

## Upazila roundup

## BARISAL

## WDB implements 26 projects

Mar 17: Water Development Board (WDB) will implement 26 projects during this fiscal year in five southern districts Barisal, Patuakhali, Jhalakathi, Pirojpur and Bogura, reports UNB.

Nine thousand tons of wheat under the Food for Works Programme (FWP) have been allocated for the work.

The projects include construction and reconstruction of embankments, excavation and reexcavation of canals.

It is learnt that work on these projects has already gone underway and is expected to be completed by the end of May next.

## PABNA

## Sechhashebak sangstha body formed

Mar 17: A 12-member district committee of Jatiyatabadi Sechhashebak Sangstha, a front organisation of the ruling BNP, was formed here on Thursday, reports UNB.

District BNP formed the committee with Md. Farhadullah as its Convenor at a general meeting held at the local Press Club.

Md. Azadi Hasnat Pinu, Acting President of the district BNP, presided over the meeting which was also attended by Kazi Asad, Convenor of the central committee of Sechhashebak Sangstha, as chief guest.

It was addressed, among others, by local BNP leaders Md. Abdur Rouf Abed and Advocate Shahjahan Ali.

## KUSHTIA

## Indian cattle, buffalos seized

Mar 17: The law enforcing agency personnel at Mirpur, Kushtia recovered forty-nine Indian cattle and sixteen Indian buffalos valued at Taka five lakh on Saturday, reports BSS.

Acting on secret information the forces raided Bamundi bazar of Gangni Upazila under Meherpur district and seized the Indian cattle and buffalos.

## FENI

## 2 helpers of truck killed in mishap

Mar 17: Two helpers were killed in a truck accident near Lamua Bridge on Feni By-pass Road Sunday morning, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, the accident occurred when two trucks coming from opposite direction collided head-on at the point.

The truck drivers however, managed to escape. The bodies of the victims were sent to morgue for autopsy. The names and addresses of the deceased could not be known immediately.

A case has been filed with the police.

## BRAHMANBARIA

## Property worth Tk 3 lakh gutted

Mar 17: Property worth about Taka 3 lakh was burnt to ashes in a devastating fire that broke out at Dewan Market in Sarakbazar of Akhaura Upazila of the district on Sunday night, reports UNB.

Witnesses said, the fire originating from a tea stall soon engulfed to the adjacent areas and gutted 15 shops and 2 houses.

After frantic efforts local people brought the fire under control.

## CHILMARI

## Press Club executives

Mar 17: A seven-member executive committee of newly established Chilmari Press Club under Rangpur district was formed at a meeting held recently at Chilmari Muktiyodya Sangshad office, reports BSS.

The office-bearers are: President — M A Mannan (Dainik Chadnibazar), Vice-President — Shamul Islam (Kurigram Barta), Secretary — M A I Lal Miah (Korotoa), Assistant Secretary — Rabindranath Das (Dabana), Financial Secretary — Abul Kalam Azad (Dharia), Literary and Cultural Secretary — Shaful Alam (Ganakatha), Social Welfare and Office Secretary — Ataur Rahman Milan (Weekly Dhaka) and Publicity Secretary — Shaful Islam (Kurigram Barta).

## RAJSHAHI

## Procession in support of Golam Azam's public trial

Mar 17: The committee for elimination of collaborators of Liberation War, Rajshahi Unit, brought out a procession in the city in support of public trial of Prof Golam Azam, reports BSS.

The processionists paraded the main streets of the city and chanted various slogans.

A seminar on equal right for disabled persons and job opportunity for them was held here in observance of International Disabled Day.

Presided over by former Principal of Rajshahi Medical College, Prof S A Bari, the seminar was addressed among others by M Saifuzzaman, Deputy Commissioner Rajshahi and Prof A Saleh.

The seminar was informed that at present about one crore disabled persons live in Bangladesh.

speakers stressed the need for their proper rehabilitation in the society through providing job opportunities so that they could contribute and associate themselves in various nation building activities. In this respect, the affluent section of the people should take initiative, they said.

## SAVAR

## BPATC meet held

Mar 17: The 18th meeting of the Board of Governors of Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre (BPATC) was held here recently, reports BSS.

