

Upazila roundup

JHENIDAH

Lalan's death anniversary observed

From Our Correspondent
Mar 14 : The 10th death anniversary of Mystic Poet (marami kabi) Lalan Shah was observed here recently.

On this occasion Lalan Shah Parishad of the district branch organised a discussion meeting. Local artist rendered Lalan songs.

Al-Haj Md Moshir Rahman, MP attended the function as chief guest while Deputy Commissioner, M M AL-Farook, Jhenidah presided over the discussion meeting.

CHANDPUR

Annual sports held

From Our Correspondent
Mar 14 : The annual sports of Chandpur Government College was held recently at the college ground with great enthusiasm.

Md Yakub Ali, Deputy Commissioner of Chandpur inaugurated the sports by hoisting National Flag.

About 2 hundred competitors both male and female students participated in 20 events. Principal Matfur Rahman distributed the prizes among the winners. Arts group became champion and science group became runners up in the competition.

SIRAJGANJ

JCD, BCL clash, situation tense

From Our Correspondent
Mar 14 : Situation of Chandaikona Wahed Mariam College in Raiganj upazila is still tense following clash among the supporters of JCD and BCL (A-A).

Twenty students were injured in the clash, five of them seriously.

The clash took place on March 5. On March 6, half day hartal was observed at Dhanga bazar in protest of terrorism.

The feud began since students' union polls of Chandaikona College where JCD candidates swept uncontested. The BCL (A-A) and other organisations boycotted the polls and accused the college authority as partial.

Heavy contingent of police was posted at the spot to avoid further untoward incidents.

While contacted, the District Administrative Authority told The Daily Star that the situation is now under control.

GAIBANDHA

Late variety sugarcane cultivation

From Our Correspondent
Mar 14 : District Agriculture Extension Department has undertaken a programme of late variety sugarcane cultivation programme in remote Char area in the district in this current season.

The department will take up 19 demonstrations plots where cultivation of late plantation variety ISD-20 is going on in this current season. The areas are Mollarchar, Kamarjant, Arendabari, Rahamatpur, Gajaria, Kanchipara, Haripur and Haldia. The variety will develop under 2 to 3 feet flood water.

About 457 maunds of seeds and fertilizers are being supplied by the department free of cost. Total expenditure was estimated at Taka 47,500 for the implementation of the programme. On success of the programme a total 9,500 maunds of cane will be produced from the demonstration plot.

DINAJPUR

Dacoities frequent in poura area

Mar 14 : Frequent dacoities in the pourashava area have been creating panic among the local people, reports UNB.

Local residents said a dacoity was committed in a residence of Fahimuddin and belongings worth about Taka 2.50 lakh were looted recently. Another dacoity was committed in the residence of retired police officer Nurul Islam of Ramnagar in the town. Dacoits decamped with valuables worth about Taka one lakh.

Besides, repeated dacoities were taking place at the residence of Rezaul Islam of Baubari in the town. Dacoits raided his residence in the guise of police personnel, the sources added.

Local people alleged that dacoities in the area has become a regular practice.

SREEPUR

Re-excavation of Labandah canal begins

Mar 14 : State Minister for Religious Affairs M A Mannan on Tuesday inaugurated re-excavation work of Labandah Canal under Sreepur upazila of the district, reports UNB.

Addressing a gathering at the canal site, the State Minister called upon the people to participate voluntarily to make the canal digging programme a success.

The 3000 metre long canal will facilitate irrigation in 1,000 acres of land and help produce 400 tons of additional foodgrain annually.

The canal will also help cultivate 15 tons of fish and facilitate water communication in the area.

Total earth digging include 4 lakh cubic feet.

A total of 4.50 tons of wheat have been allocated under food for works programme for the purpose.

Mannan said the country will attain autarky in food and fish soon if the programme is implemented properly through mass participation.

Presided over by district BNP President Tajuddin Ahmed, the programme was also addressed by President of the Jatiyatabadi Ulema Dal Maulana S M Ruhul Amin.

JAMALPUR

2,05,341 acres under IRRI cultivation

Mar 14 : A total of 2,05,341 acres have been brought under IRRI cultivation in seven upazilas of the district this year, reports BSS.

Official sources said that out of the total land, High Yielding Variety (HYV) of paddy have been cultivated on 1,94,221 acres and local variety on 11,120 acres.

About 3,82,900 metric tons of IRRI paddy are expected to be produced in the district this year, the source said.

MAULVIBAZAR

Freshers' reception held

Mar 14 : A freshers' reception of Women's College in the district was held at the college premises recently, reports UNB.

The function was presided over by Syed Shamsul Islam and Prof M A Aziz, Chairman of Comilla Education Board attended it as chief guest.

The function was addressed, among others, by the Deputy Commissioner of the district Arif Hossain and Acting Principal M A Khalique.

