

Upazila roundup

MADARIPUR

Lack of civic amenities

**From Our Correspondent**  
Mar 27: Civic amenities in Madaripur pourashava have been absent for a long time. It is complained that the residents have not yet been provided with essential urban facilities despite upgradation of the Sub-division in district. The narrow roads and lanes of the pourashava are causing much difficulties for pedestrians and vehicles. Due to lack of proper maintenance, numerous holes are filled with filth and garbage which have turned into mosquitoes breeding centres. There are no public toilets. So, people use roadsides which pollute the town atmosphere. Recreation facilities are completely absent in the town. The people of the town urged the concerned authority to take step to redress the sufferings of the town dwellers.

SYLHET

Minor boy crushed to death

**From Our Correspondent**  
Mar 27: One Nek Miah (9) was crushed under the wheels of a speeding truck on Sylhet Airport Road recently. According to a report, on the day of incident at about 9 am, the victim was crushed under the wheels of the truck while it was on the way to Salutikor to Sylhet town. He died on the spot. The truck was seized by the police. The driver managed to escape from the spot. The body was sent to the Sylhet M A G Osmany Medical College Hospital for autopsy. A case in this connection had already been registered with the Kotwali Police Station.

BOGRA

Public trial of Golam Azam protested

Mar 28: Islami Ghatra Shibir brought out a procession in the town Friday last protesting the verdict of the so-called People's Court in Dhaka pronouncing death sentence on Jamaat leader Golam Azam, reports UNB. Witnesses said, the processions paraded main thoroughfares of the town and also burnt copies of special bulletin of local dailies — Dainik Korotoa and Dainik Uttarbarta — at Satmaha in the town. Tension was prevailing in and around the area. Meanwhile, district Jamaat leader Shahidur Rahman was seriously injured after a cocktail was hurled at him here on Thursday last.

JOYPURHUT

Lathi charge on procession, five injured

Mar 28: At least five people were injured when police resorted to lathi-charge on a procession brought out by 'Ekatturer Ghatka-Dalal Nirmul Committee' in the town Friday last, reports UNB. Witnesses said police suddenly went into action on the procession without any provocation when it reached near the post office this afternoon. Later at a press conference, the committee leaders alleged that a police high official ordered the lathi-charge on the peaceful procession at the instigation of his brother-in-law who is a Shibir activist. Tension gripped the town after the incident as the committee and other socio-political organisations brought out protest processions in the evening condemning the unprovoked police attack.

PABNA

Freedom fighters' executives

Mar 28: Election to the district freedom fighters command council was held here recently with Aurangzeb Bablu and Abul Kalam Sarwar as its Commander and Deputy Commander respectively, reports UNB. Other office bearers are: Abdul Baten — Organising Secretary, Habibul Islam — Publicity and Rehabilitation Secretary, Abdul Latif Salim — Finance Secretary, Nuruzzaman Bablu — Social Welfare Secretary, Mahbub Rashid — Cultural Secretary and Alauddin — Member Secretary. Nurul Amin, a central leader of the organisation attended the meeting as the chief guest.

COMILLA

Indian sugar worth about Tk 2 lakh seized

Mar 20: BDR personnel have seized a huge quantity of Indian sugar worth about Taka 2 lakh from Purnabazar area of Kashba upazila of the district, recently, reports UNB. Acting on secret information, a BDR patrol party from Ganga Sagar special camp recovered the goods on March 17 from a truck. The truck was seized but none was arrested in this connection. A case was lodged with Kashba Police Station in this connection.

THAKURGAON

400-yr-old statue recovered

Mar 28: The BDR recovered a 400-year-old statue made of touchstone worth about Taka four lakh from a frontier village in Balladanga upazila of the district on Thursday last, reports UNB. Acting on a tip, a BDR patrol party of Parja border outpost went to village Bamunia in Paria union of the upazila and recovered the precious stone. A worker of Rangpur-Dinajpur Rural Service (RDORS) found the stone from a pond in the area while re-excavating the pond. The 26x12 inch statue weighing about 15 kilograms was deposited to the local Customs authority.

