988. The number of growth monitoring of children stood at 22,937 in 1991 as against none in 1988.

The number of vitamin 'A' distribution rose from 1,24,884 to 1,65,970 during the same period. In disease control, 27,076 cases of diarrhoeal diseases were detected and treated in 1991 as against 5949 cases in 1988.

For providing safe drinking water to the people of the Kalihati upazila, 7,360 tubewells are now functioning against 3395 tubewells in 1988. The percentage of household with sanitary latrines has also increased to 11% from 2.33% during the same period.

A similar primary health care intensification programme is also now under implementation at Sreepur upazila in Gazipur district with the support of WHO.

Womens' Day observed

JHENIDAH, Mar 13: Shawptagram Nari Shawmirvar Parishad of the district organised a rally and a discussion meeting at local Wazir Ali High School premises Sunday last to mark the International Womens' Day, reports UNB.

Deputy Commissioner of the district MM Al-Faruk attended the meeting as chief guest while Momtaz Begum, Secretary of the Shawhay Mohila Samity presided.

Among others, the meeting was addressed by Tasnim Athar and Sabera Begum.

Speakers demanded actions to stop repression on women in the society.

About seven hundred women associated with the activities of the parishad took part in the rally.

Notes From Rangpur

RANGPUR, Mar 13: The Poultry Farm of the district has earned about Taka 12 lakh during the last seven months in the current fiscal year, reports UNB.

Official sources said, the farm produced about 1,70,114 eggs of hens and 1,48,303 chicken during the period.

A total of 1,145 poultry birds were also exchanged among the people of the district for better breeding the source added.

Jute godown, 9 cloth shops gutted

A high fire originated from a gas oven at Kurigram town completely gutted a jute godown and 9 cloth shops worth over Taka 50 lakh on recently.

Fire brigades from Rangpur, Lalmonirhat, Kurigram and Ulipur rushed to the spot and extinguished the fire after four hours of frantic efforts.

Hotel owners observe strike

The owners of hotels and restaurants of the district observed a 24-hour strike here recently to press home their five-point demand.

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Ransacking to VC's residence RU issues show-cause on 8 JCD leaders

RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY, Mar 13: The University authorities have issued show-cause notice to eight student leaders and workers of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal for ransacking Vice Chancellor's residence Sunday night, reports UNB.

A group of students belonging to the ruling party's student front reportedly ransacked VC's residence, protesting the entrance of a group of teachers and students into Monpujan Girls Hall Sunday evening.

The teachers and student activists of Ganatantrik Chhatra Oikya entered the dormitory without permission of the authorities in connection with the campaign for public trial of Prof Golam Azam.

The authorities issued the show-cause notice Wednesday night, asking the JCD activists to reply within seven days from receipt of the notice, which is also being simultaneously served in halls and departments.

None of the charged persons has so far received the notice, but they met with the VC to say they would not receive the notice.

Proctor of the University declined to give names of those served with the notice. Reliable sources, however, gave the names of six — JCD

RU Unit Organising Secretary Babul Akhtar Babul, Publication Secretary Mehdi Hassan Biplob, GS of Habibur Rahman hall Massos Khandker and workers Akram, Raja and Babul.

Tk 48 lakh smuggled goods seized

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) seized contraband goods worth about Taka 48 lakh and arrested five people during the last 15 days.

The smuggled goods include Indian sugar, threads, salt and medicine.

Items seized were handed over to the local customs office and cases have been filed with the local police.

Another report from Feni said BDR also seized a huge quantity of Indian timbers and Sarees worth about Taka 17 lakh.

They also arrested five people last week.

According to BDR sources, the timbers were seized from Chhagalnala and Korerhat area.

Shahabuddin of Bashpara in Chhagalnala in this regard during the period.

In the Korerhat area they also seized Indian Sarees from a Feni bound bus worth about Taka 2.50 lakh and arrested four people in this connection.

The arrested are: Jamim Uddin, Haris Ali, Ameer Hossain and Abdul Hal.

Minibuses collide head on, 36 injured

RANPUR, Mar 13: At least 36 people were injured, 19 of them seriously when two minibuses collided head on near Tista Bridge on Rangpur-Kurigram Highway in Kaunia upazila of the district on Tuesday, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, the accident occurred as both the drivers lost control while speeding from opposite directions.

Among the injured, 19 were admitted to Kaunia Hospital and 17 were released after first aid.

Police seized the vehicles but the drivers and helpers took to their heels.

A case was filed with Kaunia police in the connection.

A man was awarded life-term imprisonment in absentia on charge of killing his wife for dowry.

The court also fined accused Najimuddin Taka 8,000 or in default suffer rigorous imprisonment for one year more.

Prosecution story in brief is that Najimuddin killed his wife Parul for dowry at his father-in-law's house at village Bhabon Chura of Pirganj Upazila.

The accused married another woman and lived with her. On the fateful day, the convict went to Parul and demanded dowry money. When it was refused, he struck her with an axe, and fled.

Additional District and Session Judge Abdur Rahman Patwari, after examining evidences and records, delivered the judgement on Saturday.

One beaten to death by miscreants

MAGURA, Mar 13: A person was beaten to death in sadar upazila by some unknown miscreants recently, reports UNB.

Muktur Hossain (30), son of Ganullah of village Chandanpratap was allegedly beaten to death by two men. They attacked him while he was talking to his wife. Muktur died on the spot.

The body was sent to morgue for postmortem. A case has been filed in this connection. None has been arrested yet.

Fire leaves 20 injured, 500 homeless

KUSHLIA, Mar 13: At least 20 people were injured, 5 of them seriously and valuables worth about Taka 20 lakh were destroyed in a fire that broke out in Char Millpara slum area on the bank of the Gorai on Tuesday, reports UNB.

The fire originated from a kitchen and soon engulfed the adjoining area. Over 100 shums were gutted 60 families with 500 people rendered homeless, local people said.

Fire Service men rushed to the spot and battled for an hour to bring the fire under control.

Those seriously injured were admitted to district General Hospital.

Deputy Commissioner of the district, Syed Haftz Ahmed visited the area and consoled the victims. He also announced Taka 10,000 as cash relief in addition to two tons of rice for the affected people.

BSS adds: One rickshaw-puller Amir Ali (30) was killed and one passenger Akbar Ali (40) was injured in a truck accident on Friday on N S Road in front of Rupali Bank.

The accident took place when a sand loaded truck trying to overtake another truck. Police on the spot seized the truck and arrested the driver.

Akbar Ali was admitted to Kushtia General Hospital in critical condition.

Kushtia Rickshaw Samik Association brought out a procession demanding punishment to the driver and compensation for the family of the victims.

Young girl rescued, trafficker held

SATKHIRA, Mar 13: Police Tuesday last arrested a woman trafficker and rescued a young girl near Bhomra border, reports UNB.

Malati, wife of Narayan of Khagrasarak village in Bagerhat district was arrested while trying to traffic a girl Kalpanabala (16). Kalpana hailed from Halgati village in Morrelganj upazila of the same district.

Kalpana alleged that Malati enticed her out of the house with an offer of a lucrative job.

Police on secret information arrested them Tuesday night while they were on way to Bhomra border.

Minor boy killed in road mishap

SHERPUR, Mar 13: A 10-year boy was killed under the wheels of a pickup on Sherpur-Makla road near Kansa-bakhal on Sunday last, reports UNB.

Eyewitnesses said, the pickup of a Korean Construction Company ran over Chandma killing him on the spot.

A