

## Upazila roundup

## GAIBANDHA

## Seminar on 'improved hearth, its use' concludes

**From Our Correspondent**  
Mar 15: A five-day long seminar on 'improved hearth making and its use' concluded here at the upazila auditorium of Sadullapur under the auspices of central co-operative samity recently.

The seminar was presided over by Saifur Rahman, Upazila Village Welfare Officer. Those who spoke on the occasion were Mofazzal Haq, Amjad Hossain, Md. Ali, Abdul Aziz Sarker and Shamsul Haq.

The seminar was conducted by Nurul Haq Sarker, Trainer. About 30 farmers and members of landless samity were participated at the seminar.

On this occasion participants were being trained on construction of six different kinds of single and double phase hearth and its use. Under this improved system about 63 per cent fire wood could be saved.

**BRAHMANBARIA**  
**One arrested with three pipeguns, ammunition**

Mar 15: Akhaura police arrested a man from Sarakbazar Friday evening and recovered three pipeguns and eight rounds of ammunition from his possession, reports UNB.

Acting on a secret information, a contingent of police led by OC Faize Ahmed raided the bazar and arrested Moti Miah (22) with a bag containing the said arms.

Moti Miah came Akhaura on his way to Davegram village by Karnafuly Express Train from Adiabab village of Raipura upazila of Narshingdi district.

Police suspected that the man might be the member of so-called Sarbahara Party.

A case has been registered with the local police.

**SATKHIRA**  
**Households burnt to ashes**

**From Our Correspondent**  
Mar 15: Households worth about Taka 50 thousand were burnt to ashes in a devastating fire at Polashpole of the district recently.

According to eyewitnesses, the fire was originated from the over which engulfed the entire house.

The local people tried their best to extinguish the fire but failed to control. The Fire Brigade personnel reached at the spot after 40 minutes late and able to control the fire.

**CHITTAGONG**  
**CU Deans election held**

Mar 15: Election of Deans in two faculties of the Chittagong University was held Saturday last official sources said, reports UNB.

Prof Nuruddin Chowdhury of Management Department was elected Dean of the Commerce Faculty defeating former Pro-Vice-Chancellor Prof Ali Emdad Khan by 22-15 votes.

Dr Sultan Ahmed of Statistics Department was elected Dean of Science Faculty securing 54 votes against his contestant Prof Abdus Sobhan Bhuiyan of Physics Department, who received 49 votes.

**FENI**  
**Re-excavation of canal in progress**

Mar 15: Re-excavation of Gatiya Canal under Anandapur Union of Parashuram upazila is in full swing and is expected to be completed soon, reports BSS.

According to an official source, 53 metric tons of wheat were allocated in the current season under Food for Works Programme for the re-excavation of the canal.

On completion of the re-excavation work, about 2,000 acres of land will get irrigation facilities for cultivation of IRRI-Boro paddy, the source said.

Illegal electric connections in the district were causing the national exchequer a loss of about Taka 10 lakh annually, reports UNB.

The connections, mostly spread in the rural areas of five upazilas of the district and one under Noakhali, numbered around 10,000, and are still increasing ever day.

## CHANDPUR

## Intensive IRRI-Boro cultivation

**From Our Correspondent**  
Mar 15: More than 2 lakh acres of land will be brought under Boro and IRRI cultivation in seven upazilas of the district in the current season.

According to Agriculture Extension Department, about one lakh acres of land will be brought under High Yielding Variety (HYV) and the rest one lakh acres under local varieties.

About one lakh acres will be brought under IRRI cultivation in Chandpur Irrigation Project areas.

Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) will supply improved variety of seeds, fertilizers and pesticides to achieve optimum output.

**SIRAJGANJ**  
**18 per cent agri loans disbursed in five months**

**From Our Correspondent**  
Mar 15: Four scheduled banks of Sirajganj district have disbursed 18 per cent of agricultural loans in last five months.

Taka 1.12 crore have so long been disbursed out of sanctioned Taka 6.36 crore.

It is gathered that Sonali Bank sanctioned Taka 2.97 crore but disbursed only Taka 60 lakh, Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank sanctioned Taka 1.87 crore but disbursed Taka 34 lakhs, Agrani Bank sanctioned Taka one crore and disbursed Taka 10 lakh and Janata Bank sanctioned Taka 51 lakh but disbursed Taka eight lakh only during last five months.

Due to short disbursement of agricultural loans, the farmers faced problems to cultivate 'Rabi' crops.

When contacted the Regional Managers of the disbursing banks told this correspondent that the farmers who prayed for loan are mostly defaulters and for that reason, target of loan disbursement could not be achieved.

