

District roundup

TANGAIL

Training course for distressed women begins

Feb 28 : A three-month-long training course for distressed women began here recently under the auspices of the Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC), reports BSS. Twenty women are taking part in the course to enable to engage themselves in self-employment. A BSCIC source said so far 376 women were given self-employment courses during the last five years. An amount of taka nineteen lakh were given to them as loan to buy implements.

RAJSHAHI

Canal reexcavation work underway

Feb 28 : The reexcavation work of 9.2 km long canal, from Naohata Sluice Gate to Mushroil under Pabna thana is underway, reports UNB. Mayor of Rajshahi City Corporation Mizanur Rahman Minu inaugurated the reexcavation work of the canal Tuesday. Government sanctioned 644 metric tons of wheat for the reexcavation of the 100 feet wide canal, the biggest of its kind in the Rajshahi division. On completion of the work 2,000 hectares of land in Parla, Nohata and Baragachhi unions of Pabna district will be brought under irrigation facilities. About 10,000 tons of additional foodgrains is expected to be produced following the completion of the canal. The canal, a branch of the Barnai river, will also help develop pisciculture and remove water stagnation problem of the areas.

GAZIPUR

Crop insurance for agri-uplift demanded

Feb 28 : Farmers of the district demanded introduction of crop insurance for development of agriculture sector in the district, reports UNB. While talking to UNB, the farmers said almost every year they are to face great hardship due to massive damage of crops by the natural calamities. Visitation of natural calamities like drought, flood, nor'westers, tornado is a regular feature and are the main reasons for the crop damage, they added. Experts said that introduction of crop insurance system has proved its worthiness in many countries of the world. It is now imperative in Bangladesh to introduce the system in order to save the affected farmers, they added.

JHALAKATI

Fire Service, Civil Defence week observed

Feb 28 : Jhalakati Fire Service and Civil Defence Week was observed recently, reports BSS. The Deputy Commissioner Jhalakati Mir A Wahed inaugurated the week at a function presided over by pourashava chairman A Halim Gazi. The objective of the week was to make the people alert about fire incidents. Speakers at the function urged all to be cautious against fire accidents.

MOULVIBAZAR

BNCC women's college unit inaugurated

From Our Correspondent Feb 28 : Moulvibazar Women's College platoon of Bangladesh National Cadet Core (BNCC) was formally inaugurated here recently at college premises. The BNCC platoon was inaugurated by the Regiment Commander of the BNCC Maynamoti Regiment Lt Col Mohammed Zillur Rahman attending the function as chief guest. The chief guest took salute given in his honour by the girl cadets. The inaugural function was presided over by Whip of the Opposition in parliament and president of the college managing committee Azizur Rahman MP and was addressed, among others, by Major Mustafaur Rahman of BNCC, Prof Saiful Kabir Chowdhury, Acting Principal of the college Md Abdul Khaleque and newly elected Moulvibazar Pourashava Chairman Syed Mohsin Ali. The function was conducted by Prof Mahmuda Kabir Chowdhury.

KISHOREGANJ

Five thefts committed

From Our Correspondent Feb 28 : Five thefts were committed in a single night in Auzagram thana of the district recently. The thieves entered by making hole into the house of Rangal Das, Chairman of Kalma union, and decamped with Taka 22,000 in cash, six tolas of gold, one tape-recorder and other goods worth about Taka 70,000. The thieves also entered the houses of Pranab Lal Das, Rajendra Chandra Das, Dharendra Chandra Das of Chowdants village the same night and decamped with goods worth about Taka 32,000. Separate cases were registered with Auzagram police station.

KURIGRAM

Shaheed Day observed

From Our Correspondent Feb 28 : Shaheed Day was observed at Kurigram with a renewed vow to materialise the dreams of the martyrs who had laid down their lives in the historic Language Movement of 1952. An elaborate programme was chalked out to mark the occasion. The national flag was hoisted at half-mast atop public and private buildings. Different political parties, socio-cultural organisations, literary bodies and student organisations observed the day. Literary competition, discussions, and cultural functions were the main attraction of the day. In the morning, people from all walks of life assembled bare-footed chanting 'Amar Bhayer Raktey Rangano Ekushey February, Amce-Ki Bhulitey Poree', at the local shaheed minars and placed floral wreaths to pay homage to the martyrs. On this occasion, in the evening, a discussion meeting was held at the local town hall.

