

Upazila roundup

NARAIL

UNO gheraoed for payment of salary

Mar 24: Doctors and Health Assistants of Sadar upazila started work abstention from Sunday and gheraoed UNO office same day for four hours demanding their arrear salary, reports UNB.

Hospital sources said three doctors and about 77 Health Assistants are not getting their salary since January last.

It is alleged that the UNO of the upazila withheld the salary of the doctors and Health Assistants without showing any reason.

The demonstrators said they would continue work abstention until realisation of their demand.

Meanwhile, due to unwarranted work abstention medical services in three sub-centres were disrupted causing untold sufferings to the patients.

COMILLA

2 get 3 yrs RI each for smuggling

Mar 24: Two people were sentenced to three years rigorous imprisonment each on charges of smuggling, court sources said here on Monday, reports UNB.

The court also fined them Taka 1000 each, in default, to suffer RI for six months more.

According to prosecution story, accused Abani Mohan Gosh and Mintoo Chandra Ghosh while entering into the country from Tripura, India with a bag of contrabands, BDR patrol party at village Kaya in Choudhagram challenged them and managed to arrest Abani on July 13, 1989.

BDR recovered Indian saree, lungi, towel, utensils worth about Taka 1,285 from the bag.

A case was filed and police after investigation submitted charge sheet against the accused. The judgement was delivered recently.

Mintoo was tried in absentia.

MADARIPUR

Demand for Azam's trial

Mar 24: The local committee for 'Annihilation of Killers and Collaborators of 1971' in a meeting on Monday demanded public trial of Golam Azam as a war criminal on March 26, reports UNB.

The meeting held at Shadinata Mancha in the town demanded capital punishment to Golam Azam and his accomplices to uphold the spirit of Liberation War.

Presided over by Prof. Mattur Rahman, it was addressed, among others, by Shahjahan Khan MP (AL), Sirajul Islam Bhuiyan, former MP (JP), Alamgir Hossain, former pourashava Chairman.

Later, they brought out a procession in the town chanting various slogans against Jamaat-e-Islami and its chief Prof. Golam Azam.

BOGRA

Two bodies recovered

Mar 24: Police recovered two bodies, one decomposed, from two upazilas of the district on Sunday, reports UNB.

One body identified as Solaiman Ali, slaughtered by unknown assailants, was recovered from a paddy field at Joregacha village in sadar upazila.

Solaiman Ali of the same village has been missing since March 21, family sources said.

Police recovered another unidentified decomposed body tied in a sack from west bank of Gazaria canal in Gabtali upazila. The body bore several cut marks, police said.

Cases have been filed with local police stations.

DINAJPUR

900 bottles of phensidyl syrup seized

Mar 24: Bangladesh Rifles recovered 900 bottles of Indian phensidyl syrup from a night coach, reports UNB.

Acting on secret information, a contingent of BDR raided the Dhaka bound coach and recovered the drug from seven rice loaded bags recently.

In another drive by the task force of Thakurgaon BDR recovered Indian sarees worth about Taka one lakh from Thakurgaon town and its adjacent areas recently. The contraband items were later handed over to the respective customs officials.

NATORE

Call to boycott imams who do politics at mosques

Mar 24: Opposition Chief Whip Mohammad Nasim on Sunday appealed to all pious Muslims of the country to boycott those imams who are indulging in politics at the mosques, reports UNB.

The people who are making controversial statements against political leaders and the spirit of the Liberation War from the pulp of mosques like Baitul Mukarram National Mosque have no longer any right to be imams, he told a party meeting.

Nasim, also the Publicity Secretary of Awami League, said the Jamaat-e-Islami, backed by the government, has been using mosques and imams to raise the bogey of 'Islam in danger' as they did during 1971 war to foil the planned trial of Golam Azam at a people's court on March 26.

Presided over by Shankar Gobinda Chowdhury, MP, the workers meeting was addressed, among others, by Awami League Presidium Member Dr Alauddin.

Nasim said people will start movement simultaneously against Jamaat-e-Islami and the BNP with the staging of the people's court, if the government fails to give a clear decision before March 26.

NAOGAON

Annual sports of govt college concludes

Mar 24: The annual sports of Naogaon Government College was held here recently on the college campus, reports UNB.

Vice Chancellor of Rajshahi University, Prof. Amanullah Ahmed inaugurated the sports and distributed prizes among the winners in a colourful ceremony.

The VC in his brief speech appealed to students, teachers, politicians to come forward to maintain peaceful academic atmosphere so that the students could pursue their studies.

Presided over by Principal Mujibur Rahman Bhuiyan, the prize distribution ceremony was addressed, among others, by Bivas Mojumder Gopal, Vice President of the college students' union, Prof. Probat Kumar Mani and GS Khoda Nawaz Titus.