NARAIL

Landless, unemployed people on rise

Mar 28: The number of landless and unemployed people is gradually increasing in all the three upazilas of the district, reports UNB. The number of educated unemployed people is also on the rise creating social unrest, informed sources said. Of the 8 lakh people in the district, 60 per cent were compelled to give up their vocation and take up other occupations and the remaining 30 per cent are unemployed. Of the agriculturists, 60 per cent are landless, 30 per cent are marginal farmers and only 10 per cent have lands of their own. The shortfall of foodgrains is a regular feature and the marginal and landless farmers can not cope with the increasing prices of agricultural inputs, fertilizer, seeds, pesticides and bullocks.

CHITTAGONG

Contraband goods worth about Tk one lakh seized

Mar 28: A special squad of the Detective Branch of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) in two separate raids recovered some contrabands worth about Taka one lakh from different parts of the city, reports BSS. According to a CMP press release, the special squad on a tip-off found the contrabands at Station Road and Hazari Lane. The goods included 100 pieces of Indian sarees, 300 bottles of phenistyle and 90 bottles of gripe water.

AGRI-VARSITY

Housewife beaten to death

**From Our Correspondent**  
Mar 28: One Kamala Khatun (30), a housewife was beaten to death by her husband in Purohitpara of Mymensingh town recently. According to family sources, Nasiruddin husband of Kamala was involved in anti-social activities for a long which Kamal did not like. On the fateful day, Nasiruddin demanded some money from Kamala. Nasiruddin got angry at the refusal of her wife. At one stage, Nasiruddin started beating Kamala and she died on the spot. Police recovered the body and sent it to the morgue for autopsy. Police has arrested the husband of Kamala.

RANGAMATI

2 non-tribals missing

Mar 28: Two non-tribals missing since March 16, are now feared to have been abducted by the tribal terrorists, family sources said here, reports UNB. Abdur Rashid (32), and Abdus Shakur (30), fishermen of Reservemukh in the Rangamati town have been missing after they went for fishing in the Karnafully lake. No case has yet been filed.



RAJSHAHI: Reuter, Bangladesh Bureau Chief, Atiqul Alam addressing the annual conference of RU Press Club held at the Kazi Nazrul Islam hall Auditorium recently. — Star photo

More sports facilities for youths needed

**From Our Correspondent**  
SHERPUR, Mar 28: Sports facilities in all the educational institutions and sports clubs of the district are inadequate. The situation was quite different a few years back when different kinds of games were played with great enthusiasm. The people at large, especially the students community took active part in each games. Local games like kabadi, swimming, rowing were very popular. But now a days, the situation has changed completely. Facilities for different games and sports have become meagre and consequently popularity has suffered a marked decline. Lack of fund, absence of initiatives and the indifference of the local administration have contributed to the present condition. The District Sports Association which looks after the development and promotion of sports in the area has failed to come up with the expected initiatives. The education and sporting clubs suffer due to lack of cooperation from the District Sports Association Committee. The committee also can not provide with suitable funds and sports materials to the educational institutions and sports clubs, it is informed. Some sports organisers opined that earlier the young boys were found busy with various games and that helped them keep their body and mind fit for the studies. But now, these young chaps and found gossiping at restaurants and on road side. Sometimes, they are found involved in anti-social activities for want sports facilities in which they can devote their time and energy. The concerned authorities have been urged to take steps to increase sports facilities to the young generation to keep them fit for studies and keep them aloof from anti-social activities. A group of dishonest traders are exploiting the paddy, rice, mustard, chilli, kalai and jute sellers by malpractice in weighing at different markets of the district. It is informed that the organised group of traders add more weight to the standard stones. As a result, the accurate weighing stone varies from the original one by one to two seers per maund. The sellers thus deprived of the said amount by that buyers. The group is so united and organised that all the weighing stones are made in the same way. The victims urged the concerned authority to take steps to check the malpractice by detecting frauds through spot enquiry.

