

District roundup

DINAJPUR
Two fake Darbesh held
 Mar 10 : Police arrested two fake Darbesh (saint) from Mudhipara in the town on Sunday, reports UNB.
 The arrested were identified as Mohsin Ali son of Monsur Ali of Patuapara and Bishu son of Nasiruddin of Jalapur of the town.
 Police sources said the two fake Darbesh were earning money for a long time from the local women on the assurance of the treatment of female diseases and quick abortion.
 Police raided the den of the Darbesh and arrested them.
 Another report adds, Parbotipur thana police arrested 50 people on charges of anti-social activities during last two months.
 Police arrested them from different places for their involvement in hijacking, dacoity, toll collection and other terrorist activities.

MADARIPUR
50 houses gutted
 Mar 9 : About 50 houses in Bepariara, a small village, under Kalkini thana in the district of Madaripur were gutted on Wednesday, reports BSS.
 The cause of fire could not be known originating at 1 p.m. The fire engulfed the small village within a short time. It burnt the village into ashes.
 The local people were helpless spectators and Madaripur fire station far away from the affected village, could not help either.
 Food grains, seeds, jute and other valuables in 50 houses were gutted. Homeless people are now passing their days under the open sky.

KHULNA
Int'l Women's Day observed
 Mar 10 : International Women's Day was observed in Khulna on Monday as all over the country, reports BSS.
 Various socio-cultural and voluntary organisations in Khulna observed the day in a befitting manner. A discussion meeting was held yesterday at the Khulna district office of the women's affairs.
 Mayor of Khulna City Corporation Shaikh Tayebur Rahman was the chief guest while Khulna Divisional Commissioner Abdul Muktadir Choudhury was the special guest Bangladesh Family Planning Association Khulna held a discussion meeting at Jughati Family Welfare Centre under Aichhat Union or Rupsa Police Station.
 Mohula Parishad, Khulna also held a discussion meeting at its office. President of Bangladesh Medical Association Khulna branch Dr. Mahbubur Rahman was the chief guest.
 Speakers in all these discussion meetings underscored the need for ensuring equal rights women in all spheres of our national life. They also said that unless the womenfolk were allowed to participate in the development activities the desired goal to achieve proper development would be a far cry.

FENI
50 gas blast victims get financial help
 Mar 10 : Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) have so far extended financial help to 50 of the 96 injured in the gas explosion on February 9 on the Feni bypass, reports UNB.
 The explosion occurred when a Dhaka bound truck from Chittagong, loaded with chemical gas, was passing through village Lemua. It left six people killed and nearly a hundred injured.
 The injured treated at hospitals received Taka 2,000 each while those treated in private clinics Taka 1,500 each. BCIC will compensate all the 96 people injured in the accident.
 Earlier on February 26, families of the six killed in the accident received Taka 10,000 each as financial help from BCIC.

KUSHTIA
Housewife commits suicide
 Mar 10 : One Sazeda Khatun wife of Rabul Islam of West Mazampur allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself with the roof Saturday, reports BSS.
 Police recovered the body and sent it to Kushtia General Hospital for postmortem.

TANGAIL
HSC students submit forged marksheet, case filed
 Mar 10 : Principal of Saadat Government College has filed general diary with Tangail thana recently against 28 HSC students who had submitted forged S S C marksheets for admission into college, reports BSS.
 College source said that the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Dhaka had directed the principal to file cases against them as the marksheets submitted by them to the college were not genuine.

LAXMIPUR
Social worker's death anniversary observed
 Mar 10 : The third death anniversary of renowned social worker late AKM Faziul Haq (Qudrat Ullah), a former senior vice president of Noakhali Association and member of University Court (senate), was observed here on March 7, reports UNB.
 A milad mahfil, Quran Khwani and feeding of destitutes were organised at Char Chamita in Laxmipur, the village home of the deceased.
 A host of relatives and well wishers attended the programmes and prayed for the departed soul.

RAJSHAHI
Smuggled goods worth Tk 5 lakh seized
 Mar 10 : A special squad of BDR seized huge quantity of smuggled goods worth about Taka five lakh from Ishwardy Bazar under Pabna district on March 8, reports BSS.
 Acting on a secret information, the BDR members led by Commandant of 20 rifle battalion Major Chowdhury Fazlul Bari seized the contrabands which included Indian katan and cotton saree, three piece, sweater, blouse piece, cloth sugar, playing cards and cosmetics.
 Three persons identified as Md Abdul Hamid, Md Akhtir and Md Sohel inhabitants of Ishwardy under Pabna were arrested in this connection.