The student leaders in their brief speech urged the authorities to introduce some honours courses at this college.

KUSHITIA

Youngman electrocuted

Mar 24: A youngman was electrocuted when he was playing a cassette recorder in his house at Aruapara in the town Saturday, reports UNB.

According to family sources, the victim Anu (22) while switching on an official recorder suddenly got electrocuted and was rushed to General Hospital where he died.

In another incident Anwara (30), wife of Atinuddin of West Majampur received electric shock when she was handling a heater on Saturday.

She was rushed to the hospital where her condition was stated to be critical.

FARIDPUR

Construction of Bakhunda bridge nearing completion

Mar 24: The construction work of Bakhunda Bridge on the river Kumar built at a cost of Taka four crore on Dhaka-Bairisal Highway via Faridpur is nearing completion and will be ready for traffic movement within a month, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the RCC bridge with heavy structures measuring 460 feet in length and 24 feet breadth located five kilometres from Faridpur town would connect eight southern districts of the country. The Districts which would be connected are Gopalganj, Madaripur, Barisal, Bhoala, Patuakhali, Jhalakathi, Barguna and Projpur.

At present the traffic movement on the river is going on an old one way dilapidated bridge.

According to the source, the cantilever type bridge has been built on heavy structures of six well foundation pillars. The work on the bridge started in 1989.



SYLHET: Colin H. Imray, British High Commissioner in Bangladesh is being handed over a crest by the President of Jalalabad Jubo Forum at a reception accorded to him recently. — Star photo

Farmers for introduction of crop insurance

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, Mar 24: Introduction of crop insurance in the agricultural sector has been demanded by the farmers of the district.

The natural calamities like drought, flood, norwester and cyclone damage the standing crops of the district almost every year. The farmers of the area face hardships following the massive damage of the crops.

According to agricultural experts, about 40 per cent of the standing crops are damaged almost every year by the natural calamities.

It has been observed that being frustrated following the massive damage of crops by the natural calamities, the farmers are to rush to the Bangladesh Krishi Bank for loans.

Most of the farmers do not get agricultural loans from the Krishi Bank as they can not fulfill the formalities of the loan

procedures. Some times, they are denied loans as they have in the meantime become defaulters.

Finding no other alternatives, they are to go the local money lenders who usually charge higher rate of interest. After the harvest, the farmers are to sell the major portion of their products at cheaper rate to repay the loans with interest. As a result, they get a little or no return from their cultivation. And again they are to go to the money lenders for their need.

The farmers will be in a position to get the compensation for the damage of the crops if they can ensure their crops soon after the sowing of the seeds.

It has also been observed that crop insurance system would ensure their crops from total loss.

It can be mentioned here that crop insurance had been

proved successful in many other countries of the world.

The farmers of the district have urged the concerned authorities to introduce the crop insurance system which will help the farmers from any kind of crisis.

Malaria has broken out in different upazilas of the district. It is reported that about one hundred people have been attacked by the malaria during the last one month.

According to the Health Office source, the badly affected upazilas of the district are Chandpur Sadar, Faridganj, Halmchar, Kachua and Hajiganj.

It is gathered that the existing mosquito menace is largely responsible for the outbreak of malaria.

The concerned authorities have also been urged to take immediate steps to check the disease.

Transformer goes out of order, IRRI-boro farming hampered

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Mar 24: Cultivation of IRRI and boro on about 700 acres of land under Palashbari upazila has become uncertain due to damage of a power transformer at Kamerpur hat area.

The transformer went out of order a fortnight back. As a result, power supply remained suspended to electricity driven deep tube well area.

The Power Development Board has yet to take initiative to replace the transformer despite repeated appeals filed by the affected farmers. Meanwhile, due to power crisis IRRI and Boro fields have become dry.

On the other hand most of the affected farmers of Kamerpur area are poor. They have cultivated their limited land spending their last penny. The farmers could not even procure inputs like fertilizer

and pesticide due to acute hardship.

The farmers are however facing immense difficulties as they are yet to get irrigation.

Cricket match

Second division cricket league began here at local Islamia High School ground under the auspices of District Sports Association.

The game was inaugurated by Shachindra Nath Chaki, Secretary District Sports Association, Gaibandha.

In the inaugural match, Munshipara Krira Sangstha defeated Pelican team by 6 wickets. Total eight team, Munshipara Krira Sangstha, Mintu Smrity Sangsad, Professor Colony, Ghagot Krira Chakka, Pelican, Young Pagacious, Gorsthapnara and Septent teams are participating at the 20 over cricket league.

Prices of essentials up in Magura

MAGURA, Mar 24: Prices of some essential commodities have shown an upward trend in the district with the advent of holy Ramadan causing great hardship to fixed income group, reports UNB.

Fish, vegetables, meat, milk and almost all other daily necessities are also in short supply in the market.

