

## District roundup

### FENI

#### One burnt alive, another hurt in fire

Mar 14: A child was roasted alive, another injured and property worth about Taka 25 lakh gutted in four separate fire incidents in the last one week, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, a devastating fire originating from a thatched house of Majid Mia soon engulfed the adjacent areas and gutted 30 houses at Moduat village in Sadar thana Monday. Property worth Taka 7 lakh was destroyed and Rony (1) burnt alive and Rubel (3) injured seriously in the incident.

Property worth Taka 10 lakh including 10 houses was gutted in another fire originating from an electric short circuit of Rashid Master's house at Lalpur village in Daganbhuyan thana on March 5.

Another fire incident took place at Gabindapur village in Sadar thana and damaged property worth Taka 5 lakh including 15 houses on March 7.

Valuables worth Taka 3 lakh were gutted in the fire that broke out in the house of Sayedul Hoque of Barahatpur village in Sadar thana.

### MAGURA

#### Number of female labourers on rise

Mar 14: The number of female labourers is rapidly increasing in four thanas of the district due to economic crisis, reports UNB.

According to a recent statistics there are 10,000 female day-labourers in Sadar, Sreepur, Salikha and Mohamadpur thanas who are mostly working in the brickfields and paddy fields to eke out their living.

But many women who used to maintain their livelihood in husking paddy in rural areas went out of job due to setting up of rice mills.

Many women work under Food For Works Programme but at present the schemes under the programme are too meagre and most of them have been rendered jobless.

Many women became destitute due to recurrent natural disasters including flood, cyclone, tornado and drought.

Local leaders have urged the government to take immediate scheme to rehabilitate the jobless women labourers.

### MOULVIBAZAR

#### Sunni confce concludes

From Our Correspondent

Mar 14: Islamic Chhatra Sena and Islami Jubo Sena, Kamalgonj thana committee jointly organised a Sunni Conference recently at Shamsnagar Madrasa ground. A waz mahfil was also held in this connection.

Al-haj Md Baki Billah, Md Abu Naser Talukder, Md Shahjalal Ahmed Akandjee, Md Shafiqur Rahman Diplobi and Hafiz Mesbah Uddin took part in the waz mahfil.

Speaker of the waz mahfil said, the Islam is a code of life but some known politicians who used holy religion for their political gain and trying to create confusion in religions by their political ideology in religious envelop. They added that Jamaat-Shibir quarter murdered innocent students who denied Moududifad. Speakers were also condemned the politics in the name of religion.

#### Call to help implement canal excavation plan

Mar 14: Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz asserted Saturday this years bumper harvest justified the canal digging programme initiated by late President Ziaur Rahman and reintroduced by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, reports UNB.

Mirza Hafiz called upon all irrespective of political affiliation to help implement the canal excavation and re-excavation programme in greater national interest.

He was addressing a spontaneous gathering after inspecting progress of excavation work of Daribibha canal at Rajarhat in Jhaladhaha thana of the district.

The minister was informed by the concerned officials that on completion of this one-mile-long canal, it would provide irrigation facilities for an additional 4,000 acres of land in the area. About 50,000 families will be benefited directly from the excavation of the canal.

### MYMENSINGH

#### BAU Employees' Parishad executives

Mar 14: The 15-member executive council of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) Employees' Parishad has recently been formed with Golam Moinuddin (Bulbul) as its president and Tozammel Hossain as its general secretary, reports BSS.

Other office-bearers of the executive council are Ashraf Ali Huda—senior vice-president, Md Baduzzaman—vice president, Kezi Abdul Gofur—joint secretary, Anwarul Karim—AGS, Azizul Islam—organising and office secretary, Enayet Kazim Ahmed—finance secretary, A Hashim—social welfare secretary, Khairul Islam—cultural secretary and Abdul Hye, Saleh Uddin Shafiqul Islam, Anwar Hossain and S M Al-Mamun—executive members.

### KUSHLIA

#### Rectified spirit consumed as alcohol

From Our Correspondent

Mar 14: Rectified spirit is being freely consumed as alcohol by the youths in the district town causing moral degradation.

Residents complained that addicted young people buy the spirit from homeopathic doctors and take it as alcohol by mixing water.

It is alleged that some dishonest homeopathic doctors in spite of having licences to practise and manufacture are selling the spirit to the addicts at exorbitant prices.