State Minister for Establishment and Chairman of the Board of Governors of BPATC, Md Nurul Huda presided over the meeting.

Cabinet Secretary Md Ayubur Rahman, Establishment Secretary Md Hasinur Rahman, BPATC Director Kazi Mohammad Monzur-E-Mowla, Vice-Chancellor of Jahangirnagar University Prof. Kazi Saleh Ahmed, Commandant of the Defence Services Command and Staff College, Major General Mahbubur Rahman PSC and other members of the board were present in the meeting.

The board approved a programme to initiate international training courses in BPATC. It also decided to start the regular foundation training course for four months from April next.

To ease the dead-lock in giving foundational training to the new entrants in the civil services, special courses or two months duration were being conducted since 1988. The probationers will undergo full-length foundational trainings immediately after their joining in the service.

## CHANDPUR

## Inter-college cricket tourney

Mar 17: The final match of the inter-college cricket tournament of Comilla Education Board was held last week at the local stadium, reports UNB.

In the final, Comilla Victoria Government College won the championship trophy beating Chittagong Government Commerce College by 3 wickets.

Rezaul Hossain of Chittagong Government College was adjudged as the man of the match.

Deputy commissioner of the district Md Yakub Ali distributed prizes among the winners.

In all, 10 colleges under the board took part in the competition began at the Chittagong College ground on February 9.

The venue of the final match was shifted to Chandpur.

## PATUAKHALI

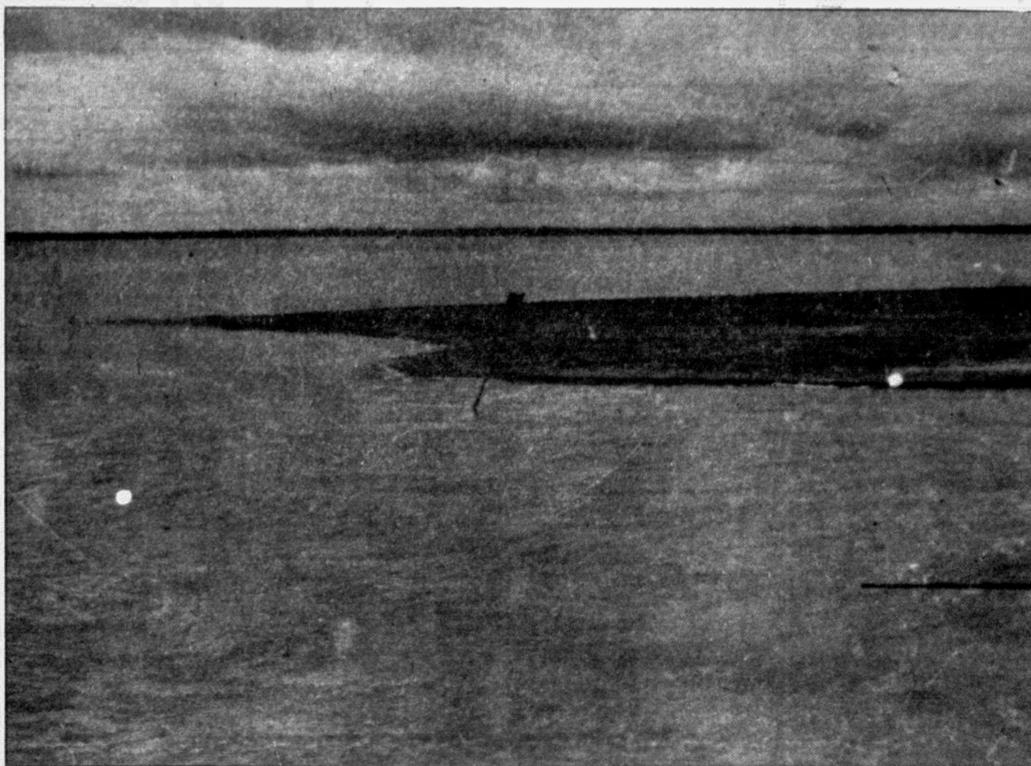
## Sugarcane farming plan taken up

Mar 17: An intensive programme has been taken up by the Agriculture Extension Department to bring 17,200 acres of land under sugarcane cultivation in 16 southern districts of Khulna Division during the current season, reports UNB.