Each kilogram of small fish now sells between Taka 60 and 70 in different markets in the town and its adjoining areas. The big fishes are not available.

Wheat and rice prices are also on the rise in almost all the upazilas of the district due to shortage of ration goods.

Each kilogram of wheat sells at Taka 12 per kg and that of rice between Taka 13 and 14 in the open markets.

Sugarcane farming

About 1,526 acres of land have been brought under sugarcane cultivation in the district during the current season.

According to official

sources, about 24,000 metric tons of sugarcane worth about Taka 1.38 crore will be produced if the project is implemented successfully.

Faridpur Sugar Mills authorities will disburse an amount of Taka 35 lakh among the sugarcane cultivators for the success of the programme.

The source also added that the mills authorities will open eight centres at Kalinagar, Belanagar, Parnanduali, Chaulia, Katakhal, Ichakhada, Najrapur and Khamarpara in Magura district for the supervision of sugarcane cultivation and purchase of sugarcane from the growers.

100 AL supporters join JP

Over 100 activists of Awami League including the Vice President of Kuchiamora union joined Jatiya Party in a meeting held at Borasoly in sadar upazila recently.

Universal pry edn plan faces problems

From Our Correspondent

KURIGRAM, Mar 24: The Universal Primary Education Programme (UPED) has been facing problems in nine upazilas of Kurigram district.

It is gathered that dilapidated condition of most of the primary school buildings, inadequacy of furniture, shortage of teachers are ascribed as the main hurdles deterring the education programme in the district.

Besides, abnormal high price of paper and other educational appliances, financial stringency of guardians and other social factors are also deviating the children from the opportunity to have primary education.

The primary school houses which were damaged by floods, storms, cyclones and other natural calamities during the last few years have not yet

been repaired in rural areas and this is no less a harmful problem. In most of the schools, students have to attend classes keeping themselves standing for shortage of benches and accommodation.

It is learnt that the Upazila Primary Education officials have been provided with residence so as that they can devote themselves to duty but this has created cleavage among the teachers.

Moreover, roofs of many school buildings have been severely damaged. Many of the schools are holding classes under the open sky. Most of these schools have not sufficient arrangement for supplying pure drinking water.

According to informed sources, the quota of teachers in govt primary schools in the district are not maintained properly. Some schools with a large number of students have been facing problems for shortage of teachers. While many schools having requisite number of students have excess teachers.

It may be mentioned here that there are 541 govt and 110 non-govt primary schools in Kurigram district.

Sirajganj Pourashava polls Probable candidates active

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Mar 24: The probable candidates of the local pourashava election are seen active and they are coming in closer contact with the voters of the area.

Some of the probable candidates have already started arranging iftar parties at their respective residences and elsewhere of the town. This traditional social entertainment has begun from the first week of the holy month of Ramadan.

It is learnt from the District Election Office that the works on the voter list have in the mean time completed. After the completion of the union parishad elections, the probable commissioner candidates have started their preparations in advance to compete in the race.

Meanwhile, major portions of the walls and other public places have been occupied by the supporters of the candidates through wall paintings. Names of candidates seeking votes have already been written without the symbols.

The candidates are found attending public gatherings at places including the mosques during the nama' hours to exchange greetings with the voters.

Activities of the chairman candidates are still kept secret. At least eight candidates including the new faces are likely to contest for the post of chairman in the ensuing pourashava election.

It is gathered that the main political parties like BNP, Awami League, Jatiya Party and

Jamaat-e-Islami would set their respective party candidates for the post of Chairman. Lobbying for party nomination is going on, it is informed.

The date for the pourashava election has not yet been published but the election campaign is getting momentum at Sirajganj.

Faisal Wahid Rasel has been awarded gold medal for spontaneous debate in Jatiya Shishu Kishore Protijogita-92.

Rasel, a member of Jamuna Mukta Scout and a Rotaract of Sirajganj Rotary Club stood first in the item at national level.

Law, order situation deteriorates

From Our Correspondent

KUSHITIA, Mar 24: Dacotly, hijacking, rape, murder, clash and suicide have become rampant in Kushtia now-a-days.

Four dacotly including one highway dacotly were reported during the last 15 days. These were committed in Kushtia Customs Godown, Bheramara Health Complex Compound, in Khokhas town and other one is bus dacotly.

Murder of Naushad in broad day light in his Video shop at Majampur on February 27 created panic among the people. Police failed to arrest the killers of Naushad.

At least 10 persons were injured in rival groups clash in Majampur Union over land dispute on February 25. Similar clash took place in Mangalbaria Bazar a week back.

Another murder was committed in village Jhalupara, three miles' off from here when the victim Mirajul Islam was sleeping in a nearby rice mill.

