

**District roundup**

**JAMALPUR**  
**College Teachers Assoc unit confce held**

Feb 26: Annual conference of greater Jamalpur district College Teachers Association was held at the district public hall, reports UNB.  
Presided over by Prof Muzaffar Hossain, the conference held on February 15 was addressed, among others, by Deputy Minister of Health and Family Welfare Sirajul Haq, Prof Mujibur Rahman, Principal Munsurur Rahman and S M Yusuf Ali.  
A 32-member new committee was also formed in the conference with Prof Muzaffar Hossain as President, Prof Ali Akbar Fakir as Secretary and Prof Hafizur Rahman as organising secretary.  
A total of 132 teachers participated in the conference.

BSS report adds: A week-long eye camp under the joint auspices of Jamalpur Rotary Club and Bangladesh National Society for the Blind concluded here on Thursday.  
The concluding function was addressed among others by Rotarian Jalal Ahmed and Civil Surgeon Ashikar Ali.  
Twelve hundred patients were given treatment and ninety-five cataract patients were operated upon in the camps.

**NOAKHALI**  
**Gentex machines lying out of order**

Feb 26: Gentex machines of the Majdee Court and Chaumuhant public call offices have been lying out of order since long causing immense suffering to the people, reports UNB.

It is learnt that the machines went out of order due to damage in cable lines at Ekhaspur.

Scores of people coming to the public call offices to send messages to their relations and offices are to go back disappointed every day. Journalists and businessmen are the worst sufferers.

Local people urged the authority to repair the line without further delay.

**TANGAIL**  
**Girls' school annual sports concludes**

Feb 26: Tangail Bindu Basini Government Girls High School held its annual sports competition on Thursday at its play ground, reports BSS.

A total of one hundred and twenty students in two groups took part in the competition on twenty four items. The main events were fifty-meter, hundred meter, two hundred meter sprints, relay and biscuit races, obstacle and balance races, single and triple-leg-races. Aklima of junior group and Rokhsana Afroz of senior group became champions individual champions. Mrs Bishad Zaman distributed prizes among the winners. Mrs Rahima Khatun head mistress of the school presided over the function.

**CHAPAINAWABGANJ**  
**Three killed, two others hurt in road mishaps**

Feb 26: Three people including a minor girl were killed and two others injured in three separate road accidents in the town, reports UNB.

The victims were identified as Abul Kalam (15) of village Pathanpara, Sufia (5) of village Hozrapur and Tuhin (10) of village Dariapur of Nawabganj pourashava, police sources said.

According to witnesses, Kalam was killed at Oktrof crossing in the town when a truck knocked his bicycle from behind on February 20.

Sufia died on the spot when a truck hit their rickshaw on Chapainawabganj-Rohanpur road near police line on February 18. Both her mother and brother received injuries who were on the same rickshaw and admitted to Nawabganj sadar hospital. They were going to Gorralta.

Tuhin met the tragic end of his life when a mini-bus hit him on Chapainawabganj-Rajshahi road at Dariapur in Pourashava on February 17.  
Three separate cases were filed with the police.

**NATORE**  
**JCD sweeps college union polls**

Feb 26: The Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) swept over the students' union elections of Natore Government College held on Saturday, reports UNB.  
They bagged all the 21 seats in the polls held peacefully. Istiaque Ahmad Hira, Md Mostafizur Rahman Shaheen and Md Ahad Ali Talkuder were elected as Vice President, General Secretary and AGS respectively.  
Chhatra League (M-I), Ganatantrik Chhatra Oikya and Islami Chhatra Shibir also took part in the election.

**FENI**  
**Tk 56,000 looted from Rupali Bank**

Feb 26: A two-barrel gun with 20 cartridges and cash and valuables worth about Taka 56,000 were looted from a Rupali Bank branch here on Thursday, reports UNB.  
Police sources said the miscreants entered the bank by breaking open the main gate and decamped with the booty at dead of night.  
The night guard was not on duty during the incident, the bank manager said adding that he remained absconding since the incident.  
A case has been filed with the police.

