District roundup

NATORE

Statues worth Tk 40 lakh recovered

Mar 8: Police recovered two statues of valuable stone worth Taka 40 lakh from Tebaria Hat in Sadar thana on Sunday and arrested two people in this connection, reports UNB.

The arrested are Abdus Samad and Akkas Ali.

Acting on secret information, police raided the area and arrested the two people and recovered 3 kg weighed two statues from their posses-

Police said the status were brought to the area to smuggle out to India.

SIRAJGANJ

Armed group loots valuables from 12 houses

Mar 8: An armed group swooped on 12 houses in Gowshala area of the town Friday night and allegedly looted valuables worth about Taka 1.50 lakh, reports UNB.

Police and local people said the attack was in a sequel to the March 2 incident in which a youngman was killed and at * least 47 others were injured in clashes between two rival groups of Hossainpur and Gowshala.

Some 3,000 residents of Gowshala reportedly fled their houses in the wake of violence of March 2.

Another report adds: Two groups of women clashed at Dhanbandi in the troubleprone town, injuring at least 9 on March 6.

One of the injured, Shanti Begum (22), was admitted to the General Hospital with serious head injury. The clash of viragos ensued

over family feuds.

SATKHIRA

Indian cows worth Tk one lakh seized

Mar 8: Bangladesh Rifles seized 17 Indian cows worth about Taka one lakh from the border area on Saturday morning, reports UNB.

BDR sources said a group of smuggiers while coming into the courtry with the smuggled cows was challenged by them. At this the smugglers fled leaving the cows behind.

The cows were later. handed over to local customs authority. A case was filed with the police.

Local people alleged that smugglers are active in the district and every day contrabands worth about lakhs of Taka are poruing into the district through different border areas by the 'known' smugglers.

They also alleged that a section of influential people and unscrupulous traders with the connivance of some officials including law enforcing agency personnel are involved in the smuggling.

MAGURA

Housewife killed in road mishap

Mar 8: A housewife was killed when a speedy truck dashed her near Katakhali on Magura-Arpara road Saturday, reports UNB.

According to police, the victim Sandha Rani (25), wife of Antl Kumar of Rupali village in Sadar thana was hit by the truck while crossing the road. She died on the spot.

A case was registered with the local police in this connection. Police setzed the killer truck and the body was set to morgue for autopsy.

JHENIDAH

Two persons shot dead

Mar 8: Two persons were allegedly shot dead Friday night by armedmen at village Kalukhali under Kaligani thana, reports BSS.

Police source said that some activists of a party took shelter at a house at village Kalukhali under Kaligani thana. Knowing this the activists of another party gheraoed the house and shot at them the two deceased numbers two persons died on the spot. They were identified Asshimu (27) of Shatbaria of Jhenidahsadar and Mannan (25) of Kalukhait

under Kaliganj thana. A case has been registered with Kaliganj police.

DINAJPUR

Seven people held for heroin trading

Mar 8: Kotwali Police ar rested seven people including four women from Putanipara in the town on Friday for their alleged involvement in heroin trading, reports UNB.

The arrested are: Hasina Salauddin, Jamila, Du Ali, Shiuli, A Rahman and Taslim.

Local people alleged that the heroin traders were selling heroin for a long time in collaboration with some influential businessmen and as a result young people are getting addicted to heroin.

Parents are the worst sufferers as they cannot prevent their children from heroin addiction due to rampant selling of the drug in different places of the district.

Local people urged the concerned authorities to take the spurious drug traders to book give exemplary punishment without further delay.

FARIDPUR

Tk 25 lakh stolen from Sonali Bank

Mar 8: About Taka twenty five lakh was stolen Friday night from Sonali Bank Faridpur Sugar Mills branch at Madhukali sixteen miles from here, reports BSS.

