

District roundup

NOAKHALI

Fund shortage hampers potato farming

Mar 16: Potato cultivation in the district is being hampered as a result of fund shortage faced by the local farmers during the current season, reports UNB.

Despite provisions for bank credit for the growers, local farmers said very few of them were getting the credit facilities.

There are up to 30,000 potato growers in the district. Being deprived of the credit facilities, many of them resorted to taking loans from the local money-lenders at exorbitant rate of interest.

But in the long run, they are frustrated by the low price of their produce that make it difficult for them to repay the loans.

SAVAR

Tk one lakh cash, valuables looted

Mar 16: Dacoits looted cash and valuables worth about Taka one lakh from a residence at Pathantala in Dhamrai thana, police said Monday last, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, a gang of dacoits stormed the house of Shamsul Islam Koraisi by breaking open the window in the early morning of Wednesday and decamped with the booty.

They also beat up the housewife and a girl mercilessly and ransacked the furniture of the house.

A case was filed with the local police.

Another message adds: Police recovered a pistol and arrested six people in a raid at a house at Dunay Angan village in Dhamrai thana last week.

Acting on a tip, police raided the house of Barur Rahman and recovered the India made pistol.

NETRAKONA

Diarrhoea breaks out in 3 thanas

Mar 16: Diarrhoea has broken out in an epidemic form in three thanas under Netrakona district, reports BSS.

Netrakona Civil Surgeon Office sources said a total of nine people died of diarrhoea and 381 persons were attacked by the disease in three thanas under Netrakona district during the last 30 days. The diarrhoea affected thanas are Mohanganj, Madan and Khalajuri, the sources said. Fifteen medical teams with sufficient quantity of medicines including oral saline and water purifying tablets are working round the clock in the diarrhoea affected areas.

KISHOREGANJ

Housewife killed in house collapse

From Our Correspondent

Mar 16: A 48-year-old housewife was killed in house collapse and over 700 houses were damaged when a cyclonic storm hit different villages of Mouszempur union in Nandail thana recently.

The worst affected village of the union is Kalenga. A large number of fruit-bearing trees were uprooted and standing crops in large areas have been damaged. The local UP chairman and political leaders urged upon the concerned higher authorities to send relief materials to alleviate the suffering of people of the area.

Another report adds: A 22-year old man named Abu Bakar committed suicide at village Kudalia in Pakundia thana of the district recently.

According to police, Abu Bakar hanged himself from the branch of a mango tree following the quarrel with his wife. A UD case was registered with Pakundia police station in this connection and the body was sent to the Kishoreganj Sadar Hospital for post mortem.

JAMALPUR

Property worth Tk seven lakh gutted

Mar 16: Property worth about Taka seven lakh was gutted in a devastating fire at village Jangaldi under Sadar thana in Sherpur district on Thursday, reports BSS.

Abdul Aziz, a union parishad member told this correspondent that fire broke out at midnight and burnt to ashes sixty three houses.

BARISAL

Meet held on prevention of diarrhoea

Mar 16: A meeting of the organizing committee of health and prevention of diarrhoea was held at the office of the Additional Divisional Commissioner recently, reports BSS.

UNICEF, Khulna Division, organised the meeting. The meeting was attended, among others, by Mrs Marry Questce, Chief of the UNICEF (Field) in Bangladesh, Deputy Commissioner, Barisal, Deputy Director, Primary Education, Deputy Director, Health, Deputy Director, Secondary Education Department, Deputy Director, Ansar and VDP, District Information Officer, Executive Engineer, Public Health President, Barisal Press Club and officials of UNICEF, Barisal and Khulna divisions.

The meeting decided to hold a workshop very soon to impart health education to the public.

PABNA

AL activists stage demonstration

Mar 16: Awami League activists on Monday staged demonstration with the body of their colleague, Alauddin, gunned down allegedly by BNP supporters at Patkiabari in the town Saturday night, reports UNB.

They went in a procession to the office of Deputy Commissioner and held a protest meeting there. The meeting demanded immediate arrest and punishment of the killers.

The demonstrators blamed those who had recently deserted Awami League and joined the ruling party for the killing of Alauddin.

SATKHIRA

Property worth Tk 50 thousand gutted

From Our Correspondent

Mar 16: Two dwelling houses including cow-shed and kitchen of one Azhar Gazil village Parandah under Sadar thana were burnt to ashes in a devastating fire broke out here recently.

The cause of fire could not be known originating at 2 pm. The fire engulfed the area within a short time. It burnt the houses into ashes.

Local people tried to put out the fire with water but failed. Satkhira fire station, 10-kilometre away from the affected village could not help either.

JHENIDAH

Seven student leaders released from jail

Mar 16: Seven student leaders including the Chhatra League (M-I) district unit President of Jiban Kumar were released from jail Saturday, reports UNB.

Other student leaders Nazrul Islam, Rabul Islam Jahir and Ashok Dhar of Chhatra League (M-I), Pintu of Chhatra Maitree and Abdul Maalik of Jaiyatabadi Chhatra Dal.

