

District roundup

BRAHMANBARIA

Teenaged girl electrocuted

From Our Correspondent
Mar 1: A teenaged girl was electrocuted at Madhyapara area of the town recently.
Lipi (14), student of local Anandamaye Girl's High School, met the tragic end of her life on Feb 19 when she placed her wet cloth on a live electric wire to dry.
She was rushed to the Sadar hospital where the attending doctor declared her dead.

MOULVIBAZAR

Int'l workshop begins

Mar 1: A 10-day international workshop organized by Asian Friendship society will begin at Kulaura thana of the district on March 1-10, reports UNB.
At least 50 participants from Japan, Nepal, Thailand, India and the host country Bangladesh will attend the workshop.
Secretary General Albert D Sinha said the society will set up 30 slab latrines, 60 tubewells and 3 small community centres at north Gobindapur, north Nandannagar and Amchhari villages of the thana during the workshop.
The Asian Friendship Society established in 1985 is engaged in philanthropic activities to develop friendship among the people of different Asian countries.

GAZIPUR

Selling of sub-standard medicines unabated

Mar 1: Mushroom growth of unlicensed medicine shops in six thanas of the district has been posing a threat to public health, reports UNB.
There are about 400 such shops in Sadar, Sreepur, Kallakair, Tongi and Kaliganj thanas. These shops are allegedly selling sub-standard and date expired medicines with impunity causing sufferings to local people.
Some affected people said the medicine shop-owners are doing brisk business with the collaboration of some dishonest officials.
Local leaders have urged the authorities to look into the matter and take necessary steps in this regard.

MEHERPUR

Mini-bus rams rickshaw: one killed, 20 hurt

Mar 1: A mini-bus rams a rickshaw and turned turtle killing one and injuring 20 others including the helper of the bus at Madna in Sadar thana of the district on Friday, reports UNB.
Police and witnesses said Meherpur bound mini-bus (No. Kushtia 19a-6) met the accident when the driver lost control over the steering.
Anwar (45) of Khoksha in Sadar thana died on the spot. The identity of the injured except Motiur, helper of the bus, could not be known immediately.
The driver fled from the scene and a case was filed with Meherpur police in this connection.
Meanwhile, the agitated people of the locality gheraoed the doctors' residence and threw brick bats at the sadar hospital due to their alleged inordinate delay in attending the serious patients.
But the doctors of the hospital denied the allegation. Later the police rushed to the hospital and brought the situation under control.

SATKHIRA

Tk 2 lakh smuggled hides, skin recovered

Mar 1: Police seized huge amount of smuggled hides and skin from a truck worth about Taka two lakh in the town Saturday and arrested 17 people in this connection, reports UNB.
Acting on secret information, police stopped the truck (Khulna Metro Da-02/0002) and recovered the contraband.
The contrabands later handed over to the local customs authority.
A case has been filed in this connection.
Another report adds: An Indian national identified as Wazed Ali of 24 Pargana district in India was arrested by the BDR men from Basantapur village of the district Saturday.
He was allegedly carrying huge amount of biri worth about Taka one lakh.

DINAJPUR

Woman killed in train mishap

Mar 1: One woman was killed in a train mishap at Chirirbandar station here on Friday, reports UNB.
The unidentified woman (40) was cut into two pieces when she was run over by a goods train bound for Parbatipur from Dinajpur.
The body was sent to morgue for autopsy and a UD case was filed with the police.
Another report adds: Bangladesh Rifles recovered 54 bags of Indian sugar worth about Taka 1.55 lakh and arrested a shopkeeper at Bahadurbazar in the town on Saturday.
Sources said, the BDR jawans in a raid recovered the contraband and arrested the alleged shopkeeper Amir Ali.
Later, he was handed over to Kotwali thana police and the contraband were deposited with the local customs department.
A case has been filed in this connection.

KURIGRAM

Freshers' reception held

From Our Correspondent
Mar 1: The freshers of Mujida Adarsha College accorded a hearty reception by the students of the college in a befitting manner.
In this connection a discussion meeting was held at the hall room of the college with Aftab Hossain Principal of the College in the chair. Prof. Saidul Haque of Kurigram Govt. College was present as chief guest.
Among others, Shahidul Haque, Prodip Kumar, Shahinor Rahman, Babul Akhter, the chief guest Prof. Saidul Haque and Aftab Hossain participated in the discussion. It was rounded off with a musical soiree.

