Upazila roundup

COMILLA

UNICEF staff visit slum uplift project

From Our Correspondent Mar 27: Two representatives of UNICEF, Nancy Godfra and Elizabeth Kilminar have visited the Katabil Slum Improvement Project here re-

The representatives discussed with the slum dwellers and the chairman of the slum area, Selim Munsi about their problems, future programme

and achievement. Among others Md Shamsul Huq, ADC (Rev) Dr Shamsul Huq, Civil Surgeon M R Chowdhury and M A Muin, UNICEF officials, Padma Sinha, Engineer, local pourashava, Dr Md Shafiqul Islam and other persons were present on the occasion.

SYLHET

cently.

Dacoits loot goods worth Tk 1.50 lakh

From Our Correspondent Mar 27: A daring dacoity was committed in the house of one Haji Yusuf Ali at village Hossainpur under Dewanbazar union of Balaganj upazila re-

The miscreants looted away valuables worth about Taka 1.50 lakh from the house.

According to the reports, the organised gang of miscreants armed with fire arms attacked the house at about 1 am in the midnight. They entered into the house through opening several rounds of blank fire and breaking open the doors.

They beat the inmates of the house and tied up some of them with ropes.

In the meantime, some people hearing the gunshots started shouting through the microphone of the mosque. The dacotts soon managed to escape from the house alongwith the booty.

The houseowner Yusuf Ali has registered a case in this connection accusing some people of the village. After the daring dacoity, people of the surrounding villages have been in tense and passing their days through worries.

KUSHTIA

Use of firewood in brickfields rampant

From Our Correspondent

Mar 27: Use of firewood in all the brickfields of the district are going on unabated de spite government ban.

Deputy Commissioner, Kushtia called a meeting of the brickfield owners a month back and urged them to lift coal from government depot and warned against use of wood as fuel.

But the brickfield owners did not obey the orders and continuing their brick burning with wood instead of coal Even small trees and bamboo roots could not escape from the greedy wood cutters.

Such use of firewood in brickfields causes ecological imbalance and knowledgeable sources apprehended decertification in the area.

It is learnt that felling of trees in Kushtia, Chuadanga and Meherpur districts has been rampant and afforestation is not done in comparison with

Firewood is used openly in the brickfields but the concerned authorities have not taken any action for the reasons best known to them. Environment conscious people have urged upon all concerned to take necessary steps in this

SATKHIRA

the deforestation.

Sale of substandard note books unabated

From Our Correspondent Mar 27: The sale of note books is going on unabated in different upazilas of the dis-

It is informed that substandard note books are selling here by some unscrupulous traders despite government restrictions

Guardians complained that the students are becoming dependant on these note books which are full of errors and distortion of facts.

Local elite urged that the law enforcing agencies should take stern action against that unscrupulous traders who are publishing sub-standard note

MYMENSINGH

Minor boy rescued from hidden grave

From Our Correspondent Mar 27: Phulpur thana police had rescued a six-year-old boy from a hidden grave re-

It is gathered that he was kidnapped on March 7 from his house. The kidnappers demanded a ransom of Taka five lakh.

Acting on a secret information, a police team led by Inspector, Hasnat Nazmul Alam, Officer-in-Charge of Phulpur thana cordoned the graveyard at village Charputia and discovered the hidden

It is learnt that police discovered the mouth of the grave which was covered by an earthen pot. The grave contained a tunnel which led to a makeshift room with living arrangements.

Later, police arrested three persons from that mysterious grave. The arrested persons were Budhia (60) and his wife Amina Begum and one Duikkha. Further investigation is in

progress, police sources said.

FENI

Tk 8.50 lakh Indian goods seized

Mar 27: The BDR person nel seized Indian goods worth Taka 8.50 lakh conducting raids in two inter-district trains on Tuesday night, official sources said on Thursday, reports UNB.

They arrested Md Belal and Md Shahjahan for possessing illegal goods while conducting the raid in Mohanagari and Karnaphuli trains.

Acting on a tip, a group of BDR men of 28 Rifle Battalion halted Mohanagari at Fen Station and recovered banned goods items from two com partments of the train. They setzed contraband goods from one of the bogies of Karnaphuli

The seized items included 1,200 pieces of Indian sarees and wine. The goods were handed over to Customs offi-

Two separate cases were filed with Feni police and GRP in this connection.

RAJSHAHI

Health complexes in problems

From Our Correspondent

Mar 27: Shortage of doc tors, medicines and equipment in health complexes at Tanore, Godagari and Puthia upazilas have been creating problems to the patients.

