

Upazila roundup

CHANDPUR

Newsman's death condoled

From Our Correspondent
Mar 22: A condolence meeting was held at Chandpur Press Club recently at the sudden death of Alhaj Abdul Khaleq Chowdhury former President of Chandpur Press Club.

The Chandpur Press Club and Bangladesh Journalists' Association, local unit arranged the meeting which was presided over by Quamruzzaman Chowdhury, the President of the club.

The meeting was addressed among others by Dr MA Rashid, Shamsuddin Ahmed, Md Hossain Khan, Ahsanuzzaman, Sankar Chandra Roy, Golam Kibria Jiban and Jiban Kanti Chakravarty.

The speakers paid tributes to the memory of late Abdul Khaleq for his outstanding contributions in the field of journalism and other activities. The members of the club decided to observe the occasion every year to — show respect to the departed soul.

PAENA

Power supply erratic

From Our Correspondent
Mar 22: Frequent power failure and fluctuations in voltage have been causing much sufferings to the dwellers of the district.

The erratic power supply in the district increasing sufferings both to the domestic and commercial consumers. Hardly a day or night passes without disruption of power supply.

Due to the irregularities in power supply, the traders, owners of small industries, the patients of the hospitals and the student community have been facing immense difficulties.

Fluctuation of voltage causing damages to the electric goods like television, bulbs, radio, refrigerator.

On the otherhand, there are some areas in the pourashava where electricity has not yet been extended for which the residents of the area have been suffering much.

The maximum number of light posts have no bulb for which the anti-social elements start after the sun set.

The concerned authorities have been urged to take steps to mitigate the sufferings of the dwellers of the district.

KURIGRAM

One roasted alive, two injured in fire

From Our Correspondent
Mar 22: A man was roasted alive and two others sustained severe burn injuries in a devastating fire that also gutted property worth about Taka one lakh in Bengbara village of Ramna Union under Chilmari Upazila recently.

Witnesses said that the fire originated when a servant of one Syed Jamal of the same village was pouring kerosene oil from a bottle to a burning lamp in the night and suddenly it caught the nearby kerosene lamp.

The fire soon engulfed to the adjoining areas and gutted 12 houses with the belongings. Abdul Khaleque (5), an inmate of the house was roasted alive in the fire. Ali Amjad and Nasim who received burn injuries were treated in a local hospital.

CHAPAINAWABGANJ

Number of beggars increasing

From Our Correspondent
Mar 22: The number of beggars and uprooted people are increasing day by day in the district town and its adjoining areas with the destitutes pouring in from remote areas for earning bread.

Most of the beggars and uprooted people became shelterless either by erosion and recurrent floods. They find it very difficult to find jobs for their livelihood. Consequently, they are bound to indulge in immoral activities for earning bread.

The children of these families instead of going to schools are to move to doors for work and food. These children and found in anti-social activities for mere existence.

TANGAIL

Minibus falls into ditch, one killed

Mar 22: One passenger was killed and 25 of his fellow-travellers were injured in a road accident near Ghatail on Thursday, reports BSS.

The accident occurred while a minibus bound for Dhaka from Gopalpur fell from Tangail-Mymensingh Road into the road-side ditch near Ghatail town.

The injured persons were treated in Ghatail and Tangail sadar hospital.

A case was registered with Ghatail thana.

PIROJPUR

Strike to protest killing

Mar 22: All education institutions in the town here were closed Thursday in response to a strike call given by Chhatra League (A-A) to protest the killing of student leader Yeasir Atafat Pitu of Rajshahi University, reports UNB.

In the evening the Chhatra League activists brought out a procession chanting various slogans in favour of their demand.

Later a rally was held demanding ban on Jamaat-Shibir policies. The speakers also demanded capital punishment to Jamaat chief as a war criminal.

Among others, the rally was addressed by Chhatra League leaders Rezaul Karim Montu, Zahid Hossain Piro and Firoj Ahmed.

The called upon the government to try the killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

KHAGRACHARI

189 posts of pry teacher lying vacant

Mar 22: Posts of 189 primary teachers and 10 education officers have been lying vacant since last few years in 8 upazilas of the district, reports UNB.

There are 320 government and 50 non-government primary schools in the district where some 46,500 students have been studying. A total of 802 teachers have been working against 1086 sanctioned posts.

The vacant posts include 56 headmasters and 133 assistant teachers.

According to district Primary Education office, 95 posts out of 189 had fallen vacant as the tribal teachers were forced at gun point to leave the country.

MADARIPUR

109 mosque libraries in 4 upazilas

Mar 22: Islamic Foundation branch here has set up 109 mosque libraries in four upazilas of the district to promote reading habit among the Musallis and local people, reports UNB.