According to Superintendent of Police Faridpur who visited the bank branch the incident was mysterious. He said though the volt where the money was kept was opened there was no mark of violence. There was no definite passage through which burglars could make a forced entry of course the bank authority reported to the police that the money was looted from the branch by

There was no nightguard on duty at the bank, the SP said. Bank officials on duty at the bank are still investigating the

BRAHMANBARIA Meet held on Ramzan's

sanctity From Our Correspondent

Mar 8: A meeting was held at the Jamia Younusia Madrasha Masjid premises of the town recently urging to maintain the sanctity of ramzan.

Hazrat Moulana Strajul Islam presided the meeting. General Secretary, Zila BNP Hamidul Hoque Tukku, Newly elected poura chairman Al Mamun Sarker, former Deputy Minister Humayun Kabir, Zahirul Hoque Khokan, Emdadul Haque Chowdhury, Minhajul Islam, Aminur Rahman, Moulana Abul Kashem and Saiful Islam were present.

PATUAKHALI

Quarters for health complex employees to be constructed

Mar 8: Residential quarters for the fourth class employees of the Dashmina Health Complex will be constructed during the current year, re ports UNB.

PWD sources said the government has sanctioned Taka 12.70 lakh for construction of the quarter to be completed by the end of this year.

It is learnt that about 30 employees will get accommodation facilities after completion of the project.

KISHOREGANJ

Week long eye camp concludes

From Our Correspondent

Mar 8: A week-long eye camp organised by Kishoregan Central Rotary Club concluded at Gobir.dapur High School in Hossainpur thana of the district recently.

M A Awal, Chairman of Gobindapur Union Parishad presided over the concluding ceremony and it was attended by Md. Maksudul Haque Deputy Commissioner and Mainudcin Khahdakar, Thana Nirbahi Officer, Hossainpur as chief guest and special guest respectively.

Among other, Joha A Thames, team leader, Rotary International Group study exchange team from United States spoke on the occasion. Later, the chief guest distributed spectacles and medicines free of cost among the operated patients.



MADARIPUR: Instructor Shahabuddin Farooqui at a training course arranged by Madaripur Udichi Shilpi Gosthi held at local Legal Aid Association auditorium recently. -Star photo

Registration of marriages can reduce divorces

From Our Correspondent

DINAJPUR, Mar 8: Hundreds of divorce cases have been recorded during the last three years in 25 thanas of the district.

Non-payment of dowry, poverty, polygamy, early marriage, non-registration of marriages and immoral activities have been identified as the main reasons behind the separation.

Women of the poor class are the worst victims. Due to nonregistration of marriages, the poor divorced women can not go to the court for legal action.

Non-payment of dowry has been identified as the main reason of separation now-a-The marriage registrars in

the remote areas demand higher fees which discourages the parties regarding the registration of marriages. Social workers feel that government should take mea-

sures to encourage the regis-

tration of marriages through charging a nominal fee. Defying the government restriction, many people marry more than once in the far flung areas without the written

permission of the first wife. A recent survey shows that marriages in the rural areas often fail to ensure the rights of the wife due to absence of marriage deeds. As a result, divorce has become a common feature in the rural areas.

After separation, the poor victims live in despair as their parents can not give them food and shelter. Sometimes, they are to indulge in immoral activities to earn their liveli-

There are 30 licensed marriage registrars in 13 thanas of the district. As per government rule, none above 65 years of age is not entitled to conduct marriages. But this rule is not abide by the parties.

It is reported that there are many unregistered marriage registrars in the rural areas who are engaged in various unlawful activities. Despite ban on marriage be-

low 18 years of age, the marriage registrars use to encourage such marriages taking extra money, it is learnt. The local elites feel that the

needed to remove all this malpractices. Our Kushtia Correspondent adds: Nonregistration of marriage deeds in one of the many causes of women tortures in-

implementation of law is

cluding divorce and demand for dowry. In a random spot survey made by this correspondent in some rural areas of the district it was found that the marriages of many poor families were not registered. As such the victims could not take any legal

action against the unscrupu-

lous husbands.

