

District roundup

CHAPAINAWABGANJ

Plan to disburse Tk 4.91 cr as agri-loan taken up

Mar 15: Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank has undertaken a plan to disburse Taka 4.91 crore as agri loan in the district during the current fiscal year, reports UNB.

The loan will be disbursed in Nawabganj, Shibganj, Gomostapur, Nachol and Bholahat thanas.

Sources said, the bank has already distributed more than Taka 2.44 crore from July '92 to March '93 to the local farmers.

The credit facilities were extended for aman, boro, wheat, sugarcane, mango, potato and other crops farming.

All the 13 branches of RAKUB of the district were instructed to advance loan as per requirement of the farmers so that agriculture production can not be hampered for want of credit.

The bank, meanwhile, recovered the arrear of Taka over 2.40 crore from the farmers during the same period.

MAGURA

Two young housewives commit suicide

Mar 15: Two young housewives allegedly committed suicide by taking poison in two thanas of the district, police said on Sunday, reports UNB.

Police said Beauty Begum (26), wife of Mostafa Kamal of village Roygramme in sadar thana allegedly committed suicide by taking poison Tuesday. The reason behind the suicide could not be ascertained.

According to Mohammadpur thana police Sakina Khatun (30), wife of Dulal Biswas of village Chalmia allegedly committed suicide by taking poison on the same day. Villagers said Sakina was not happy in her conjugal life.

The bodies were sent to the hospital morgue for post mortem. Separate cases were filed with the police.

Another report adds: Female education is being hampered seriously in the town due to shortage of residential facilities in the girls school and colleges.

There are two girls colleges and two high schools including one private girls college and one private high school in the town where there is no hostel accommodation.

Many girl students of rural and urban areas have already left the institutions due to lack of residential facilities.

Guardians complained that even after repeated appeal to the concerned authorities no steps were taken in this regard.

SYLHET

Smuggled goods worth Tk 5 lakh recovered

From Our Correspondent
Mar 15: Indian smuggled goods worth about Taka five lakh were seized by the BDR in two separate raids in Sylhet recently.

According to the report, on getting secret informations, a special contingent of BDR made an ambush near Haripur Bazar on Sylhet - Tamabil Highway. At about 9 am on Thursday when a jeep and a Tempo carrying the smuggled and Indian goods were on their way to Sylhet having started from the border areas, the BDR challenged them. The driver and helpers of the vehicles along with the smugglers managed to escape realising the presence of the BDR men. The BDR however, seized the smuggled goods along with the vehicles.

In another raid, the BDR men searched a shop and godown at Shahparan point of Khadim Nagar and seized Indian smuggled sugar and Dal. The total value of the seized goods and vehicles would be around Taka 4.57 lakh.

Two separate cases had been registered with the police. Another report adds: A seven-year boy was crushed under the wheels of a speeding minibus on the Sylhet-Sunamganj Highway on Monday last.

According to the reports, at about 10 am on the day of incident the victim Mizan while trying to cross the road was crushed by the killer vehicle at Gopalbazar causing his instantaneous death. Both the Driver and Helper managed to escape from the spot just after incident. Police had taken the killer vehicle into their custody.

KHULNA

Women killed in road mishap

Mar 15: A woman was killed on the spot and two others of the same family were injured in a road mishap at East Rupasha ferry ghat here on Tuesday night, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, Dipali Rani (30) of the ferry ghat area along with her daughter Soma (7) and niece Shapna (4) was waiting beside the road for a rickshaw. A speeding Khulna bound truck from Rupsha suddenly dashed them killing Dipali on the spot and injuring Soma and Shapna seriously.

The body was sent to morgue for autopsy and the injured were rushed to the Sadar hospital. Their condition was stated to be critical.

The driver fled away with the vehicle. A case has been filed with the police.

SHERPUR

Child labourers on rise

Mar 15: The number of child labourers is increasing alarmingly in the district due to economic hardship of the poor families, reports UNB.

According to a recent statistics about 20,000 child labourers below 14 years are engaged in different odd jobs to eke out their living.

According to International Labour Organisation, no child below 15 year is allowed to engage in any hard work.

Recurrent floods, cyclone, drought, river erosion and other natural calamities have made the marginal and landless farmers destitute. The children of those poor families are compelled to earn their livelihood at their tender age instead of attending school.

Child labourers work in restaurants, bidi factories, motor garages, workshops, cycle shops and as domestic servants. Some of them are also found pulling rickshaws, working as hawkers and selling bidi and newspapers.

Taking advantage of their pecuniary condition some unscrupulous traders and smugglers engage these boys in illegal activities to earn black money.

