

Upazila roundup

RANGPUR

Solidarity with Golam Azam's trial expressed

Mar 16: Shammilita Shangkritic Jote, in a meeting held Friday at the local Public Library Hall, formed a committee with Advocate Nazrul Islam as convener. It will have one hundred and one members. Presided over by Shakhawat Hossain Ranga, the meeting expressed solidarity with the proposed public trial of Golam Azam and other collaborators being staged on March 26. The meeting followed by a procession paraded main thoroughfares of the town chanting slogans for hanging of Golam Azam.

MYMENSINGH

3 get life-term for murdering classmate

Mar 16: Three college students including two brothers were awarded life term for murdering a classmate by a court here Saturday last, reports UNB.

Enran and Robbani, brothers, along with Zulmat of Bhaluka College were involved in a quarrel with the victim Abdur Rahim who had to pay with life as a consequence. After being stabbed by his classmates on July 20, 1987, he made a declaration before breathing his last at the Mymensingh Medical College Hospital the same day.

The court also fined the convicts Taka 3000 each failing which to suffer RI for one year more.

SATKHIRA

Teenaged girl commits suicide

Mar 16: A teenaged girl of Sreepur village in Sadar upazila of the district allegedly committed suicide by taking endrine recently, reports UNB. According to villagers, the ill-fated girl Monowara Begum (18), daughter of Iman Ali of same village killed herself when she thought she was the burden in their poverty stricken family.

Her poor father was quite incapable to provide food and clothes to his family members for a long time. Seeing this hard reality Monowara tried to assist her family but finding no job opportunity she allegedly committed suicide. A case has been filed with the police.

PIROJPUR

Tk 70.50 lakh for hostel construction

Mar 16: The government has allocated over Taka 70.50 lakh for the construction of a hundred-seated hostel to accommodate students of Mathbaria Government College here in the current financial year, reports UNB.

The construction is getting underway soon under the auspices of the Facilities Department of the Ministry of Education.

The Facilities Department will also build residential quarters for Principals of Jhalakathi and Swarupkathi Govt Colleges at a cost of over Taka 18.13 lakh.

Official sources said, work tenders have already been invited and other formalities will soon be over to get the project through.

Another report from Patuakhali adds: Dashmina Upazila Parishad has taken up a project to repair Alipharhat Govt Primary School in the current fiscal year.

Upazila Engineer says about Taka 60 thousand will be spent for the project.

MANIKGANJ

Newly elected UP chairmen take oath

Mar 16: The newly elected chairmen of 13 union parishads under Harirampur Upazila took oath recently at a function held at the upazila auditorium, reports BSS.

Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO), Harirampur M A Hannan conducted the oath taking ceremony.

Gala Union Chairman Rafiqul Islam Mukul, Leahrangan Union Chairman Shamsu, Huq Chowdhury Faruq, Boys Union Chairman Hasan Imam Babu, Chala Union Chairman Mujibur Rahman Badaba, Ramkrishnapur Union Chairman Abdul Baten took oath among others.

RAJSHAHI

RUCA executives

Mar 16: Rajshahi University Correspondents Association (RUCA) elected its executive body on Saturday last, reports UNB.

Dainik Rupali Correspondent Saiful Kader was elected President, Abdullah Haroon Chowdhury of Dainik Al Amin elected Secretary and Tarq Chowdhury of Dainik Janata elected Treasurer.

Other office bearers are: D.B. Sen Liton and Md Zakir Hossain—Vice Presidents, Rokeya Begum Ruku—Asstt General Secretary, Syed Kamrul Hussain—Cultural Secretary, Abdur Rahman—Office Secretary, Iqbal Hassan—Sports Secretary, AKM Shiblee—Publication Secretary. Members are: Zahed Chowdhury, Saiful Islam, Bibekanda Roy and Saiful Islam.

The election was conducted by A Y M Moniruzzaman, Prof Samsher Ali and Dr Sydul Islam.

Another report from Rajshahi said the striking Pourashava employees in the town locked up the corporation building and suspended electric supply in the streets. They also abstained from removing garbage from different parts of the town causing inconveniences to the public and causing health hazards.

MALDIVE COURT

Seminar on AIDS held

Mar 16: A seminar on AIDS was held under the auspices of the World Health Organisation and District AIDS Committee at the Medical Assistant School auditorium here recently, reports UNB.

Principal of the school Saleh Ahmed presided over the seminar while Dr Mohammad Mostafa Kamal was present as chief guest. More than 40 doctors, local elite and journalists took part in the seminar.