**RAJSHAHI**  
**Livestocks dept inseminates 38,000 cows**

Feb 26: Livestocks department has artificially inseminated over 38,000 cows in Rajshahi, Natore, Naogaon and Chapainawabganj during the first six months of the current fiscal year, reports UNB.

The insemination has been done ahead of the target through one centre, 30 sub-centre and 25 other points of the department in the districts.  
During the period about 11,000 improved species of calves were born in the districts.

Meanwhile, Rajbarhat goat farm in Rajshahi so far distributed 495 Black Bengal goats and 56 she goats among the farmers since its inception in 1990.  
There are about 400 Black Bengal goats in the farm, says an official handout.

**KUSHITIA**  
**Amar Ekushey February observed**

Feb 26: Amar Ekushey February was observed here with due solemnity, reports BSS.

At one minute past twelve o'clock at night placing of floral wreaths started at Central Shahid Minar at Kushitia Govt College premises.

Prof Atahar Ali Dewan, Principal Kushitia Govt College placed floral wreaths first at the Shahid Minar. Md Abul Khair Deputy Commissioner followed him.

All political party leaders and student leaders placed wreaths there.  
The programme of the day included book fair, cultural function and discussion meetings.

**CHITTAGONG**  
**Contributions of social worker recalled**

Feb 26: Participants at a memorial meeting recently recalled contributions of Al Haj Nazimuddin Ahmad in social works and other fields, reports BSS.

Held under the auspices of Nazimuddin Smriti Sangsad in observance of his first death anniversary at the Muslim institute auditorium here, the meeting was presided over by sangsad president S M Abul Kalam. It was addressed, among others, by Freedom Fighter Kader Siddiqui, Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Engineer Ali Ahmad, Najibul Bashar MP, Chittagong Bar Association President Advocate Mahbubuddin Ahmed, Sangsad Member Secretary Mustafa Kamal Pasha.

The speakers said, late Nazimuddin was not only an Awami League leader but also an eminent social worker who extended generous contributions to educational institutions and other social services.



AGRI-VARSITY: The Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) Prof M Ashraf Ali Khan delivering his presidential address in the seminar on 'Lessons of Ekushey' held under the auspices of BAU club at the Shaheed Minar on February 21. — Star photo

**Tk 3.5cr timbers lying in Kaptai for three years**

RANGAMATI, Feb 26: About 70,000 cubic feet (cft) timbers worth about Taka 3.5 crore lying in Kaptai reservoir for the last three years are getting damaged and lost, reports UNB.  
These timbers were brought in river rafts under different valid documents including job permit, royalty permit and clear felling lots sold by the forest directorate.  
Job permit issued to an individual for extraction of timbers from his own land by the District Forest Co-ordination Committee headed by the Deputy Commissioner.  
The extractors submitted the valid papers to local forest office for issuance of transit pass on the basis of original papers. Possessing of transit pass is a must and pre-condition for transportation of any forest produces.

On the plea of government ban on extraction of timbers to maintain ecological balance, the forest department has been avoiding issuance of transit pass to these timbers extracted before the imposition of the ban, resulting in an unwanted impasse, the sufferers alleged.  
The affected timber traders urged the authorities to allow them to transit the timbers without further delay.  
A report from Khagrachhari adds: Excavation and re-excavation works on eight canals are progressing fast with an allocation of over 475 metric tons of wheat under food for works programme.  
According to Agricultural Extension Department, over 26 tons of wheat for Perachhara canal in sadar, over 61 tons for Dungkhirampara canal in Panchhari thana, 65

tons for Malschhari canal in Mohalchhari thana, 21 tons for Babupara canal in Dighinala thana, 93 tons for Kalapani-chhara canal in Ramgarh thana, 51 tons for Ajoyd-hamukh canal in Matiranga thana, 51 tons for Lemua canal in Manikchhari thana and 56 tons for Manikchhari canal in Luxmiechhari thana were allocated for the implementation of the project.  
The works started on December 12 last year are expected to be completed by the end of this month. Official sources said the banks of the canals will be used as roads and fruit-bearing trees will be planted on both sides of the canals.  
With the completion of the project crop cultivation will get further boost in the district.