Pest attack damages paddy on 3000 acres

BRAHMANBARIA, Mar 28: At least 3000 acres of IRRIBORO crops have been destroyed by pest attack in three upazilas of the district, farmers said, reports UNB. The pest locally known as 'Pamri poka' caused an extensive damage to standing crops although pesticides had been sprayed on the field. The farmers alleged a section of unscrupulous traders in collaboration of the officials are selling adulterated pesticides in the markets at high prices. After repeated appeal to the relevant officials no action has yet taken against the adulterators. They urged the higher authorities to look into the matter and take necessary measures to spray pesticides in the cropfields. Four people including two house wives allegedly committed suicide on the same day at Nabnagar upazila. Police said, Nayantara (25), wife of Rabi Miah of Krishnanagar west village allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself on March 14. Family feud is said to be cause of her death. Hena Begum (25), wife of Humayun Kabir of Kurinal village allegedly killed herself by taking pesticide. Madan Miah, of Attiara village allegedly committed suicide by taking poison. The cause of his death could not be ascertained. Abdul Gani (70) of Bajitpur village committed suicide by hanging himself. Separate cases were lodged with Nabinagar police station.

Arrangement adequate but facilities meagre in hospital

**From Our Correspondent**  
JAMALPUR, Mar 28: Jamalpur General Hospital has been running with limited facilities to a large number of patients for the last two years. About 15 lakh people of this district hoped at the beginning that they would get specialised treatment. But their hopes had been shattered as a good number of sophisticated equipment could not be used due to shortage of technicians. On the otherhand, patients suffer badly for shortage of medicines and obstinate attitude of some physicians and absence of other facilities. The hospital has five departments where the authority posted 12 doctors and other technicians. The posts of two doctors, two consultants and other posts are lying vacant for a long time. The Gynecology Ward is now facing acute shortage of medicines like gentaunaxi, sedative and injection seduxen. Some doctors engaged in pathological test force patients to get their pathological tests from an outside firm inspite of its own pathological facility which is rich with modern equipment. There is no blood bank in the hospital. The patients with tetanus, jaundice and other viral diseases are not getting proper treatment. There are allegations that the doctors do not pay attention to the patients properly rather they advise them to consult him at his private chamber. Some local people complained that some staff of the hospital take money for admission to the hospital and for supplying medicines. Some patients of the hospital informed that the food supplied to them are of low quality. It is further informed that some staff of the hospital are engaged in selling medicines to the owners of the pharmacies of the town.

Female smokers' number increasing

BAROUNA, Mar 28: The number of female smokers is increasing day by day in the rural areas of the district, reports UNB. Anti-smoking movement has been launched in the town and publicity has been going on in this regard but there is no publicity campaign against smoking in the rural areas of the district. A survey reveals widening tendency among the old women to puff tobacco particularly in the mill and bidi factory areas of the district. The smoking tendency is found among the landless and labour classes of people in the district. About 20 per cent are smoking bidis and 80 per cent are smoking tobacco dusts locally known as 'nosha'. Three people, including a woman, committed suicide in Patharghata upazila of the district during last 24 hours, police said. Being rebuked by her husband Kulsam Bibi (25) of village Patharghata chose the path of self-destruction by taking poison. Golam Mostafa (25), son of Nur Muhammad of village Baduriala, hanged himself at his residence following feuds with his father. Asgar Ali (28) of village Raihanpur committed suicide by taking poison as his third wife quarreled with him and left his house in anger. Young drug addicts The number of young drug addicts is increasing alarmingly throughout the district causing grave concern to the guardians. According to a survey, most of the drug addicts are students who are addicted to drugs like liquor, opium, morphine, tablets, mirza sanjiban sura and other types of alcohol. It is learnt that most of the addicts visit pharmacies and medicine shops soon after sunset to procure intoxicants. Some dishonest traders taking advantage of the situation were doing brisk business by selling drugs to the young men without prescriptions. Local people alleged the district town and its adjoining areas have turned into open markets for illegal drugs mainly smuggled from India and Burma by well organised gangs. Facilities Department under the Ministry of Education has distributed 1,09,300 sets of books among the primary students of five upazilas in the district recently. According to official sources, of the total, 35,400 sets were distributed among the students of class one, 25,000 sets among the students of class two, 30,400 sets among the students of class three, 15,700 among the class four students and 12,500 sets among the students of class five. With the distribution of books primary education under Universal Primary Education Programme will get further boost in the district.

