Upazila roundup

FARIDPUR

Indian silk sarees worth Tk 7 lakh seized

Mar 25: Contraband Indian silk sarees worth about Taka 7 lakh being ferried in a boat were seized in a police swoop on river Padma, reports UNB. Charbhadrashan police also nabbed three persons allegedly

smuggling in the consignment. Police said they launched the raid on a tip and recovered 2,279 pieces of Indian silk saree from the country boat near

The sarees were kept in 22 gunny bags concealed under rice bags.

Sarees markets in the country are now humming as Eid-ul-Fitr is drawing near.

JAMALPUR

Gopalpur.

Misappropriation of wheat protested

Mar 25: About 3,500 people of Malandah upazila staged a sit in demonstration in front of the Upazila office on Tuesday protesting alleged misappropriation of wheat under Food for Works Programme (FWP), reports

The sit-in began at 10 am and continued for four hours. Demonstrators alleged that 50 tons of wheat allocated for 5 projects under FWP were not distributed and instead sold in the open market.

The wheat was lifted from the food godown on Monday, they said.

After completion of works, the workers were told that there was no wheat in the godown.

The demonstrators handed over a memorandum to the anti-corruption bureau demanding punishment of the responsible persons.

GAIBANDHA

Tk 23.40 lakh for development of 6 pry schools

Mar 25: The government has sanctioned Taka 23 lakh and 40 thousand for the development of six government primary schools under Sadar upazila in the current fiscal years, reports UNB.

According to official sources the work is expected to be completed by June next.

Besides, earth work of Badiakhali-Nurulgonjhat and Gafbandha-Lakmipur road under Sadar upazila is going on the full swing under growth centre programme.

The government has sanctioned ninety two metric tons of wheat for the work.

COMILLA

Fugitive criminal arrested

Mar 25: An infamous criminal was arrested from Jagapur village in Sadar upazila on Saturday, police said, reports

Acting on secret information, police raided a house at Jagapur village in the night and nabbed Serajul Islam alias Shishu Mia, a fugitive criminal

Police said six criminal cases including 2 dacoity were filed against him with the Kotwali and Chawdagram police stations. He was absconding for the last 5 years.

Another report adds: Acting on tip, Devidwar police with the help of Gunaidhar south union parishad chairman recovered 13 stolen cows from two hideouts at Kasharikhola and Ganeshpur villages on

MYMENSINGH

Independence Day programmes

Mar 25: In observance of the Independence and National Day, Agricultural University here will hold a colourful march past at its stadium in the morning of

March 26, reports UNB. Prof N Ashraf Ali Khan Vice Chancellor of the University will formally hoist the National Flag and take salute from the parades, varsity sources said.

Boys Scout, Cub Scout, Cirls Guides and Yellow Birds of local KB High School, University Rover Scout, Muktijodha Sangsad will take part in the march past.

The other programmes of the day are: Vice Chancellor of the university will pay homage to the memory of the martyrs at the Freedom Fighters' memorial tomb, special prayers for the salvation of martyrs and illuminating the central Shaheed Minar in the evening.

CHITTAGONG

Threat to newsmen condemned

Mar 25: Leaders of different organisations here on Tuesday expressed deep concern over and condemned the threat to Daintk Eishan journalists by a group of musclemen on Monday night, reports

The musclemen threatened Dainik Eishan journalists of dire consequences over a news item concerning arrest of an absconder in the city. A police press release was the source of the news as mentioned by the

In separate statements they said that showing of muscle power to journalists was contrary to democratic norms and those who threatened journalists of Dainik Eishan had no respect for democracy.

They called upon all concerned to exercise patience and see reasons before going for action concerning any mat-

KAPTAI

Passing out parade of new sailors

Mar 25: The passing out parade of a batch of new entry sailors of the Bangladesh Navy was held at BNS Shaheed Moazzam here on Monday, according to an ISPR press release, reports BSS.

About 200 new entry sailors divided into different trade groups took part in the parade marking their induction in the Bangladesh Navy.