Besides, defying the government restriction many people in the rural areas many second time without the written permission of the first

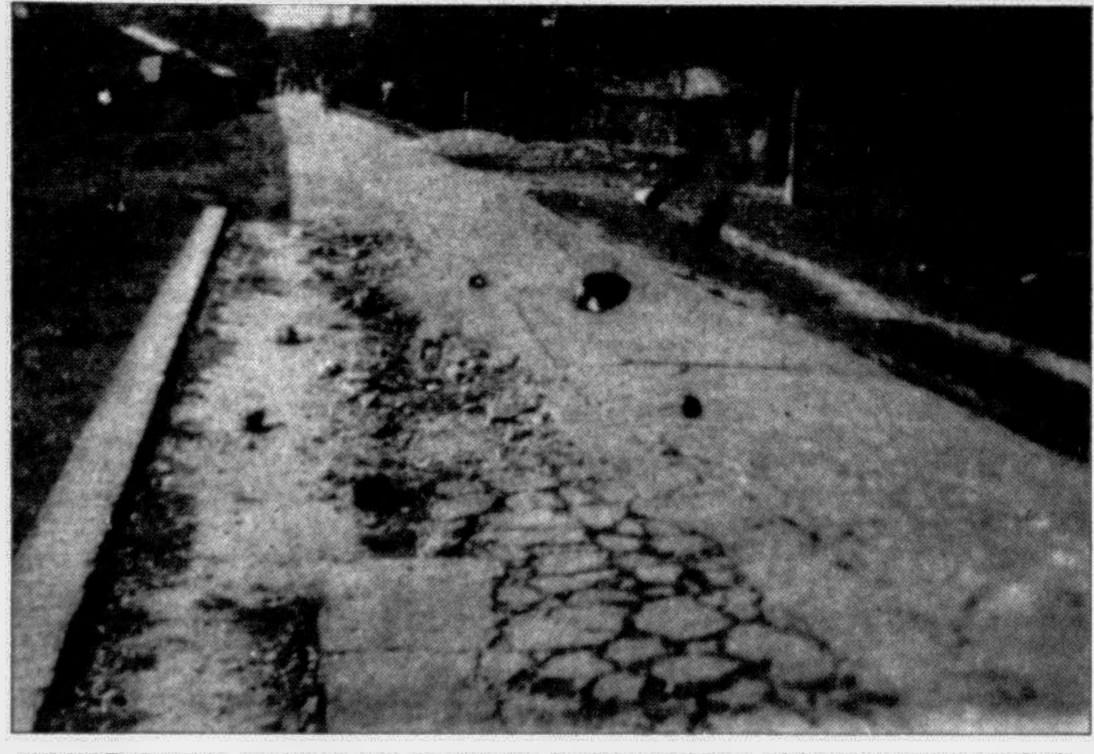
There are certain legal safeguards for a woman in the conditions of the marriage deed. But in the absence of such deeds divorce has become a common feature in the rural areas. The women are bound to live in distress in this case. Sometimes they are involved in immoral activities for their livelihood.

The high registration fee is learnt to be a cause of indifferent attitude of many illiterate poor guardians in registering the marriage deeds. It is alleged that many marriage registrars in rural areas charge higher registration fees than the fixed one. As a result, the poor parents do not bother to

get the marriage of their wards registered.

It is felt that government should fix a token fee for registration up to moharana of Taka 25,000 to encourage marriage registration among the poor and also to make wide publicity through news media of the evils of non-registration of marriage deeds.

This will check the alarming rate of divorce of women to some extent particularly in rural areas.



SYLHET: Pitiable condition of a road in the Hasnanagar area of Sunamganj town which needs immediate reconstruction. -Star photo

43800 hectares of land under IRRI-Boro farming

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Mar 8: A total of 43.800 hectares of land has been brought under IRRI-Boro cultivation in seven thanas of Satkhira district during the current IRRI-Boro scason.

