

District roundup

MYMENSINGH
Bar Assoc executives
 Mar 2: A 15-member executive committee of Mymensingh Advocate Bar Association has been elected recently with Zahurul Haq and Mahmud-Al-Noor Tareq as President and General Secretary for 1993 respectively, reports BSS.
 The other elected office-bearers are: Vice-Presidents Anil Kumar Ghose and Shamsul Haque, Assistant Secretaries Manjur Anam, Shihabuddin Bhuiyan and Farid Ahmed, Auditors Yunus Ali, Shahajahan Siraji.
 Besides, 7 members were also elected to the executive committee.

MADARIPUR
Report on BNP workers joining AL protested
 Mar 2: District unit of BNP Sunday protested a press report that more than one thousand BNP workers joined Awami League and said the news was baseless, false and fabricated, reports UNB.
 Addressing a press conference, Alhaj Ferdous Jamadar, district BNP President, said the workers who reportedly joined Awami League were not at all the workers of BNP.
 He said Nurul Alam Chowdhury (Babu Chowdhury), Jalil Bepary and Dulal Chowdhury were the leaders of Jatya Party and its front organisations. They were expelled from BNP.

CHITTAGONG
Miscreants loot Tk 5 lakh
 Mar 2: Taka five lakh of Babul and company, a bidi factory was allegedly robbed off by some armed miscreants at Chandgaon residential area here recently, reports BSS.
 According to Chandgaon police, four employees of the company while carrying the money to the bank by a car four miscreants suddenly appeared near the pepsi-colla factory by two motor-cycles and stopped the car.
 The miscreants looted away the money at gun point.
 No arrest has so far made in this connection, police said.

Jamadar protested the report appeared in different national dailies on February 27.
 District leaders Kazi Humayun Kabir, Jahandar Ali Jahani, Enamul Haque Shaheen and Kazi Enamul Haq were also present at the press conference.

JAMALPUR
Reception accorded to newly elected poura chairman
 Mar 2: Faizur Rahman, newly elected chairman, Jamalpur pourasava was accorded a reception by the district Jatio Bidyut Sramik Karmachari union at its conference room on Monday, reports BSS.
 Presided over by Md Suruzzaman Miah the reception meeting was addressed among others by Mansur Ali, Vice-President and Majibur Rahman office secretary of the union.
 Faizur Rahman thanked the government for raising allocation for the municipality from Taka fifty two crore to Taka one hundred and seventy-five crore. He urged all to offer cooperation for proper utilisation of government money in the development work.

KISHOREGANJ
Businessman robbed of Tk 52,000
 From Our Correspondent
 Mar 2: Abul Hashem Miah, a businessman of Tarail bazar of the district was robbed of Taka 52,000 by miscreants recently.
 According to police, the miscreants, attacked Abul Hashem Miah while he was returning home from the bazar and took away Taka 52,000 from him.
 Hearing the hue and cry raised by Abul Hashem Miah, the people from neighbouring areas rushed to the spot and caught hold one miscreant Chah Miah. He was later handed over to the Tarail thana police.
 A case has been recorded in this connection with Tarail police station.

SATKHIRA
Four persons commit suicide
 From Our Correspondent
 Mar 2: Four persons including three housewives committed suicide by taking poison recently.
 It is reported that one Dipika Rani (19), wife of Chitta Ranjan of old Satkhira under Satkhira pourasava and Hafiza Khatun (25), wife of Nasiruddin of Sadar thana, Amena Begum (19), daughter of Alfar Sardar of Dhopadanga under Debhata thana and one Kismat Ali (20) of Elishpur under Kalaroa thana following family troubles took poison and died on the spot. Bodies sent to Satkhira hospital for post-mortem.
 Four separate UD cases were lodged with Satkhira, Debhata and Kalaroa thanas in these connection.

COMILLA
Smuggled goods worth Tk 1.17 lakh recovered
 Mar 2: Bangladesh Rifles recovered smuggled goods worth Taka 1.17 lakh and nabbed two alleged smugglers in two separate raids near Nimshar on Dhaka-Chittagong trunk road on Friday, reports UNB.
 The patrol party raided a truck and recovered Indian timber worth Taka 78,000. The arrested were sent to Kotwali thana.
 In another raid BDR jawans seized Indian saree and glasses worth Taka 39,000 from a passenger bus.
 The driver and the conductor of the bus managed to flee.