Speakers emphasised the need for promoting awareness to be on the alert against the fatal disease.

JHENIDAH

Businessman gunned down by miscreants

Mar 16: Unidentified miscreants recently gunned down a businessman near Bashudevur bridge, 2 km from here, police said.

Mohiuddin Mohi (40), a former activist of Gano Bahini, was shot dead when he was coming to the town riding on a bicycle from his village home in Kangshi of Sadar upazila. Masked gunmen killed two men in a similar way earlier in the week for unspecified reasons.

Police are investigating the case.

PATUAKHALI

Goods, property worth Tk 2 crore gutted

Mar 16: Goods and property worth about Taka 2 crore were gutted by fire in Patuakhali Wednesday night, reports UNB.

The fire originated from a garment factory engulfing the areas nearby. About 25 shops and residential houses of Sadar road of the town were also damaged.

The fire which lingered about two hours took the local fire brigade two hours to control. However there was no human casualty.

DINAJPUR

Wheat supply short, prices up

Mar 16: With the holy Ramjan month on, wheat is selling here at Taka 12 to 13 and rice Taka 13 to 14 per kg, reports UNB.

The prices reportedly shot up due to short supply. At a could not be supplied at all from CSD godown against Food for Works Programme because of the godowns having poor stock.

It is learnt that about fifty projects against Food for Works Programme have been suspended due to wheat being in poor stock with government godowns. As a result, thousands of day labourers got unemployed and were forced to starve.

Present stock of wheat is only 600 tons with government CSD godown. 150 tons of wheat was supplied during the last month while the market demand was 500 tons. Local people urged authorities to arrange quick shipment of ata to save the poor from starving to death.



JHENIDAH: Sabera Begum, In-Charge, local centre of Shawptagram Nari Shawvirvar Parishad speaking on the occasion of International Women's Day, at the Wazir Ali High School Auditorium.

High school building may collapse at any time

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Mar 16: The half century old building of Melandah Umriruddin Pilot High School may collapse at any time.

The teachers and students of the school are now attending classes in a temporary building. The delay in reconstruction may cause collapse of the building at any time and that may claim many lives of the teachers and the students.

This is the biggest non-government high school in the district where about one thousand students receive education from 17 teachers. The number of class rooms is inadequate to meet the increasing number of students.

There are only few books in the library of the school which can not satisfy the demand of the students.

The sitting arrangement in the school is quite insufficient for want of benches. The students of the school are deprived of sports and other recreational facilities. The playground of the school gets water logged after the rainfall.

The 12-seated hostel of the school can not accommodate the number of students for which the students are to suffer a much to arrange residing places.

Dhaka-Aricha Highway mishaps leave 215 dead in 14 months

MANIKGANJ, Mar 16: At least 215 people were killed and 500 injured in 145 road accidents on Dhaka-Aricha highway during the last 14 months, reports UNB.

Hospital sources said, at least 150 victims became permanently disabled and over 30 buses, mini buses and trucks were damaged as a result of these accidents.

According to police, over speeding and faulty vehicles mainly accounted for the accidents.

They said, out of a total of 2.75 lakh vehicles, about 1.57 lakh were playing on highways without fitness certificates.

Husband acquitted of wife torturing charge

From Our Correspondent

KURIGRAM, Mar 16: The learned Upazila Magistrate of Kurigram Sadar Upazila, Golam Mostafa in a judgement delivered recently acquitted of the charge brought against one Habibullah Bahar by his father-in-law, Baharuddin Ahmed. The prosecution story in brief is that, one Nazma Begum (35) alias Lili daughter of Baharuddin Ahmed of village Khordosaptana in Lalmonirhat Pourashava got married with Habibullah Bahar on May 4, 1991. Nazma Begum Lili has been serving as a teacher of Lalmonirhat Mentally Retarded School. She left the school after her marriage and came to her husband's house at Kurigram.

Her husband demanded dowry and beat her, it was alleged. Afterwards, Baharuddin Ahmed, the father of Nazma Begum filed a case in the Upazila Court against her husband under Section 323, 324, 325, 307, 354 of BPC and Section 6 of Woman Oppression Act of 1983 and Section 4 of Dowry Act, and demanded arrest of the accused on September 10, 1991.

The learned Upazila Magistrate asked the police to investigate the matter. Accordingly, police investigated the matter and submitted the final report on 28.10.91, stating that, the filing of case against Habibullah Bahar under Section 6 of Woman Oppression Act and Section 4 of Dowry Act was quite unreasonable and unjustified on the basis of statements given by majority of the witnesses of the case and on the basis of analysing the medical certificate. The investigation report also says, at best, it is not more than a case under Section 323 and 324 of BPC.