PATUAKHALI

Prativa Shilpi Gosthi unit executives

Mar 1: A 13-member executive committee of Patuakhali Prativa Shilpi Gosthi was elected Saturday for a two-year term, reports UNB.

The election was held at its biennial general meeting with Abdul Khaleque in the chair. Md Golam Mostafa Talukder and Jhantu Das were elected President and General Secretary of the organisation.

Another message from Mymensingh adds: A 15-member executive committee of Mymensingh Bar Association was elected Sunday.
Advocate Zohirul Haque and Advocate Mahmud Al-Noor-Tarek were elected President and General Secretary of the association.

KHULNA

Attack on Bangla Bazar Patrika slated

Mar 1: Speakers at a meeting held at the Khulna Press Club demanded of the authority to punish those who had attacked the Banglabazar Patrika office, reports BSS.
The newspaper owners and journalists of Khulna held the meeting on Wednesday and protested the attack.
Presided over by President of Khulna Press Club Sahabuddin Ahmed while the protest meeting was addressed among others by Prof. Ali Ahmed owner Editor of Dainik Anirban and Humayun Kabir owner Editor of Dainik Jannabhum.
Later a procession was brought out.
BSS adds: Various organisations in Khulna continued to protest attack on Banglabazar Patrika. Khulna Sangbad Patra Parishad at its meeting held at the Dainik Bangabani office Thursday protested the dastardly attack on Dainik Bangla Bazar Patrika and urged the government to take appropriate actions against the culprits.
The meetings was presided over by Begum Ferdousi Ali, a Convener of Khulna Sangbad Patra Parishad and addressed among others by Mahbubur Rahman, Zakir Hossain, Nur Mohammad Tena and Shefarul Islam.
Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad Khulna Thana Command and Sammilita Sangskritik Jote Khulna in separate statements condemned the attack on Banglabazar Patrika and demanded immediate arrest of the culprits responsible for such heinous acts.



POPULAR SWEET POTATO: Harvesting season of sweet potato in village areas. Children are found plucking potatoes from ground. — Star photo

Problems hamper education of 65,000 school students

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Mar 1: One hundred sixty seven recognised non-government secondary schools in all the seven thanas of the district are beset with manifold problems hampering education of about 65,000 students.
According to sources, dilapidated condition of school buildings, shortage of furniture, accommodation, science building, play ground, common room and fund are hindering smooth education in these schools.
Many school houses are in pitiable condition. Some schools are holding classes in decaying buildings which may collapse any moment.
During the rainy season water leaks through the roof of the buildings. Besides, only 10 percent schools have one or two storied buildings while others are housed in semi-pucca tinsheds.
These schools are facing difficulties to accommodate the increasing number of students. About 70 percent of these schools have neither buildings nor necessary science equipment.
Absence of playground in 40 percent of these schools, students are deprived of recreational facilities. Sports facilities are very meagre at almost all the educational institutions.
In most of the schools scarcity of pure water persists due to non-availability of requisite number of tubewells and as a result the students have to take pond water.
Only 10 per cent schools have libraries having shortage of text and reference books and there is no parttime or fulltime librarian in those libraries.
There is no separate common rooms for girl students in the co-education schools in the rural areas. The girl students are compelled to stay in classrooms during leisure time.
All the high schools excepting a few are facing acute fund crisis and as a result the teachers do not get their salary regularly.
Besides, schools which were damaged by floods, storms and cyclones during the last few years have not yet been repaired.
Teachers students and guardians have urged the concerned authorities to take necessary steps to mitigate the sufferings of the student.

28,000 hectares of land under wheat, sugarcane farming

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, Mar 1: A total of 28,000 hectares of land have been brought under wheat and sugarcane cultivation in four thanas of the district during the current season.
During the current rabi crop cultivation season a total of 18,000 hectares of land have been brought under wheat-cultivation in four thanas of Chuadanga district.
Of the total land 4,000 hectares have brought under cultivation in Chuadanga Sadar thana, 8,000 hectares in Alamdanga thana, 4,000 hectares in Damurhuda thana and 2,000 hectares in Jibannagar thana.
It is expected that about 35,000 metric tons of wheat would be produced during this season in Chuadanga.
During the current rabi crop cultivation season BADC has sold 125,000 kgs of high yielding variety wheat seeds like Kanchan, Akbar and Agrahani among the farmers of the district at fair price with a view to making the wheat cultivation programme in the district a success.
Our Correspondent adds: Ten thousand hectares of land have been brought under sugarcane cultivation in four thanas of Chuadanga district during the current cane cultivation season (92-93).
Of the total land 6,000 hectares have been brought under cultivation in the Darsana Sugar Mill's zone area and the rest 4,000 hectares have been cultivated outside of the mill's zone area.