The production target has been fixed at about 116070 metric tons during the period, it is learnt. According to the District

Agricultural Extension Department sources, of the total 17500 hectares of land have been brought under IRRI-Boro cultivation in Satkhira sadar thana, 8700 hectares in Kalaroa thana, 7500 hectares in Tala thana, 3000 hectares in Debhata thana, 3600 hectares in Kaligoni thana, 2100 hectares in Assassuni thana and 1400 hectares in Shyamnagar thana.

The production target is fixed at 46375 metric tons in Sadar thana, 23055 metric tons in Kalaroa thana, 18152 metric tons in Tala thana, 9672 metric tons in Debhata thana, 9540 metric tons in Kaligonj thana, 5565 metric tons in Assassuni thana and 3710 metric tons in Shyamnagar thana during the

current season. Mentionable that IRRI-Boro d cultivation in the district is

expected to fail to achieve its target due to abnormal price hike of fertilizers, pesticides, diesel and other agricultural inputs, it is learnt. On the other hand, the price of paddy has come down than the pro-6,60,673 hectares

of land under rabi crop farming MYMENSINGH, Mar 8: At

least 6,60,673 hectres of land have been brought under rabi crop cultivation in five dis tricts of Mymensingh Agri cultural Region in the current season, reports UNB. The districts are Mym

ensingh, Kishoreganj, Sherpur, Netrokona and Jamaipur. According to Agricultural

Extension Department 4,91,980 hectares have been brought boro cultivation. 66,650 hectares under wheat, 30,955 hectares under mus tard, 13,802 hectares under potato, 8,941 hectares under swect potato, 13,389 hectares under vegetables, 5,737 hectares under ground nuts. 6,153 hectares under sugar cane and 24,043 hectares under various pulses.

duction cost. As a result, the farmers of the district have been passing hard days. As such they are reluctant to cultivate paddy.

Cotton production

UNB report from Natore adds: About 2.5 lakh maund of cotton is expected to be produced in 16 northern districts during the current season. Cotton Development Board

(CDB) officials said cotton cultivation is going on in full swing on 25,000 acres of land in these districts.

The districts are: Raishahi, Natore, Bogra, Pabna, Naogaon, Chapainawabgani, Rangpur, Kurigram, Nilphamari, Gaibandha, Lalmonirhat, Dinajpur, Panchagarh, Joypurhat, Siraj ganj and Thakurgaon.

The CDB has formed 52 cotton units in its different zones and sub zones where their officials and field work ers are visiting regularly to ensure best utilisation of given facilities.

Local cotton producers urged the concerned authority to ensure the bank loan on soft terms and reduce the prices of fertilizers and insecticides to make the scheme a success.

Programmes on tafsere Quran taken up

TANGAIL, Mar 8: Islamic Foundation Tangail district branch has taken up a programme on Tassere quran and quran technic on occasion of holy month of Ramadan, reports BSS.

Abu Hena Mostafa Kamal Deputy Director of the foundation, said that under this programme twenty four sittings on tafsere in eight mosques have been arranged. Nurani system of the quran sharif is being taught in Islamic Foundation auditorium and Paikpara Jame Mosque.

He said that his organisation was also collecting jakat for national jakat fund.

UP member arrested with arms

KHULNA, Mar 8: Police arrested a member of Noihati Union Parishad from his house along with arms on Thursday, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip, a special police squad raided the house of Siddicur Rahman at around 1-30 am and arrested him along with a pipe gun and two cartridges.

Police said that Rahman is associated with an organised gang of dacoits.

A case has been filed with Rupsha police in this connec-

Use, sale of intoxicant unabated

MEHERPUR, Mar 8: The induscriminate use and sale of intoxicant and other drugs has assumed an alarming proportion in the district, reports

The number of toxicator and drug addicted is rising among the adolescents speed-

In order to combat transaction in life stemming from failure in love and unemployment they are resorting to drug habits. If not checked it will create grave social problem, the social leaders said. According to a statistics at

least 10 per cent of the population is suffering from mental disorder and most of them took various drugs.