KURIGRAM
Cricket tourney concludes
 From Our Correspondent
 Mar 2: The cricket tournament arranged by Kurigram Zila Krira Sangstha was ended recently with much enthusiasm.
 On the concluding day, Kurigram cricket club team defeated the seven Sooter club team by three wickets and snatched away the championship.
 On this occasion, a prize-giving ceremony was arranged at the local stadium which was chaired by Prof Mostafa Bin Hossain Khondoker, Secretary, Kurigram Zila Krira Sangstha. Shafiqul Islam, DC Kurigram gave away prizes as the chief guest. They prize giving ceremony was addressed, among others, by Kaziul Islam, newly elected Pourasava Chairman, Shafiqul Islam and Mostafa Bin Hossain Khondoker.
 Jiban Krishna Shaha of Kurigram Cricket Club was adjudged the man of the match while Motahar Hossain Talash of Seven Sooter Cricket Club became the man of the series.
 The final game was conducted by Utpal Kanti Roy and ATM Arshad Hossain.

DINAJPUR
Woman killed in train mishap
 Mar 2: One woman was killed in a train mishap at Chirribandar 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 Bahadurbar 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.

TANGAIL
130 persons to perform haj this year
 Mar 2: A total of one hundred and thirty persons including three haj badals has been selected from the district to perform haj at Makkah this year, reports BSS.
 Only 130 persons had applied to perform haj this season. District quota was three hundred.



Chief of Army Staff Lt General Muhammad Noor Uddin Khan reviewing the Second Artillery Re-union Parade at the Artillery Centre and School in Chittagong recently. —ISPR photo

Shortage of text books acute

MAULVIBAZAR, Mar 2: The secondary school students in the district have been facing problems in carrying out their studies due to scarcity of text books in the local market since the beginning of current academic year, reports UNB.
 Book traders sources said the new books would not be made available till the old ones were sold. It is also alleged that on the plea of short supply the book sellers demand exorbitant prices for the text books.
 Students complained that due to flaws in text book distribution system the book traders are making windfall profit by raising the prices illegally.
 Guardians complained that their children have been finding difficulties to follow classes without text books which are rarely available in the book stalls.
 The sufferers have urged the concerned authorities to ensure smooth supply of books to the local markets so that the students could buy the books at fair prices.
Shortage of English teacher
 A report from Savar says: Secondary education in five thanas of Dhaka district is being seriously hampered by shortage of English teachers.
 About 50 secondary schools in different parts of the district have been facing shortage of experienced English teachers hampering education of the students.
 Some school authorities said they were forced to engage teachers of other subjects to teach English. The guardians alleged that most of these teachers have no good command in English. As a result the students facing a lot of problems in learning correct English.
 They urged the concerned authorities to take proper steps to solve the problems immediately.
Private tuition now commercial practice
 UNB correspondent from Patuakhali adds: Private tuition has become a commercial practice in the town and six thanas of the district.
 According to local guardians, teachers of both the government and non-government schools and colleges are engaged in private tuition to earn extra money.
 It is alleged that the teachers hardly teach the students in the classroom attentively and average students find it difficult to understand their lessons properly.
 The guardians finding no other alternative had to engage teachers as private tutors for their wards while the poor students are the worst sufferers.
 A science teacher of Patuakhali Government Jubilee High School informed that students enrolled in primary and secondary schools and colleges belonging to affluent families usually employ their teachers as private tutors.
 It is gathered that the science teachers get a large number of students for coaching in batches. The mathematics, English, and Accounting subject teachers also coach students in batches.
 Private coaching by the teachers in batches starts before and after the school or college working hours.
 Private coaching is also being practiced in the higher secondary and degree levels for securing good results in the practical subjects.
 Science students informed that it has become almost impossible to obtain better results without the aid of the private tutors.