PABNA
Forged 500-taka notes in market, people in panic
 Mar 10 : People here are refusing to accept 500-taka notes fearing they may be counterfeit money, reports UNB.
 The crisis developed following arrest of three people with 663 forged 500-taka notes from a village in Sadar thana.
 Police raided a house at village Dighulia, nabbed the counterfeiters and recovered the notes along with 24 negatives and 10 dice their possession on March 2. They made confessional statement in the court on March 7.
 They were identified as Abdur Rahman (30) and Moslem (32) of village Kushiama, Pabna and Mofizul Islam of village Ghorta, Chittagong.
 In their confessional statement, they told the court that nine others were also involved in the forgery but declined to give their names.
 They were produced before the court on March 4 and brought to the police station on a 5-day remand. The accused, however, confessed their guilt before the remand ended.

SIRAJGANJ
22 hurt in separate clashes
 Mar 10 : Twenty-two people were injured, four seriously, in separate clashes here on Monday, reports UNB.
 Witnesses and police said seven people were injured as passengers and workers of a minibus clashed at Ullapara bus stand over bus fare Monday night.
 Of the injured, Komal Thakur (41) Karim (25) were admitted to Ullapara health complex with serious wounds.
 Fifteen people were injured in another clash between workers of Sirajganj Cotton Mills and the residents of Bahuli union in Sadar thana at the mill premises over payment of loan.
 Jahl, a worker of the mill borrowed Taka 1,500 from Saeed, an inhabitant of Bahuli village.
 Jahl and Saeed were admitted to Bahuli Health Complex with serious injuries.



RAJBARI: Local deed writers' samity are placing demand before the Law Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz to repeal of four points of Moyed-Mokammel proposal recently. — Star photo

Biman STOL services to 10 local stations soon

From Staff Correspondent
 BARISAL, Mar 10: Short take-off and landing (STOL) services of Bangladesh Biman will be introduced in ten places of the country soon.
 According to sources, STOL services will be introduced in Barisal, Khulna, Mongla, Katakata, Samshearnagar, Lalmourhat, Bogra, Ishurdi, Thakurgaon and Paharpur.
 According to the decision of the meeting of the standing committee of Civil Aviation and Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation, the abandoned airports of these places will be renovated immediately to serve the purpose.
 In Barisal, the airport in Rahmatpur is being renovated and developed for using of ATP and F-28 planes.
 In Khulna, Mongla and Paharpur meanwhile more than 17 crore taka has been allocated primarily for renovation and development works of airports.
Sarbahara Party men kill 15
 Fifteen persons were killed by the Sarbaharamen during last year in the Barisal Division while 24 Sarbaharas were killed by the angry villagers or in their factional clashes, eyes of 12 were also gouged out during the period.
 During last year piracy and dacoities were committed in six passenger launches, one passenger coach and on about two hundred passenger trawlers and fishing trawlers in which 24 passenger and fishermen were killed and more than one hundred were injured. Eyes of seven dacoits were gouged out by the village people. It is revealed that according to statistics piracy and dacoities on marine vessels were more in comparison with the last year.
 During the dacoities, dacoits looted away at least eleven rifles and wealth of lakhs of taka from the Ansars on duty and the passengers on board.
 Two rifles were recovered in January '93.
 Last year dacoity were committed in ML Suheli, Bapan, Hayat, Satata and two cargo launches.
Thana magistrate courts
 Another report adds: Except 8, all other thana magistrate courts in the country will be to the district headquarters within June 30. According to a source this decision has already been finalised and circulars have been sent to the authority concerned.
 Due to different reasons eight thana magistrate courts of seven districts will not be shifted now. These eight courts are of Kalapara (Khepupara) of Patuakhali district, Monpura of Bhola, Sandip of Chittagong, Kutbdia and Maheshkhali of Cox's Bazar, Durgapur of Mymensingh, Jakiganj of Sylhet and Hatia of Noakhali district.
 Besides, in formed sources told that in this shifting process thousands of people working in these courts may be jobless and will fall in various problems.

