

Upazila roundup

PABNA
2 killed, 30 hurt in road accident

Mar 23: Two people were killed and 30 injured, 11 seriously, when a passenger bus plunged into a roadside ditch on Pabna-Sujanagar Highway here on Saturday, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the accident occurred in the morning when the Pabna-bound bus from Sujanagar skidded off the highway while trying to save a rickshaw coming from the opposite direction.

The victims were identified as Zahed Ali (50) and Abdur Rashid (35). They hailed from Trikul and Paraboria villages of Sujanagar Upazila respectively.

Eleven passengers, including a woman and a minor girl, were admitted to Pabna Sadar Hospital with grievous injuries. They are, Mutalib (25), Alim (32), Shahidul (22), Hanif (25), Mojibul (45), Hamid (28), Abdur Rashid (25), Soleiman Hossain (27), Monjur Hossain (22), Ranjan Ali (32) and an eight-year-old girl.

Driver and helper of the bus fled the scene immediately after the accident. A case was registered with Pabna police.

BRAHMANBARIA
Rival groups clash leaves 2 dead

Mar 23: Two people were killed on the spot and five others injured, two seriously, in a clash between two rival groups at Shurail village in Nasirnagar Upazila Friday, reports UNB.

According to villagers, the clash ensued over the possession of a tree.

The deceased were identified as Awal Miah (55), and Anab Ali (35), and seriously injured Md Altaf Ali (32), and Sundar Miah (28) were taken to Sadar Hospital in a critical condition.

The other injured Rahmat Ali, Ayub Ali and Dulal Miah were admitted to Nasirnagar Health Complex.

A case was filed with Nasirnagar police station in this connection.

RANGPUR
40 shops gutted at UZ market

Mar 23: At least 40 shops out of 70 were completely gutted in a devastating fire that broke out at Gangachar upazila bazar, 12 kilometres from the town Tuesday night, reports UNB.

According to first hand unofficial report fire destroyed property worth about Taka 40 lakh. The origin of the fire could not be ascertained.

Fire brigades from Rangpur, Saidpur and Nilphamari after frantic efforts brought the fire under control.

Deputy Commissioner of the district Azmal Choudhury visited the spot.

MADARIPUR
Irrigation engines in country boats

Mar 23: At least 65 per cent of the engines of shallow tubewells meant for irrigation purposes are being used in the country-made boats hampering irrigation in the districts of Madaripur, Shariatpur and Gopalganj, reports UNB.

The trend of using tubewell engines for non-irrigation purposes has been widening with consequent drop in the agricultural production in the districts during the last few years.

Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation sources said the shallow tubewell engines were sanctioned for agricultural purposes and rules have now been relaxed.

PANCHAGAR
Hartal demands withdrawal of cases

Mar 23: Farmers of Boda upazila in the district observed a six-hour hartal demanding withdrawal of "false cases" against 16 people and transfer of the resident engineer of the upazila electric supply, reports UNB.

The engineer filed the case following gherao of his office by the farmers on March 16 in protest of frequent disruption in power supply to their farming lands.

The engineer allegedly misbehaved with them and was assaulted by the demonstrating farmers.

Almost all political parties except BNP extended their support to the hartal call.

KURIGRAM
One shot dead by BSF men

From Our Correspondent

Mar 23: One Hazrat Ali (30) of village Kachakata in Madarganj border area of Nageswari upazila was gunned down by Border Security Force (BSF) men of India recently.

It is reported that on the day of incident, 2 BSF men when intrude into Bangladesh land, the villagers chased them and they fled away. They later on entered into Bangladesh and attacked the villagers, they opened fire on them and Hazrat Ali died on the spot. BSF men took away the dead body.

On the next day, a flag meeting between BDR and BSF men was held near the border demarcation pillar No 1026 on this issue. The BSF men handed over the body to the BDR men after the flag meeting.

Tense situation is prevailing in the area.

MAGURA
160 tons wheat for re-excavation of 3 canals

Mar 23: Government has sanctioned 160 metric tons of wheat for re-excavation of three canals in Salikha upazila during this dry season under Food for Works Programme, reports UNB.

According to an official source, 56 metric tons of wheat has been sanctioned for re-excavation of Gongarampur to Haria Canal, 50 metric tons for Bharbhoria Canal and rest 54 metric tons for Kathalbaria Canal. The three canals are two kilometres each.

Re-excavation work has already started and it would be completed by June. On completion of the work, a large area will get irrigation facilities.

BARISAL
Meeting to help people about afforestation

Mar 23: A coordination meeting for helping the people about social afforestation programme of the government was held recently at the office of the Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh (ADAB) here, reports BSS.