FARIDPUR

One gets 10 yrs RI for keeping illegal arms

From Our Correspondent

Mar 15: Asgar Ahmed, First Assistant Sessions Judge and Special Tribunal Judge, Mymensingh sentenced a man ten years RI for keeping illegal arms recently and also fined Taka 2,000 in default to suffer RI for six months more.

According to the prosecution story, Goffargaon thana police arrested accused Mokbul Hossain with one knife and revolver from his house. A case was filed with the police.

Later, police submitted chargesheet against him. After examining the records and witnesses, the judge delivered the aforesaid judgement.

KISHOREGANJ

Dacoits loot valuables

From Our Correspondent

Mar 15: A daring dacoity was committed in the house of one Arun Chandra Barman of village Shibnagar under Katiadi thana of the district recently.

According to reports, a gang of dacoits armed with deadly weapons entered the house by breaking open the door at night and tied up all the inmates. The dacoits looted gold, clothes and other valuables worth about Taka 15,000.

A case was registered with Katiadi police station in this connection. The police arrested six dacoits. They are Jamiruddin, Nasir Ali, Azhar Ali, Abdul Hekim, Sadeq and Mofiz. Some booties were also recovered from their possessions.

Another report adds: Sayeed Ahmed, General Secretary, Austagram thana unit of BNP was seriously injured when he came under attack by a group of miscreants recently.

Nizamuddin, a companion of the BNP leader also sustained serious head injuries in the attack. They were admitted into Austagram thana health complex.

A case was registered with Austagram police station accusing 14 persons. Police took Abu Jahar and Toha, two activists of Chhatra League (ML) into custody in this connection. Police sources said they got important information from Abu Jahar and Toha and further investigation was going on.



RANGPUR: Pests have attacked a tobacco field at Hatibandha of the district. Farmers are trying in vain to drive away the pests as there is scarcity of insecticide. — Star photo

Water level fall, charlands hamper navigation

From Our Correspondent

BOGRA, Mar 15: Abnormal fall of water level in the major rivers of the northern districts and emergence of charlands have seriously affected the navigation of the country.

More than 3,000 small and big charlands have emerged in 216-kilometer-long river route from Doikhawa of Kurigram district to Dauladia of Rajbari district hindering smooth river communication in the Brahmaputra Jamuna and Padma rivers.

According to Water Development Board (WDB) sources, water levels recorded in the Jamuna at Nogarbari, Teestamukhghat and Aricha ghat, in the Brahmaputra at Chilmari (Kurigram) and in the Padma at Paksy are lower than the requirement.

The WDB sources said that eight to 12 feet siltation in the Brahmaputra at Chilmari, 15 feet in the Jamuna at Nogarbari, Sirajgonj, and 15 feet in the Padma at Rajshahi and Paksy. Those rivers are no longer navigable at different

point, it is learnt.

Heavy siltation in the rivers meanwhile have caused hindrance in smooth plying of ferry boats including railway ferry in Fulcharighat-Bahadurabad-Jagannathgonj ghat route.

Launches are used as main river transport on Nogarbari-Aricha-Dauladia route. The ferry boats are now taking double time to cross the river.

An official source informed that an additional amount of over Taka one lakh is required for maintaining navigability of vessels every day. Besides, following abnormal fall of water level, the Inland Water Transport Authority (IWTA) instructed the 7 feet draft boats to move with caution.

Due to emergence of charlands transportation of passengers and merchandised goods are hampered. The oil tankers cannot enter the Baghabari river port causing short supply of fuel and Liquefied Petroleum (LP) gas in the northern dis-

trict. Fertilizer are not also easily unloaded at Baghabari ghat.

Fuel and fertilizers are mainly unloaded at Nogarbari ghat and then carried to the oil depots of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation by road causing higher cost of transport. By this time, fuel and LP gas crisis has been persisting in the northern region.

Country made engine boats have become the main riverine transport for carrying passengers and merchandised goods. At present, over 10 thousand boats have been plying on different routes in the northern districts. It is learnt. The country boats have monopolised about 250 kilometer river routes.

On the otherhand insufficient rain fall during this season, have helped the fall in water level. Only 550 to 650 millimeter rain fall were recorded in the northern zone of the country this year which could not create any remarkable water flow in the rivers.

Fishermen facing fund shortage

NATORE, Mar 15: Thousands of fishermen of the district have been facing manifold problems in carrying on their ancestral profession due to shortage of funds and scarcity of fishing materials, reports UNB.

According to a statistics about 11,000 fishermen of Shingra, Baraigram, Gurudashpur, Lalpur, Bagatipara and Sadar thanas are engaged in the age-old profession.