Anisur Rahman, Secretary, Ministry of Defence reviewed the smartly turned our parade and took salute at the impressive march past as the chief guest. He also distributed awards among the outstanding

Speaking on the occasion the Defence Secretary urged them to translate into practice the valuable training they acquired from this institute to build themselves as worthy

Rahman also urged them to acquire the highest standard of professional efficiency through constant efforts in keeping with the motto of the service "in war and pace invincible at

Among others, naval officers and guardians of the new entry sailors were also present on

CHUADANGA

VDP Ansar rally held

From Our Correspondent

Mar 25: The annual Ansar and VDP rally of Damurhuda Ansar and VDP was held at Damurhuda Upazila auditorium recently.

Monsur Ahamed, UNO of Damurhuda Upazila was present on the occasion as the chief guest while Nazir Ahamed, district VDP and Ansar Adjutant was present as special guest.

The VDP club of Damurhuda and Joyrampur Female VDP Society were given a prize of Taka 500 each for their brave

Besides, footballs, volley balls, radio and sarees were distributed among the different VDP and Ansar clubs and societies of the VDP and Ansar of Damurhuda upazila.

In total 415 VDP and Ansar members including union leader, upazila commander and village leaders from the areas of Damurhuda upazila took part in the rally.

BARISAL

Muktijodha Sangsad's conference

From Our Correspondent Mar 25: The Council Conference of local Mutijodha Sangsad held here at the Barisal Development Society BDS) auditorium recently with Mohiuddin Manik Birprotic in the chair.

Captain Abdul Majed, mcmber, Central Command Council attended the conference as chief guest while Salma Begum, mother of Sahid Salim inaugurated the council con-

Among others Salma Begum, Nikhil Sen, Akkas Hossain, Wadud Sarder, Kuddus Mollah, Harun, Enayet Chowdhury and Captain Abdul Majed addressed the confer-

Many councilors from different upazilas attended the council conference with great enthusiasm after long eight



BARISAL: The council conference of the local unit of Bangladesh Muktijoddha Sangsad held here recently. - Star photo

9 mills in Khulna closed, 4,000 workers jobless

JESSORE, Mar 25: Over four thousand workers have been rendered jobless following the closure of nine big industries in Khulna Division re-

Reports received here from reliable sources indicate that political unrest, lack of capital, harassment by musclemen, misappropriation of funds. inadequate marketing facilities of the produced goods and shortage of raw materials have been the main causes of the lock-out of the industries.

Besides, absence of efficient administration, creditability of the management and recruitment of huge unskilled workers are also equally responsible for the total disarray.

According to Joint Director (Labour) of Khulna Division, out of nine industrial units, Metrometal Industries, National Iron Foundry, Quroeshi Steel Mills, KITC Cold Storage, Section Steel Industries, BMC, Shah Mokdhom Textile, Khustia Textile Mills are prominent.

All the workers of these industries have been thrown to uncertainty and passing a subhuman life. Seven of these in

From Our Correspondent dustries were declared lay-off

in 1987 and other two were closed down later. Some ice factories, two tennaries and the biggest rice mill of Galachipa are also on

the verge of closure. The condition of 2000 workers of BMC, Khulna in particular is nothing but beg gars description. Meanwhile, 14 workers of the factory have lost their lives for want of proper treatment, it is informed.

The concerned authorities have been urged to devise modalities to overcome the crisis and bring out a radical change in the industrial sector and help build up a healthy na tional economy for the greater interest of the nation.

Irrigation facilities inadequate

The farmers of four districts under G K Project have been deprived of irrigation facilities causing heavy losses of crop every year. irrigation can not be ex-

tended on any account to more than 70,000 acres of land where as the farmers are to of-

ficially show three lakh 50,000 acres under the project.

The farmers of the four districts, Kushtia, Chuadanga, Magura and Jhenidah grow aus paddy from February to June through irrigation. But the authority of G.K. Project fail to supply requisite water. During this season, the river Padma normally dries up and ironically the power supply falls short of the minimum requirement.

According to official source, during dry season the water level recedes and the pump machines can not work normally. As a result, pump machines with capacity to lift 1300 cusce of water can not pump out 60 per cent of the total capacity. This problem has been causing a heavy loss to the project as well as its beneficiaries.