SATKHIRA

UP Chairmen Assoc unit executives

From Our Correspondent Feb 28 : The biennial conference of Bangladesh UP Chairmen Association of Satkhira district unit was held at zilla parishad auditorium recently. Abdul Hamid (Chairman, Kashimari UP) under Shyamnagar thana presided over the function. Asadul Haque (Kulia UP), Nazrul Islam (Fingri UP), Altaf Hossain Laitu (Keragachhi UP), Bakhtiar Ahmed (Nur Nagar UP), Shahidul Islam (Bhomra UP), Abdur Rashid (Sonabaria UP), Yunus Ali (Baradad UP) and Monoranjan Sarkar (South Sreepur UP) spoke on the occasion. In the conference a 25-member executive body of Satkhira District Chairmen Association was formed headed by Asadul Haque and Nazrul Islam as president and general secretary respectively for the next two-year term.

NOAKHALI

Three children drowned

Feb 28 : Three children met watery grave when an overloaded fishing trawler sank at the river Meghna on Saturday, reports UNB. Hatya thana Tamaruddin bound fishing trawler from Char Bela Steamer Ghat with 150 passengers met the accident off the coast. All the passengers except three children were rescued by the local boat people. The passengers said they lodged complaints several times to the concerned authorities against overloading of passenger vessels in this route but no action has yet been taken in this respect.

KUSHTIA

Motor Sramik Union election held

Feb 28 : The election of Kushtia Motor Sramik Union was held here recently, reports BSS. Moslemuddin and Afzal Hossain were elected president and general secretary respectively of the union for the next session. Eleven others were also elected to the executive body of the union.



GAIBANDHA: Railway ferry services between Teestamuk Ghat and Bahadurabad Ghat facing closure as charlands have emerged at many points. —Star photo

Teestamuk-Bahadurabad rly ferry services face closure

From Our Correspondent

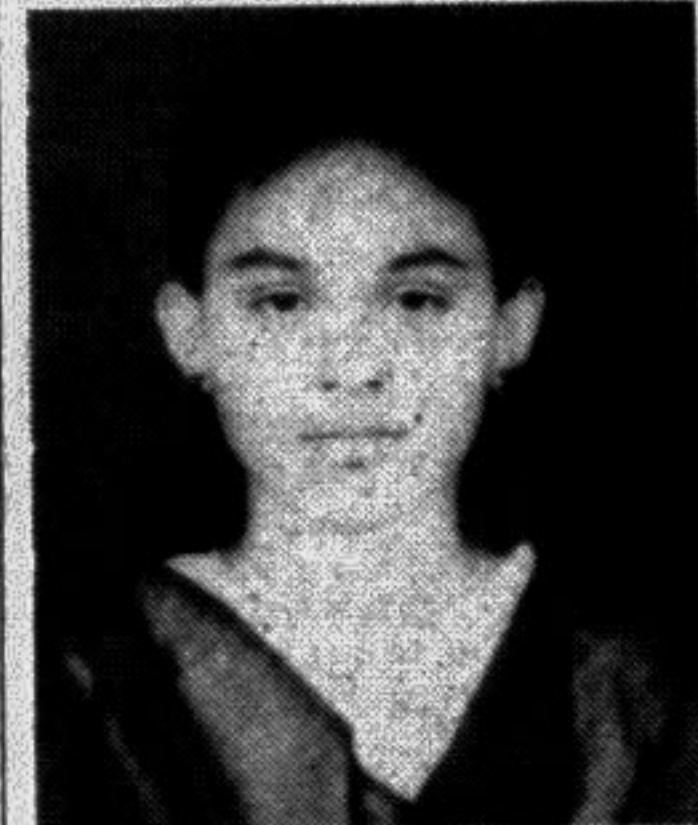
GAIBANDHA, Feb 28 : Railway ferry services between Teestamuk Ghat and Bahadurabad Ghat have been facing closure as all the routes have become dry due to deposition of sand. The railway marine department recently conducted a survey and reported that the team could not find out any suitable channel within the span of 60-kilometre western bank of Kamarzani of Gaibandha district to Sariakandi of Bogra district. The link route from western tributary have become dried up as the main channel has been diverted to eastern tributary. At present only one route is available at Patilbari, 25-kilometre down stream of Teestamuk Ghat through which ferry and cargo boats move very carefully. Moreover, hundreds of small and large scale shoals have been developed at different points following rapid deposition of silts and sand from upper catchment. According to Marine Department, at present it needs