They were arrested under the Anti-Terrorism Act, for their alleged involvement in ransacking the office of the Principal of the KC College on Feb 5 to press home their demand to shift the date of students union election.

The District and Sessions Judge Mohammad Ali released the student leaders as they were not found guilty following the examination of witnesses.

TANGAIL

Police officer, constable killed in road mishap

Mar 16: Shadesh Kumer (38) police officer and Afazuddin constable of Modhupur thana were allegedly killed in a road accident at Pachish mile point on Tangail-Mymensingh Highway Friday, reports BSS.

They were run over by a passenger bus when returning to Modhupur thana on a motor cycle.

A case was registered in Modhupur Thana. Besides nine passengers including the driver of a scooter were injured in a road accident that occurred on Wednesday near Pathrail on Tangail-Deiduar road.

The accident occurred when a truck hit the baby-taxi. Six injured passengers were treated in Sadar hospital and the rest were sent to Dhaka for hospitalisation.



MYMENSINGH: Md Sirajul Haque, Deputy Minister for Health and Family Welfare speaking as chief guest at the seminar organised by Family Planning Association of Mymensingh branch on the occasion of International Women's Day held here at town hall auditorium recently.

30 injured as rival groups clash in Pabna village

PABNA, Mar 16: At least 30 people were injured, 11 seriously, in two clashes between rival groups of people in the town and at a village in sadar thana yesterday (Monday), reports UNB.

Witnesses said 15 people were injured, six with bullet, as rival groups of JCD clashed in front of a repairing workshop in the town. The clash ensued when a group of JCD workers tried to refrain their rivals from attacking the workshop as its owner asked them not to "disturb" him in his work.

Those injured with bullet were admitted to Pabna Sadar Hospital. They are: Sheikh Tuhin (28), president of district JCD, Jahangir (12), a tea stall boy, Titu (22), Rupak (26), Mithu (20), Saiful (18) and Taslim (22), a worker.

In the other clash at village

Dubulia-Trikol, at least 15 people were injured when rival groups of people clashed with lethal weapons over the ownership of a fish project.

Seriously injured Akbar Ali (50), Abdul Kuddus (45), Korban Ali (20) and M Momin (25) of village Dubulia-Trikol were admitted to the Sadar Hospital.

Meanwhile, a man and a minor girl received bomb injury when they were picking up waste papers at Chalmohar thana in the district today.

Witnesses said both hands of M Shahid (30) were blown away and his daughter Sabina (6) sustained burn injury when the bomb exploded from a little box they found on the road.

They were admitted to the Sadar hospital.

Another report adds: Awami League activists today staged demonstration with the body

of their colleague, Alauddin, gunned down allegedly by BNP supporters at Patkiabari in the town Saturday night, reports UNB.

They went in a procession to the office of Deputy Commissioner and held a protest meeting there. The meeting demanded immediate arrest and punishment of the killers.

The demonstrators blamed those who had recently deserted Awami League and joined the ruling party for the killing of Alauddin.

He was killed in an armed clash between BNP and AL supporters which also left a dozen injured.

Meanwhile, Namaz-e-Zanaza for Alauddin was held at the Rifle Shooting Ground today after Zohr prayer. The dead was buried at Arifpur graveyard.

Notes from Satkhira

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Mar 16: One Abdul Kader officer-in-charge, Margang Forest Camp under Sundarbans Range of the district was seriously injured when wood-lifters attacked him with wooden lathi recently.

It is reported that one Korban Ali Gazil of Tengrakhal village under Shyamnagar thana along with his three sons went to the Sunderbans for cutting wood illegally and while they were cutting wood in the forest, the forest officials on duty challenged them.

At one stage, the wood cutters all on a sudden, attacked them with wooden lathi. As a result, the officer-in-charge of the said camp injured seriously. He was admitted with Shyamnagar hospital in a critical condition.

A case was lodged Shyamnagar PS.

Three women committed suicide by taking pesticide in two thanas of the district recently.

It is reported that one Sufia Khatun (17) daughter of Mohammad Ali Kajal of Dadnakhali and Shefali Khatun (14) daughter of Rajat Ali of Iswaripur village both under Shyamnagar thana following family trouble took liquid pesticide and died on the spot.

In the other incident an old woman named Arati Rani Sarkar (55) wife of Adhir Kumar Sarkar of village Debnagar under Satkhira Sadar thana committed suicide by taking liquid poison. Following family troubles she committed suicide, it is learnt.

Three separate cases were lodged with Shyamnagar and Sadar thanas respectively in this regard.

Tk one lakh property gutted

Properties worth Taka about one lakh were burnt to ashes in a devastating fire which broke out here at the house of one Shaikh Abul Bashar of Puraan Satkhira under Satkhira pourasava recently.

It is learnt that a group of miscreants following enmity fired the said house and as a result all the properties of the house burnt to ashes.

Broom procession

A big broom procession organised jointly by the Krishak Sangram Samity, Krishak Samity and Bastuhara Samity was brought out here from Shahid Abdur Razzak park in protest against the price hike of fertilizers, pesticides including agricultural inputs and demanding the khas land among the landless people.