As per government rule, licences for rectified spirit are only issued to the bonafide homeopath practitioners and homeo-medicine manufacturers.

It may be mentioned that there is no liquor shop in the district but it is openly sold in the town.

Meanwhile, drug addiction among the youth has increased here causing concern among the parents and guardians.

School and college students make the largest group of addicts, it is learnt.

### JAMALPUR

#### Religious leader dead

Mar 14: Shah Sufi Al-haj Hazrat Korban Ali, a great religious leader who preached humanity and Islam, died here early on Wednesday morning at the age of 79, reports BSS.

Peer Shaheb Korban Ali, who had thousands of followers all over the country, has been suffering from old-age complications.

A great scholar in Islamic philosophy, Peer Shaheb Korban Ali devoted his life for the cause of Islam and humanity. He founded madrasahs, maktabas and orphanages besides spending a considerable part of his life as teacher in Islamic education in various madrasahs.

A non-traditional Peer, he renowned himself as a philanthropist for his contributions to the wellbeing of the poor and deceased. He left behind one of his wives, sons, daughters and host of grand children.

The namaz-e-janaza of Peer Shaheb Korban Ali was held on Thursday noon at his residence at Parazipara under Dewanganj Thana.

#### Installation ceremony held

From Our Correspondent

Mar 14: Newly elected Gaibandha Mohila College student leaders were sworn-in at college campus recently.

On this occasion, a get-together was held which presided over by Mofazzal Hossain, Principal of the college. The function was attended by Prof. Abdul Latif Khan, Principal Gaibandha Govt. College as chief guest.

Those who addressed among others: T I M Hafizur Rahman, Azizul Islam Khandker, Md Jakaria, Manzila Khatun, Momena Khatun and Safia Mallick.

Another report adds: Eleven founding anniversary of local Ahmed Ullin Shah Shishu Niketan concluded at its premises recently.



RANGPUR: A recent cyclone that lashed over Patgram of the district has damaged the banana trees of the locality. —Star photo

## Female smokers on increase

KISHOREGANJ, Mar 14: The number of female smokers is increasing day by day in the rural areas of the district, reports UNB.

A survey revealed that the old women of the mill and factory areas are more addicted to smoking than others.

Anti-smoking movement has been launched in the town but there is no publicity campaign against smoking in the rural areas.

The smoking tendency is found among the landless and labour class women. About 25 per cent smoke biers and the rest 75 per cent smoke tobacco dusts, locally known as 'Nosha'.

Doctors suggested that mass motivation campaign from the government is needed to impart knowledge on the adverse effect of smoking on the body and mind.

Fish disease Fish diseases have broken out in an epidemic form throughout the district affecting consumers during the last few days.

Official sources said the common disease known as 'ulcerative syndrome' has affected different varieties fish like Kot, Ruhi, Puti, Magur, Shing, Bheda, Telapia, Shol Gazar, Taki, Boal and Tengra.

Fish traders said the demand for fish has sharply dropped following the outbreak of the disease in Inna, Mitamoin, Bazitpur, Astagram, Kofjadi, Hossainpur and Sadar thanas of the district.

On the otherhand, nutrition experts cautioned that a large

## Indian fish worth Tk 4 lakh seized

SATKHIRA, Mar 14: The district task force seized Indian fish worth about Taka four lakh from a truck here on Saturday, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip, task force members stopped a truck which was carrying about 4000 kilograms Indian Katla fish.

The truck later, along with the fish, was handed over to the local customs authority.

Official sources said, about 15,000 kilograms of Indian Katla fish were seized in separate drives by the task force members during last one month.

Arrangements are being made to supply quality seeds, fertilisers, insecticides and other necessary inputs to the farmers at fair prices. Irrigation facilities are also being extended to boost production.

Meanwhile, 140 demonstration plots have been set up to acquaint the farmers with the modern methods of cultivation.

With the successful implementation of the scheme, it is expected that over 3.46 lakh metric tons of paddy will be produced in the district.

## 58,500 hectares of land under wheat farming in 11 S-dists

From Staff Correspondent

HARIHAL, Mar 14: Fifty eight thousand five hundred hectares of land has been brought under wheat cultivation in eleven southern districts of Barisal, Bhola, Jhalakathi, Pirojpur, Bogura, Madaripur, Faridpur, Gopalganj, Rajbari, Patuakhali, and Saripatpur under Barisal Agriculture Zone during this current rabi season.

