

Upazila roundup

RANGPUR
Tigress kills her own cubs

From Our Correspondent
Mar 31: A Royal Bengal tigress had eaten up her two newly-born cubs at Rangpur Zoo recently.
It is gathered that tigress gave birth to three cubs on March 19 at Rangpur Zoo.
According to the zoo authority, the cubs born in immature stage. After three days of birth, tigress swallowed her two cubs while rest one died due of illness.
It is alleged that tiger cage at Rangpur Zoo was not spacious which made inmate Royal Bengal Tiger irritated and turned violent. This might made tigers cater of her beloved cubs, the zoo authority apprehends.

KUSHIA
Contraband goods worth Tk 4 lakh recovered

Mar 31: The Bangladesh Rifles personnel in a raid Saturday last recovered 200 kgs of bronze metal, ten VCPs including ten remote controls, and 6,180 metres of polyester cloth worth about Taka four lakh from village Alamkhali under Kushtia sadar upazila recently, reports BSS.
A BDR press release said the contraband goods were deposited to the Kushtia customs authorities.
In another raid, the BDR personnel recovered 5,610 kgs of bronze metal valued at Taka 842,050 from village Goraganj under Jhenidah district.
The goods were handed over to the customs authorities, the press release said.

PABNA
3 young men run over by truck

From Our Correspondent
Mar 31: Three young men were killed on the spot Saturday last when a speeding truck ran over a motor cycle on the Pabna-Shahjhatpur highway.
Police said Sunday that Lal Mia (20), Nazrul Islam Badal (21) and Manirul Islam (21) of Manila village in Bera upazila of the district died when a Bogra bound truck jumped on their motor cycle from behind near Patgarj village on the highway and sped away.
A case was lodged with Santhia police while the victims were buried in their village home.

SHERPUR
One electrocuted

Mar 31: One person was electrocuted at village Madhya Kumari under sadar upazila recently, reports BSS.
The victim Abdul Awal was transplanting IRRI saplings in his land. Suddenly a bamboo pole of electric line fell on him and he died on the spot.

COMILLA
Mujib's birth anniversary observed

Mar 31: Pro-Awami League Chhatra League Chawara College unit organised a discussion meeting in observance of the 72nd birth anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman recently, reports UNB.
Held at the college auditorium, the meeting was presided over by Shafiqur Rahman Convenor, Chawara College unit of BCL and ex-GS of the students union.
Among others, the discussion meeting was participated by Prof Alkazar Rahman, Joint Secretary, Comilla Zila Bangabandhu Parishad, Abdur Rahman Chowdhury and Abdur Razzaque.
The speakers recalled the contribution and sacrifices of Bangabandhu towards liberation of the country.

MADARIPUR
Three commit suicide

Mar 31: Three persons including an old man in Rajor upazila of the district have allegedly committed suicide for different reasons recently, reports UNB.
The persons were identified as Nore Mazumder (58) of Arnakandi village, Raje Moral (24) of village Amgram Dakshinpara and Mrinal Kanti Mazumder (19) of village Ullabar.
According to sources, both Raje and Mrinal committed suicide disgusted from family feud while Nore take his life unable to bare the severe pain from piles. All of them are said to have hanged themselves.
Three separate UD cases have been filed with Rajor police station in this connection.

MANIKGANJ
IRRI, boro fields under pest attack

Mar 31: IRRI and boro fields in different areas of the district have been invaded by pamri and mazra insects causing panic among the farmers, reports UNB.
According to district agriculture office, about 20,000 acres of IRRI and boro lands have been attacked by the pests.
The affected upazilas are Shibabaya, Ghor, Harirampur, Daulatpur, Singair, Sadar, Satura and Singur upazila.

BRAHMANBARIA
Preparatory meet on Baishakhi Mela held

Mar 31: A preparatory meeting to organise a week long Baishakhi Mela by Shahitya Academy, Brahmanbaria was held at industrial school here recently, reports BSS.
The meeting was presided over by Dr. Faridul Huda, Former State Minister while Deputy Commissioner, Brahmanbaria Khabiruddin Ahmed was present at the meeting as chief guest.
Among others Paurashava Administrator Shah Alam, Dr. Ahmed Al-Mamun and Joydul Hossain, General Secretary of Shahitya Academy took part in the discussion to make the Baishakhi Mela programme a success.