The existing 31-bed are quite inadequate with the increasing demand of the pa-

The doctors, nurses and other staff working in each hospital is inadequate to meet the patients' demand. The treatment facilities can not satisfy the demand and consequently the patients go back disappointed.

CHANDPUR

Road needs repair

From Our Correspondent Mar 27: The condition of Chandpur-Faridganj Road has long remained unrepaired causing inconveniences both to the vehicular traffic and pedestrians

The 12-km long road is the main road of the upazila. Hundreds of buses, trucks rickshaws and other vehicles ply on this road daily Foodgrains, jute, paddy and other commodities are transported to and from Chandpur through this road.

Due to absence of proper care cracks and potholes have

developed on many points. The road becomes muddy after slight rainfall which causes problem to the vehicu lar traffic and pedestrians.

MAGURA

2 commit suicide in a day

Mar 24: Two people allegedly committed suicide in a day in Salikha upazila of the district last week, reports

According to police. Drupodi Biswas (15), daughter of Atul Biswas of village Boroichara committed suicide by taking poison on March 17.

Chandana Rani Mitra (30), wife of Robindra Nath Mitra of village Ghoramara allegedly committed suicide by taking potson on the same day. Family feud and poverty were the rea

sons behind the suicide. Separate U/D cases were registered with the police



COX'S BAZAR: The influx of Myanmar refugees still continues. The refugees are coming from Teknaf border to take shelter at Dhechuapalong refugee camp. -Star photo

Facilities meagre in health complexes

Quacks dominate rural areas treatment

From Our Correspondent

KURIGRAM, Mar 27: The number of quacks is increasing in all the upazilas of the district day by day. Quacks are found at every

village of Kurigram sadar, Ulipur, Chilmari, Rowmari, Rajibpur, Rajarhat, Fulbari, Bhurungamari and Nageshwari upazilas of the district.

Over 80 per cent people of the district live below the poverty line. The problem of unemployment is becoming acute day by day and as a result the youth community of the country is suffering from frus-Being faced with unem-

ployment problem, many youngmen of different areas of the district are seeking sources of income for their survival. Finding no other alternative, a good number of jobless youngmen of the district have taken quackery as their profession.

A large number of graduates are found among the quacks. The number of HSC passed youngmen taking up quackery is also high. Many boys on completion of their primary education are earning money by means of quackery. The main centre of business of the quacks are the local hats and bazars of the district. They are also found in other places of the country for earning the livelihood. Some government health

workers are also found in this profession in the rural areas of the district. They informed that the poor people of the rural areas prefer this treatment as this is comparatively The people of the rural ar-

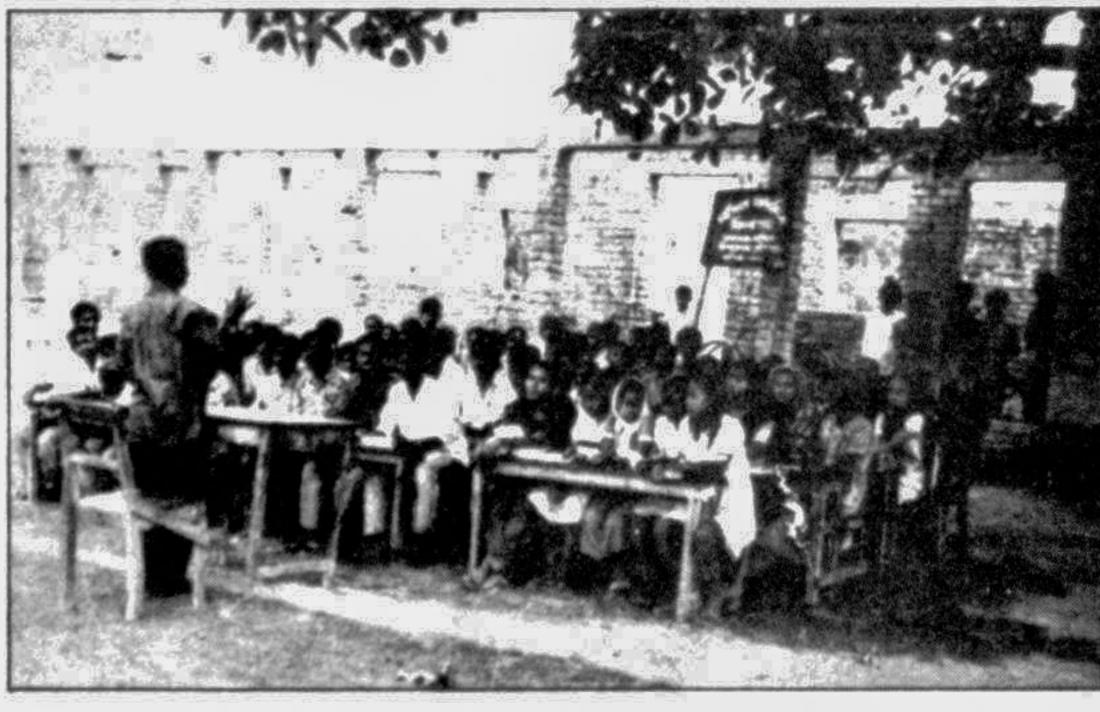
eas are attacked with various diseases including the diarrhoea go to the quacks for necessary treatment. The health complexes set