Poster-cartoon show on war criminals '71

**By Nilratan Halder**  
KUSHTIA, Mar 28: Quiet Kushtia's quest for a cleaner Bangladesh — politically speaking — has ever remained unwavering. Even long before Bangladesh emerged as an independent country on the world map, a village on the bank of the now-drying river Goral just opposite to Kushtia town had been fortunate enough to be the birth place of a patriot par excellence and famous anti-colonial revolutionary Jatindra Nath Mukherjee popularly known as Bagha Jatin. Today, people of this small town fondly recollect the unique record of not only repulsing the first Pakistani attack on it but also bringing the whole batch of invading Pakistani army to bite the dust in 1971. Equally sadly, they reminisce the following unsparing destruction of the Golam Azam. A brain-child of a soft-spoken, most unassuming young artist with a frail body, Ili Khan by name, the posters have unsparingly criticised and caricatured in bold sketches with Golam Azam, Abbas Ali Khan, Moulana Mannan, Matiar Rahman Nizami and company focusing mainly on Professor Azam. Wit, sarcasm, pointed, precise and highly convincing strokes have found, in profusion, their interplay to draw enough blood out of the bizarre. But Khan's speciality lies in the fact that he has never fabricated things. Painstakingly did he collect the collaborators' own statements published in various dailies and weeklies in those heady days of 1971. On that account he has been quite true to history. In fact, he has told history of the best of times and also worst of times through the medium of his personal specialisation. Not surprisingly, the exhibition generated tremendous enthusiasm among Kushtia people. Roughly, 2,000 people visited the exhibition daily, according to one of the organisers. The comment book is a prof of the hatred viewers have poured on Golam Azam and others of his clan. Someone has even took pain to make a rough sketch in his inept hands of the killer professor and suggested he be given a dose of his own medicine. Notably, Golam Azam is known to have advised the Pak army to hang people then supporting Bangladesh from foot upside down. This, he thought, would exercise people of the ghost of Joy Bangla.



town by later reinforcement of Pak soldiers. Then they would reverently add how more than 100 Indian army men with three tanks had perished in the first assault assiduously carried against the marauding Pakistanis before Kushtia became free. After 21 years, Kushtia, along with the rest of the country, is still fighting the pro-Pakistani Jammat-e-Islami quite gallantly. Sundar, a cultural organisation of the town and devoted to fostering the country's tradition and cultural heritage, is waging the war on its specialised front. Declaring its solidarity with the on-going movement against war criminals of 1971, it arranged a poster-cartoon exhibition from March 23 to 25 at the premise of Kushtia Public Library. Opened for the public from 9 am to 9 pm, the posters dealt with the hottest political issue of the country now —

Pledge to consolidate country's sovereignty

**From Our Correspondent**  
SIRAJGANJ, Mar 28: Independence and National Day was celebrated in the district in a befitting manner. Various political and socio-cultural organisations took up day-long programme which includes placing of floral wreaths at Shaheed Minar, march past rally, milad mahfil and seminars to observe the day. District and upazila units of Bangladesh Muktijoddha Sangsad accorded reception to wounded and martyrs Freedom Fighters families and vowed to eliminate killers and collaborators of 1971. BSS from Narayanjanj says: The Independence and National Day was celebrated here with a fresh pledge to consolidate the sovereignty of the country. The day's programme was heralded with the 31 gun salute in the morning. National Flag was hoisted atop public and private buildings. Cadets, police, ansars, boys scout, girl guides, rovers and blue birds held a march past at Chashara Osmany Stadium in the morning. The Deputy Commissioner, Narayanjanj took the salute of the march past and gave away the prizes among the winners. A good number of modern armaments and military hardware were put on display at two naval warships — BNS Tista and BNS Tawfik — in the river Shitalakhya for public view. A discussion on the significance of Independence Day was held at Ali Ahmed Chunka Library in the afternoon. Speakers at the meeting paid tributes to the heroes of the Liberation War of 1971.