The target of production has been fixed at 1,11,000 metric tons of wheat.

Besides, Bangladesh Agriculture Extension Department (BAED) has arranged 350 demonstration plots in these districts to provide scientific methods of wheat farming knowledge to the farmers of these districts.

BAEDC has so far distributed 3,38,440 kgs of seeds among the farmers to implement the programme a success by reaching the target.

Of the total 750 hectares of land are being cultivated in Barisal while 10 hectares each

in Jhalakathi and Pirojpur, 20 hectares in Bogura, 22 hectares in Patuakhali, 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 Saripatpur.

Tk 1,14,75,000 for 55 projects

Another report says: Government has sanctioned Taka 1,14,75,000 for implementing of 55 educational projects in 26 thanas of four southern districts of Barisal, Pirojpur, Bhola and Jhalakathi under Barisal Division during this fiscal year.

These projects included repair and construction works of government primary schools.

It is learnt 3.75 lakh taka will be spent for the reconstruction of 27 primary schools while 50,000 taka for repair works for each school in these thana areas.

Another report adds: At last

the 35-year long problems regarding the boundary line between the two districts, of Barisal and Bhola were settled last Friday by installing RC pillars along the demarcation lines of these two districts.

That day in presence of Mazharul Islam, Director of Survey, Abdur Rashid, Divisional Commissioner, Barisal, Mohiuddin Ahmed, MP, Mchendiganj area, Deputy Commissioners of Barisal and Bhola districts including local elites and journalists the 14th pillar at Garuria and 27th pillar at Veduria were installed along the demarcation lines of Barisal and Bhola districts.

With 27 pillars demarcation of Char Veduria of 1511 acres of disputed land will be settled.

It may be recalled that absence of the particular demarcation lines almost every year for about 35 years last vested forces were engaged in killing looting of paddy including continuous litigations against each other making news headlines in different newspapers.

## Notes from Mymensingh

From Our Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, Mar 14: Kotwali police recovered an unidentified body of a man (40) from botanical garden of BAU campus recently.

The body was sent to the Mymensingh Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

A case has been filed in this connection.

61 bags of blood collected

Medicine club of Mymensingh Medical College collected sixty-one bags of blood recently during blood donation programmes.

Two killed in incidents

One Abdul Mannan (36) was killed by his nephew at Bahadurnagar of Muzampur Umori under Nandail thana recently.

A case was filed with the police in this regard.

In another incident, a minor boy Rahim (10) was killed in a road accident at Charashia under Muktagacha thana. A case was filed with the police in this regard.

Dacoits loot valuables

Dacoits looted valuables worth about Taka 50,000 from the residence of one Modasser of Kawatkhal in the town recently.

They ransacked the house and looted the valuables.

A case was filed with the police in this regard.

Two housewives commit suicide

Sufia Khatun (20), wife of Kanchan Mia of village Char Bual under Nandail thana committed suicide jumping herself from speeding train at Nandail recently.

Another housewife Badana (25) of village Sunal under Nandail thana committed suicide recently.

The cases of suicide could not ascertained immediately.

Kidnapped college student rescued

Kotwali thana police rescued one kidnapped college student and arrested eight alleged members of the kidnapping gang recently.

Police in an operation rescued college student Md. Manum (21) of village Shihla under Kotwali thana after 13 days of kidnapping. He was kidnapped from his village Dhanikhula under Trishal thana on February 21, 1993.

The arrested kidnapers are Saifuddin, Mannan, Kalam, Ruzzak, Saiful, Sahabuddin, Nazrul and Kashem.

Blacksmiths facing bottlenecks

The blacksmiths in all the 12 thanas of Mymensingh district have been facing manifold problems.

## Price-hike of essential inputs Chilli growers facing bottleneck in N-dists

From Our Correspondent

KURIGRAM, Mar 14: The chilli growers of northern region of the country have been facing much difficulties in carrying on their ancestral trade due to price-hike of essential inputs and scarcity of other essentials.

It may be mentioned here that chilli grows in about fifty districts of the country. Of them, Bogra, Joypurhat and greater Rangpur district including Kurigram, Gaibandha, Lalmonirhat, Nilphamari and Rangpur Sadar are notable. Out of the total yield, nearly thirty per cent chilli is produced in this region and more than one lakh farmers with atleast five lakh dependents are now engaged in this cultivation.

The produced chilli is supplied to different parts of the country mainly to Dhaka. But due to high price of production materials, the growers are learnt to have been thinking of giving up the profession.