A good number of books on Islamic thoughts and ideals have been supplied to these libraries for the convenience of the readers. Foundation sources said.

The officials of the Foundation said, in a bid to provide latest information about Islam as a complete code of life, arrangements have been made to supply necessary books to the interested readers.

People are showing growing interest in Islamic way of life and are visiting these libraries in increasing numbers said an official.

FENI

4 to suffer 6 yrs RI each for beating lawyer

Mar 22: Four people were awarded 6 years rigorous imprisonment each and fined Taka 5,000 and other six were given 4 years jail term each and fined Taka 4000, in default to suffer one year more on charges of beating a lawyer, reports UNB.

The prosecution story, in brief, is that the accused — all from Porshuram upazila attacked and beat mercilessly Advocate Abul Kashem while he was going to the Upazila Magistrate Court on August 20, 1988.

A case was filed and police after investigation charge sheeted against the accused. The court after examining the evidences and records awarded the punishment on March 12.



RAJSHAHI: A procession organised by Muktijoddhar Chetona Bastobaoj Parishad was brought out in the city recently demanding punishment to Golam Azam, a war criminal. — Star photo

Compulsory Pry Edn Programme

One fourth of total students don't attend classes

GAIBANDHA, Mar 22: The Compulsory Primary Education Programme is yet to be implemented in the district even after much publicity.

Two consecutive academic months have elapsed but 3,500 children in Gaibandha Sadar upazila could not be brought in the schools. They are still grazing cattle in the fields or engaged in any petty work for earning their livelihood.

The Compulsory Primary Education Programme first introduced in Gaibandha Sadar upazila on experimental basis. In December last, an assessment was conducted to ascertain the number of six years old children in the schools. It was found that total figure of six years old children stood at 15,234 capable of taking primary education. Of that, 7,956 are boys and 7,278 are girls students.

During the month of January and February '92 a total of 12,873 children took admission in 136 government and 18 registered primary schools of Gaibandha Sadar upazila. According to a report, about 3,518 registered children did not attend schools.

Out of total admitted students, about 1,957 children do not attend their classes. The reason of such drop out is that at the introduction of Compulsory Primary Education Programme parent admitted their children in the schools at the pressure of teachers and union parishad chairmen and members.

But the poverty stricken parent can not afford food and clothes for their children. Instead of going to schools, the children are to seek work for livelihood.

Urmu Rahman meets flood ravaged people

Urmu Rahman, Correspondent of BBC Bengali Service paid a short visit to Gaibandha on March 12. She visited Kanchipara union under Fulchar upazila and met the flood ravaged farmers.

In the evening, she met local journalists of national and local dailies. An open discussion was held on the issue of consecutive flood and its probable remedy. Earlier, she met Deputy Commissioner, Gaibandha, Mr Abul Basher Ahmed Chowdhury and discussed about the post flood situation of the district.

15 dwelling houses gutted

A devastating fire that broke out at village Daudpur under

From Our Correspondent

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A devastating fire that broke out at village Daudpur under

Sadullapur upazila and property worth about Taka one lakh fifty thousand were gutted.

The fire originated from the cowshed of one Esher Munshi and soon the flame spread to adjacent houses at deep night on March 7. A total of 15 dwelling houses was gutted rendering five families homeless. The victims are Esher Munshi, Azizur Rahman, Akbar Islam, Anser and Jaharul Huq.

The fire was however brought under control locally.

Body of young boy recovered

Gobindaganj Thana police recovered the body of one Afzal Hossain (15) from a field of village Hamidpur under Gobindaganj upazila recently.

According to police the victim suddenly disappeared from the house. Before leaving, he took Taka 1,500/- from his father's shop and there was no trace of victim since long. The father of the victim, Strajul Huq came to know that a body was found at Hamidpur. He rushed to the spot together with police and identified the body as his son Afzal Hossain.

A case was registered with concerned Thana.

Comilla CCI executives

COMILLA, Mar 22: The election of the office bearers of the Comilla Chambers of Commerce and Industries CCCI was held here recently amid much enthusiasm, reports UNB.

Advocate Afzal Khan, Al-haj Shamsul Haq Mollah and Elias Mia were elected President, Senior Vice-President and Vice-President respectively of the executive committee for a two-year term.

Another report adds: A school girl, Pervin Akter (14) daughter of Mafzur Rahman of village Boreira in Nangalkote upazila allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself recently.

8 commit suicide in a week

MAGURA, Mar 22: Five people allegedly committed suicide in the district in the last week, reports UNB.

According to the police, Shibdash (15), of village Patkelbaria in Sadar upazila allegedly committed suicide by taking poison on March 15.