One of the smallest volumes of the Holy Quran has been found here recently.

The complete book was found in the house of Alhaj Md Ajmal Ali Khan of Patnola village of Rajnagar upazila of the district.

The Quran measures 2.5 cm by 1.5 cm. It is 0.9 cm thick.

RAJSHAHI

Tk 1.45 crore for construction of nine pry schools

Mar 14 : Zonal Facilities Department the Ministry of Education has taken up a programme to build 9 primary schools at an estimated cost of Taka 1.45 crore recently, reports UNB.

Officials sources said, one school each will be constructed in Chapainawabganj, Naogaon, Natore, Pabna, Sirajganj and two schools each in Bogra and Joypurhat.

An amount of Taka 16,07,176 was sanctioned for construction of each two-storied building with water supply, electricity and drainage facilities.

Tenders have already been called and the construction works will start soon, the sources added.

KURIGRAM

Local BNP committee formed

Mar 14 : The conference of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) of the zila unit was held recently at the local town hall with Advocate Shamsuddin in the chair.

Abdus Salam Talukder, Secretary General of BNP and Minister for Local Government, was present as the chief guest.

After the conference, a 75-member committee of Kurigram zila BNP was formed with Advocate Shamsuddin and Omar Farooque its President and Secretary respectively.



ROHINGYA REFUGEES: They are purchasing and selling commodities at a newly set up bazar. They do not know how long they will stay in Bangladesh. —Photo by RN Sanyal

Impact of Farakka Barrage 'Loo' in summer, erosion, flood in rainy season

From Our Correspondent

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Mar 14: The normal flow of the river Padma becomes feeble during dry season following the impact of the Farakka Barrage for the last two decades creating problems to the north western region of our country including Chapainawabganj, Rajshahi, Pabna and Kushtia districts.

Most of the rivers in this area including the Padma, Mahananda, Pagla, Punarbhaba, Ichhamati, Baral have been silted up for the weak flow of water resulting in losing navigability, disrupting river communication, trade decline, paucity of drinking water, closure of irrigation schemes and imbalance of ecological system.

Innumerable char lands have emerged in the Padma and the Mahananda causing 'Loo' in summer like that of desert. The desertification system has been prevailing in the area. On the other hand, during the rainy season the Padma affects the area greatly every year due to heavy onrush of water from the Farakka Barrage. Apart from the flood havoc during the monsoon, it also causes massive erosion.

At least 200 villages on the banks of the Padma and

Mahananda have completely devoured during the last 15 years. Thousands of people of the eroded area have been rendered homeless.

The Pagla, the Punarbhaba, the Ichhamati and the Baral have now been completely dried up stopping navigation and thousands of acres of land are not being cultivated due to lack of irrigation facility. So, the agricultural production of the vast area has been seriously affected.

The people residing on the bank of these rivers used to earn their livelihood by fishing in these rivers but now they are compelled to adopt other profession for survival.

Only a couple of years back, a huge quantity of hilsa fish was available at the Veramaghat of Rajshahi but it has become a matter of the past.

Govt urged to take back irrigation pumps

Hundreds of farmers in Chapainawabganj have fallen into trouble after the sale of 14 irrigation projects by the local unit of Water Development Board.

Most of the schemes after

handing over to the private owners have come to a standstill and hundreds of farmers have been deprived of irrigation facilities.

Of the 14 schemes at different points of five upazilas of the districts, 8 schemes including Dhainagar, Chakjharu, Maheshpur, Alampur, Darbarpur, Daldai and Chandidashpur have totally been stopped and about 60 per cent land of the rest schemes including Mohe-shpur, Palsa, Mallikpur, Fate-hpur, Simaltala and Hari-rampur cannot be cultivated due to the waywardness of the owner of the schemes.

Out of about 6,000 acres of land, seven hundred acres of land are not being cultivated though there are around 100 power pumps in 14 schemes.

The farmers in a petition to the Agriculture Minister informed that they are badly affected by the sale of the power pumps by the former government. They also mentioned that all the pumps were sold at a nominal price to some vested quarters.

The farmers demanded that the present government should take back the power pumps for the greater interest of the farmers.

Notes from Magura

MAGURA, Mar 14: A 10-day eye-camp concluded at the Shishu Hospital here recently, reports UNB.

Jointly organised by the National Society for the Blind and Aurtho Unnayan Sangstha (AUG), Magura, the camp was formally opened by Deputy Commissioner of the district Nirmal Chandra Sarker. The inaugural function was presided over by Kamal Uddin Mostafa, President of the AUS.

A total of 92 cataract patients were operated upon and about 1,500 people with eye complications were treated free in the camp.

Science exhibition

The 15th national science exhibition '92 was held at Magura Government College premises recently.