four and half hours to cross the river from Teestamuk to Bahadurabad Ghat. Ferry boats are to cross over 105-kilometre way through different routes. As a result, connecting trains are unable to maintain its time schedule. Due to sharp decrease of water level in the river, ferry boats having six feet draft cannot move smoothly and runs aground frequently. Very often ferry boats remain stranded at the mid-stream for hours together causing untold sufferings to the passengers. On the other hand, the cargo boats need over seven hours to cross the river. It can be mentioned here that all the ferry routes in the area have been abandoned as the channels turned unserviceable. According to reliable sources, without dredging of silted channels smooth ferry services cannot be restored. Railway authority has not yet taken any dredging programme to improve the service.

Sheuli champion in Sonapur College sports

From A Correspondent

NOAKHALI, Feb 28 : The annual sports of Sonapur Degree College was held at the college premises on February 22.



Farhana Ferdous Sheuli

Md Shahjahan MP, inaugurated the competition at 10 am. It was presided over by Saieb Ahmed, Principal of the college.

The Deputy Commissioner of Noakhali, Hasanuzzaman Chowdhury, graced the occasion as the chief guest and distributed prizes among the winners while Anisuddin Mia, Additional Deputy Commissioner and Rahima Khatun, wife of Md Shahjahan MP attended as special guests.

Farhana Ferdous (Sheuli), a B Sc student of Sonapur Degree College became champion winning in six events including 100, 200, 400 metre sprints, javelin throw, discus throw and carom. She is the daughter of late Gazir Rahman of Vill. West Badaripur under Sadar subdivision of Noakhali district.

Three pipe guns recovered with ammunition

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, Feb 28 : Police recovered three pipe guns with some ammunition from a canal at Khashbagh bridge of Mahiganj area in the town on Friday.

Police sources said while a fisherman was catching fish in the canal the pipe guns were caught in his fishing net and he informed it to the police. Police suspected that the miscreants threw the guns into the canal at dead of night to avoid any legal action against them. A case has been filed in this connection.

Mason stabbed to death in Jhenidah

JHENIDAH, Feb 28 : Miscreants stabbed to death a mason and snatched away his belongings including bicycle at Beliadanga village in Kaliganj thana of the district on Friday, reports UNB.

Police said while Shubash (22) on his way home reached at Angliara bridge near Kaliganj town at 9.30 pm, a gang of miscreants numbering four attacked and stabbed him to death.

Police recovered the dead body and sent it to Jhenidah Sadar Hospital for autopsy. A case was filed but none was arrested yet in this connection.

Work on library building ends

TANGAIL, Feb 28 : Construction of a two storied library building of Sadat Government College has been completed recently at a cost of Taka twenty-five lakh, reports BSS. This modern library building comprises a large reading room and spaces for book shelves.

Sramik Unions clashes disrupt bus routes

KUSHTIA, Feb 28 : The plying of buses and mini buses in all routes from Kushtia, remained snapped for the last four days causing untold sufferings to the commuters, reports UNB.

Communication in the routes remain disrupted following clashes between Motor Sramik Unions of Kushtia and Jhenidah.

Direct bus communication between Kushtia and Meherpur was also snapped for the last two years due to similar disputes between sramik unions, Union sources said.

Moreover, plying of mini buses from Kushtia to northern districts also remained suspended due to interference of motor sramik union of Natore since long, they said.