Growers sell potato at prices below production cost

From Our Correspondent
 CHANDPUR, Mar 10 : Harvesting of potato has started in Chandpur district, one of the richest potato growing area of the country. But the growers are now in a problem that they are bound to sell their products below the production cost.
 It is reported, the cost of producing of one maund potato is about Taka 150 whereas the price of potato in the retail market ranges between Taka 110 to Taka 120 per maund. So the price of potato is very lower at the growers' level.
 As a result, the poor potato cultivators of the district are incurring a great loss. The cultivators cannot stock their produce for a considerable time to get a fair price. They are bound to sell their produce as soon as they harvest the crops. Besides, they are bound to sell their crops to repay loan taken at a high interest. The middlemen are taking the advantage. They buy a huge quantity of potato during the harvesting time. They preserve the potato in the cold storage to make profit. In this way, the middlemen gain the profit while the cultivators sustain a great loss. This year the per acre production has come down because of the damage caused by recent incessant rainfall. So, this year per acre production is between Taka 200 to Taka 300 maunds. Last year average yield of potato per acre ranged between Taka 300 to Taka 400 maunds. The low price of potato will put the growers into economic hardship and it will affect the potato cultivation in the area. The poor cultivators should be provided with some facilities including storing and loan to enable them to get a fair price of potato.

Gur output decreasing day by day

From Our Correspondent
 MADARIPUR, Mar 10 : The quantity of gur (molasses) from the date jute (Khejurer) gur decreasing in Madaripur and Shariatpur due to feeling of trees at an alarming rate for the last couple of years.
 According to an unofficial survey, there were more than two lakh date trees in these districts in 1982. Gur production was 3,000 maunds at an average rate of ten seers per tree. The earning from the sale of gur reached at about Taka three crore during the last season, it is reported.
 Madaripur, Sadar, Mostafapur, Kalkini, Palong, Angaria, Goshherhat, Utrali and Naria were famous for gur. People from different places of the country crowded there to purchase gur.
 The season of gur starts from November with the approach of winter. It ends in February to March with the departure of winter.



RANGPUR: A view of the cataract operation of an eye patient at the seven-day long eye camp at Balarhat high school under Mithapukur thana in Rangpur district held recently at the initiative of Nurul Huda Sultan, a well-reputed social worker and industrialist of the district. At least 200 eye-patients were operated upon and more than one thousand and two hundred eye-patients were given treatment at the camp at free of cost. — Star photo

Across the country
Tk 20 crore motel unopened for over a decade

Md Iqbal Siddique
 Sylhet, Mar 10: A motel constructed in Sylhet by the Parjatan Corporation has long been lying idle due to lack of interest on the part of the government and now the whole project seems to be shelved, mysteriously.
 Sylhet is full of scenic beauty of an uncommon type which attracts large number of visitors from both home and abroad every year. The region is renowned for numerous eye-catching things like the small hills of Jafflong, orange-gardens of Beanibazar, Barlekha, Golapganj, Jaintiapur and Gowainghat, pineapple gardens, tea-gardens, ropeway of Bholaganj and other places of visual interest. Besides, a large number people also come regularly to this region to visit the holy shrine of Hazrat Shahjalal, the hills of Khasia and Jaintia, the only natural falls of the country at Madhabkunda, the oilfields and gas fields of Kailashtila, Haripur and place, only five kilometres off the Sylhet town. The then tourism minister laid the foundation stone of the project. The motel is situated at a nice hillock-type place (locally called tfa) on the side of the zigzag Sylhet-Shaluttkor Road. The Sylhet forest school stand on the opposite side of the road.
 The Sylhet Osmany Airport is on the eastern side of the motel while the Alibahar Tea Garden, Malnichhera Tea Garden, and Sylhet Cadet College are also within a very small distance of the project. Parjatan authority is being deprived of earning a huge amount of revenue due to the unusual delay in starting this motel. It is widely felt, here.
 The two-storied motel building has 50 rooms. Of these, 26 were fully fit for use long before, while the rest 24 were also about to be ready soon. It was then said that the motel would be inaugurated