The meeting was presided over by Md Quamruzzaman, Zonal Field Officer, ADAB. Forest Officers of Khulna Division and nine representatives of different Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) from Barisal, Jhalakathi and Pirojpur spoke on the occasion.

Khulna Afforestation Department of Barisal Zone imparted training to 1,500 people of different professions on social afforestation programme of the government.

TANGAIL
Discussion on homoeopathic treatment

Mar 23: A discussion on homoeopathic system of treatment sponsored by Tangail Homoeopath Association has held at Zila Parishad Auditorium here recently, reports BSS.

A total of 130 homoeopaths attended the discussion. Khan Shahabuddin, Deputy Commissioner, Tangail was present at the meeting as chief guest.

Dr A M M Bahadur Munshi, Principal, Dhaka Homoeopathic College attended the function as main speaker. Dr M Mosarraf Hossain presided over the discussion.

NETRAKONA
Attack on JCD leader condemned

Mar 23: The Whip of Treasury Bench in Jatiya Sangsad, who is also the President of Netrakona district unit of BNP, Advocate M A Karim and MR Abdul Quddus Advocate, General Secretary of BNP Netrakona district unit in a joint statement here Saturday, strongly condemned the armed attack on Mohammed Musa, Vice-President of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), Netrakona district unit on March 19 by some armed hoodlums.

The armed hoodlums had not only mercilessly beaten up the student leader Musa. They also set fire on his residence, the statement said.

They urged the government to bring the hoodlums to book and award them exemplary punishment.



COX'S BAZAR: Selina Khatun, a Rohingya refugee and her two children are taking food in unhygienic environment at Dheahuapolog Camp. — Star photo

Rohingya refugee camps Diseases spreading alarmingly

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, Mar 23: Diseases like dysentery, diarrhoea, measles, chicken pox, malaria and skin diseases have been spreading alarmingly in the Myanmar refugee camps.

Nearly 50 refugees died of the above mentioned diseases in different camps till now. Many refugees are also suffering from the diseases.

Some doctors of the voluntary organisation who are working in the camps reported that the refugees were living a sub-human life there with acute shortage of food, clothes and medicines. Doctors said that dangerous diseases have broken out among the Myanmar refugees some of whom are living under open sky.

Stomach ailments and skin diseases have been spreading in the refugee camps day by day. Doctors said, a large number of patients are pouring into the refugee hospitals every day with gastrointestinal and other

skin diseases. Scarcity of pure drinking water and consumption of adulterated food and edible oil are learnt to be the main reasons behind the outbreak of the diseases.

The camps also lack of water supply arrangements and sanitation facilities, the doctors mentioned. Teams of the UNICEF have started installation of tubewells and set up sealed latrines at some of the existing camps.

Thousands of Myanmar Rohingyas continue to suffer in makeshift camps as they arrive from across the border. The huge reaching here from different points speak of deteriorated situation. Some dissident students activists who fled Myanmar day back informed this correspondent that Burma authorities were using Mugh youths in its extermination policy against the Rohingya community. A student of Political Science of Yangon University said that Myanmar troops were

drafting Mugh and using them against the Rohingyas after a 15-day military training. Meanwhile, the influx of Rohingyas refugees continued and aggravating conditions in the makeshift camps in the bordering areas. Officials engaged in works in refugee camps said that they were facing problems in gathering information about the Rohingyas.

People in the bordering areas of the district who want to Myanmar on an eight-hour transit pass issued at the frontier checkpoint alleged that Myanmar troops searched their bodies before allowing them to enter into Myanmar. The troops also snatched their personal belongings, they informed.

Myanmar authorities have also ordered the observation of a black out in seven townships in the Arakan provinces after sun set, the visitor from Bangladesh reported. Myanmar recently ordered

its troops to step up action against the insurgents inside the territory after a government set deadline to surrender had expired March 30. Reports from across the border said that the Myanmar Military Commander of Rakhaine Province, Major General Myo Nunt during a visit to Busidong Military Station recently ordered to intensify military campaign against the democratic activists. Addressing the troops, he also ordered to set up firing squads to punish the rebels, according to reports.

Notes from Naogaon

From Our Correspondent

NAOGAON, Mar 23: The installation ceremony of newly elected members of Naogaon Government College was held here recently.

Justice K M Sobhan attended the function as chief guest while Principal Mujibur Rahman Bhuiyan presided over.

Ex-MP and Joint Secretary of Bangladesh Central Awami League Ad Abdul Jalil attended it as special guest.

The members of Sajjan Shilpi Ghosti rendered sons at the end of the function.