**MAJDEE COURT**  
**Handball training course**

Mar 15: A week-long handball training course, organised by District Sports Association, was held at the Hartinayanpur High School ground recently, reports UNB.

A total of 56 boys and girls from 8 schools of Sadar upazila took part in the training course.

Abdul Wadud Bahar and Monish Chandra Sen conducted the course.

**JHENIDAH**  
**Houses, jute, tobacco gutted**

Mar 15: Eleven thatched houses, two tin sheds with a huge stock of jute, tobacco and poultry birds were burnt in three separate fire incidents during the last ten days in the district, reports UNB.

The loss or damage was estimated at Taka 18 lakh.

In the latest incident Friday night, seven thatched houses including properties were gutted in a devastating fire that broke out at village Chutura of Shadlakupa upazila.

Preliminary estimate put the loss at Taka 2 lakh.

According to report, the fire originated from a kitchen at about 8 pm and engulfed the adjoining houses of Jalil, Mujibur, Karim, Azibar, Rahela, Sabed Ali and Shahar Ali.

Fire Brigade from Sadar reached the spot after an hour while everything was over.

Affected families have appealed for urgent relief to the authority.

**MAULVIBAZAR**  
**District Bar executives**

Mar 9: District Bar Association Wednesday elected Advocate Md Monir, Syed Anwar Mahmud and Advocate Tojammel Hussain as its President, Vice-President and Secretary respectively, reports UNB.

In the annual election held at the local Bar office, an eight-member executive body was also formed.

They are: Advocate Vipathi Ranjan Das, Kishori Pads Dev, Md Abdul Matin, Astzur Rab Chowdhury, Nirmalendu Dev, Shajuddin Beg, Mujibur Rahman Mujib and Muhsin Chowdhury.



SYLHET: The boys are playing on the bed of river Surma.

— Star photo

## Erratic power supply, want of fertilizer to hit agri output

**DINAJPUR, Mar 15:** Production of wheat, IRRI and boro crop might be affected in Khanshama upazila of the district for frequent power failure since last few days, reports UNB.

It was alleged that load shedding at Paker Hat Palli Biddut Samity in Khanshama upazila of the district is a regular feature. Sometimes the load is shed for 12 to 15 times a day. As a result, irrigation pumps in these crop fields get stopped. Consumers said, some times tips are to be paid to members of the staff to ensure unhindered supply to their irrigation pumps. Even then, the situation did not

change.

It was also learnt that crime incidents have shot-up in the area due to load shedding after dusk.

Farmers urged the authority to immediately ensure regular supply of electricity to their irrigation pumps in the crop fields to avoid further damage to their crops.

**Fertilizers prices up**  
Prices of chemical fertilizers have shot up due to short supply in the market affecting poor farmers of the district.

Retailers at the hats and bazars said they could not sell fertilizer below Taka 40 per kg because they had to purchase

it at a higher rate than fixed by the government.

Local people alleged that dealers increased prices in connivance with some dishonest officials.

Production of irri, boro and wheat may fall short of the target this year as marginal farmers cannot afford to buy fertilizer at exorbitant prices, concerned circles said.

**Minor boy killed in road mishap**  
A minor boy was crushed to death under the wheel of a speeding bus in the town.

Police said, Wadudul Islam (7), son of Azhar Ali of Narayanpur of the town, was run

over by a Panchagarh bound bus (Dinajpur-714) while he was crossing the road.

The plying of vehicle on the road was suspended for two hours as people attacked the vehicles following the accident.

A case has been filed with the police in this connection.

**25 cows stolen**  
At least 25 cows were stolen from village Gholimoheshpur of Ruha upazila of Thakurgaon district on Saturday night.

The cows were owned by Yusuf Ali, Monsur Ali, Anisur Rahman, Hafizuddin and Daimul Haq of the same village.

## Sugarcane under pest attack

**CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Mar 15:** Pests, swarming into vast tract of sugarcane growing fields, are worrying farmers in three upazilas of the district, reports UNB.

The affected upazilas are Shibganj, Gomosthapur and Sadar upazilas.

The pests turn the plants yellowish and rapidly infect the adjoining fields.

They complained that proper measures to protect the land from pest attack could not be taken due to non availability of pesticides

## 4 get 10 years RI for possessing arms

**COMILLA, Mar 15:** Four people were awarded 10 years rigorous imprisonment, two in absentia, for possessing unauthorised arms and ammunition, court sources said here on Saturday, reports UNB.

The convicts Kurjat Ali, Anwar Hossain, Maser Sheikh and Sadek were awarded the punishment on March 4.