The G.K. Project had a plan to set up a power sub-station of 132 KV to produce electricity in a massive quantity to meet the requirement both for water supply and extension of irrigation facilities and now it has become a question of time.

PDB office in Sylhet

Tk 22 lakh misappropriated

SYLHET, Mar 25: Some staff of the Power Development Board (PDB), Sylhet have misappropriated Taka 21,88,393 of the department in the name advance which is illegal.

The matter was brought to the notice of higher authorities in Dhaka and the authority formed an enquiry committee to probe it. The committee after an enquiry on 19.10.1991 submitted a report which showed gross irregularities. corruption and misappropriation of huge amount of money in Sylhet office of the Power Development Board.

According to the report, on June 19, 1991 the Executive Engineer, Assistant Engineer and two Sub-Assistant Engineers demanded an amount of Taka 2,88,373 to the Deputy Director (Accounts) as temporary advance. The Deputy Director denied to do so terming it as illegal. But, later on he was forced to issue a cheque amounting to Taka 2.88,373 which was signed by Superintendent Engineer and it was also drawn from the bank account by the party concerned.

It can be mentioned here that a number of vouchers amounting to Taka 7,35,000

From Our Correspondent

had been missing from the office. The authority did not file any case with the local police station nor did they take any official action against any of the staff of the office for the reasons not known.

Besides, works on different distribution lines and transformers were done at a cost of

6 women held with Indian sarees

COMILLA, Mar : Police arrested six women from Mainamati Railway Station, 5 kms from the town and recovered 64 pieces of Indian sa rees from their possession, reports UNB.

Acting on secret information, police raided the area and arrested Arjunder Nesa Monowara Begum, Mafia Khatoon, Nazma Begum, Matia Begum and another Monowara recenity. A case has been filed in this

connection.

Another report adds: Police recovered three pipe guns and 8 cartridges from Garak Bazar in Akhaura town and arrested Moti Mia (22) of village Andiba in Raypur upazila of Narsingdi district on March 18.

Take 19 lakh during 1990-91 But no record of these works were available in the Divisional Office. Accordingly, the engutry team termed the works as fake in its report.

The enquiry report further said that there was no system of payment in any code rule of PDB or any other department. The authority allowed the contractors to draw any amount as temporary advance which is quite illegal.

Besides, as per PDB code Volume-1, any work done by any contractors should be in the entry with the M B. But none of the procedures were found followed by the staff. The enquiry team further

observed that huge amount of money had been drawn and spent against the name of different works without following any official formalities. A number of works were done with out preparing any plan, design and survey which are quite violation of Departmental rules, the report disclosed.

The three-member committee submitted report five months back regarding the gross irregularities and misappropriation of huge fund but no action has yet been taken against the concerned staff of the department for unknown



RAJBARI: The local butchers use part of the roads as their shops which causes traffic jam Star photo and also pollutes the atmosphere.

lotes from Sylhet

From Our Correspondent SYLHET, Mar 25: Two hiacks were committed here recently.

According to a report, one Nazrul Islam was attacked by the hijackers near Lauai Primary School while he was on his way to Hewapara area of the town along with his wife on a rickshaw.

In an another incident, Mona and Rimi, two medical students were attacked by the hijackers at the Kean Bridge. They were going to the railway station availing themselves to the Jayantika Express in the early morning. The hijackers took away all their belongings.

Two separate cases had been lodged with the Kotwali police. No arrest has yet been reported.

Brother, sister roasted alive

One Mamun (9) and his sister Popy (6) were roasted alive in a tragic fire at Mogaltola area of Kazirbazar in Sylhet town recently.

According to a report, the fire reportedly originated from a kerosine lamp of the kutcha house of one Warts Ali, a retired employee of Health Department and the fire engulfed to the adjacent house. On the day of incident, Waris Ali and his wife were asleep in the adjacent house. Their children Mamun and Popy got trapped in the thatched house. So they could not get out of the house. Later their roasted bodies

were rescued.

On getting information, the fire service personnels were reached at the spot and brought the fire under control.

Rival groups clash leaves one dead

One Modoris Ali (25) killed in a clash between two groups of villagers over fishing in a canal at village Daorai under Jagannathpur of Sunamganj district recently.