Of the total land 3,000 hectares have been cultivated in Chuadanga Sadar thana, 4,000 hectares in Alamdanga thana, 2,000 hectares in Damurhuda thana and 1,000 hectares in Jibannagar thana.
The Darsana Sugar Mills management has so far supplied seeds, fertilizer and insecticides among the Sugarcane growers of the mills' zone area worth about Taka three crores.

BDR recover 50 Indian COWS
SATKHIRA, Feb 1: Bangladesh Rifles recovered 50 Indian cows worth Taka 2.50 lakh from Paikgacha thana of Khulna district on Tuesday, reports UNB.
Acting on secret information, BDR raided the area, recovered the cows and arrested one Paresh Chandra Mondal in this connection.
A case has been filed with the police and the cows were handed over to the customs officials.

JCD sweeps college union polls
Jatityabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) bagged all the seats of Kulaura Degree College Students' Union election.
Md Abdul Muhi Sobel and Raushan Ali were elected Vice President and General Secretary respectively in the polls held on February 17.
Chhatra Union, Chhatra Shibir, Chhatra League (M-I) and Chhatra League (pro-JSD) participated the election held peacefully, college sources said.
Meanwhile, Bangladesh Chhatra League (M-I) bagged all the seats of Tajpur Degree College Student's Union election of Sylhet district.
Md Salam Ahmed and Kazi Afzal Hussain were elected Vice President and General Secretary respectively.



MYMENSINGH: Deputy Commissioner A F M Motiur Rahman visiting the art exhibition of Prof Mir Rezaul Karim held here at Mymensingh press club auditorium in observance of Amar Ekushey February. — Star photo

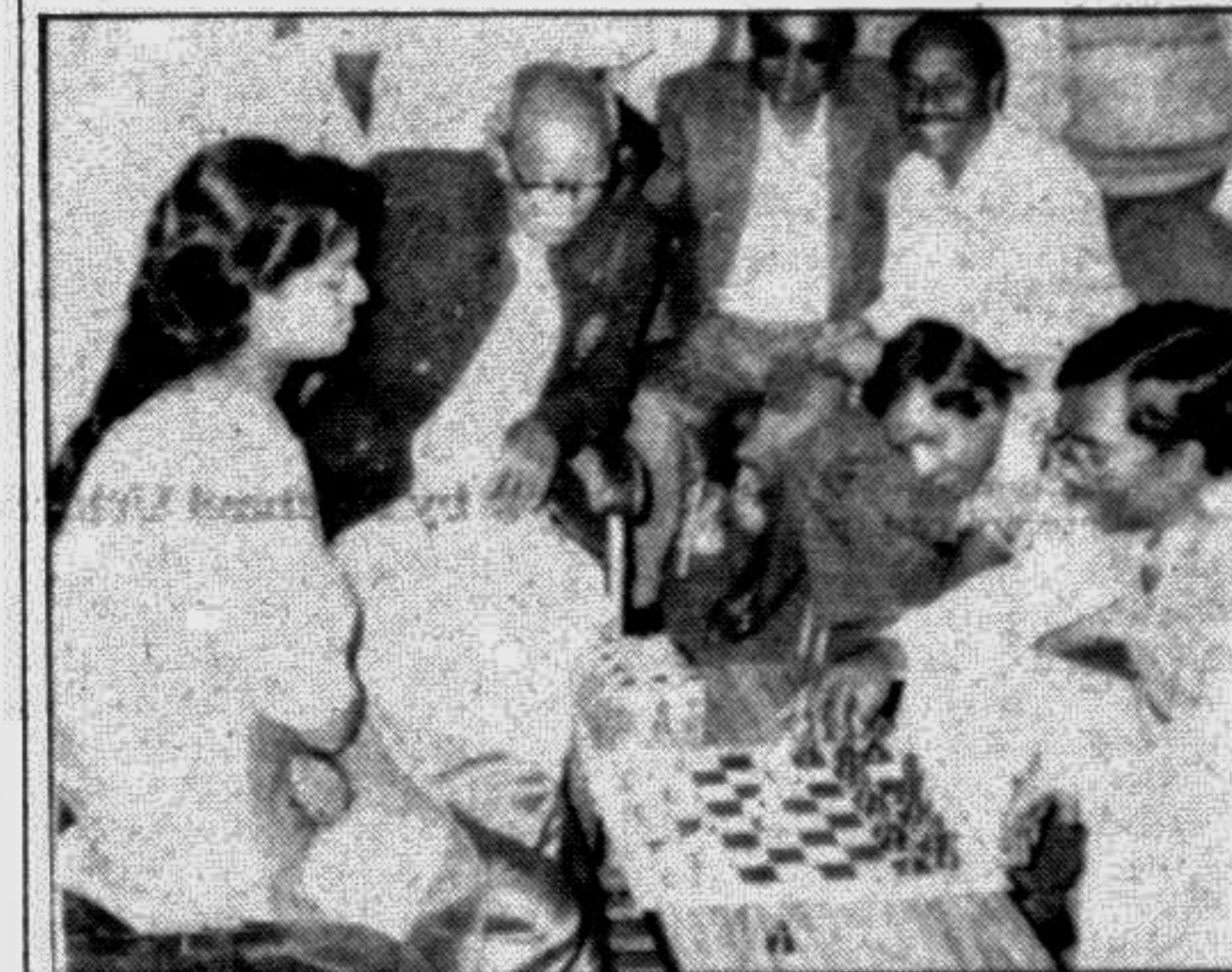
Recreational facilities meagre at Kurigram