Some of them said sudden price hikes of nets, boats and other necessary equipments and exploitation by non-professional fishermen have worsened their pecuniary condition.

Pisciculture in the six thanas has been largely affected due to drying up of the water bodies. Massive siltation in the rivers and ponds are accelerating the fall in the fish cultivation and production in the region. Specially, siltation in the Narod river is mostly affecting the pisciculture in the district.

Releasing of wastes of

Natore Sugar Mills and Jamuna Distillery in the river is the main reason of water pollution and siltation in the river, it is learnt.

Local fishermen said they are passing their days in extreme hardship due to shortage of capital. In the absence of adequate loan from the commercial banks they are to borrow money from the, money

3992 Indian sarees seized in Feni

FENI, Mar 15: BDR personnel in a pre-dawn swoop seized 3,992 Indian sarees worth about Tk 63.5 lakh from two places of the frontier district, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip, they chased a truck when it entered Bangladesh territory from India through the Madhupur border in Chagalnaiya thana and seized the smuggled sarees when it reached Ranirhat Ikwar.

lenders at a high interest rate.

They told UNB that the bank loan sanctioned to the fishermen is quite inadequate and most of the genuine fishermen do not have access to the loan.

Local fisheries department has failed to take any proper measure for solving the problems of the fishermen, it is alleged.

Meanwhile, non-fishermen have occupied monopoly position over fishing, causing harms to the professional ones.

There is an existing law in the country providing for leasing out beels or jalmahals to the genuine fishermen. However, the law has not come into force as yet.

They alleged that some "jaradars" (lease holders) in collusion with the local vested groups are giving sub-lease to the fake fishermen.

Moreover, genuine fishermen can not catch fish normally even after getting leases in most cases.

Tallest man!

MAULAVIBAZAR, Mar 15: A local fisherman with a stature of six feet nine inches could be one of the tallest men in the country, reports UNB.

Toaid Ali (40) of Hazipur village in Srimangal thana, who dwarfs all the people in the area, attracts onlookers wherever he goes.

They taunt him with names like "Talgas" (Palm-tree) or "Danab" (Giant) whenever he goes to Srimangal town or Bhatrab Bazar. He sometimes gets furious at the teasers.

Toaid is still a bachelor as the local people say that nobody, even from his own community, ever came forward to propose a bride for the "giant bridegroom".

Fire Service, Civil Defence Week observed

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, Mar 15: The Fire Service and Civil Defence Week* was observed in Chuadanga recently in a befitting manner.

In this connection local fire service and civil defence office took out an elaborate programme which included exhibition of fire controlling machines and its use, publicity of resisting fire, visiting the local cinema halls by the fire service department officials, slide exhibition, delivery of speeches in different in the local industrial units and educational institutions, to enlist the volunteers to advise the officials and employees in the local collectorate about the controlling and resisting fire.

The Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) of Chuadanga Omar Ali Mollah formally opened the week in presence of a distinguished gathering at the premises of the local fire service and civil defence office.

Trader robbed of Tk 4 lakh in Jessore

JESSORE, Mar 15: A young trader was robbed of Tk 4 lakh when he stopped at a petrol pump on the Jessore-Benapole highway, about one kilometer from the town today (Saturday), reports UNB.

Police said Jahangir Alam, a clearing and forwarding agent, travelling in his car with the money in a brief case, was robbed by two young men at the New Akiz Petroleum filling station at about 5 pm today. The two hijackers came in a motor cycle and snatched away the brief case. When resisted, one of the hijackers hit Alam from behind with the butt of revolver and managed to escape.

Alam said he had drawn the money from bank earlier for business purpose.

10 deep tubewells lying out of order in Kishoreganj

Kishoreganj, Mar 15: Ten deep tubewells have been lying out of order for a long time in different areas of Katiadi thana of the district hindering irrigation about 1200 acres of irri-boro land.

The repair of the deep tubewells could not be done for want of spare parts. The deep tubewells have been lying out of order at Chatal, Chandpur, Mosua, Bethoir, Shimuha, Paschimpurura, Dugnadi Nagarigan and Bhitadia.

Some RU teachers favour ban on student politics for two years

From Staff Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Mar 14: A section of teachers in Rajshahi University today (Sunday) expressed solidarity with the recommendation of University Council that the student politics should be banned for a few years.

In a meeting with the RU Vice-Chancellor Prof Ansur Rahman, the teachers, known as pro-BNP and pro-Jamaat, said that to get rid of the continued violence in the name of students politics, temporary suspension of campus politics is essential.