GAZIPUR
Sangbadik Samity executives

From Our Correspondent
Mar 31: The conference and the election of the executive committee of local Sangbadik Samity Journalists Assoc) was held at Gazipur Press Club premises with Badrul Haider Chowdhury in the chair.
Alhaj Jaam Uddin Chowdhury, Deputy Commissioner of the district formally inaugurated the conference and attended the function as chief guest.

SATKHIRA
One killed in road mishap

Mar 31: A rickshaw passenger was killed and another one injured seriously when a truck hit the rickshaw near Bankal bridge on Satkhira-Kaliganj road on Saturday last, reports UNB.
The deceased identified as Abul Kashem (35), was killed on the spot. The accident took place when the speeding truck from opposite direction smashed the rickshaw.
The injured passenger was admitted to Sadar hospital. The body was also sent to morgue autopsy.
Police seized the truck, but the driver, however, managed to escape.
A case has been filed with local police.



PABNA: Due to absence of ambulance in Pabna sadar hospital and upazila health complexes, the people are to use rickshaw van to remove patients. —Star photo

Govt deprived of revenue
Trucks assembled by smuggled parts

JESSORE, Mar 31: Trucks are locally assembled here by the parts available here through smuggling and these are on sale at a cheaper price causing heavy losses to government revenues.
Reports received here from different sources indicate that motor parts are being smuggled into Jessore market from across the border daily. These are being assembled in some local workshops by a group of skilled mechanics regularly.
The chassis those are being used is made of plates of broken ships. The truck that assembled here is not inferior to that of imported one. This quality of new trucks are coming out of the garages frequently.
The system of marketing and registration is more strategic, it is learnt. These trucks are available at Taka four lakh while the imported one costs Taka nine lakh.
The registration of these vehicles is issued by the Motor Vehicle Department on the basis of papers which are fake. It is informed that the authority takes extra Taka 30 to 40 thousand per vehicle to issue documents. There is agency exclusively for this purpose.
The extra money is taken in the name of preparation of bill of entry, in voice of truck manufacturing company of India, duty paid receipt and the sale receipt.

BDR-BSF meet
UNB reports adds: A two-day meeting between Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and Indian Border Security Force (BSF) held in Khulna recently.
Brig Iftekharul Bashar will lead the BDR team while BSF team will be headed by Brig Shankar Sen.
They are expected to discuss matters relating to cross-

border smuggling and transactions, river piracy, border incidents and other issues towards maintaining peace in the border, officials said.

Mother, child killed in road mishap

A speeding bus rolled over a rickshaw in Monirampur upazila of the district recently killing a five-year old boy and his mother on the spot.
The victims were identified as Zobeida Khatun (28), wife of Abdul Gafur of village Taherpur of the upazila and her son Nazmul (5).
Witnesses said the victims along two others were going to a picnic to Bagherhat a rickshaw van at about 5 am. The van was hit by another bus from back side at Taltola on Jessore-Keshabpur.
A case has been filed in this connection.

Minor boy, girl killed

A teen aged boy and a minor girl died in road accidents in the city today, police said.
Habibullah (18), motorist, was knocked down to death by a speeding jeep on Garibshah Road in the town.
In a separate incident, Ruma (3) was run over by a truck at Araburj in the town in the afternoon.

Notes from Maulvibazar

From Our Correspondent
MAULVIBAZAR, Mar 31: Local activists of Jamaat-e-Islami brought out a procession and held a rally here recently protesting the formation of Public Court to try their Ameer Golam Azam.
Processionists paraded the main through fairs of the town and chanted slogans slating 'Dalal Nirmoole Committee' and accused them of creating a civil war in the country. They also protested the price hike in the month of Ramadan.
Signaling fear of a political chaos, the Jamaat leaders at the rally said it might foil the hard earned democracy.