Accordingly a case was started at the Upazila Court under Section 323 and 324 and notice was served to the accused to appear before the court. On the day of cross examination 5 out of the total 14 witnesses were cross-examined by the defence lawyers before the adjournment of the court for lunch. Baharuddin Ahmed, the plaintiff of the case was also cross-examined. The plaintiff told that he came to know about the incident from his daughter and other persons and filed the case. Now, he wants compromise. He further said that his daughter is still in the service and drawing monthly salary of Taka 1800.

But on the otherhand, Nazma Begum on a cross-question said she resigned on June 30, 1991 and the resignation letter was accepted.

Notes from Shariatpur

From Our Correspondent

Mar 16: The condition of almost all the non-government primary and high schools in six upazilas of the district has turned deplorable owing to negligence of the authorities.

According to official sources, the total number of non-government primary schools in the district is one hundred. Out of them 56 are registered and 44 are non-registered. The number of non-government boys' high schools is 47 and girls' high schools is seven.

Most of the schools have no adequate furniture, class rooms and educational appliances hindering proper education.

According to a report, about 90 per cent of these schools have no science building, no playground and no drinking water facilities.

A good number of schools have feeble buildings which may collapse at any moment. The students have to respond to call of nature here and there for want of latrins and urines.

One commits suicide

UNB report says: A young man, Nirmal Shil son of Jhuntu Shil of Dawjuri village was taken to Naria upazila hospital soon after he took poison and he died on arrival, at the hospital.

The cause of the suicide could not be known but Naria police has been investigating the case.

60 deep tubewells to be installed

About 60 deep tubewells are being sunk in five upazilas of the district during the current fiscal year.

Official sources said, 20 will be sunk in Sadar, 13 in Naria, 10 in Bhedergonj, 7 each in Goshairhat and Damudya upazilas.

The scheme, taken up jointly by the UNICEF and the Public Health Engineering Department will benefit about 10,000 people of the district.

Tk 21.85 lakh land development tax collected

A sum of Taka 21.85 lakh was collected as land development tax from six upazilas of the district during the last 8 months.

The upazila-wise break-up is: Shariatpur Sadar Taka 56.30 lakh, Naria Taka 31.10 lakh, Janzira Taka 23.67 lakh, Bhedergonj Taka 86.58 lakh, Goshairhat Taka 38.89 lakh and Damudya Taka 26 lakh.

The target for collection of land development tax in the district was fixed at Taka 1.21 crore.

Over 3,200 cases still pending

Over 3,200 cases filed with Rin Shalishi Board in the district are awaiting disposal for long due to administration bottlenecks and procedural difficulties.

A total of 5,713 cases were filed with the boards in six upazilas of the district, official sources said. 466 cases were filed in Sadar, 473 cases in Naria, 812 cases in Janzira, 161 cases in Damudya, 2860 cases in Bhedergonj and 941 cases in Goshairhat. Of the total, about 2498 cases have been settled.

Five cattle traders were missing after their boat capsized in the river Jamuna near Dhalachar in the early hours of Saturday.

Eleven other men were rescued by fishermen.

Student held with automatic gun

FENI, Mar 16: Police caught red handed a student with an automatic country made and seized a motor cycle from Doktor Para in the town Wednesday afternoon, reports UNB.

On a secret information, police raided Doktor Para and held Fazul Kabir Mahmud, student of Hajj Mohsin College while his two accomplices managed to escape.

Police suspected that they were hired from Chittagong on a criminal motive. A case has been lodged with the local police.

While the court was adjourned for lunch compromise on the issue was initiated by Mr Idris Ali, Secretary, Kurigram Bar Library. The accused Habibullah Bahar divorced Nazma Begum Lili paying Taka 32,500 in cash as claimed by Nazma Begum through written deed at Bar Library.

After this process, the learned Upazila Magistrate delivered his judgement and acquitted of the charge brought against Habibullah Bahar.

This case has created a sensation among the general mass and created resentment among them for harassing a man of strong personality, only for sacking money with self created incident by Nazma Begum in collaboration with Abdullah, Mohammad Ali, Habibul Islam, A M Fazley Elahi Montu, all are brothers-in-law of Nazma Begum.

This type of cases are increasing in the courts day by day. People demanded stop of misapplication of Dowry Act and Woman Oppression Act by the greedy section of people.

Demand for a port

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Mar 16: A port on the western bank of the river Brahmaputra at Balashi in Gaibandha district is a long felt demand of the people of this area.