From Our Correspondent

KURIGRAM, Mar 1: Absence of recreational facilities for the children poses a problem to the guardians in Kurigram district town.
There is no park for the children in the pourashava area. The facilities of games and sports for the children are quite meagre due to the absence of adequate and suitable play grounds in the town.
A plan was taken for construction of a children park at old town area a long ago. But nothing was done except construction of a boundary wall and a gate. As a result, the so-called Kurigram children park is now being used as a grazing field for the cattle.
The activities of different children socio-cultural and sports organisations have also been decreased in recent time for lack of proper guidance and patronisation.
The children in the leisure periods of the day are often seen engaged in fulfilling various hobbies here and there in the town. Sometimes the children are found playing on the main streets or footpaths within pourashava areas causing great threat to their lives.
Besides, traffic congestion in the narrow roads and high speed by different vehicles pose a great problem to the easy movement of the children.
People of Kurigram town urged upon the authorities concerned to take necessary steps for adequate recreational facilities and to construct a fullfledged children park in Kurigram.

33 development projects remain incomplete

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Mar 1: Implementation of 33 development projects after spending two crore taka has been kept incomplete for the last six years in 16 Northern districts, reports UNB.
According to an official source, the former Rajshahi Divisional Development Board, formed by the late President Ziaur Rahman, undertook these projects in fiscal 1978-79.
The Board was later abolished by the former President H M Ershad in 1986. Since then the work on these projects remained suspended.
The affected projects are construction of 16 auditorium-cum public libraries, 11 public auditoriums, 3 roads, one town hall, one bazar and one bus terminal.
Rajshahi divisional commissioner urged the concerned ministry to help complete the works on these uplift projects.
Another report from Patuakhali adds: The re-examination work on Bauphal-Nurainpur Canal, a vital outlet of Bauphal thana is progressing fast.
Official sources said about 71 metric tons of wheat have been allocated to re-excavate the 1.8 kilometre canal.
Local farmers said reexcavation of the canal was long over due to facilitate irrigation in the area. So far the cultivation was being hampered due to scarcity of water.
Minister for Post, Telegraph and telecommunication M Keramat Ali formally inaugurated the excavation of the canal last week.
With the implementation of the project irrigation on 2000 acres of land will be possible, official sources said.