Rat menace

Rat menace has alarmingly increased in different areas of the Maulvibazar district causing extensive damage to crops.
Reliable sources said standing crops and vegetables on hundreds of acres of land in the rural areas have been invaded by rats.
Affected farmers failed to check the menace due to lack of necessary insecticides. No rat killing drive has yet been launched in the affected areas by the officials.
People of the urban areas of the district also complained of rat invasion mostly damaging kitchen garden where vegetable were grown in abundance.

Contraband goods recovered

Baralekha thana police seized worth Taka 24 thousand of smuggled Indian sugar from Hajiganj bazar of the district recently.
Acting on secret information, Baralekha thana police raided the spot and recovered one ton of contraband Indian sugar.
None has arrested in this connection. A case was registered with Baralekha police.

Mosquito menace

Mosquito-menace has taken a serious turn in almost all parts of the district causing problems particularly children and examinees of forthcoming SSC and HSC examinations.
Normal life has become intolerable with the growing menace of mosquitoes. The situation turns worse after sundown. Ditches, drains of poura areas and its adjoining areas were filled with dirty waters and garbage causing bulk breeding of mosquitoes.
Experts said that the mosquitoes and their larva have developed a resistance power within themselves which cannot be vanquished by spraying kerosene and larvicide.
People have urged the authorities to take effective steps to eradicate the menace.

Compulsory Pry Edn Programme
50 pc students don't attend classes

From our Correspondent
BOGRA, Mar 31: The progress of the Compulsory Primary Education Programme (CPEP) in the district is not satisfactory.
According to official reports, total number of six years old children in Bogra sadar upazila stood at 21,524 of whom 48 per cent are girl student.
During the month of January and February a total of 16,760 children took admission in 184 government primary schools of Bogra sadar upazila. But 4,764 students could not be brought in the school till March.
It may be mentioned here that CPE Programme was introduced in Bogra sadar upazila in the first face in January last when CPE Programme launched in one upazila of all the 64 districts of the country and remaining upazilas will be included in phases aiming at achieving education for all by the year 2000.
Out of total admitted students, about 8,000 students do not attend their classes. The reason of such drop out is that at the introduction of CPE programme parent admitted their children in the schools at the pressure of teachers, Union Parishad Chairman and Members and local 'matabbars'. But the poverty stricken parent cannot afford food and cloths for their children.
Instead of going to schools the children are to seek work for livelihood. Two consecutive academic months have lapsed but about 5,000 children in sadar upazila could not be brought to the school. They are still grazing cattle in the fields or engaged in any petty work for earning their livelihood.
Besides abnormal high prices of papers and other educational appliances, financial stringency of guardians and other social factor are also deviating the children from the opportunity to have primary education.
On the other hand, most of the primary school houses in rural areas were damaged by the calamities during the last few years and these have not yet been repaired. In these school students have to attend classes standing for shortage of benches and accommodation. More over roofs of many school building have been severely damaged. Many of the schools are holding classes under the open sky. Most of these school have not sufficient arrangement for supplying pure drinking water.

Property worth Tk 3 lakh gutted

DINAJPUR, Mar 31: Property worth about Taka 3 lakh was gutted and five cattle were roasted alive in devastating fire that broke out at Kuchilapur in Btrol upazila of the district last week, reports UNB.
Fire Brigade sources said the fire originating from the kitchen of Mahabbat Ali soon engulfed the adjacent areas and destroyed 70 houses of 16 families.
The fire was brought under control after frantic efforts by the fire men in cooperation with the local people.

Clashes leave 39 injured

JHENIDAH, Mar 31: Fourteen people including two women were injured in two separate clashes at Moheshpur upazila on Saturday, reports UNB.
At least 10 people were injured when clashes erupted between two rival groups of villagers over sharing of a shallow tubewell water. The clash ensued following a hot exchange between Abdus Sattar and his neighbour Abdul Motaleb.
In another incident four people were injured in a clash between two rival groups at village Khardkhalishpur. The clash erupted over the plucking of cotton from a Stimul tree.
Of the injured, 12 were rushed to the upazila health complex. Police visited the spots but no cases were registered.
Another reports from Habiganj says: At least 25 people including three women were injured, seven seriously, in a clash between two rival groups in village Bara Bahula last week.
According to the witnesses, the clash erupted when a group of people tried to dig irrigation canal beside a field of the rival group of villagers. Lethal weapons like lathi, ballam, spade were used in the attack.