About 8,01,700 metric tons of sugarcane is expected to be produced, official sources said.

According to another report, Roads and Highways Department has taken up a programme to develop Gopalganj-Tekerhat Road at an estimated cost of Taka 50 lakh.

With the financial assistance of World Bank, work on the project has started and is expected to be completed soon.



SIRAJGANJ: Charlands have emerged on Sirajganj-Bhuapur river route for which navigation is hampered. —Star photo

## No wheat stock in 2 dists: FWP works stopped

## From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Mar 17: About 200 development projects under Food for Work Programme (FWP) in nine upazilas of the district have been closed down for want of wheat in the local government godowns rendering more than two lakh workers unemployed.

According to reports, the shortage of wheat has been prevailing in the district since February last. The stock of wheat in 29 godowns have come down at an alarming rate.

There is no wheat in Kazipur LSD godown. In other godowns including that of the district headquarters' stock recorded somewhere 10 metric tons, 20 metric tons and the highest 50 metric tons.

During the current dry season, World Food Programme (WFP) and CARE have sanctioned 13,083 metric tons of wheat for about 2000 Food for Works Programme under upazila parishad, Local Government Engineering

Bureau (LGEB), Water Development Board (WDB) and the Fishery Department.

But only 3,500 metric tons of wheat were available out of the total allocation. Failing to supply the rest wheat from local CSD and LSD godowns, the works on the projects have remained stopped. Consequently, more than two lakh workers under the Food for Works Programme have been rendered unemployed.

While contacted, a source of the district administration told this correspondent that telegraphic messages have been sent to the higher authority to send at least 10,000 metric tons of wheat to continue earth work and thus feed the workers.

Meanwhile, prices of rice and flour in the local markets have soared up and gone beyond the purchasing capacity of the common men.

Our Correspondent from Jamalpur reports: Over two hundred road reconstruction,

earth work on different development projects taken up under the Food for Works Programme in seven upazilas of Jamalpur district have been stopped for want of wheat.

Most of the godowns of the district were reportedly without wheat for recent time. As a result, the prices of wheat, rice and flour have gone up in the open market. All the development projects were stated in last January.

According to Jamalpur district Relief and Rehabilitation sources, 9439 metric tons of wheat were sanctioned for the implementation of the projects.

When contacted, the Food Controller told this correspondent that the food godowns stopped supplying wheat to the ration card holders during this season. In all, eight canals in seven upazilas of the district are being executed during the current dry season.



CHAPAINAWABGANJ: Dr Abdul Aziz Sarker, Deputy Director, Livestock Department, Rajshahi Division distributing she-goats among the landless tribal women of village Babudanga under sadar upazila. —Star photo

## Problems in hospital, patients deprived of treatment

## From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Mar 17: The Maternity and Child Welfare Centre at Gaibandha is facing various problems such as inadequate bed, shortage of doctors and medicine, proper maintenance of the building.

The maternity at Gaibandha housed in an old tin-shed building which could not serve the purposes now. At present, it has only ten beds which is quite inadequate to the requirement. Very often, patients are found on the floor.

There is only one doctor and very little number of nurse for the patients. But the doctor is available here from 10 am to 5 pm. Moreover they can not serve the patients properly for want of adequate modern equipment. Irregular power supply with low voltage causes yet another problems.

There is no ambulance of the hospital even for carrying serious patients. Supply of medicine is so inadequate that most of the indoor patients are advised to buy essential

medicines from outside. Poor patients are the worst sufferer. Besides, patients are to suffer for want of adequate light and fans.

There is no surgical arrangement in the maternity, as a result critical patients are to remove Sadar hospital for surgical treatment taking life risk.

Local people urged upon the higher authority to set up a well equipped operation theatre here removing all others irregularities.

## 2 get life-term

Two persons were sentenced life imprisonment on charge of dacoity and attempt to kill and fined Taka 5,000 each — recently.

Abdul Hal, District and Session Judge, Gaibandha delivered the judgement on March 8 convicting the accused Lal Mia and Abdul Mati of village Dhakhin Rasoolpur under Sadar upazila in absentia.