Another report adds: Narcotics personnel arrested a man with three litres of rectified spirit at Jagoti bazar in thana of the district on Monday. The arrested Mizanur Ra-

hman was accused of selling the unauthorised spirit in the market.

A case has been filed with the police.

Another report adds: All classes and examinations of Islamic University have been suspended upto April 5 on the occasion of holy Ramadan and Eid-ul-Fitre.

The decision has been taken at a meeting of the syndicate. However, the offices will remain open during the period.

Another report adds: Police arrested chairman of Haripur Union Parishad in Sadar thana under anti-terrorism act Tuesday.

The arrested Chairman Mohammad Hossain Saichu was picked up from a meeting of Sadar thana Law and Order Committee.

He was later produced before the court but Sadar Thana Magistrate refused his bail petition.

Road mishaps take seven lives in B'baria

From Our Correspondent

BRAHMANBARIA, Feb 28 : Seven persons were killed and 13 injured in three road mishaps in the district recently.

Three persons were killed and 13 others injured in a bus accident on Dhaka-Sylhet highway near Gogad, seven kilometre from here on February 17.

The accident occurred when the driver of the Comilla bound bus (Sylhet-Cha-2030) was trying to overtake another bus and fell into a roadside ditch.

Md Hasan Ali (25) and an unknown person died on the spot. Another victim Abdul Quddus (60) succumbed to his injury at the hospital. Among the 13 injured 8 persons were admitted in Sadar hospital and five others were released after first aid.

A case was filed in Sarail thana in this regard. The driver of the bus managed to flee.

Another report says: A rickshawpuller was killed in a road accident on Dhaka-Sylhet highway near Sadar thana recently.

It is gathered that the acci-

dent occurred when the driver of the Sylhet bound bus (Chhattagram-Ja-2281) lost its control and run over the rickshaw. The rickshawpuller Yunus Miah (30) of village Betbaria died on the spot.

The driver of the bus managed to flee. A case has been filed in Sadar thana.

UNB report adds: Three people were killed and 20 others injured, four seriously, when a Compagnanj bound bus fell into a roadside ditch near Fatehpur in Nabnagar thana of the district on Thursday.

Witnesses said that the accident occurred when the driver of the bus lost its control.

Ismail (60) and Fazul Karim (27) died on the spot while another victim Fazul Haque succumbed to his injuries at the Nabnagar Hospital.

Four passengers were admitted to the Nabnagar Hospital while the others were released after first aid.

The bus driver managed to flee the scene and a case was filed with Nabnagar police in this connection.



KURIGRAM: Girl participants are seen participating in long jump event of National School and Madrasah Kriya Protijogita-93 here recently at Kurigram. —Star photo

Help maintain peace for development

KACHUA (Chandpur), Feb 28 : State Minister for Establishment Md Nurul Huda said, BNP government could not be made unpopular and incompetent by creating anarchy, terrorism at every sector and killing people by the activists of a political party, reports BSS.

These acts rather provoke the people to remember the dark history of the period between 1972 and 1975, he added.

He was addressing a condolence meeting at Rahimnagar Sheikh Mujibar Rahman College ground under Kachua thana on February 22.

The meeting was convened by local people to mourn the murder of Salimullah Milon, a leader of Jatayatadi Chhatra Dal.

Milon was allegedly killed by the activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League in front of the college building in broad daylight on February 15 last.

The state minister said, it is mere childishness to consider BNP government as a debilitated one because the support of the peace loving, innocent people lies with the present democratic government. He said, 'As rule of law is the main theme of democracy and we are the striking force in maintaining democracy we want to ensure proper punishment of the killers under the existing law of the land.'

Huda said the people of Bangladesh has sacrificed twice in establishing their rights, rule of law and democracy-one during liberation war and another during uprooting nine years of anti-autocratic regime. So, they don't want to

see any more unrest, indiscipline, misappropriation, blood, murder, but to see peace and progress, he added. He called upon the people to move forward surpassing all ill-motives of the known quarter in order to attain their selfish ends.