Nirmal Chandra Sarker, Deputy Commissioner of the district formally inaugurated the three-day exhibition. Principal Abdul Quddus presided over the inaugural function.

About 20 educational institutions and science clubs took part in the exhibition.

Tk 45.54 lakh for road construction

Government has sanctioned Taka 45.54 lakh for the construction of Magura-Jessore Road via Arpara under the Annual Development Programme of the district.

Financed by the International Development Agency (IDA), the construction work of the road is expected to be completed by May next.

After completion of the project, road communication through Magura-Arpara, Arpara-Salikha and Arpara-Jessore routes will improve considerably.

One gets 5 yrs RI for forgery

Additional District Magistrate Abdullah Al Hadi awarded five years rigorous imprisonment to Anwar Hossain of Sadar upazila on charges of forgery.

He was also fined Taka 4000, in default, to suffer rigorous imprisonment for 8 months more.

According to the prosecution story, Anwar Hossain of village Ghoramara of Sadar upazila forged the seal and signature of the then Food Minister Sarder Anjad Hossain for his appointment as a poll rater dealer in 1989.

A case was registered and after investigation, police submitted chargesheet against the convict.

The Magistrate, after examining evidences and witnesses, found him guilty and awarded the punishment recently.

Stomach diseases

Stomach diseases have broken out on an alarming proportion leaving the people scared in four upazilas of the district.

Doctors said, everyday a large number of patients are pouring into the hospitals and upazila health complexes with gastro-intestinal diseases.

Consumption and adulterated food, edible oil and taking of impure water were attributed to the outbreak of the diseases.

Consumers complained that local markets are festering with adulterated edible oils, milk and ghee selling freely in the wake of the Ramadan apparently without any official inspection.

Local people urged the authorities to take stringent measures against the selling of adulterated commodities.

Another report adds: At least 11 houses were gutted and 5 cows were burnt alive in a devastating fire that broke out Sunday night at the house of Afsar Ali of village Takary Char of Sadar upazila.

Prospect for silk-worm farming bright

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Mar 14: The prospect for silk-worm cultivation in all the seven upazilas of the district is bright for the favourable climatic condition of the region.

The scientists of the local research department opined after an extensive survey here recently that the chemical components of the local soil, its temperature, rate of rainfall were very favourable for production of quality silk-worm.

The local silkworm department initially started experimental cultivation of mulberry kind in the district. Later, a scheme was taken up to cultivate the same quality in the region.

In 1990, the Silk-worm department took up a project to cultivate mulberry tree kind on the road-side of Melandah and Jamalpur Sadar upazilas and observed that the prospect for silk-worm cultivation in the district was bright.

The project, however, was abandoned later on. But the lo-

cal people cultivated the silk-worm at their own initiative and got satisfactory production.

Brinjal is selling at Taka 30 per maund in the different markets of the district which is below the cost of production rate.

The growers are reluctant to cultivate brinjal next year for the poor return. The abnormal fall in brinjal price attributed to lack of marketing facility and less demand of the local buyers. Available sources said that the growers incurred a loss of Taka 70 per maund, last year.

Now, the brinjal cultivation in the district faces a setback as it failed to give satisfactory return.

There are five main varieties of brinjal like IRR, Jhaina, Thamble, Brown and Langra.

Lack of proper transportation facility and preservation discourage the growers cultivate Brinjal in the locality.

1783 different cases pending in courts

From Our Correspondent

BARISAL, Mar 14 : More than one thousand and five hundred different cases are now pending under ten upazilas of the district.

Out of the total, there are 849 G. R. cases.

Of the total, 324 cases are pending in the Sadar upazila, 98 cases in Gournadi upazila, 334 cases in Bakerganj upazila, 30 cases in Agailjhara upazila, 56 cases in Muladi upazila, 62 in Hizla upazila, 95 cases in Mehendiganj upazila, 94 cases in Banaripara upazila, 102 cases in Babuganj upazila and 107 cases in Uzirpur upazila.

Besides, 202 cases are pending in Additional District Magistrates Court and 37 cases are pending in the court of Additional Deputy Commissioner (General), Bakerganj.

Facilities Department under Ministry of Education has under taken a programme to construct 306 primary schools and cyclone centres in phases with an initial capital of Taka 176 crore in five southern coastal district of the country under the Post-flood Rehabilitation Programme.

It is gathered that in the first phase, 201 multipurpose cyclone shelters will be constructed with the financial assistance of the Saudi Arabian Government.

The construction work will

be started from this month with an estimated cost of Taka 50 lakh per cyclone shelter.

Meanwhile, Facilities Department has already completed the construction work of 36 government schools with the expenditure of Taka two crore under the Post-flood Rehabilitation Programme.

The construction of five union family planning centres out of 21 centres are yet to be completed in Barisal and Jhalokhathi districts.