According to a report, the clash took place when some persons of a group were fish ing in a canal of the said village and then another group tried to fish in the same place. The clash was continued between them for about three hours.

The body of Modoris had been sent to the Sylhet M A G Osmany Medical College lospital for post-mortem.

Two separate cases had already been registered with the Jagannathpur Police Station in this regard.

Hijacking bid foiled, 10 get stab injuries

A broadday light hijack bid was foiled in Sylhet town recently.

According to a report, a gang of miscreants tried to snatch away Taka 2.50 lakh from two persons at Ambarkhana. The miscreants were fled in the face of resistance by the passers-by leaving 10 persons injured.

The police seized a microbus which was used in the incident and arrested one hijacker.

It is gathered that Hazi Abdul Malik of village Scotarpar under Chhatak upazila of Sunamganj went to Ambarkhana by a rickshaw along with his uncle Shafiqul Islam after drawing a cash amount of Taka 2.50 lakh from a bank at Laldighirpar area Just after, they got down from the rickshaw, a microbus carrying 6 to 7 persons reached there and gheraoed them all on a sudden.

Later the miscreants got down from the microbus and swooped on them. At that time, Malik was bewildered and laid down on the road alongwith the bag of money while his uncle Shafiqul Islam made a hue and cry. The miscreants were stabbed then persons including Hazi Abdul

The miscreants managed to escape. Injured persons were

admitted to the Sylhet MAG

Osmany Medical College The police had seized the microbus (no. Dhaka, Metro Cha-7657) used in the htjack

50 injured in Sirajganj clash

SIRAJGANJ, Mar 25 : At least 50 people wee injured in re-cruption of a feud between two mohallas of the town in a reconciliation meeting today at Homcobala Girls High School, reports UNB.

The gathering was convened by local leaders to resolve a dispute that occurred on Sunday between Bhangabari and Darogapatti over a tender called by the Power Development Board, leaving 15 people injured. In retaliation, Bhangabari

men assaulted a Jamaat leader,

Amjad Hossain (55) of Darogapatti at the gathering. The crowdy groups later set

fire to five shops at Darogapatti and 5 houses at Bhangabari.

Wheat want hits WFP works

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Mar 25 : Fifty per cent work of the projects under World Food Programme could not be completed for want of wheat in government godown rendering about 2 lakh workers unemployed during the current dry season.

Sources said, CARE and World Food Programme had taken up 132 projects through LGEB, Upazila Parisad, WDB and Fisherics Departments sanctioning 7077 metric tons of wheat of which 3466 metric tons were utilized for the

Most of the projects were left incomplete for want of wheat and some of which left altogether unused. As a result. about two lakh workers have become jobless.

Local people feel that the projects left incomplete will bring no benefit as these were done haphazardly. The district administration

has informed the higher au-

thority of the situation. But no measure had yet been taken in this direction. One killed in road accident One Abul Kalam(22) was

killed in a road accident on

Bheramara-Daulatpur Road at

Taragonia Bazar on Sunday last.

The victims is the resident of

village Nawda Kharara in Mirpur upazila. He was riding bicycle and was knocked down by a speeding bus No. Jessore BA 1050 and succumbed to injury in

Kushtia General Hospital. in another road accident

Munazat Ali (40) was seriously injured when his motor cycle met with a an accident. He was removed to Dhaka in a serious condition. Another rider of same motor cycle Awlad Hossain (30) was also injured and was admitted in local hospital of Gangni.

3 hurt in clash

Three persons were seriously injured when a clash ensued over a trifling matter in village Bilgatura in Pragpur union of Daulatpur upazila re-cently. The clash ensued while one was taking water from a tubewell in nearby mosque. The injured Jharu (35) and Gias (32) have been admitted in Daulatpur Health Complex and injured Lal Muhammad was shifted to Kushtia General Hospital.

Three commit suicide

SATKIIIRA, Mar 25: Two women and a boy committed suicide by taking poison in the district on Monday, police sources said, reports UNB.