Notes from Chuadanga

From Our Correspondent
CHUADANGA, Mar 2: National Population Day was observed in Chuadanga in a befitting manner recently.
 In connection with the observance of the day an elaborate programme was chalked out earlier by the local Family Planning Department.
 In this connection, a discussion meeting was held here at the local Sree-Monto Town Hall.
 A K.M. Khalequzaman, Thana Nirbahi Officer, Chuadanga Sadar presided over the function. M Tajul Islam, Deputy Commissioner of Chuadanga was present on the occasion as the chief guest while A B M Siddiqur Rahman, Deputy Director of Family Planning, Chuadanga was present there as the special guest. Among others who spoke on the occasion were Mrs Lubaba Khatun, Md Abdul Khaleque and Motiar Rahman.
Annual guardian's rally held
 The annual guardian's rally and mifad mahfil of Chuadanga Jhink Junior Girls' High School was held at the school's premises recently.
 Omar Ali Mollah, Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) of Chuadanga who is also the president of the school managing committee presided over the function.
 The Deputy Commissioner of Chuadanga M Tajul Islam was present on the occasion.
 Among others who spoke on the occasion were M Shahabuddin, Advocate and founder secretary of the school, H Saber Ali (Rtd) SP, Md Quamrul Arefin Advocate and Rebecka Sultana, Headmistress of the school.
Eye-camp concludes
 A 10-day long eye camp concluded here at the local Adarsha High School.
 In the eye camp a total of 123 cataract eye patients were operated upon of which 51 were male and 72 were female.
 Besides 1500 eye patients were given out door treatment in the eye camp during the 10 days.
 A three members eye surgeons headed by Dr M Bahauddin of Khulna BNSB eye hospital conducted the operation.
 Earlier on February 2 the Deputy Commissioner of Chuadanga M Tajul Islam formally opened the eye camp in presence of a huge gathering.
 The eye camp was jointly sponsored by the Khulna branch of Bangladesh National Society for Blind (BNSB), Lion's club and local people.

Skin diseases break out in district

GAZIPUR, Mar 2: Skin diseases have broken out in an alarming form in different parts of the district, reports UNB.
 Children of the poor families are the worst sufferers as their guardians cannot afford to buy necessary medicine for them.
 Local people complained that the district health department has not yet taken any preventive measures to combat the growing menace.
 It is also alleged that necessary medicines are not available at the thana health complexes and Gazipur sadar health complex.
 Consequently poor people are facing problems as they cannot afford to go to the private practitioners.
 Local people have urged the authorities to take proper steps to mitigate the sufferings of the patients.
 The local municipal market is beset with various problems causing much inconvenience to the business community.
 There is no proper drainage system in the market and stagnant water cannot pass easily creating problems to both buyers and sellers.
 Lack of accommodation and water supply hampers the smooth running of the market.
 There is no dustbin in the market and the garbage are dumped in roadsides polluting the environment.
 Shops and business centres have been erected haphazardly causing suffering to the customers and movement of vehicles.
 There is no urinal in the market and people are to respond to the call of nature in the open causing health hazards.
 Local people have urged the authorities to look into the problems and take immediate steps to solve them.

Farmers require bank loans

From Our Correspondent
 GAIBANDHA, Mar 2: Farmers of the district have been facing trouble in cultivating Rabi crop during this current season for want of adequate bank loans.
 The banks disbursed only Taka 12 lakh 97 thousand for wheat, Taka 41 lakh 86 thousand for potato, Taka 34 lakh for Boro and Taka 46 lakh 44 thousand for other crops. As a result, Taka four crore 84 lakh three thousand still lying with the banks.
 During the period, five commercial banks have disbursed only one fifth of total allocation.
 According to sources, the government has written off the loan upto Taka 5,000 and these borrowers are eligible to get fresh loan. But the have not yet implemented the procedure. The banks are not extending any further loans to those farmers.
 The farmers of the area could not get fair price of their last Boro and Aman crops who need agriculture loan for cultivation Rabi crops.
 A bicycle rider Khusht, SSC candidate of village Chaporehati under Sunderganj thana was crushed under the wheel of a loaded speeding truck at Gaibandha-Sunderganj bus Stand on February 15.
 According to report, Khusht and Bahadur were coming toward Gaibandha on-bicycle.