up at every upazila headquar-

ters are beset with multifarious problems. Patients are deprived of medical facilities at the health complexes. Some dishonest doctors and other staff of the health complexes take gratifications from the poor patients for providing them with prescriptions and medical treatment. Being harassed by them, the helpless poor patients go to the quacks instead of going to the health complexes.

As the system of communication is precarious, the pa tients are generally reluctant to go the qualified doctors at upazila headquarters and district town. The poor patients from the rural areas can not engage qualified doctors.

Some poor village people informed that the quacks exploit them. Many of the patients die because of the wrong treatment of the quacks, they informed.



JESSORE: The students of Mashila High School are attending classes under a banyan tree. -Star Photo

High school has no house

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Mar 27: Mashila High School under Chowgacha upazila in Jessore have been facing multiple problems.

The school has no building, furniture and other facilities. The students have to attend classes under open sky and sometimes under banyan tree The existing chair, table and other furniture can not meet the demand of the number of students and as such the teachers face it difficult to take classes. Sometimes the students are found to attends classes standing for want of benches.

The situation worsens during the rainy season. The venue of the school is then

5,55,828 Kg of winter crop seeds sold

BARISAL, Mar 25: Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC) has sold 5,53,828 kilograms of different varieties of seeds for winter crops in four southern districts of the country till the last week of February, reports The districts are : Barisal,

Jhalakati, Bhola and Pirojpur. According to an official source, the seed were of boro, wheat, potato, mustard, maize

and vegetables A total of 95,433 hectares have been brought under win I ter crops in these districts

changed and classes are held in a nearby primary school. As the accommodation is meagre, the classes are then run in two shifts. The timing of the classes is fixed suffixing and prefixing the primary school hours. This is purely a local arrangement made by the authorities of both the schools for their mutual benefit and co-existence.

With the increase in population, the number of students is also increasing. The present number of students is below 400 but the figure is likely to exceed 500 as the admission to different classes is going on.

The SSC result of the school is satisfactory. Twentytwo candidates, out of total 64, came out successful in 1991. Eighteen students came out successful last year It can be mentioned here

that the school first sent SSC candidates in the year 1988. In the arena of sports and other activities, the school has oc cupied a noted place in the The school has requisite

number of qualified teachers and making steady progress despite all bottlenecks.

At present, the school needs a building to take up classes regularly. It is reported that the local upazila parishad took up a development scheme under the Annual Development Programme after the first election of the upazila chairman

Accordingly, the construction of the school building was

started but is was suspended for acute shortage of fund. A four-roomed house for the school was constructed up to the lintel level at a cost of Taka one lakh and fifty thousand. One of the four rooms was completed by borrowing money which is yet to be re-

The source of the school is limited and that why there is chance of any fund to complete the school building.

In order to provide educational facilities to the rural students, the government should come forward and take up the school on priority basis in the greater interest of na

UZ Officer succumbs to injuries

FARIDPUR, Mar Upazila Social Welfare Officer of Charbhadrashan succumbed at the Faridpur General Hospital on Saturday, reports

According to police and hospital sources. Shirajul Islam (45), was hit by a speeding bus at Munshirbazar, 10 km from The irregular and inadehere on Faridpur Barisal Highway while he was returning home on a motor bike Friday night

He was rushed to the hospital in a critical condition. A case has been registered with Kotwali thana

Notes from Satkhira

From Our Correspondent SATKHIRA, Mar 27: Many hotels and restaurants of the town remain open at day time despite the government order.