The prosecution story in brief was that on 25.3.88 at night Shahidul Islam and Mozammel Hoq together with some other passers by were returning home from Kamarzani market. When they reached in between Uria and Kanchipara on TR embankment. Meanwhile the accused persons attacked them together with some other fellows armed with deadly weapons. In which the victims received stab injuries and about Taka 2,000 were robbed of. Immediately after the incident the accused persons fled away. A case was registered with local Thana.

During the trial the accused persons remained absconding. On examining the witnesses the learned judge life term in absentia.

The case was conducted by Rahamatullah, Public Prosecutor.

## Notes From Tangail

Mar 17: An eight-year-old boy, Topas, was killed in a road accident recently at Zamurki on Dhaka-Tangail highway, reports BSS.

The accident took place when Topas, only child of his parents, was run over by a scooter. He was a student of class three.

The scooter was seized by the police. A case had been registered. But none was arrested in this connection.

## 50 cataract patients operated upon

Fifty cataract patients were operated upon 255 eye patients given treatment in a free eye camp at Mohanpur Public High School under Gopalpur upazila recently.

The eye camp was organised by Bangladesh National Society for the Blind (BNSB). The patients were given glasses and medicines free of cost.

## 167 cartons of dates distributed

Islamic foundation, Tangail Branch is distributing 167 cartons of dates among the destitute people of the district.

Foundation sources that the dates were sent by International Islamic Relief Organisation.

## 3.8 lakh acres of land under boro farming

Over three lakh and eight thousand acres of land are being brought under boro cultivation this season in the district to produce about three lakh and ten thousand metric tons of paddy.

Agriculture department sources said, 3,02,439 acres are being brought under HYV boro and 5,990 acres under local variety.

Last year 2,96,638 acres of land were brought under boro cultivation to produce 3,54,389 metric tons of paddy.

Prospect of wheat crop in Tangail is satisfactory due to favourable weather condition. 53,325 acres of land were brought under wheat cultivation. The expected yield is 47,280 metric tons.

Potato has been cultivated in 10,835 acres of land in the district.

## Load shedding hit production in factories, fields

DINAJPUR, Mar 17: Load shedding in eight northern districts has assumed precarious proportion hampering production in fields and factories for some time past, reports UNB.

The affected districts include Dinajpur, Rangpur and Nilphamary.

Electricity consumers in Dinajpur and Rangpur number about 60,000 requiring 130 mwts, but their requirement is not even met half way now because of persisting load shedding.

As a result, cultivation of IRRI, boro and wheat continue to remain handicapped, while production in mills and factories has been slashed down to half the normal.

Dwellers in the town, specially students and fasting elders are paying dearly as the summer days are getting hotter and longer.

Local elite appealed to the authorities for urgent remedial steps.

## Pry school cum cyclone centre Works on 201 begin this month

BARISAL, Mar 17: Work will begin this month on constructing 201 primary schools cum cyclone shelters in five coastal districts with Saudi financial assistance, reports UNB.

Each of the buildings, being built by the Facilities Department of the Ministry of Education, will cost Taka 50 lakh.

The Saudi Government has provided Taka 176 crore for building a total of 306 school buildings.

Meanwhile, the Facilities Department has already started re-construction of 36 government high schools at a cost Taka 2 crore under the post-cyclone rehabilitation programme.

Our Correspondent reports: Gournadi police of this district arrested 3 Sarbahara Party member for creating violence in village Sarikal under this upazila recently.

Arrested persons are: Anwar, Karim and Rafiq.

Police also arrested another two Sarbahara Party members earlier from this upazila, to the police.

According to government decision, interest of five thousand taka including capital of agriculture loan has been ex-

empted but this decision is yet to be materialised for the cooperative farmers.

Though this exemption was followed in cases of loanee farmers who have been taken agriculture loan under the loan disbursement programme of Bangladesh Co-operative Bank and Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) earlier, according to the circular No 6/91 issued by the Bangladesh Bank in June last year.

## Hospital at Charjabber in problems

MAJDE# COURT, Mar 17 The lone ten-bed hospital at Charjabber, a densely populated coastal tract of land, has been grappling with odds including doctors and medicines being in short supply for a long time, reports UNB.