Science exhibition held

The 5th National Naogaon Zila Science Exhibition was inaugurated by Rajshahi Divisional Commissioner, N A Habibullah of Naogaon Government College premises recently.

A total of 105 projects was exhibited at the exhibition from different educational institutions.

Chhatra Dal sweeps college polls

The election of Nazipur Government Degree College Students' Union was held here recently.

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) had bagged seventeen seats including VP, Abu Taher Chowdhury while Chhatra League (A-A) secured only GS, Abdul Kalam Asad.

Obituary

Mrs Shafali Begum (38), wife of local social worker and former Naogaon Poursava Commissioner, Mollah Motahar Hossain had died recently at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

She was suffering from Cancer.

She served as a Primary School Teacher.

She left behind husband and two sons to mourn her death.

Silver Jubilee celebrated

Three days Silver Jubilee of Naogaon Probaha Sangha was held here in a chalked out colourful programme with flower exhibition recently.

Mrs Kra Yang Chowdhury, wife of local DC, was inaugurated the ceremony while Divisional Commissioner N A Habibullah was attended as chief guest.

New Agrani Bank staff assoc office

The office of Agrani Bank Employees' Welfare Association was opened here by Ashraf Ali, AOM recently.

This colourful ceremony was attended by local elites and bank employees.

57 killed, 611 cases recorded last yr

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Mar 23: At least 57 persons were killed and 611 crimes of various nature were committed in six upazilas of Jhenidah district during the last year.

The upazilas are sadar, Sallakupa, Harinakundu, Kaliganj, Kotchandpur and Moheshpur.

Of the total number of crimes, dacoits-15, robber-13, theft-41, rioting-112, burglaries-35, arms case-17, cowlifting-13, smuggling-45, kidnapping-12 and others 308.

The unofficial figure of crimes were more than the government record that many incidents were not recorded with the police. In many cases, the victims of the rural areas not dare to inform the police.

It is informed that several organised gangs of miscreants and underground activists — committed the crimes in different areas of the district during the period.

Moreover, the district is an arms infested area for a long. Manpower and equipment of the law enforcing agencies were meagre to curb the criminal activities.

It can be mentioned here 65 persons were killed and 592 crimes were committed in the district in 1990.

Our Strajganj Correspondent adds: A total of 15 persons were arrested by police following the murder of Abul Fazal at Belkuchi on March 21.

Village Bairabari has turned deserted after murder on Saturday last.

It may be mentioned here that Abul Fazal (35) was killed in a clash between two rival groups of village Bairabari following past feud with Mukter Hossain Sarker of the same village.

The condition of injured Osman Gani and Fazar Ali was stated to be critical. A case had lodged with police accusing 24 persons.

Ghatak Nirmool body urged to stop trial

JESSORE, Mar 23: Forty one lawyers and 24 local Aems here on Sunday urged the "Ghatak Nirmool Committee" to stop the "public trial" of Jamaat leader Golam Azam on March 26, reports UNB.

In separate statements the lawyers and Aems said in the name of trial the committee was violating the country's law and constitution and taking law in their own hands.

They said the committee was trying to obstruct the development activities in the country by creating political chaos.

They urged the committee to come forward to join development activities shunning destructive politics.

Advocate Azizur Rahman, Advocate Ruhul Kuddus, Advocate Keramat Ali and Maulana Abdul Kader, Maulana

Abdus Sattar, were among the signatories.

Gang rape

A young woman died after being gang raped allegedly by some miscreants in a village in Sharsha upazila of the district Saturday night.

Local people said that Idris Ali (28) along with his four colleagues forcibly brought out the victim Sonawan (20), daughter of peasant Akbar Ali of village Shikri and took her to a nearby field where they gang raped her.

They said the miscreants were angered by Sonawan when she refused to marry a man of their choice.

At one stage Sonawan died after being stabbed in her belly.

The gang then hanged her in a tree along with a rape and left the place.

7 Shibir activists hurt in clash with BCL

SIRAJGANJ, Mar 23: At least seven activists of Islamic Chhatra Shibir were injured, one seriously, in a clash with Awami League backed Chhatra League in Belkuchi College in Belkuchi upazila on Sunday evening, reports UNB.

Saidul Islam (22), Shibir President of the college unit, received head injury during the clash and was admitted to the Belkuchi Health Complex in critical condition.

Shibir sources alleged that Chhatra League activists attacked their supporters at the college premises during the iftar hours.

The clash ensued as a sequel of the recently concluded college election.

Chhatra League, however, denied the allegation.

Shibir, meanwhile, filed a case with the local police. None has been arrested yet.