According to prosecution story, acting on tip, Daudkandi police led by Inspector M A Kader stopped a Chittagong bound passenger bus (Chittagong Ja-1377) on Dhaka-Chittagong Trunk Road

at Elliatganj on August 20, 1989. At this one of the convicts threw a country made pistol through an window and opened fire at the police.

Police then searched the passengers and recovered a pipe gun and cartridges and arrested two people while another two managed to escape.

Police after investigation submitted chargesheet against the four accused.

After examining the records and witnesses Additional District and Sessions Judge Nurul Wadud delivered the judgement.

## Maastans collect tolls from passengers

**PATUAKHALI, Mar 14:** Some local 'maastans' are collecting tolls from passengers at different launch ghats of Bauphal Upazila of the district, reports UNB.

It is alleged that a gang of hoodlums have been collecting tolls at Kallsuri, Keshobpur, Gazimazi and Nurainpur launch ghats for a long time claiming themselves as lease holders.

The port officer of the district said the above mentioned ghats have not yet been leased out to any party. The passengers further alleged that the toll collectors often misbehave with them.

## Absence of patronisation leaves 8000 ponds unutilised

From Our Correspondent

**MUALVIBAZAR, Mar 15:** The fish production in Habiganj district is seriously affected for non-use of about 8,000 ponds and tanks for fish cultivation.

The local fish cultivators opined that huge quantity of fish could be produced in the district if the ponds and tanks were used for pisciculture.

The Upazila Fishery Department, it is informed, did not take any initiative to increase the fish production though the possibility of fish production is bright.

There are only two fish projects in the district of the

Fishery Department. One in Upazila Parishad pond and another one in Kachari Dighi.

During the regime of President Ershad, lakhs of Taka loan were disbursed for fish cultivation but the borrowers invested the loan amount for other purposes. It is informed that these huge loan was disbursed among the fake fish cultivators.

A non-government survey says that there are 14,713 ponds and tanks under the Madhobpur upazila alone. But only 7,512 were brought under fishery programme by private promoters without any help

from the Fishery Department. It is gathered that real fish cultivators were always deprived of requisite loan and other facilities.

In Madhobpur Upazila Fishery Office, there are officers and staff but the office did not take any motivation programme to patronise the fishery programme which would help increase fish production.

Some interested fish cultivators informed this correspondent that the procedure for getting loan is complex for which the genuine cultivators find it very difficult to get loan from the financial institutions.

They informed that out of the total, only 25 per cent cultivators have their own ponds or tanks and the rest take lease of the ponds from the owners.

They further informed that this class of cultivators never get loan facility as there is no provision to give loan them. So, this kind of cultivators find it difficult to arrange capital for the purpose. They usually go to the local money lenders to borrow money who charge higher rate of interest. The cultivators after repaying the loan amount with interest get very poor return from their cultivation. That is why, they find less interest in fish cultivation.

To increase the fish production in the district, the government should make loan process more easier and sanction the same to the genuine fish cultivators.

A seminar on industrialisation in Maulvibazar ended here recently.

The seminar was jointly organised by the local office of the Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) and National Association for Small and Cottage Industries of Bangladesh (NASCIB).

It was presided over by the Deputy Director, BSCIC local office while Arif Hossain, Deputy Commissioner, Maulvibazar was present there as chief guest.

The participants held thread bare discussion on various aspects of small and cottage industries programme of the district. They also exchanged views and identified ways and means for the future programme for the district.

## Problems hamper girls' college education

From Our Correspondent

**BOGRA, Mar 15:** The local government Majbur Rahman Womens' College is beset with various problems including shortage of teachers and absence of hostel facilities for the students.

The lone womens' college in the district was established with the donation of the local elite in the year 1963. This college was nationalised on February 1, 1978 but still now the government has not yet taken any step to extend any residential facilities for the students though a hostel building is attached with the college.

The college can not accommodate the increasing number of girl students of the town and the adjoining areas of the district town.

This college has no commerce section either in intermediate or degree classes though honours course in Bangla has been started. The college opened B.Sc class in 1985 but still now it has no requisite number of science teachers for the students. The B.Sc (pass) course is running with the combination subjects

of Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics.

The number of books in the library is inadequate and there is no librarian to run it. The college management is running the library by a fourth class employee who is quite incapable to run it.

The post of Vice-Principal including 3 posts of Associate Professor and 11 posts of Lecturer are lying vacant for a long time which is hampering the education of the college very much.

It is informed that girl students are interested to read Geography, Psychology, Sociology, Statistics, Botany, Zoology but all these subjects are absent in the college.