Among the habituated intoxicants are hemp, opium, rectified spirit, wine and among the drugs are pathadrine, diszepam tablets and Indian fencidal syrup.

Jamaat-BCL clash leaves 15 hurt in Pabna

PABNA, Feb 8: At least 15 people were injured when activists of Jamaat-e-Islami and pro-Awami League Chhatra League clashed at Chatmohar Tuesday, reports UNB.

Police and witnesses said the clash ensued as processions of Jamaat and BCL confronted near Sonali Bank at

The Jamaatis brought out the procession in favour of maintaining sanctity of holy Ramzan while the Chhatra Leaguers were in a victory procession. BCL swept the Chatmohar Degree College Student Union election on Monday.

Lethal weapons, hockey sticks, clubs and stones were used during the clash that continued for about an hour.

Four youths - Amanullah, Abdus Salam, Golam Mawla and Dulalur Rahman — were admitted to the Thana Ilcalth Complex.

The condition of thana Secretary of Jamaat Aftabuddin (32), who was being privately treated, was stated critical. He suffered injuries in the head and body. The other injured were given first aid.

Jamaat filed a case with the local police in this connec-

Meanwhile, Jamaat district unit Ameer Maulana Abdur Rahim and Secretary Abu Taleb Mandal blamed BCL activists for the incident. In a statement, they condemned the 'attack' and demanded immediate arrest of and punishment to those responsible for it.

Muktijoddha Sangsad unit confce held

From Our Correspondent KURIGRAM, Mar 8: The annual conference of the Bangladesh Muktijoddha Sangsad, Kurigram zila unit was held recently at its office

premises with Serajul Islam in

It was addressed, among others, by Kabir Bhuyea, Aziz Musa, Osman Ghani, Sayed Monsur Ali, Shawkat Ali, Golam Mostafa, Majirudding, Odud Mondol, Nuruzzaman and Akram Hossain.

the chair.

1,27,700 sets of books distributed in Chuadanga

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, Mar books and the students of During the current academic class V. season the government has The thana-wise distribution of books are as follows distributed 1,27,700 sets of books free of cost among the Chuadanga thana-29,900 sets, Alambanga thana-40,300 sets, primary students of four thanas

Chuadanga sadar, Alamdanga, Jibannagar thana-25,000 sets. It may be mentioned here Of the total books 41,500 that the government has supsets of books have been displied a total of 1,40,000 sets of tributed among the students of books for the primary students class-I, 32,000 sets among the of the district of which students of class-II, 22,700 1,27,700 set have so far been sets of books among the studistributed among the students of class-III, 18,400 sets dents of 350 government and of books among the students of non-government primary

schools of the district.

Damurhuda-32,500 sets and

Mosquito menace alarming in Jamalpur, Satkhira

JAMALPUR, Mar 8: Mosquito menace in the town assumed an alarming proportion causing untold suffering to the town dwellers for a long time, reports UNB.

Students specially SSC and

class IV and 13,100 sets of

of Chuadanga district like

Damurhuda and Jibannagar.

HSC candidates are the worst sufferers and they cannot carry on their studies smoothly after the sunset due to mosquito

The poor people also suffer a lot as they cannot buy mosquito net to save them from mosquito bite. Stagnant water in the road

side ditches, derelict ponds and heaps of garbages dumped beside the roads are the ideal breeding : centres for mosquito. No steps were taken during

the last two years to check mosquito menace in the town and the breeding of mosquito continues unabated. Local people urged the con-

cerned authorities for proper cleaning of the drains, ditches and derelict ponds and spraying of insecticides to ease the sufferings of the people.

Our Satkhira Correspondent adds: Mosquito menace has assumed an alarming proportion in the town causing inconveniences to the town dwellers.