On dagger point a hijacker snatched Taka 40 thousand from motor cycle rider when he was going to purchase tobacco in a village hat in Mirpur on Thursday last.

Another group of mastan ransacked hospital cabin and tried to hijack nurse on March 9 and this type of incidents have become frequent as hospital authority failed to get police help in time.

The body of an unidentified young woman was found in a field on Friday last near Chorakole railway station. Police said, victim was violated before being murdered.

Thirteen unnatural deaths were reported from Kushtia Sadar upazila during last 15 days. Police action against these incident in quite inadequate, it is informed.

Lalon shawaran utsab

Lalon Shawaran Utsab '92 was held here recently at Lalon Academy premises at village Chheuria.

The usual one day mela could not be held this year because of Ramadan. The mela was introduced by Lalon himself on the day of Chairtra Purnima.

Large number of Bauls came from various parts of the country to pay homage to their spiritual leader Fakir Lalon Shah.

Indian goods seized

Special patrol party of 3 Rifle battalion of Mirpur in

three separate raids in Alamdanga and Allar Darga recovered 307 Indian sarees, 56 Indian blouse pieces and 3 packets of Indian insecticide on the night of March 17, according to official source.

The value of the seized goods was estimated at Taka one lakh five thousand. The goods have been deposited in Kushtia customs godown. No body was, however, arrested in this connection.



RAJSHAHI: The RU Rover Scout launched a mass literacy programme for the boys of the dining rooms of 12 residential halls of the university recently. — Star photo

Notes from Pabna

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Mar 24: A 51-member committee of Pabna district unit for 'Annihilation of the Killers and Collaborators of 1971' was formed at local Press Club auditorium recently.

The meeting was presided over by Dr. Illias Iftekhar. Addressed among others by Advocate Golam Hasnaen, Advocate Abdur Razzak, Advocate Anjad Hossain, Anwarul Haque, Advocate Shamsul Haque Tuku.

The speakers supported the public trial of Golam Azam on March 26.

Mosquito menace

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

There are good number of drains, garbages, roadside ditches in the pourashava area which are filled up with water-hyacinths act as the breeding centre for mosquitoes.

People urged the concerned authorities to take necessary action in this regard as early as possible.

Birth anniversary observed

The 104th birth anniversary of Sri Sri Thakur Anukul Chandra, a religious preceptor observed here recently.

A 3-day long programme was arranged at Himayet Satangha Mondir of the district town on this occasion.

The programme was inaugurated on March 18 and continued upto March 20. A peace procession, discussion meeting, group prayer and cultural programme were held on this occasion.

Rabindranath Sarker, President of Satsangha Mandir presided over the meeting.

About ten thousand followers of Anukul Chandra attended in the programmes from different districts of the country.

Tanti Parishad meet held

A general meeting of Tanti (Weavers') Sangram Parishad was held at Dogachi Kulunia ground recently.

Presided over by Abdul Hye Farooque, the meeting, was attended by Abdur Razzak, President of Central Tanti Sangram Parishad as chief guest.

Addressed among others by Md Shafiq Ahmed, Md Shahidullah, Abdul Latif Biswas, Abdul Mazid, Mofazzal Hossain, Naosser Ali, Abdul Ohab, Ferdous Alam Geda, Mozammel Haque.

The speakers demanded the lower market price of all weaving inputs like colour, threads etc.

3 arrested with fire-arms

Three persons, arrested with a pistol and a pipegun here recently.

Acting on a secret information, police raided the house of Asraf Ali, an accused of a murder case. They recovered a pistol and a pipegun and arrested. Asraf Ali, alias Asai, Mujibur Rahman and Abu Taleb from his house.

A case was registered with Sujannagar thana.

BNVO committee formed

An 11-member committee of Bangladesh National Volunteer Organisation (BNVO) of the district committee was formed here at district BNP office recently.

Azadi Hasanat Pince, Acting President of district BNP, presided over the meeting.

Farhad Ullah was elected as Convener of the committee.

One gets two months RI

Munshi Shaful Haque, upazila Magistrate has sentenced one person to two months Rigorous Imprisonment (RI) and fined Taka one thousand in default to suffer RI for 20 days more on charge of illegal cutting of a tree recently.

It is informed that Taleb, Moazzem of Gopalnagar-Jame-Mosque cut a tree of Rabela Bewa.

Rehala Bewa appeared at the upazila court after failure of local justice.

Newly married housewife beaten to death

SATKHIRA, Mar 23: A newly married housewife was allegedly beaten to death by her husband at Dhulanda in Tala upazila on Saturday, reports UNB.

According to family sources, the victim Shima Rani (21), married to Pankaj Das of the same village just a week before was passing her new life in her husband's house.

But on the fateful day Shima was entangled in a family feud following which she was beaten mercilessly causing her instantaneous death.

The body was sent to hospital for postmortem.