Presided over by Abul Hasanat Principal of the college, the meeting was also addressed by Anwar Hossain, Jaial Ahmed General Secretary and President of JCD local unit, Milon's Father Abdul Jalil and Convener of Chandpur district BNP Mollah Siddiqui Rahman.

Later, the state minister visited the graveyard of Milon and offered Fataha. He also visited Milon's house and conveyed his sympathy and sorrow with his family members.

Show cause on Sangbadik Samity district unit

JAMALPUR, Feb 28 : A show cause notice was served on the District Sangbadik Samity, asking why the election to it scheduled for February 22, will not be suspended, reports UNB.

The notice, issued by the Senior Assistant District Judge on February 20, also ordered the Samity to give reply within 24 hours.

A local journalist sued the Samity alleging that it has announced the election date with a faulty voter list. He said the list was not valid as it did not enrolled 12 working journalists.

Bamboo production on wane

From Our Correspondent

KISHORESANJ, Feb 28 : Bamboo production is decreasing day by day in Hossainpur, Pakundia, Katadi, Kishoreganj Sadar, Bajitpur, Karimganj, Bhairab Tarial and Kultarchar thanas of the district due to lack of proper care of bamboo clusters and absence of plantation programme. It may be mentioned here that bamboo is the main material for the construction of kutcha houses and there are 90 per cent kutcha houses in the village all over Bangladesh.

Thousands of bamboo are cut and sold in the hats and bazars of the villages to meet the daily necessities of the people. Kishoreganj district was once famous for bamboo production and there were lakhs of clusters on vast tract land of the district.

The indiscriminate cutting and absence of proper care have diminished the quantity of bamboos in the district. As a result, the acute scarcity of bamboo has been prevailing in these areas and consequently the prices of bamboos have increased several times.

According to reports, most of the bamboos were brought to the towns for selling those at higher prices by some farias. These bamboos are largely purchased by the contractors to use in their construction works. Only a small number of bamboos are used for the making of kutcha houses.

On the otherhand, no efforts are being taken to save

bamboo clusters from decaying in these areas. The bamboos are also used as fuels in large scale in some of the areas of the district. The bamboo plants are not left for growing up. According to a reliable source, there are 3 lakh bamboo clusters in different thanas of the district. But most of the clusters are in deplorable condition with only a few bamboo in each cluster. The poverty stricken people with scanty income are compelled to sell the last bamboo of their cluster to earn their livelihood.

Production of bamboo is not increase according to the growing need of the people. This has also created an adverse affect on bamboo-based cottage industries.

Bamboo groves are also destroyed sometimes to extend lands for house building or agricultural purposes. These are not replaced proportionately by planting new saplings. Meanwhile, repair and reconstruction of kutcha houses in the rural areas are also being hampered badly for want of bamboo. One bamboo is now selling at between Taka 50 to 90. As a result, 70 per cent of the villagers are unable to buy bamboo at such an exorbitant price.

It is felt that Agriculture Department should take necessary steps to encourage plantation of bamboos

Bamboo production in the southern

districts of the country has decreased considerably due to lack of proper care and ignorance of the growers, reports UNB. There are countless bamboo clusters in the homesteads of southern districts including greater Barisal and Patuakhali. But due to reckless felling, the very existence of bamboo is at a stake.

The clusters of bamboo, are decaying and the yield is very negligible in these districts throwing the bamboo based cottage industries into uncertainty.

The owners are ignorant of the scientific cultivation of bamboo. But no attempt has yet been taken to save the bamboo clusters from decaying by the concerned authorities.

Besides, a section of people indiscriminately uprooted the bamboo clusters for use as fuel in the brickfields. Agricultural experts said that proper care and rearing would enable a bamboo plant yield at least 15 to 20 new sprouts a year. But under the natural process, a bamboo plant yields only 2 to 3 sprouts.

Due to the shortage of bamboo the Karmahuli Paper Mills which used bamboo as its raw material now use pulp imported from abroad.



KHULNA: Principal Md. Mazharul Hannan, General Secretary, Silpakala Academy speaking at a seminar on 'Banglar Anchalik Bhasa' arranged on the occasion of Shaheed Day. —Star photo