The meeting was boycotted by the Rajshahi University Teachers Association (RUTA) which was demanding the removal of VC and Pro-VC for their failure in tackling February 6 bloody clashes on the campus.

A press release signed by the Registrar said that the teachers, during the meeting also suggested to dissolve the present committee of Rajshahi University Central Student Union (DUCSU) as it expired its tenure a few months ago.

Meeting sources said some 100 of 561 teachers attended the meeting chaired by the VC.

UNB adds: Ganotantrik Chhatra Oikya activists staged demonstration on the Dhaka University campus Sunday protesting recommendation for moratorium on student politics by the Vice Chancellors of universities.

They asked the VCs to seek apology through press statement before Eid for their recent suggestion to the government. Otherwise, the protesters warned, VC offices would be locked.

The left-leaning GCO, which staged the demonstration in front of the DU Vice-Chancellor office Sunday morning, urged the authorities to take stern action to curb terrorism instead of suspending student politics.

Miscreants kill rickshaw van driver

JHENIDAH, Mar 15: A rickshaw van driver was killed by a gang of armed miscreants here at Kalganj thana on Friday night, reports UNB.

5 commit suicide in 3 days

PABNA, Mar 15: Five people including two old men allegedly committed suicide in Sadar and Chatmohor thanas of the district in the last three days, reports UNB.

On Saturday, Rehana Khatun (20), wife of Asaduzzaman of Chhatrapur village of Sadar thana allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself from a tree for a family feud.

On Friday, Zamila Khatun (40), wife of Darog Ali of Kundirpara of Chatmohor thana allegedly committed suicide by hanging from the roof of her house. She was suffering from acute abdomen pain.

Also on Friday in the same thana, three other people allegedly committed suicide. They are: Moyna (22), daughter of Abu Bakar of Siddique Nagar village. She killed herself by taking insecticide following a family trouble. Ukil Uddin (55) of Fazlana village

met the tragic end by hanging from the roof his house. He was suffering from a chronic disease. Aleya Khatun (25) of Katenga village committed suicide. She was leading an unhappy family life.

A report from Dinajpur says: A young housewife received serious burn injuries when some unidentified miscreants threw acid on her body Saturday night in Purbaganj of Kotwali thana of the district.

The victim Shahida Khatun (20), wife of Rafiqul of Purbaganj was admitted to Dinajpur General Hospital where she is fighting for life.

Hospital and family sources said some unidentified miscreants threw acid on Shahida while she was cooking at her house.

A case has been filed and none was so far arrested in this connection.



GOPALGANJ: Abdul Motaleb Mia, Deputy Commissioner, Gopalganj speaking as chief guest at a function of freshers' reception held here at local Mahila College recently. — Star photo

Pirates loot Tk 30 lakh goods from fishermen

PATUAKHALI, Mar 15: Twenty fishermen were injured, seven of them seriously, and valuables worth about Taka 30 lakh were looted from five fishing trawlers by pirates in the Bay of Bengal under Patharghata thana on Sunday, reports BSS.

According to the fishermen, a gang of pirates numbering about 40 to 45 came with three speedy trawlers, attacked five fishing trawlers in the deep sea under Patharghata thana. They looted fishing nets, fish, engine parts and other valuables worth about Taka 30 lakhs. The pirates decamped with booty.

Seven seriously injured fishermen were admitted to the Patharghata hospital. They

were identified as: Azhar (45), Sekander (42), Nazir (35), Farook (25), Sagir (20), Panna (30) and Zamal (35).

UNB report says: The Local Government and Engineering Directorate with the financial assistance from the World Bank has been implementing three projects in the district.

Official sources here said the work on the projects will cost about Taka 33.00 lakh and expected to be completed soon.

The projects include construction of a Bailey bridge and roads in Sadar and Bauphal thanas.

With the completion of the projects road communication in the area will be improved to a great extent.

Miscreants axe trader to death in Jhenidah

JHENIDAH, Mar 15: A shopkeeper was killed by some armed miscreants at a village bazar in Sadar thana Saturday night.

According family sources, Moazzem Hossain (52) of Hasanhati village while returning home after Tarabi prayer on Friday some people requested him to come with them to attend a village arbitration.

Police recovered his dead body from a field on the following day and a case was lodged with the local police.

Son kills mother

An old mother was killed allegedly by her son over a family feud at a village in Kotechandpur thana on Friday.

A case was registered with the local police in this connection. Sohrab was absconding.



RAJBARI: The site of pisciculture project is seen filled with water-hyacinth which has become the ideal centre for mosquito breeding. — Star photo