SYLHET: Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation constructed these motel a decade ago. But due to unknown reasons, it is still lying unused. — Star photo

formally in the winter of 1984. Accordingly, as many as more than Taka three crore were spent. The works then remained suspended, due to reasons known best to the authority. However, it is learnt that, there ensued some difference of opinions between the engineer and the officials of BPC, over a small landslide at a nearby place. Taking advantage of the matter some interested quarters tried to abandon the whole project, in place of solving the mere problem, for the timebeing, it is alleged.
 Knowledgeable sources say that, the present market value of the land and the motel buildings would be around Taka 20 crore. Mysteriously, it had been lying abandoned for the last ten years, with no one so far being asked to explain why.
 Due to absence of necessary care a supervision, valuables including the sanitary fittings and electrical materials are being damaged, and stolen, valuable portions of lands are also being grabbed.
 Weeds of different types have also been sprouting in front and around the buildings and even on its roof. Mosaic floors are also being damaged at places. The whole area is getting worse day by day. Two officers and the chowkidars engaged to look after these buildings are being paid without any work.
 A few months back, some officials from Dhaka came to see the feasibility of starting the motel at an early date. After their visit, it was expected that a positive decision would be taken up soon, but all in vain. No decision has yet been known to be made.

Lalan Swaran Utshab observed

KUSHTIA, Mar 10: Lalan Swaran Utshab was observed here on Sunday in a befitting manner, reports BSS.
 It is said the great Baul Lalan Shah used to observe the day of fullmoon of the Bengali month of Falgun as special occasion during his life time. Hundreds of Bauls from all over the country and abroad came here to participate in the function.
 Dr Tripirarma from west Bengal (India) attended the discussion meeting, held on the occasion. Night long cultural function was also held.

20 uplift schemes taken up

PABNA, Mar 10: The Pabna pourashava has taken up 20 uplift schemes at a cost of Taka 1.36 crore under Secondary Infrastructure Towns Development Project, reports UNB.
 Local Government Engineering Bureau has undertaken the programme with the financial assistance from Asian Development Bank.
 Taka 1.05 crore has been sanctioned for constructing 1.56 Km long Secondary road and 4.87 Km long local roads and Taka 14.5 lakh has been sanctioned for pure water supply and Taka 2.77 lakh for installing 100 sanitary latrines.
 At least 20 deepset will be installed at the cost of Taka 2.97 lakh.
 The work on the projects is expected to be completed by next June.

1,253 people held in Khulna

KHULNA, Mar 10: Police arrested 1,253 people, including 21 Sarbahara Partymen, in a special drive in 10 districts of Khulna Division in the last one month, reports UNB.
 Officials said today police also recovered 25 firearms like piteguns, cut-rifle, country-made guns and Indian revolvers.
 They also recovered 707 handbombs, 300 bullets of rifle, 5 bullets of revolver and 14 of pistol.
Four killed, 30 injured in road mishaps
COMILLA, Mar 10: A farmer was killed along with his two cows in a road accident at Kabilapur on Dhaka-Chittagong trunk road Thursday, reports UNB.
 According to witnesses, a Dhaka bound speeding bus hit the victim Sadat Ali (40) of Chandina thana and fell on his two cows. Sadat was grazing his cows on the roadside areas. Sadat died on way to hospital. The mishap occurred the while bus was trying overtake another bus.
 Police seized the bus but the driver and the conductor managed to escape.
 Report from Dinajpur says: An old man was killed in a road accident at Ambari in Kotowali thana on Dinajpur-Fulbaria road Sunday.
 According to witnesses, the victim Faziul Sheikh son of Ambaruddin was crushed under the wheel of a Fulbaria bound speeding truck while crossing the road. He was rushed to Dinajpur General Hospital where he succumbed. A case has been filed with the local police.
 Report from Bogra writes: A minor girl and an elderly woman were killed in road accidents at Mirzapur in Sherpur thana on Bogra-Nagarbari highway Monday, witnesses and police said.
 The victims were identified as Anzu Khatun (8) and Chhabitan Beowa (60) of Mirzapur.
 Anzu died on the spot when she was hit by a Nagarbari bound truck from behind at about 11.30 am.
 Chhabitan Beowa was run over by another truck laden with fertilizer as she was crossing the highway to see Anzu's body lying in a pool of blood. The Bogra bound truck coming from Nagarbari skidded off the road and fell into a roadside ditch after hitting Chhabitan.
 A case was filed with Sherpur thana in this connection.