They are: Fatema Khatun (22), wife of Fazar Ali of Ghona and Bakul Rani (22), wife of Hazrat of Pakpara and Ataur Rahman Khan (11), son of Insar Ali of Patharghata in Sadar upazila. Family feud and poverty

were stated to be main reasons behind the incidents. Three separate cases were

filed with the Satkhira police.

BCL-Shibir clash, 10 injured the issue for upholding the

RANGPUR, Mar 25 : Ten people were injured in a clash between members of "Ghatak Nirmool Committee" and the activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir at the Station Road in the town Tuesday, police said, reports UNB. Witnesses said the clash

the Islami Chhatra Shibir protesting the public trial of their leader Prof Golam Azam came under attack by the supporters of the committee. Anwarul Islam; Secretary Chhatra League (A-A) district

erupted when a procession of

unit, Aftabuzzaman of the same party and Debashish Dash of Chhatra Union were among the injured. The members of the committee during the clash also

set on fire some copies of the Daily Sangram. A public meeting on Tuesday expressed solidarity Coordination Committee for Annihilation of killers and

Collaborators of 1971". The meeting, held at the public library premises with Khalekuzzaman in the chair,

urged all to remain united on

spirit of the Liberation War. It was addressed, among by Comrade others.

Jasimuddin Mondal, Advocate

Golam Mohiuddin and

Shajahan Alam Shaju. Another report from Netrokona adds : Similar meeting was held under the auspices of local "Ghatak Nirmool Committee at the Shahid Minar premises in the

town urging all progressive

forces to come forward to

stage the public trial of Prof Golam Azam. The speakers at the meeting warned if the public trial on March 26 was disrupted by the administration, the gov ernment would be held re-

Presided over by Faizur Rahman local convenor of the committee the meeting was addressed, among others, by Golam Ershadur Rahman Shamsuzzoha and Ali Osman

sponsible for any consequence.

Different political and cultural organisations of the district also expressed solidarity with the committee.

Six canals will

be dug on

voluntary basis

canals will be dug on voluntary

BHOLA, Mar 25: At least six

Scarcity of drinking water

NAOGAON, Mar 25 : Acute scarcity of drinking water is prevailing in different parts of the district causing anxiety to the villagers, reports UNB.

ground water level fell below the required limit due to drought. The water level of the river Chhoto Jamuna passing through the district has fallen sharply and most parts of the

It is learnt that a good

number of tubewells now re-

mained inoperative as the

river have become dry. Fall of water level and persisting drought may hamper IRRI cultivation in the district, farmers said.

Diseases like dysentery and

diarrhoea might break out in

the district for lack of pure

water, if the present situation

persists, the villagers said.

basis in five upazilas of the district in the current year under Canal Digging Programme of the government, reports UNB. Of the total, two canals will be dug in Sadar upazila and one each will be dug in

Borhanuddin, Lalmohan,

Daulatkhan and Charfeshon up-

azilas of the district. Meanwhile, the digging work of two canals in Sadar and Lalmohan upazilas is in full swing and is expected to be completed soon.

Another report adds: A 6,30 kilometre long canal is being dug in Nazirpur upazila of Pirojpur district under the Canal Digging Programme.

460 uplift projects implemented

the district under Food for Works Programme during this financial year, reports UNB.

Official sources said, 630 metric tons of wheat were utilised for implementation of these projects. Of the total projects, 99 were implemented in Sadar

upazila, 57 in Mirzagani up-

aztia, 76 in Kalapara upazila and 146 in Salachipa upazila. The projects included construction and repair of embankments, educational institutions and development of

hats and bazars. About 40,000 acres of land have been brought under intensive Rabi crop cultivation in the current scason. Of the total, 2459 acres

have been brought under boro cultivation, 200 acres under potato cultivation, 1,000 acres under piper cultivation, 1,000 acre under sweet patato cultivation, 1,000 acres under vegetable cultivation, 600 acres of land under sugarcane cultivation and 31,000 acres of land have been brought under different varieties of pulse cultivation, official source said.

Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation has been distributing High Yielding Variety seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and other necessary inputs among the farmers at fair prices to made the scheme a success.

of 460 uplift projects were completed in six upazilas of