Representations and appeals were made to the government for setting up of a river port here. Instead of materialising the demand, the people of this area are getting assurance and commitments from different quarters for a long.

The establishment of a port here could make the river communication better with other parts of the country including the capital city. Moreover, the port would serve the commercial and business purposes of the people of the northern districts.

On the other hand, Balashi Port can act as an alternative to Aricha and Nagarbari ghats if a road link is constructed with Jamalpur district via Dewanganj.

According to a survey, it has been ascertained that on implementation of the port plan about 55-kilometre distance through Aricha and Nagarbari could be avoided. At the same time continuous pressure of vehicular traffic on Aricha and Nagarbari could be reduced.

It was the commitments of the past governments to implement the Balashi Port plan but the demand of the people remained unrealised for the reasons not known.

In 1988, the IWTA authority placed a small pontoon through which a large number of country boats, barges and oil tankers from distant ports loaded and unloaded jute, paddy and fuel. Besides, hundreds of passenger cross through the pontoon at the ghat every day.

Even during the devastating flood of 1988, the Bangladesh Railway introduced ferry services at Balashi ghat point which continued upto the restoration of normal rail link through Tistamukghat.

People of this areas urged upon the government to take adequate step for erecting Balashi as full scale river port.

Facilities meagre in Bogra rly station

From Our Correspondent

BOGRA, Mar 16: The railway station at the district headquarters through which hundreds of passengers travel daily has been facing numerous problems.

The platform of the station is not fully covered with shed for which the passengers are to suffer from the cold and heat under the open sky. The one-third of the platform is covered with shed through which rain water pours into inside for leakage on it.

Consequently, the passengers can hardly take shelter under the existing shed. Apart from that, the absence of requisite sitting arrangement at the platform leave the passengers in troubles.

The condition of existing waiting rooms is pitiable. It is hard to stay inside the waiting room even for a few minutes as bad odour comes out for lack of proper cleaning. Very often the rooms remain under lock and key. The sitting arrangement inside the waiting room is very scanty that it can not accommodate the travelling passengers.

Besides, the lack of tubewells on the platform causes paucity of drinking water especially during the hot spell.

The goods shed has become the shelter of gay girls and the station seems to be the permanent residence of floating people most of whom are suffering from various diseases. Sometimes, the floating people are found cooking food on the platform.

The spaces between the railway tracks are used as latrines. Moreover, railway tracks remain dirty with garbage which emit bad odour all the times polluting the atmosphere of the station.

The lighting arrangement at the station is very poor. As a result, pickpockets and other people connected with anti-social elements get ample opportunity to carry on their business smoothly.

The number of hawkers at the platform makes it impossible for the passengers to move easily especially when the train comes.

Marauders hurt 36, set 4 houses on fire

SIRAJGANJ, Mar 16: Some 36 people were injured and three women allegedly repressed by miscreants in a reign of terror at a cluster village in Kazipur upazila early on Sunday, reports UNB.

Police and villagers said the attackers also set on fire at least 4 houses and destroyed another 8 at Vanuadanga, where about 100 families of landless farmers have been rehabilitated.

Standing wheat crops were also looted from the field, where the inhabitants of the cluster village cultivate 20 acres of khas land.

Police arrested seven people, including two UP members, in this connection. They were identified as Ibrahim and Hundi, local UP members, Gram Khan, Arif, Zamer Khan, Mantaz Ali and Ishak Khan.

Police said more than 100 armed people led by Union Parishad members Hundi, Tozammel and Ibrahim attacked the cluster village at the time of Sehri on Saturday night to evict the inhabitants.

Five of the injured were admitted to Kazipur Health Complex with serious wounds. The marauders indiscriminately beat the villagers, including women and children. Three women were violated, police said.

Sub-registry office here registered 6,800 deeds in 1990 and 7,292 deeds in 1991 earning Taka 21 crore taka revenue.

Official sources as number of deeds registered last year was higher since there has been no provision for production of income tax clearance certificate for transfer of property.

BDR-public clash over smuggled cattle, 5 injured

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Mar 16: At least 5 people were injured in a clash between BDR personnel and local people of Bottala in the town over smuggled cattle heads recently, reports UNB.

Eyewitnesses said, the clash started when BDR on patrol, tried to seize some cattle heads, allegedly smuggled into the town.

The BDR had to open fire to disperse the angry mob resisting the police in their act to recover the cattle heads.



MYMENSINGH: The local Rotaract Club recently organised a blood donation programme at Kotiadhi Pilot High School.