There is also shortage of scientific apparatus in the laboratory of the college. An auditorium is yet to be established.

The number of seat is quite inadequate for the existing number of students. There are one house tutor, 4 jhees, one bearer, two cleaner in the hostel. The hostel are managed by the payments of the residing students.

## Children deprived of edn for poverty

From Our Correspondent

**SATKHIRA, Mar 15:** Satkhira district comprising of seven upazilas is the most neglected and poorest district in Bangladesh.

Majority of the people of the district live below the poverty of the people who live in villages are poor and illiterate.

The rate people who have primary education is utterly dissatisfactory. Most of the villagers are poverty-stricken and have been passing sub-human life.

A good number of children of the age group between eight and twelve who were expected to go to schools are found collecting edible herbs and sell those in the local markets to earn livelihood.

Poverty has assumed here so acute that children of different areas of the district are to work from dawn to dusk to earn the meals. They also found in other jobs which are mostly odds to earn means to live on.

The conscious section of the population of the district consider such acts of the immatured boys and girls unexpected and painful.

The government have been expending a huge amount of money for the education of this class of children but the drive is yet to reach the grass root level which his evident from the picture of the district.

The boys and girls of most of the villages are deprived of the education as they are un-

able to buy books and other educational appliances. As these children are the future of the nation, they should be imparted education to make them worthy citizen of the country.

The social workers of the district opine that the children are even found in immoral and anti-social activities for negligence.

When contacted some of the guardians of these deprived children, they failed to identify the main reason.

**Zafar Imam faces charge for illegal use of govt vehicle**

**FENI, Mar 15:** District Anti-corruption Department has lodged a case against former Minister Zafar Imam with Feni Police Station for illegal use of government vehicles, police sources said on Saturday, reports UNB.

He had illegally used two vehicles of the Forest Department during the upazila election in 1990 causing loss of Taka 14,932 to the government exchequer when he was the Minister for Environment and Forest, according to the case filed on March 10.

Zafar, who was recently shifted to Dhaka from Rajshahi Central Jail, is now detained in PG Hospital's prison cell.

## Basic amenities absent in modernised hospital

From Our Correspondent

**SATKHIRA, Mar 14:** The 50-bed modernised Sadar hospital of the district is beset with a host of problems and failed to extend basic medical facilities to the patients.

Many patients are lying on the floor for want of bed. Many of the beds have no mattresses and blankets for use of the patients during the winter. Both the male and female wards are unhygienic and dirty. The floors of the hospitals are not cleaned regularly.

The hospital has no blood bank for which the hospital can not supply blood to patients in case of emergency need. The surgical patients are to collect blood from Khulna

and Jessore hospitals. There is no children ward in the hospital.

The Pathology Department of the hospital is poorly equipped and has no microscope for blood sugar examination. Diabetic patients have to run to Khulna and Dhaka for their sugar examination.

The only ambulance of the hospital has been lying out of order for a long time. The relatives of the serious patients have to face very much difficulties to shift the patients to other places especially to Dhaka for better treatment.

Life saving drugs are not available in the hospital. Both the indoor and outdoor patients are to purchase medicines from the shops of the town.

Gynecological treatment is absent in the hospital for want of Gynecologist. About one lakh women of the poor families have been suffering from uterine and genital for want of Gynecologist.

The Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health recently visited the hospital and assured of all possible help medical facilities in the hospital. But nothing has been done.

The people of the district have urged the concerned authorities to take steps to redress the sufferings of the patients of the district.

About 100 maunds of paddy including other valuables worth about Taka one lakh were gutted by a devastating fire that broke out in a house of one Talukderbari of village Ramjannagar under Shannagar upazila recently. According to report received here that the fire originated from the kitchen and later it engulfed to nearby houses.

## Food scarcity in 8 villages of Khagrachari

**KHAGRACHARI, Mar 15:** Acute food scarcity in 79 cluster villages of eight upazilas in the district due to non-supply of foodgrains are pushing about one lakh dwellers to starvation, reports UNB.

Tribals and non-tribals living in cluster villages squarely depend on government ration since stopped from February's last week. Nine out of twelve food godowns are reportedly exhausted. District Controller of Food said, these nine godowns were used for stock and supply of ration to cluster villages.

There are only twenty four tons of foodgrain now left whereas the requirement is nearly 3,000 tons. The cluster villagers draw mostly 81 kgs of foodgrains per card, the district controller of food added.



RAJBARI: The pottery industry is on the verge of extinction due to various problems. Once it was very much important as there was no substitute for the earthen wares. — Star photo