Farida Begum (23), wife of Ruhul Amin of village Salkha committed suicide by hanging herself. On same day Sahabuddin (55), of village Chargual Para in Sreepur upazila committed suicide by hanging himself.

Rekha Begum (12), daughter of Shamsur Rahman of village Chittabich Rampur in Mohammadpur upazila allegedly committed suicide by taking poison on March 12.

Another housewife Morfina Khatoun (25), wife of Abu Saeed of village Savaatdanga in Sreepur upazila allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself the same day.

Family feud, poverty and dowry money were the main reasons behind the suicide, it is learnt.

Separate cases were lodged with the local police stations about. Bodies were sent to

morgue for postmortem and further police investigation is going on.

A report from Pirojpur says: Two people allegedly committed suicide in Nazipur upazila of the district on Tuesday.

45 projects being implemented

BHOLA, Mar 22: Facilities Department of the Ministry of Education has been implementing 45 projects in five upazilas of the district in the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

The upazilas are: Charfession, Monpara, Daulatkhon, Tazumuddin and Lalmoan.

According to an official source, under the projects government primary schools buildings will be built for multipurpose use. So that people of the coastal areas could take shelter during natural calamities. Islamic Development Bank (IDB) is financing the projects.

Of the total projects, 11 will be implemented in Charfession Upazila, three in Monpara, 10 in Tazumuddin, 11 in Lalmoan and 10 in Daulatkhon upazilas of the district.

Golam Azam issue

Govt urged to take action before Mar 25

JHENIDAH, Mar 22: District unit of the Committee for Elimination of Collaborators and Killers of '71 organised a public gathering at Agrani Bank square in the town with Advocate Amir Hossain Convenor of the committee in the chair Friday last, reports UNB.

The meeting was addressed, among others, by Advocate Azizur Rahman, Secretary, District Bar, Dr Anwarul Haque of Muktijoddha Sangsad, Azizur Rahman Hafiz of District United Communist League, Tahera Begum Joly of Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal, Professor Shamadaker Hafiz Faruque, Secretary of Non-government College Teachers Association, Dr Azizur Rahman, Secretary, Bangladesh Medical Association district unit, Advocate Ayub Hossain President district Awami League, Habibur Rahman Rju of the Workers Party and Jibon KR Biswas, Convenor of the Student Brigade.

The speakers urged the government to take legal steps against Golam Azam by March 25. Otherwise, they warned, he would be tried in people's court.

The meeting followed by a procession that paraded the main thoroughfares of the town chanting various slogans against the collaborators.

Another report from Naogaon adds: Naogaon district Dalal Nirmla Committee held a meeting at local government KD High School Shaheed minar premises Friday with Convenor Zahid Anwar in the chair.

The speakers extended

their support for immediate trial of Prof Golam Azam in the people's court. Former MP Ohidur Rahman, Advocate Helal Ahmed, Monirul Haque Mukul and others addressed the meeting.

Another report says: District Jamaat-e-Islami at a meeting here Thursday last protested the formation of 'People's Court' for trial of Prof Golam Azam, saying it is a challenge to the country's judiciary.

Local party leader Abdullah Anwar presided over the meeting held at Agrani square in the town. It was addressed by District Jamaat Ameer Abul Kashem and organising secretary Noor Mohammad.

They accused the organisers of the 'people's Court' of hatching a conspiracy against the country's sovereignty.

The meeting was followed by a procession that paraded the main roads of the town.

A report from Magura adds: A meeting of the district unit of the Ghatatak Dalal Nirmla Committee was held at Magura academy with Khan Ali Reja, Unit Commander of Muktijoddha Sangshad in the chair.

Advocate Abul Khaer, Prof Kazi Feroj, Mohabbat Hossain and others addressed the meeting held last week.

The speakers demanded trial of Golam Azam and called upon all pro-liberation forces to be united to ban Jamaat-Shibir.

They also brought out a procession and paraded the main roads of the town chanting various slogans in favour of their demand.

Wheat stock nil, fate of FWP uncertain

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, Mar 22: All the food godowns in 8 upazilas of Rangpur district are running almost without wheat for the past few weeks. As a result, Food for Works Programme schemes have been totally stopped in the district.

There were about 114 schemes under Food for Works Programme approved by the government for execution in 8 upazilas of the district during the current dry season. Of them, 60 schemes are under CARE, 48 schemes under WFP and the rest six schemes are under general programme owned by the Relief and Rehabilitation Ministry.

The government allocated total 4942.039 metric tons of wheat for execution of the schemes.