**Child labourers rise alarming**

PABNA, Feb 26: Child labourers are increasing alarmingly in the district due to economic hardship of the poor families, reports UNB.  
According to a survey by social welfare activists about 15,000 child labourers, below 12 years are engaged in different odd jobs for earning their livelihood.  
Recurrent floods, cyclone, drought and other natural calamities have made the marginal and landless farmers destitute. The children of these poor families are compelled to make their livelihood in their tender age instead of going to school.  
Finding no other alternative, the poor parents rushed to unknown destinations along with their kids in search of food and shelter and com-

pelled their children to earn for the family.  
Child labourers work in hotels and restaurants, bidi factories, motor garage, workshop and houses as maid servant. Some of them are found plying rickshaw, working as hawkers, selling bidi and newspapers.  
Taking the advantage of their pecuniary condition, some unscrupulous businessmen and smugglers engage them in unlawful activities.  
According to the International Labour Organisation, no child below the age of 15 years is allowed to engage in any hard work. But in Bangladesh child labourers have to work for more than 12 hours at a nominal salary.  
Meanwhile, the number of female workers is increasing rapidly in the greater Pabna district due to economic crisis.

At present there are 25,000 female day-labourers in 18 thanas of Pabna and Sirajganj districts.  
A large section of female workers is unmarried. Heavy demand for dowry which their parents are unable to meet is the main reason for the situation.  
These female workers used to earn their livelihood by husking paddy and working in the brickfields. But now the opportunities for their work is completely absent in the rural areas for the establishment of rice mills in almost every villages.  
Local leaders have urged the authorities to take proper steps to rehabilitated the child labourers and female workers so that they can lead a decent life.

**Legal practitioners urged to uphold dignity of profession**

SYLHET, Feb 26: Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz has said that it is an imperative to sustain the concerted efforts of the bar and the bench so as to ensure speedy and impartial disposal of pending cases to deal out justice to the parties concerned, reports BSS.  
He was addressing the members of Sylhet Bar Association here at the Bar Bhaban on Saturday.  
Presided over by bar President advocate Abdur Gafur, the meeting was also addressed by General Secretary of bar Advocate Abdul Hye Khan local MP Khandakar Abdul Malek was present.  
Describing the legal practitioners as the most conscious

section of society, he called upon them to uphold the dignity and image of the profession by discharging their responsibility with honesty.  
The minister underlined

the need for bringing necessary amendment to age-old rules and regulations to suit the changing need.  
Referring to importance of the judiciary, Mirza Hafiz re-asserted that steps were being taken to bifurcate the judiciary from the executive.  
Later, law minister went round different departments of the district judge and session judge court and directed the authority to take immediate steps for necessary reconstruction of the dilapidated record room of the court.  
He also, talked to a number of litigators and beneficiaries and enquired about their pending cases.  
He also visited district registrar office and addressed the rally of deed writers there.

**PHE to instal 81 tubewells in Maulvibazar**

MAULVIBAZAR, Feb 26: Public Health Engineering Department (PHE) has undertaken a programme to instal 81 new tubewells and re-installing of 514 choked up tubewells in the district during the current fiscal year, reports UNB.

MAULVIBAZAR, Feb 26: Five people were killed and more than a hundred wounded when tornado swept over the villages of Kasba and Nabnagar thanas of the district on Thursday night, reports UNB.

The victims were identified as Tajutunnesa (70), Abdul Hannan (12) and Rafique Miah (11) of Chalk Chandrapur village and Ashraf of Bishara Bari village in Kasba thana and Rahima Begum (19) of Dhangura village in Nabnagar thana.  
At least 50 people were injured when the tornado lashed three villages — Chalk Chandrapur, Latamura and Bishara Bari in Kasba thana.