According to the dwellers with the advent of spring season the mosquitoes are flocking in large number from derelict ponds, bush, Irri-boro cultivated lands and other breeding centres hampering normal activities. They said due to mosquito bite malaria fever has broken out in many

The distressed and floating people who can hardly manage mosquito certain pass al most sleepless nights. The children and the students are the worst sufferers.

Selling of note-books unabated in Savar

SAVAR, Mar 8: Note-books are being sold with impunity in all the book stalls of Savar and Dhamrai thana areas despite government ban, reports UNB.

Government prohibited

publishing and selling of note-

books up to class eight to discourage the dependence of the students on the prepared answers. Sources said, some businessmen are publishing substandard note-books full of er-

rors and distortion of facts

with fictitious names which are being sold at exorbitant prices in different markets. Some guardians alleged that book sellers of the thana never sell text books without note-

books. Local leaders demanded to the concerned authority to

take necessary steps to stop this illegal business.

Another report adds:

Mushroom growth of welding shops on road sides and open places in Savar thana has been creating problems for the pedestrians.

The welding shops are being built mainly on both sides of Dhaka-Aricha highway causing problems for the vehicular movement also. Local people complained time and again to the concerned authorities but no step has yet been taken in this regard.

Students are the worst sufferers as sparkles from the welding shops hit their eyesights in the absence of protective measures as they are to pass these shops twice or

thrice everyday. Local leaders urged the concerned authority to take necessary steps to stop this road side welding business

Tk 4cr plan taken up to remove water logging

immediately.

CHITTAGONG, Mar 8: Chittagong City Corporation has undertaken an expansion and re-excavation of two canals at a cost of Taka 4.05 crore during current financial year under environment development project with the aim of removing water logging in the

city area, reports BSS. This was revealed by the Mayor of the City Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin at a press

conference held on March 6 at the Corporation Bhaban. Under the programme 4725 metre long and 3-12.80

metre broad Mirza Khal and

1375 metre long and 3-14 metre broad Mirza Noakhali will be expanded and re-excuvated during the current fiscal Nastruddin said, in order to

expand and re-excavate the

Mirza Khal and Mirza Noakhali

2.5 acres of land at a cost of

Taka 1.74 crore and 1.6 acres

at a cost of Taka 1.44 crore were acquired Most of the city areas in cluding Muradour, Nasirabad, Sholakbahar, Chandgaon, Mohra. Badurtala, Dewanhat and Agraba will be immuned from

water logging, the Mayor said.

2,136 transformers, 133,572 metres electric wire stolen

PABNA, Mar 8: Huge quantity of electric goods were stolen from Pabna, Iswardi, Chatmohor and Kazinathpur electric godowns in the last 14 months, official sources said, reports UNB.

According to Power Development Board (PDB) and Palli Biddyut Samity (PBS) sources, the stolen goods included 2,136 pieces of transformers, 1,33,572 metres of electric wire, about 1200 poles from January '92 to February

Police sources said some PDB and PBS officials and employees were involved with the stealing.

About 130 cases were filed in this connection but only four people were arrested, PDB sources said.

Meanwhile, local farmers alleged that about 35,000 acres of land in Chatmohar, Vangura, Faridpur, Atghoria, Sathia, Bera, Iswardi, Sujanagar and Pabna sadar thana are not getting irrigation facilities due to huge stealing of electric goods.

Another report adds: An eminent businessman of the legedly committed suicide Friday midnight. Arshed Ali, the owner of Al-

district, Arshed Ali, 45, al-

Amin Engineering Workshop, took poison at his residence at Mohendrapur in the town, police said. He was rushed to the Sadar Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

Acid thrown on two female SSC examinees From A Correspondent

PIROJPUR, Mar 8: Three voungmen threw acid on two female SSC examinees while they were returning from Debarkati School under Sadar thana on February 22, it is informed

The culprits were identified as Babul Shikdar, Imam Mollah and Kanchan. The victims Mont and Mukta have received burn injuries on the face and other parts of the body. Both were sent to Pirojpur hospital It is reported that Bahul

Shikdar proposed to marry Moni but Moni refused it.