But there are only about one hundred metric tons of wheat in the stock of food godowns in Sadar, Badargonj and Pirgacha upazilas while the five other upazilas namely Kaunia, Mithapukur, Pirgonj, Taragonj and Gangachara are empty of wheat stocks in the food godowns.

Due to want of wheat, district administration has started supplying rice to 15146 distressed children and females under VGD programme in the district. As a result, VGD programme is now swallowing about four hundred and sixty metric tons of rice in a month.

A food official said, they are expecting to recoup the shortage of wheat through procurement of the newly harvested wheat which started from March 15.

The government has fixed up price for per maund of wheat at Taka 240.00. But in the local markets wheat is found sold at about Taka 300.00 per maund. This has

resulted a total failure in the wheat procurement programme in the district.

On the otherhand, the least hope to re-start the execution of the FWP schemes has now plunged into uncertainty due to lack of wheat procurement.

Health staff in 3 UZ's not getting salary

FENI, Mar 22: Officers and employees of Health Department in three upazilas of the district were not getting their salaries for the last two months, reports UNB.

According to a source in the Civil Surgeon's Office, 300 officers and employees in Porshuram upazila, 250 in Sonagazi upazila and 109 in Dagonbhuiyan upazila were not getting salaries from the month of January this year.

The problem arise with the abolition of the upazila system under which the upazila chairman used to draw and disburse salaries. New drawing and disbursing officer has not yet been appointed.

Indian goods seized

The BDR personnel at Feni seized smuggled goods worth about Taka 1.50 lakh in raids on different places the district.

According to the BDR sources 246 pieces of Indian sares and a large quantity of medicines were recovered from a train at Feni Railway Station on March 14.

In another operation in a Raipur bound bus from Dhaka, they recovered three Indian bi-cycle.

Notes from Madaripur

From Our Correspondent

Mar 22: Acute scarcity of fodder has been prevailing throughout the district. As a result, hundreds of cattle are not getting requisite food. Consequently, the cultivation and milk production in the district are greatly hampered.

The cultivators of the district are unable to procure requisite quantity of straw for their cattle as the price is high. So, they are compelled to keep their cattle half-fed.

Note books sale unabated

The sale of note books is going on unabated in different upazilas of the district.

Note books are being sold in most of the bookshops at Madaripur town and different upazila markets despite government ban on it.

It may be mentioned here that government has imposed ban on publishing and selling note books upto class eight.

But some unscrupulous traders are publishing sub-standard note books with fake name and addresses. These note books are full of errors and distortion of facts.

Some guardians complained these note books are being sold at an exorbitant prices in different market of the district.

It is reported that the bookstall owners do not sell text books without notes.

The students and guardians have urged the concerned authorities to take necessary action on the matter.

Paddy under pests attack

The IRRI-boro paddy on about 300 hectares of land have been attacked by pests in different areas of the district.

It is gathered that crop-field in Nayanagar, Hossainpur, Khalia, Bajtjur and Amgram villages of Rajor upazila are seriously affected.

According to Agriculture Extension Department, out of the affected areas, five hectares of land in Madaripur Sadar, 65 hectares of land in Kalkini and 40 hectares in Shikhar upazila.

The farmers of the affected areas informed that they can not afford to buy the required quantity of pesticides which are being sold in the local markets at an exorbitant price.

The farmers of the district have urged the concerned authorities to take immediate action to save the standing crops of the lands.

Sale of adulterated edible oil rampant

The sale of adulterated edible oil is rampant in rural areas of the district which is posing a serious threat to the health of consumers.

It is informed that some dishonest traders are mixing bad quality of oil with the mustard oil and are selling those in open markets at a comparatively cheaper rate.

Consumption of these oils causes various stomach ailments like dysentery and gastro-intestinal diseases in rural areas, doctors said.

Local people have urged the concerned authorities for proper checking of foodstuffs in the markets.

Mosquito menace

Mosquito menace in the district has assumed in an alarming proportion causing untold sufferings to the dwellers.

There are a good number of ditches in the pourashava area which are filled up with water-hyacinths act as the breeding centres for mosquitos.

These ponds are not cleaned and even DDT powder is not spread out in the drains and dustbins.

Bomb hurled on UP chairman

A bomb was hurled on Kazi Mahmudul Hasan, the newly elected UP Chairman of Gopalpur union parishad of Kalkini upazila recently.

It is gathered, he was escaped unhurt but one of his companions Abdul Bepari (35) of the same union received injuries. He was admitted to the Kalkini Hospital.

A case has been registered with police in this connection.

Another report adds: A housewife allegedly committed suicide by taking poison at Chirirbandar upazila



SYLHET: Pitiable condition of a road in upashahar area of the district town. — Star photo