CHANDPUR: The teachers and students of Chandpur government college arranged a farewell meeting in honour of Principal Motiur Rahman recently. — Star photo

**Notes from Satkhira**

From Our Correspondent  
SATKHIRA, Feb 26: Police rescued a housewife kidnapped few days back from Khulna railway colony recently.  
Kinu Bibi (26), mother of two children of village Najireghal in Debhata thana was kidnapped by some miscreants when she came out in response to the call of nature at night.  
Debhata police recorded a case and found her during the investigation. One Liakat was arrested in this connection and sent to jail hazat.

**Smuggled Indian goods seized**  
BDR personnel of Nil Dumur, Satkhira arrested one person and recovered smuggled goods worth Taka about one lakh from Bayra Bazar in Kalgoinj recently.  
They picked up Jitendra from a local village and seized the smuggled goods from the bazar. The smuggled goods included Indian sarees and cosmetics.  
A case was lodged with Kalgoinj PS.

**One killed in road mishap**  
One Waliul Islam (55) of Kulla village under Debhata, thana was killed when a minibus No Khulna BA-1099 crushed him under wheels of the bus at Parulla in Satkhira-Kalgoinj road recently.  
It is reported that the victim while crossing the road the speedy minibus crushed him and he died on the spot. The driver along with the bus managed to escape. A case was lodged with Debhata PS.

**One commits suicide**  
One Taslima Khatun (19), daughter of Yusuf Ali Sardar of village Baladanga under Sadar thana committed suicide recently by consuming poison due to family feud.  
Body was sent to Satkhira hospital for post-mortem. A case was lodged with Satkhira PS.

**Bar executives**  
The election of Satkhira district Bar Association was held here recently.  
S M Haidar was elected president and Sarwar Ahmed Secretary of the committee. Two panels contested in the election.

**Roads in bad shape**  
Many important roads in the district are in very bad shape for want of repair and proper maintenance. This deplorable condition very often causes fatal accidents, creates problem for the people, it is widely alleged here.  
About 35 kilometre road between Satkhira and Kalgoinj is lying unrepaired since long. Numerous potholes, cracks and ditches have developed at various places which made hazardous the plying of hundreds of vehicles.  
Roads and Highway Department paid no attention in this connection despite series of demands by local people to repair the roads and the authority best knows the cause silence.

**Flash floods damage crops on 30,000 acres at Khaliajuri**  
Flash floods following storm and rains for four days has fully or partially damaged irri-boro paddy on 30 thousand acres of land in 8 haps of five unions under Khaliajuri thana of Netrakona district recently, says a press release.  
Five hundred kutchas houses were damaged and many cattle were washed away by the storm.  
It can be mentioned here that the people of these areas are in despair as this was the main crop of the area.  
The local people urged the authority concerned to send immediate relief to the affected areas.

**Tornado hits B Baria: Five killed, 100 injured**  
BRAHMANBARIA, Feb 23: Five people were killed and more than a hundred wounded when tornado lashed the villages of Kasba and Nabnagar thanas of the district on Thursday night, reports UNB.

The Minister said that the present government had attached top priority on education sector. He said that all sections of the society should be conscious and aware to check the trend of degradation of values in education.  
Majid-Haq said that the students community would have to be prepared to take up the future leadership of the nation. He suggested them to increase the standard of education and prepare themselves

**National integrity to stop Indian atrocities underscored**

KUSHITIA, Feb 26: Convener of Bangladesh Muslim League Alhaj Abdul Kader underscored the need for national integrity in the face of Indian expansionism, reports UNB.  
He was addressing a public meeting at local Islamic College ground on February 19 with Anwarul Islam in the chair.  
The Muslim League leader said in the name of secularism, India was perpetrating inhuman atrocities to the Muslim minority community. Meanwhile, he said thousands of Muslims throughout India were massacred in communal riots. In the world's greatest so-called democracy the lives of the Muslims are at a stake, he added.  
He also said thousands of Muslims were driven out from their homes and hearths violating human rights. He cited the large scale massacre in Bombay and other parts of India following the demolition of the historic Babri Mosque by the fundamentalists Hindus.  
He called upon the Muslim Ummah to create pressure on India to stop the atrocities.  
Among other, the meeting was also addressed by central leaders M A Matin, Alhaj Jamir Ali, Abdul Motaleb and Syeda Gulrukh Mohal Shirajuc.  
BSS adds: A night school was formally inaugurated by Md Abul Khair, Deputy Commissioner, Kushitia at Kushitia Police Line recently.