Armed dacoits raided an engine boat on the river

Jamuna on Sunday morning near Khasrajbari village of Kazipur upazila and robbed Taka 1.56 lakh from the passengers on board.

The boat passengers included five businessmen who were on their way to Zia Fertilizer Factory to buy fertilizer.

The dacoits numbering about 16, on boarding the boat tied the passengers including the two boatmen. They also beat the businessmen mercilessly when they tried to resist.

Among them Abdus Salam, Habibur Rahman and Shahjahan were badly hurt and later admitted to the Kazipur Health Complex.

The dacoits who came by another engine boat used rod, knife, axe and other lethal weapons during the raid.

No case has yet been filed but police has acknowledged the incident.

Scarcity of LP gas, diesel in northern districts

From Our correspondent

BOGRA, Mar 23: Acute crisis of diesel and Liquefied Petroleum (LP) gas has been prevailing in the district for the last few days.

It is gathered that 80 per cent diesel shops have been closed and others are selling diesel at high prices and LP gas is out of market.

Supply falls short as oil tanker could not reach Baghabari Depot of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) for siltation of Jamuna and Bera river.

LP stock of Padma, Jamuna and Meghna companies at Bagabari ghat is now 15, 514 and 319 cylinders respectively.

The demand of LP gas cylinder as 900 per day in 16 Northern districts and the average demand of diesel is 16 lakh litre daily in Northern districts. But only 18 lakh litre diesel is now at Bagabari and Chilmari ghats.

UNB reports add: Diesel supply is also at danger point because of fall in the crude oil reserve at the Eastern Refinery and water level at Bagabari and Chilmari ghats, disrupting river transport since last week.

Crude oil reserve in the refinery depot is becoming slim reportedly because of disruption in supply from the Gulf owing to faults in an old tanker hired by the shipping authorities.

The crisis has brought a chance for speculation in the fuel in northern towns which

5 BCL (A-A) leaders held in Jamalpur

JAMALPUR, Mar 23: Five Chhatra League (A-A) leaders, including the district unit General Secretary, were taken to custody when they appeared before the Sadar Upazila Magistrate court today, reports UNB.

District Secretary Naim Rahman, town unit Secretary Rana, Vice President Labu, Organising Secretary Jewel and Publicity Secretary Abdur Razzak were accused of involvement in the February 23 violence in the town.

Biggest leprosy hospital has least facilities

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Mar 23: The biggest and oldest Leprosy Hospital in the country, Sylhet Leprosy Hospital is plagued with a host of problems like, shortage of space, absence of necessary equipments, technical staff, for a long.

The Leprosy Hospital was built at Sylhet in 1906. Now it is housed in a three-storied building at Sheikhghat area of Sylhet town. Maximum 30 patients can be accommodated in the hospital though it is known as 80-bed hospital.

The hospital authority has arranged some beds in the verandas and accordingly a number of patients are there. Due to shortage of space, the authority could never use its bed capacity, it is learnt.

A large number patients are to return back for shortage of seats in the hospital and proper treatment. The leprosy patients needs long term treatment.

The present hospital building can not accommodate the administrative section, male ward, female ward, store, laboratory and other necessary sections.

Though the supply of medicines by the World Health Organisation (WHO) is quite satisfactory but there is no equipments for physiotherapy in the hospital.

The hospital has no inadequate number of staff. There are three assistant nurses out of the sanctioned posts of five while only one staff nurse is working there.

The deep tubewell of the hospital lying out of order for last three years causing great sufferings to the patients as well as the staff of it. Besides, out of the two tubewells one has been lying out of order for a long while the other one betrays often.

The pump which was used for lifting water from the pond has also been lying out of order for a long.

The people is moving around the hospital as there is no boundary wall in the north and south sides of the hospital. Due to this, a number of local people have already grabbed

some lands of the hospital. It is further reported that out of the total area of 4.69 acres land of the hospital, some lands (Dag no. 2385 and 2390) had already been occupied by some people.

The matter had already been brought to the notice of the Deputy Commissioner by the Health Department, but no action has yet been taken against the culprits, it is alleged.

The staff quarters in the hospital compound have been in pitiable conditions for a long time as no maintenance works were done during the last few years.

It can be mentioned here that a few years back, a Master plan was taken up by the government for upgradation of the hospital to extend treatment facilities. But the fate of the programme is yet unknown.

It may be stated here that, the two other government leprosy hospitals in the country are situated in Dhaka with 30-beds and in Nilphamari with 20-beds.

SYLHET: Due to accommodation problem, the leprosy patients have taken shelter in the verandah of the hospital. — Star photo