Rat killing drive soon

MAGURA, Mar 31: Rat menace has increased alarmingly in four upazilas of the district causing extensive damage to crops, reports UNB.
According to the sources, standing crops and vegetables on hundreds of acres in different rural areas have been invaded by rats.

Problems hamper treatment in hospitals

From Our Correspondent
PABNA, Mar 31: The eight health complexes of the upazilas in the districts have been facing multifarious problems.
The problems include absence of X-ray machine, ambulance and shortage of essential drugs and surgical equipment.
Hundreds of patients coming from the remote areas of the district are bound to go back disappointed for want of proper treatment every day from the Pabna General Hospital and other health complexes of the upazilas.
Due to absence of ambulance, the serious patients can not be removed to other hospitals including the hospitals in Dhaka and other cities for better treatment.
Absence of X-ray machines in health complexes has increased the sufferings of patients and hence they are bound to take X-ray report from non-qualified but costly businessmen.
The supply of essential drugs in the health complexes is also inadequate. Life saving medicines are not available in the health complexes and hospitals for the serious patients. So, the patients are to buy such medicines from the outside pharmacies.
On the otherhand, the medicines supplied to the hospitals for the patients by the government are sold in the pharmacies. Some of the patients who pay extra money, are given the medicines, it is informed.



BOGRA: The embankment at Shariakandi to control flood and erosion of the river Jamuna is being damaged every year and thousands of people become landless. —Star photo

Royal Bengal Tigers deserve care

SATKHIRA, Mar 31: The tiger preservation scheme under taken by the Forest Department in the Sundarbans has been postponed for lack of fund.
The scheme, a part of an integrated project costing about Taka two crore was taken up by the Forest Department under the Second Five-Year Plan for the development and preservation of wild life in the country.
After initial work, the programme was dropped from the Annual Development Programme (ADP) by the government due to budgetary cut in 1985-86. It was decided that the project would be taken up in the next ADP but nothing has been done yet.
The tigers of the Sundarbans known as Royal Bengal Tiger are now rare species. According to the findings of a team of the World Wildlife Fund which conducted a survey of the forests of this sub-continent in the mid-sixties, the total number of this species of animals was estimated at about 2900 to 3000. The majority was in Indian reserve forest. The number has come down to 1750 over the last one and a half decades. The number of tigers has also declined further.
The team led by Lord Mountford visited the then East Pakistan in 1967 and submitted a report to the government stating that there were only 100 tigers in the

From Our Correspondent
Sundarbans.
Following the enforcement of the restriction imposed by the government on the shooting of animals in the Sundarbans, the number of both tigers and deer have gone up during the past two decades.
The Forest Department and a team for the Zoologists of Dhaka University carried out a study in some areas of the Sundarbans estimated the present number of tigers at 425. The number of deers was estimated at more than one lakh. This figures of tigers and deers may be inaccurate in view of absence of any census by any recognised agency.
The Royal Bengal Tigers of the Sundarbans are considered to be different from other animals of the same species found in the sub-continent are not man eater. But the Royal Bengal Tigers are man eaters.
To protect the tigers, the Forest Department declared an area of 125 square miles in three different places of the Sundarbans as sanctuaries of tigers where shooting and other activities had been prohibited.
Under the tiger preservation scheme, an official census was due to be carried out by the experts. But it could not be completed due to fund shortage. As the tigers of the Sundarbans are the pride of the country, its development and preservation deserve a

Dacoits kill one, loot valuables

From Our Correspondent
JHENIDAH, Mar 31: One Diplo Adhikari (22) was shot dead and looted away valuables worth about Taka one lakh by dacoits from a number of houses at villages Kabirpur and Jhaudia of the district last midnight Friday.
It was reported that at about 1 am a gang of armed dacoits numbering 8 to 10 at first raided the house of one Smarajit Saha of village Kabirpur and snatched away cash Taka, gold ornaments and other valuables.
Later on, the dacoits raided the houses of Radharaman Saha and Samsuddin Mastar of the same village and looted away valuables.
The dacoits also raided a paddy husking mill.