MAULVIBAZAR, Feb 26: The average standard of secondary education in the district has deteriorated for lack of trained teachers and other educational appliances, reports UNB.  
At present there are about 100 non-government high schools in all the six thanas of the district which are beset with manifold problems hampering education of about 40,000 students, sources said.  
According to survey, qualified people do not take up teaching as profession at the non-government schools because of poor salary. Besides, a good number of schools of the district cannot pay 30 per cent salary to the teachers due to lack of necessary fund.  
Moreover, there is a government ban on increased tuition fees of the students and the institutions have no other source of income. So the teachers who are not qualified enough are being engaged in non-government high schools.  
Good English language and Arithmetic teachers are not available in the non-government high schools. As a result, the SSC examinees are facing enormous problems. The experienced science teachers are also very few in these schools.  
Private coaching has been commercialised throughout the district by a section of teachers. The teachers being tired with their private coaching can hardly give full attention to their students in the classrooms.  
A few schools have library but these are not functioning well. Library fees are collected as usual but students are not allowed to take books to their homes for a specific period.

**Standard of secondary education deteriorates**

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SYLHET: Pitiable condition of one of the government offices in Sylhet town which need immediate reconstruction. — Star photo

**Trader faces foodgrain misappropriation charge**

KHAGRACHHARI, Feb 26: The local Bureau of Anti-corruption filed a case against a local businessman for misappropriating foodgrains worth Taka 1.18 lakh on Saturday, reports UNB.  
According to the complaints, Soru Miah with the connivance of the then Sadar Upazila Nirbahi Officer misappropriated 500 maunds of foodgrains worth Taka 1.18 lakh.  
The foodgrains were allocated for distribution among the destitutes of the locality.  
Work on construction of a road and a bridge in the district at a cost of Taka 1.5 crore is progressing fast in the district.

According to official sources, construction work of a 350 feet long bridge on the Chongi river and a 2-kilometre long road from Singinala to Mohalchhari thana headquarters has been undertaken by the Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board.  
With the implementation of the project communication between two remote thanas — Mohalchhari of Khagrachhari and Langadu of Rangamati will be improved to a great extent, officials said.

**Top priority to education**

RAJBARI, Feb 26 Agriculture and Irrigation Minister Major General (Retd) M Majid-ul-Haq has urged the teachers and students to put in their best efforts to enhance the quality and standard of education to meet the need of changing world, reports BSS.  
He was addressing as chief guest at the inaugural function of the centenary ceremony of Rajbari Government High School here. The function was also addressed by State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahana Begum and State Minister for Education Principal Mohammad Younus Khan.  
The school was founded in 1892 by the then jamindar Girtza Shanker Mozumder and his brother Avoy Shankar Mozumder during the British rule.  
The Minister said that the present government had attached top priority on education sector. He said that all sections of the society should be conscious and aware to check the trend of degradation of values in education.  
Majid-Haq said that the students community would have to be prepared to take up the future leadership of the nation. He suggested them to increase the standard of education and prepare themselves

avoiding all kinds of indiscipline.  
Earlier, the Agriculture Minister visited a small-scale irrigation scheme at Joypur under Sadar thana. About 100 acres of land acquired here on cooperative basis with assistance of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC). Sixty to 65 maunds of HYV IRR1 and boro paddy would be produced under this scheme within four and a half month.  
The minister also addressed a farmers rally. He called upon the farmers to continue the present trend of food production at any cost.

**Bus journey hazardous**

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Feb 26: Bus journey in the local routes of the district have become hazardous due to absence of minimum amenities, travellers informed, reports UNB.  
Overloading, rash driving and irregular services hamper smooth journey in different routes of Chapainawabganj-Rohanpur-Bholahat, Chapainawabganj-Amrura-Nachol, Barogharia-Shibganj-Kanshat and Godagari-Amruranator.