CHANDPUR: Nasreen Yakub, wife of local DC distributing prizes at the annual sports of Udayan School recently. —Star photo

People urged to resist destructive forces

TANGAIL, Mar 2: State Minister for Relief Lutfur Rahman Khan called upon the people to resist the destructive forces who were trying to destabilise the social peace and development of the country by creating unnecessary hartal and blockade, reports UNB.
 He was addressing a public meeting organised by Ghatail thana unit of BNP at Anahola Primary School ground here on Saturday.
 Abdus Salam Pintu MP, Anwara Habib Khan MP, Chairman of Tangail Pourasava Shamsul Haque and local BNP leaders also addressed the meeting.
 The State Minister said the present government was working hard for making the country self-reliant with the help of the people.
 Lutfur cautioned the people that a section of political parties who were rejected by the people for their anti-people activities, were trying to create anarchy and indiscipline in the society to make the elected BNP government unpopular.
 He said the people loved BNP and wanted no more indiscipline and disturbance, they wanted peace and development.
 Lutfur called upon the people, irrespective of party affiliation, to extend their sincere help and cooperation to the government's efforts for making the country happy and prosperous.

Plan to construct two pry school buildings taken up

RAJBARI, Mar 2: The Facilities Department of the Education Ministry has taken up a programme to construct two primary school buildings in the district under the General Education Project, reports UNB.
 The government has allocated Tk 26 lakh for the programme to be completed during the current financial year.
 The schools are Town Maktab in the town and Pangsha Maishala Primary School.
 About one thousand more students are expected to have access to education after completion of the projects.
 Besides, the government has allocated Tk 13 lakh to complete the underconstruction work of the Library Bhaban of Rajbari Government College.
 Another report adds: Government has allocated 97 metric tons of wheat for four kilometre long Hajrakhal Reexcavation Project at Sultanpur in the district.
 Fifty per cent work will be completed voluntarily and the rest under Foods for Works Programme. The work is expected to be finished by March next.
 After completion, a vast area of Sadar thana will be brought under flood control, irrigation network and pisciculture.



BOGRA: Floating people increasing in the town alarmingly. —Star photo

58,560 hectares under wheat cultivation

BARISAL, Mar 2: A total of 58,560 hectares has been brought under wheat cultivation in eleven southern districts under Barisal Agriculture Zone (BAZ) during the current rabi season, reports BSS.
 The districts are: Barisal, Jhalakati, Bhola, Pirojpur, Barguna, Faridpur, Madaripur, Gopalganj, Rajbari, Patuakhali and Shariatpur.
 According to an official source, the production target of wheat has been fixed at 1,11,264 metric tons this year.
 Bangladesh Agriculture Extension Department has arranged 345 demonstration plots in these districts to educate farmers scientific methods of cultivation. Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) has so far distributed 4,38,440 kilograms of seeds among the farmers the source said.
 Besides, BADC has installed power pumps, deep and shallow tube-wells, to make the programme a success. The BADC has also taken up a programme to distribute fertilizers, insecticides and other necessary inputs among the farmers. Banks of this region have undertaken programme to disburse loans for wheat cultivation, the source added.
 Of the total, 800 hectares are being cultivated in Barisal, 10 hectares each in Jhalakati and Pirojpur, 20 hectares each in Patuakhali and Barguna, 3,600 hectares in Bhola, 23,000 hectares in Faridpur, 4,000 hectares in Madaripur, 4,500 hectares in Gopalganj, 12,500 hectares in Rajbari and 10,100 hectares in Shariatpur districts.

Who will protect the traders, farmers?

FARIDPUR, Mar 2: Some members of an agency allegedly snatched 59 cattle of traders and farmers on way to a hat in Madhukhali thana and feasted with some of them, reports UNB.
 According to a case filed with police on February 25, some small traders and farmers of Uzandior, Ghopghat, Atapur, Gopaldi and Chhoto Gopaldi villages were going to Tepakhla hat, the largest cattle market in the area, to sell their cattle on February 22.
 They were halted by some armed members of that agency near Arkandi Bridge on the Kamarkhali-Faridpur highway. When asked for, they showed documents to the agency men to prove that their cattle were not Indian.
 But the group, according to the allegation, became angry and injured Shahadat of Chhoto Gopaldi, Golam Rasul of Ghopghat and Mahiuddin of Paikpara by beating them up with riflebutts.
 They then took away 50 native cattleheads of the small cattle traders and nine of the farmers worth some Tk 232,400, according to the FIR.
 Some traders and farmers went to the barracks of the agency in Kushtia and found three of their cattle allegedly slaughtered for a feast. However, the farmers got back five different cattle instead of their ones.
 Meanwhile, local MP MA Rouf Mia and farmer MP Shah Mohammad Abu Zafar condemned the act and demanded proper inquiry into the matter.
 They also demanded punitive action against those involved and adequate compensation for the affected farmers and cattle traders.