15 shops, dwelling house gutted at Akhaura

BRAHMANBARIA, Mar 28: Fifteen shops and a dwelling house at Dewan market in Akhaura upazila was completely gutted in a devastating fire on recently, reports UNB. The fire originating from an electric short circuit soon engulfed the adjacent areas and charred the shops and the house including the valuables. The extent of damage was estimated at about Taka 10 lakh.

Notes from Magura

MAGURA, Mar 28: Work on the construction of 29 bridges and culverts in four upazilas involving an amount of Taka 43.75 lakh is going on in full swing, reports UNB. According to official sources, Taka 14.75 lakh has been sanctioned for construction of 9 bridges and culverts in Sadar, Taka 10.95 lakh for 8 bridges and culverts in Mohammadpur, Taka 9.16 lakh for 6 bridges and culverts in Salkha and Taka 8.89 lakh for construction of 6 bridges and culverts in Sreepur upazilas. The work is expected to be completed by June this year. After completion of the work, road communication and irrigation facilities in the district would be improved to a great extent.

Indian goods recovered

Police recovered Indian goods worth about Taka 39,200 from two buses at local bus stand here recently. Acting on secret information, police raided the buses of Dhaka-Khulna route and recovered Indian sarees, lungis and other clothes. Local people alleged that smuggling of contraband items is increasing in the district with the advent of Ramadan. An influential section of people in collaboration with the law enforcing agencies are allegedly active in this heinous act. Local elite have urged the authorities to take stringent action against the smugglers and their collaborators to save the local industries.

20 injured in rival groups clash

At least 20 people were injured in a clash between two rival groups at village Kanutia in Mohammadpur upazila recently. According to the police, the clash ensued over the possession of a disputed land. Both the groups used lethal weapons during the clash. Five seriously injured were admitted to Mohammadpur Upazila Health Complex. A case has been registered with the Mohammadpur Police. Tension is prevailing in the village and local people apprehend the recurrence of the clash at any time.

92 tubewells installed

Social Welfare Department has sunk 92 tubewells in Shalikhia upazila during the current fiscal year under Rural Health Service Programme. According to official sources, the Upazila Social Welfare Department also distributed 33 dwelling houses and 165 low cost sanitary latrines free of cost among the distressed people. The department also disbursed an amount of Taka 9 lakh interest free loan among the Samabaya Family members to run their business in order to attain self sufficiency. It also distributed 3,500 saplings among the interested people under the tree plantation programme and imparted training to 684 mothers on child health care.

One killed in road mishap

A youngman of village Kadirpara in Sreepur upazila was killed in a road accident on Magura-Kamarkhali Highway recently. According to witnesses, the victim Kiamot Ali Mondol (30), was knocked down by a speeding bus while he was crossing the road. He was rushed to the general hospital where he died after a few hours. The driver, however, managed to escape with the vehicle. The body was sent to morgue of postmortem. A case has been registered with the police.

Two youngmen stabbed to death

JHENIDAH, Mar 28: Two youngmen were stabbed to death in two separate incidents during the last two weeks, reports UNB. Police sources said, twelve gangsters wearing musk attacked Shahabuddin (30) at Bahadanga Cane Purchasing Centre of Kaliganj upazila at dead of night on the 6th of this month and stabbed him. The cause of the attack could not be unearthed yet. In the second incident, Mukter (22) of village Shawratala of Kotechandpur upazila was stabbed to death allegedly by another daring youngman Ruhul Amin of the same village. Eyewitness said a quarrel broke out between the two as Mukter went to a cane field to bring back his cow after grazing in the afternoon on Tuesday. At one stage, Ruhul Amin got furious with Mukter and stabbed him.