Meanwhile supply of chillies in the market started decreasing day by day.

It is learnt from chilli farmers that Taka 7,000 to 8,000 is needed to cultivate chilli

over an acre of land. According to a survey, the growers are not getting fair prices of chilli which discourages them in carrying on with the cultivation. Besides, every year the chilli farmers are badly affected by all sort of natural calamities since its cultivation is largely dependent on the whims of nature.

A chilli farmer of Ulipur thana said, if modern technology in Cultivation is adopted, the yield will get a boost and the country could earn a lot of foreign exchange by exporting chilli after meeting the domestic demand.

An agricultural official opined that the country can earn a huge foreign currency every year by exporting chilli to abroad where lakhs of people of Bangladesh are now living.

A chilli businessman informed Bangladesh cannot enter to the world market due chiefly to negligence and lack of active initiative from the government.

## Scarcity of coconut acute in Chuadanga

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, Mar 14: Scarcity of coconut have been very acute now in the local markets as a result price of coconuts have abnormally gone up in the local markets for a long time past.

In the local markets, a pair of coconuts are now being sold at Taka 25 to 30 as against Taka 10 to 12 during last year.

The production of coconut in the district is not sufficient. Huge quantities of coconuts are brought here from Khulna every year as a result the price of coconut could not go up. This year, the import of coconut from Khulna is insufficient for which the price have abnormally gone up.

It is learnt that production of coconut is not sufficient in

Khulna district for which import of it automatically has decreased.

For want of coconut this year, the people of Chuadanga district could not take winter season 'pitha' sufficiently.

Some people of this area would also prepare coconut oil for personal use but they are not doing it for want of coconut.

The price of sweetmeats made from coconut have also gone up in the district for the scarcity of coconut.

A good number of coconut sellers in the district have also been unemployed for want of coconut. About 500 people of the district were engaged in coconut selling business who are now in search of other.



SYLHET: The century-old mosque at village Turukbag of Gopalganj thana needs immediate reconstruction. —Star photo

## Mosquito menace turns alarming in Manikganj

From Our Correspondent

MANIKGANJ, Mar 14: Mosquito menace has increased alarmingly throughout the district causing inconveniences to the dwellers.

In many places of the district especially in Shibabala, Ghor, Singair and Sadar thanas, a large number of people have been attacked by malaria due to mosquito biting.

Just after sunset people cannot work in their respective area due to mosquito bites. Students are the most sufferers.

Drains, ditches, canals, bushes, derelict ponds covered with water hyacinths and 'Dholekalmi' fences are the breeding grounds of mosquitoes.

Mosquito-killer aerosol is sold at a very high price. Mosquito coils have become ineffective due to its low quality and these are also harmful to public health. The price of mosquito nets has also gone up in recent days.

Steps like aerial and ground spray, destruction of water hyacinths and bushes have become necessary to combat the menace.

Drug addict youths on rise

Another report adds: The number of drug addict youths is growing alarmingly in Manikganj town and Aricha ghat.

Rural youths have becoming addicted to different items of intoxication like foreign-made wine, opium, country made wine, drug, sedative tablets, mirza shobhani sura, ganja and other types of liquid contain-

ing alcohol.

According to a no-official survey, Manikganj town, Aricha ghat and its suburbs have turned into pen markets of drugs. All kinds of drugs and wine are available in medicine shops.

The survey reveals that the number of addicted teenagers is only five per cent and it is increasing day by day. A well organised circle has been smuggling these items of intoxication from India and sell those in Manikganj.

It is observed that drug addict old and young people visit the medicine shops mostly after sunset with a view to buying sedative tablets, liquid and injection. Even minor boys are found looking for drugs in medicine shops.

## Miscreants kill rickshaw van driver

JHENIDAH, Mar 14: A rickshaw van driver was killed by a gang of armed miscreants here at Kalliganj thana on Friday night, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, the victim Mohan (30) of Mohadevpur village while returning home with his van after the day's work was attacked and killed by the miscreants. They also fled away with the van.

The reason behind the killing could not be known.

Police recovered the body on the next morning and sent it to morgue for autopsy.



NATORE: Nazrul Islam, Additional Deputy Commissioner (General), Natore addressing as chief guest at the prize giving ceremony of national competition on Islamic culture held here at local Islamic Foundation auditorium recently. —Star photo