It can be mentioned here that 31 union family planning centres were scheduled to be completed in three districts of Barisal Bhola and Jhalokhathi at an estimated cost of Taka 4.11 crore in Khulna division under the last third five year plan.

It is gathered that since 1989, 26 unions family planning centres were constructed in different unions of Barisal, Bhola and Jhalokhathi at an estimated cost of Taka 13 lakh for each centre.

Mosquito menace has made the life in the district town miserable.

The situation has been worsened as the uncleaned drains, road-side ditches and derelict ponds and tanks are not being properly cleaned and thus these have turned into the safe breeding centres of mosquitoes.

Clash over canal digging, 20 hurt Project body blamed for untoward incident

From our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Mar 14 : Over 20 people were injured, two of them seriously in a clash over excavation of Betnai canal between the project committee and the villagers of Chandidasgati.

The two seriously injured persons, Abdus Sattar and Jaher Ali were admitted to the district general hospital with critical head injuries.

According to police and eyewitnesses, about 35 persons including the members of the project committee went to excavate the canal but over 50 villagers prevented them demanding compensation for crops which they said, would be damaged if the canal was excavated.

Betnai canal digging project was undertaken by the district administration as a part of countryside programme of the present government. Prime Minister Khalea Zia inaugurated the project ceremonially on February 19 last.

After starting the work on the project, the local cultivators protested the digging of Betnai canal and started that standing crops of about 20 bighas of land would be damaged. Failing to draw the attention of the authority, the cultivators staged a demonstration on March 3 and submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner of the district.

Anniversary of Pagla Kanai's death observed

JHENIDAH, Mar 14: The 182nd birth anniversary of mystic poet Pagla Kanai was observed here with due respect at his village Berbari in Sadar upazila Tuesday, reports UNB.

On the occasion, Pagla Kanai Smriti Sangsad took up a day-long programme which included placing wreaths at his mazar, musical soiree, discussion meeting and a cultural function.

4 dacoits held with arms

FENI, Mar 14: Police here arrested four alleged dacoits and recovered seven rounds of ammunition from their possession, reports UNB.

The arrested dacoits are Abdus Satter and Shahabuddin of village Char Shahabi of Sonagazi upazila, Abdur Razzak of Tongirpara village and Kabir Ahmed of village Farhad Nagar of Sadar upazila of the district.

Prices of essentials up in Rajbari

From Our Correspondent

RAJBARI, Mar 14: The prices of essential commodities have shot up in different markets of the districts during the holy month of Ramadan causing much hardships to the fixed and low income groups.

The situation further aggravated due to irregular and inadequate supply of commodities under modified rationing system.

The prices of different varieties of rice have registered a 10 to 20 per cent rise during the Ramadan. The coarse rice is being sold between Taka 13 and Taka 13.50 while the medium variety is being sold between Taka 14 and Taka 15 per kg.

The price hike of the rice is attributed to the short supply in the market during the lean period. The rice price is expected to come down within a month with the arrival of new IRRI-Boro rice.

The prices of different varieties of pulses have also gone up. Masur pulse now sells at

Taka 36 to 40 and gram at Taka 20 per kg.

The prices of vegetables have also gone up as the period of some vegetables are almost over. Now, potato sells at Taka 5, karalla at Taka 24, green papaya at Taka 10 and onion at Taka 18 per kg.

The supply of different varieties of fish has fallen in the market as most of the ponds, tanks, khals, and beels have dried up due to drought.

Beef sells at Taka 60 and mutton at Taka 90 to 100 per kg. A medium size of chicken weighing 4 chataks sells at Taka 60 while four eggs are sold at Taka 12.

The supply of chicken and eggs to other places including Dhaka has increased the price of these items.

The law and order situation of the district was reviewed in a meeting held at the conference room of the Deputy Commissioner.

Communication network to be developed

CHITONISHI (Chandpur), Mar 14: Communications Minister, Oli Ahmed on Tuesday said the country is going to enter into a new era of development in Communication Sector in the next four years, reports BSS.

He said, the communication network would be built suiting the demand of the country with the use of latest technology, keeping that in view the present democratic government had already taken off.

The Communication Minister was formally inaugurating the Mudaffarganj-Chitonishi-Hasnabad Road here on Tuesday.

The road, starting from the 28th kilometer of Comilla-Chandpur Road will link Mudaffarganj of Comilla with Chatkhil of Noakhali via Hasnabad under Chandpur.

Addressing the public meeting on this occasion at Chitonishi under Shahrasti upazila of Chandpur district he said the politics of BNP is the politics of nationalism. He said for the sake of national interest and nationalism we must be united to expedite the process of development in the country.



RAJBARI: A 10-day long eye camp was held at the local Government Boys' High School premises recently. —Star photo