GAIBANDHA: Abdul Aziz, ADC (General) is seen inaugurating chess competition under DSA, Gaibandha at local club recently. — Star photo

945 fire incidents in Rangpur last year

RANGPUR, Feb 1: A total of 945 incidents of fire were reported during the last one year in greater Rangpur district damaging property worth about Taka 12.18 crore and 96 thousand, reports UNB.
This was revealed by Deputy Director of Fire Service and Civil Defence of Rangpur at the inaugural function of Fire Service Week '93 on Feb 20.
He said property worth about Taka 21.44 crore and 9,383 have been saved from fires during the same period.
Of the total fire incidents 247 originated from kitchen, 81 from electric short-circuits, 46 from cigarette butts, 72 from open lamp, 110 due to carelessness and the rest due to other reasons.
Another reports adds: A person was stabbed to death and another injured seriously at the station area by some unknown miscreants on Wednesday night.
The victim was identified as Manik (19) of village Pirpur in Kotwali thana.
Police said Manik and his friend were on their way to the station when a group of miscreants attack them about 11 pm.
The injured person was admitted to Rangpur Medical College Hospital.
Police arrested two persons so far in this connection.

Bus journey hazardous on Kishoreganj-Bhairab road

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Mar 1: Journey by bus on the Kishoreganj-Bhairab road has become hazardous and over loading of buses often leads to accident causing untold sufferings to the passengers.
According to sources, the law-enforcing agency cannot findout the drivers responsible for the accident as they use fake name and addresses without having any valid licences. In recent days many road accidents accrued on the road. Whenever a bus stops passengers get in the vehicle and they are even allowed to sit on the roof of the bus and to stand on the bumper or on the foot-board. This entails a great risk. Besides buses used to carry a huge quantity of goods on the roofs. It is also found that most of the buses and mini-buses on the road are engaged in mad competition to pick up passengers without considering the capacity of the vehicles. It was also observed that driver of the one-crowded buses have indulged themselves in overtaking other buses plying on the road at a maximum shed and are very often involved in fatal road mishap. Besides, bus conductors realise excessive fare and often misbehave with the passengers. They do not maintain any time-table to reach Bhairab from Kishoreganj though the distance is about 33 miles.
It may be mentioned here that black smoke emitting from vehicles freely on the road may cause health hazard disturbing sounds of horns of the vehicles causes much annoyance to the public tranquility. Absence of a waiting shed at Nuga bus stand here causes much inconveniences to the travellers. There is no latrine or urinals on the bus stand. Passengers are to remain standing for buses under the open sky. A large number of passengers suffer much during summer and rainy seasons.

Notes from Moulvibazar

MOULVIBAZAR, Mar 1: Compulsory Primary Education Programme has been hampering adversely in the district as there is no government primary schools in one-third villages of the different thanas, reports UNB.
Primary education office sources said there are only 693 government primary schools in the district where the number of the villages in 2046. As a result the children of 1353 villages are being deprived of primary education.
According to the report, there are 167 government primary schools in the Sadar thana against 465 villages, 163 schools in Kulaura thana against 228 villages, 108 schools in Barlekha thana against 313 villages, 102 schools in Rajnagar thana against 265 villages, 87 schools in Kamalgarj thana against 261 villages and 66 schools in Sreemangal thana against 214 villages.
On the other hand, there are 23 unregistered primary schools in different thanas of the district where 6472 students are taking basic education.
The unregistered schools are facing a lot of problems like shortage of educational appliances, scarcity of drinking water and proper sanitation. Teachers are also not getting their salary regularly.

81 FWP projects in progress
Works on 81 projects are progressing fast in all the six thanas of the district under Food for Works Programme.
The projects taken up during the current fiscal year include construction and repair of the roads, bridges and culverts and excavation and re-excavation of derelict ponds and canals, official sources said.

According to district Relief and Rehabilitation Department, 1,987 metric tons of wheat have been sanctioned for the execution of the projects.
Another report states: At least eight government primary schools under Kulaura thana of the district will be repaired and developed under Annual Development Programme (ADP) scheme during the current fiscal year.
Officials said, an amount of Taka 2.20 lakh has been allotted for the implementation of the projects.

Two dacoits nabbed
Police nabbed two notorious dacoits from Supatala village in Biani Bazar thana of the district Thursday.
Acting on a tip, police raided the Nizam Colony of the village and arrested both Mazir and Mainul who were wanted in connection with various cases.
A case was filed with local police in this connection.