The Deputy Commissioner in a meeting held recently urged all concerned to close the hotels and restaurants at day time in the month of

But the order is being violated by the hotels and restaurants owners. As a result, the devoted Muslims of the town are facing inconveniences.

It is informed that the local authorities were fixed up the price of beef and mutton at Taka 45 to Taka 75 per kg. But the price has increased by Taka 5 in per kg, it is complained.

Local people have urged the concerned authorities to take drastic initiative against the dishonest traders.

One beaten to death

One Asia Khatun (18), house wife was allegedly beaten to death by her husband recently.

It is informed that one Nur Mohammad of village Gopalpur under Kaliganj upazila was married the victim of the same upazila two years back.

Recently, Nur Mohammad demanded dowry to his fatherin-law. But he failed to provide that dowry. As a result, Nur Mohammad beat his wife mercilessly and she died on the

The body was sent to the Satkhira Hospital for postmortem.

A case had been lodged with Kaliganj Police in this connection.

Folio scarcity

The daily activities in the local Judge Court and Collectorate have seriously been hampered due to acute crists of folios in the district treasury recently. The litigants are facing im-

mense difficulties obtaining certified copies of cases due to the existing crisis of folios. A folio is being sold at Taka 5 to Taka 10 in place of their fixed price at Taka 2. Meanwhile, the local bar

has handed over memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner to take immediate action to redress the grievances to the litigants.

Mosquito menace

Mosquito menace has become a serious threat to public health in Satkhira district

There are a number of ponds and ditches which are of waterhycinths and garbages. These are the main mosquito breeding centers The pourasava authority did not take any initiative to clear

these ponds and ditches. The students who prepare their lessons at night are the worst victims of mosquito

biting. It is complained, the concerned authorities seem to quite unaware of the peoples' woeful plight.

One robbed of Tk 31,000

A man was robbed of Taka 31,000 in the town on Saturday by a gang of miscreants, police said.

According to witnesses, Jagannath Adhikari of Nurnagar in Shyamnagar upazila was attacked and over powered by the miscreants while he was shopping in the morning and snatched away the money.

The miscreants made good their escape riding their mo-

tor cycles. A case has been filed with local police.

Cement price up

Sudden rise in the price of cement is affecting the construction section of the district for the last few weeks. informed sources said that the price has triggered by the

local markets. Dealers of TCB said that they were getting much less than the normal quota due to

short supply of cement in the

poor stock of cement. The private trades and shopkeepers were also getting reduced quota from government factories at Sylhet and Chittagong due to low produc-

Prices of essentials

The prices of some essentials commodities have recorded a rise with the beginning of the holy Ramadan. The people especially the low and fixed earning groups are the hard-hit by the price

quate supply of some essential commodities like rice, wheat, flour, sugar and edible oil has aggravated the situation. The prices of different va-

rieties of rice have risen by Taka two per kg.

Poura inhabitants for proper civic amenities

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, Mar 27 About 35,000 inhabitants of the local pourashava have been passing miserable life due to absence of civic amenities in

In fact, there is no proper drainage system in the poura area. The people of the town appealed to the poura authority several times for the construcing the tourists feel it insecure tion of drains. The authority without any plan constructed four drains in the area during the last five years which do not also work properly.

The communication system of the district town is very bad. Only 45 per cent of the total roads are pucca. The existing roads are becoming unfit for use for want of proper maintenance and repair. These become muddy after a slight rainfall. The roads are narrow for which traffic jam occurs

ber of buses, trucks and other transports ply on the Cox's Bazar-Chittagong, Cox's Bazar-Teknaf routes. The passengers especially the women and children suffer much for want of a bus terminal. They are to wait under the open sky for hours together for buses on different routes. The absence of any toilet increases the sufferings of the passengers much. The drivers of buses park their vehicles here and there for which traffic jam is created now and then.

There is no bus terminal at

the town though a large num-

The inhabitants of the town do not get adequate water for their daily use. Only 25 per cent are provided with water supply. This number of people also deprived of water as the

electricity supply is irregular. Most of the light posts have no bulb. Ninety per cent of the sodium lights have gone out of order. The local people includ-

to go outside at night. The only one market of the town is in the grip of manifold problems. The buyers and sellers have been suffering much for want space and drainage system. Garbages are found stockpiled here and there from which bad odour

The number of public toilets is too inadequate with increasing demand of the public. Moreover, the totlets are kept so dirty.