Local people alleged doctors don't like to remain posted at this remote corner nor do they attend to their patients regularly.

People of the area urged authorities to look into these problems and set right their only hospital.

## Govt pursue politics of development

NETRAKONA, Mar 17: The Whip of Treasury Bench in Jatiya Sangsad, Advocate M A Karim said here Sunday that spontaneous participation of people from all walks of life would expedite the implementations of all the development

programme undertaken by the government, reports BSS.

He was addressing a gathering at local Circuit House. Advocate Abdul Kuddus, General Secretary of BNP, Netrakona district unit among others spoke on the occasion.

The BNP government had been pursuing the politics of development and production. The 19-point development programme of Shaheed President Zia was the guideline of the present government. The programme should be implemented to help people achieve socio-economic improvement.

Later the Whip had a meeting with BNP workers and leaders at Netrakona district BNP office.

A meeting of Netrakona district Development Coordination Committee was held here Monday.

The meeting was presided over by Deputy Commissioner, Netrakona Mr AHM Abul Kashem. The meeting discussed matters relating to development programmes undertaken in ten upazilas of Netrakona district in the current fiscal year.

Netrakona district administration sources said, district level officials, UNO's of ten upazilas among others, were present in the meeting.

## 10 including 2 cops hurt in clash over ganja

## From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Mar 17: Ten persons including two police men were injured in a clash at Kanchannagar in Jhenidah Pourashava Sunday last.

It is gathered that the clash ensued between two mohallas — Kanchannagar and Pobahati — of the town following the seizure of smuggled ganja.

During the clash, lethal weapons were used and innumerable hand bombs were hurled.

A contingent of police when reached the spot to stop the clash, the mob attacked them and injured constables Abdur Razaque and Kalamdar.

Among the other injured Shahidul, Shahidullah and Nurul Islam were admitted to Sadar hospital while the rest were treated in private clinics.

A motor bike and two rickshaws were also damaged during the clash.

Later, a heavy contingent of police was deployed in the area and the situation was stated to be under control. A case was registered with Jhenidah thana. None was arrested in this regard.

## Properties worth Tk 5 lakh gutted

Properties worth about Taka 5 lakh including 2 goats and large number of poultry birds were gutted in two separate devastating fires at village Garaganj and Khalkula in Shailakupa upazila recently.

In the first incident at night 8 pm on March 7 fire firstly originated at the jute godown of Motieb Mollah at Garaganj and engulfed the adjacent tobacco godown of Yusuf Mollah which gutted jute and tobacco worth about Taka 3 lakh.

In the second incident at night 10 pm on March 10 fire originated from the lamp to jute sticks of the house of Zaman Mondol of village Khalkula which engulfed the

neighbouring houses of Abdul Latif, Motahar Hossain, Lutfar Rahman, Adalat Mondol and Azad Mondol.

The fire gutted properties worth about Taka 2 lakh including 2 goats large-number of poultry birds 11 thatched and 2 tin shed houses and household materials.

Owners of the houses of those six poor families were rendered homeless. The fire left only the dresses the members of the families put on.

## Promoters of nurseries to get loan

PATUAKHALI, Mar 17: Bangladesh Krishi Bank is to offer loans to private enterprises for raising nurseries and promoting afforestation, reports UNB.

Bank sources said, initially nursery-loan will be distributed by BKB in ten regions of the country, namely Patuakhali, Pirojpur, Barisal, Khulna, Dhaka, Bagerhat, Comilla, Chandpur, Sylhet and Chittagong. Sponsors experienced in raising nurseries will normally get priority for loan on 80:20 equity ratio.

The nursery loan will be on short term and repayable within 18 months, effective after six months of disbursement of loan. Bank will charge 15 per cent interest on the loan disbursed.

Loan disbursing branch of BKB will ensure proper utilisation of the loan-money, sources added.

The nurseries raised by BKB loan will grow seedlings, such as, Akashmoni, Arjun, Akashia, Epilepti, Segun, Babul, Mehagan, Sishu, Gab, Gamar, Debdaru, Nageshwari.