Recreation facility in the town is totally absent. The people especially the young people have no means to pass their leisure time. Some people informed that the young boys are found involved in antisocial activities for want of recreational facilities. The children have no other alterna tive to pass their time. The concerned authorities

have been urged to take immediate steps to extend requisite civic amenities to the resident of the pourashava and mitigate the sufferings.

Abortive bid to loot Tk 8 lakh from bank

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Mar 27 : A group of miscreants attempted to loot about Taka eight lakh from the volt of Sonali Bank Jagati Sugar Mills branch on the early hours of Tuesday last.

The miscreants break open

the grill and entered into the branch office and tried to break open the door of the strong room. Being failure to open the door, the miscreants ransacked the office furniture. The guard of the Sonali

Bank branch when came to attend office at 8 a. m. found the scene and informed the Manager of the incident. It can be mentioned here that the bank branch is 100

of the sugar mill where guards are performing duties round the clock. A case has been registered with the local police station in

yards away from the main gate

this connection and none has been arrested so far. A daring dacoity was committed on the same night in the house of one Babar Ali of village Yoususpur under Daulatpur upazila. The dacoits

looted valuables worth Taka

30,000 and stabbed the house owner and his son, Arab Ali. The dacotts also looted tobacco worth Taka 10,000.

The condition of Babar Ali

was stated to be critical. A case has been registered with the local Mirpur thana in this con-The police raided the house of one Mokbul Hossain and ar-

rested Younus and recovered a country-made rifle from his possession. A case has also been registered with the thana in this

connection. The Jamaat-e-Islami, Kushtia unit brought out a procession against the arrest of Professor Golam Azam and

demanded his release.

The processionist paraded the main streets of the town and chanted various slogans. Later, they held a rally at

Majampur which was presided over by Forhad Hossain. General Secretary of the party. The speakers at the meeting criticised the government

for awarding detention to

the district during the cur-

rent wheat cultivation season.

The harvesting of wheat are

A total of 40 thousand acres

going in the district is going in

of land was brought under the

wheat cultivation during the

216 tubewells

to be installed

From Our Correspondent

MAULVI BAZAR, Mar 27:

Golam Azam.

full swing.

current season.

7,000 tons of potato produced

From Our Correspondent CHUADANGA, Mar : Over 7,000 metric tons of potato have been produced in four upazilas of the district during

the current season. Of the total production, 2,000 metric tons of potato have been produced in Chuadanga sadar, 2,000 metric tons in Alamdanga, 1,600 metric tons in Damurhuda and 1,400 metric tons of potato have been produced in

Jibannagar upazila. This year, a total of 1750 acres of land was brought under potato cultivation in four

upazilas of the district. The price of potato has fallen abnormally in the district as the new production has flooded the local market. At present, the potato is being sold between Taka three and 3.50 which the growers informed is bellow than the cost

of production. Oath taking

The oath taking ceremony of the newly elected members and chairmen of the union parishads of the district was held at the Sadar upazila auditorium recently.

In all six new chairmen and 54 members were present at the oath taking ceremony which was presided over by the Deputy Commissioner of the district, Tajul Islam. The Upazila Nirbahi Officers of the district and other officers were also present on the occa-

The six new UP chairmen who took oath were Belal Hossain of Alokdia UP, Elias Hossain of Monipur UP, Moslem Ali Sarker of Padmabila UP, Mohsin Ali of Kutubpur UP, Shamsul Haque of Begumpur UP and Saidur Rahman of Titudah UP.

Wheat production About 40 thousand metric

Public Health Engineering Department of Maulvi Bazar with the financial assistance of UNICEF will install 216 tubewells in Six upazilas of the district in current fiscal year. Of the total tubewells, 30 will be sunk in Rajanagar, 60 in Kulaura, 36 in Kamalgonj 24 in Sreemongal, 20 in Baralekha and 46 in Maulvibazar Sadar upazlia.

After the installation of these new tubewells, 21 thousand 6 hundred people of the areas will be benefited

Another report says: At least 931 tube wells out of 12,325 have been lying out of order causing acute scarcity of pure drinking water in six upazilas of the district for the last

having plastic pipes chocked up after a few months of the installation. The existing tubewells cannot meet the requirement of the villagers. Meanwhile, due to paucity

rivers causing widespread outbreak of intestinal diseases.

repair those defective tubewells even after bring to notice

to PHED.

few months. Villagers said the tubewells

> of pure drinking water, the villagers have been using water from tanks, ponds, canals and

There no arrangements to tons of wheat are expected to be produced in four upazilas of