About 500 peasants including women taking brooms in their hands paraded the main thorough fares of the town. Later the protesters submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner with their several point demand which include fair price of paddy and jute, 50 per cent subsidy on agricultural inputs, withdrawal of certificate cases and shrimp policy.

Indian national arrested

An Indian national identified as Md Wazed Ali of 24 Parganas under West Bengal was arrested by the BDR personnel from Basantapur village under Kaligonj thana of the district recently.

He was allegedly carrying huge amount of Indian bidi worth Taka about one lakh. A case was lodged with Kaligonj thana.

Smuggled hides, skin seized

Satkhira thana police seized huge amount of smuggle hides and skin worth Taka two lakh from a truck recently.

It is reported that acting on a secret information, police stopped truck No Khulna Metro Ta 02-0002 and recovered the contrabands. 1.7 persons were also arrested in this connection. A case was lodged with Satkhira PS.

79 education projects under implementation

BARISAL, Mar 16: The Facilities Department of the Ministry of Education has been implementing as many as 79 education projects in four southern districts of Barisal Division at a cost of Taka 8,46,60,000 under Barisal Education Zone (BAZ) during the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

The district are: Barisal, Jhalakathi, Pirojpur and Bhola. The projects include repair and reconstruction of government primary schools, construction of education office of Barisal zone and hostels, extension, repair and reconstruction of principals' quarters, headmasters' quarters, and class rooms of existing schools and colleges.

Another report adds: Police arrested 76 persons under arms act from six southern districts of Barisal Division and

recovered a large quantity of arms and ammunition during last one year, a police source said. The source said police recovered 126 different weapons and 375 rounds of bullets.

Of the total, 55 weapons and 222 rounds of bullets were recovered from Barisal district, 8 weapons and 20 rounds of bullets from Jhalakathi, 15 weapons and 32 rounds of bullets from Pirojpur, 5 weapons and 42 rounds of bullets from Bhola, 22 weapons and 44 rounds of bullets from Patuakhali and 13 weapons and 15 rounds of bullets from Barguna districts.

Thirtyfive persons were arrested from Barisal, 3 from Jhalakathi, 7 from Pirojpur, 4 from Bhola, 18 from Patuakhali and 9 from Barguna, the source added.

Two housewives killed by husbands in 2 days

RANGPUR, Mar 16: Two young housewives were allegedly killed by their husbands during last two days in the district, reports UNB.

The dead were identified as Minara Begum (26) of Shubupara village in Kaunia thana and Dulali Anil (18) of Bararhat village in Fulbari thana.

According to police, a quarrel ensued between Minara Begum and her husband Wednesday over taking birth control measures. At one stage of the quarrel her husband hit on her head with a stick killing her on the spot.

Dulali, another pregnant housewife was allegedly killed Thursday by her husband Shibu Mohanta for failing to bring the promised dowry money from her father. Dulali died instantly when Shibu kicked on

her abdomen. Later Shibu poured poison into her mouth to prove that she committed suicide.

Separate cases have been filed with the police.

Livestock department vaccinated two lakh cattle and five lakh poultry birds in the district during the last eight months of the current fiscal year.

At least 1.55 lakh poultry birds and 51,000 cattle received treatment for various diseases. A total of about 24,000 cows, 90,000 chickens, 6,000 hens and ducks were artificially inseminated during the same period.

The department training to 2,000 men and women on primary health care of livestock and poultry birds, official sources said.



RANGPUR: A view of the Hena Memorial Hospital-cum-Clinic. It has been constructed by Nurul Huda Sultan and has been named after his late wife Hosneyara Hena at Shalti Gopalpur under Mithapukur thana about 18-mile of from Rangpur town.

72 commit suicide in Rajbari, Madaripur in one yr

Seventytwo persons including fortythree women committed suicide last year in Rajbari and Madaripur districts.

Our Rajbari Correspondent reports: Fortyfour persons including 23 women committed suicide last year in different thanas of the district. Besides, 51 cases of attempt to suicide were filed in the same year.

It is gathered that the tendency of committing suicide has alarmingly increased in the district. Poverty, polygamy, unhappy family life, torture for dowry, family feud, love affairs, unbearable diseases and frustration in life are the main reasons behind the increasing number of suicide.

Moreover, chronic diseases including abdomen pain are responsible for growing number of suicide.

Hospital sources said: 25 lives were saved after timely administering the treatment during the period.

Substandard life saving drugs flood markets

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Mar 16: Substandard life saving drugs have flooded the markets all over the district causing panic among the people who are advised to take such medicines from the dishonest physicians.

It is alleged that many drug containers including saline and injection, are having fungus. The intake of these contaminated drugs have endangered patients lives.

Local people alleged many drug companies are marketing substandard drugs without obtaining certificate from concerned authorities and they are doing it with attractive publicity.

A section of physicians are also prescribing these substandard medicines for material gains, patients complained.

Allegations said agents of the drug companies allure these physicians in different ways to prescribe their products while the quacks in villages prescribe these medicines for being cheaper.

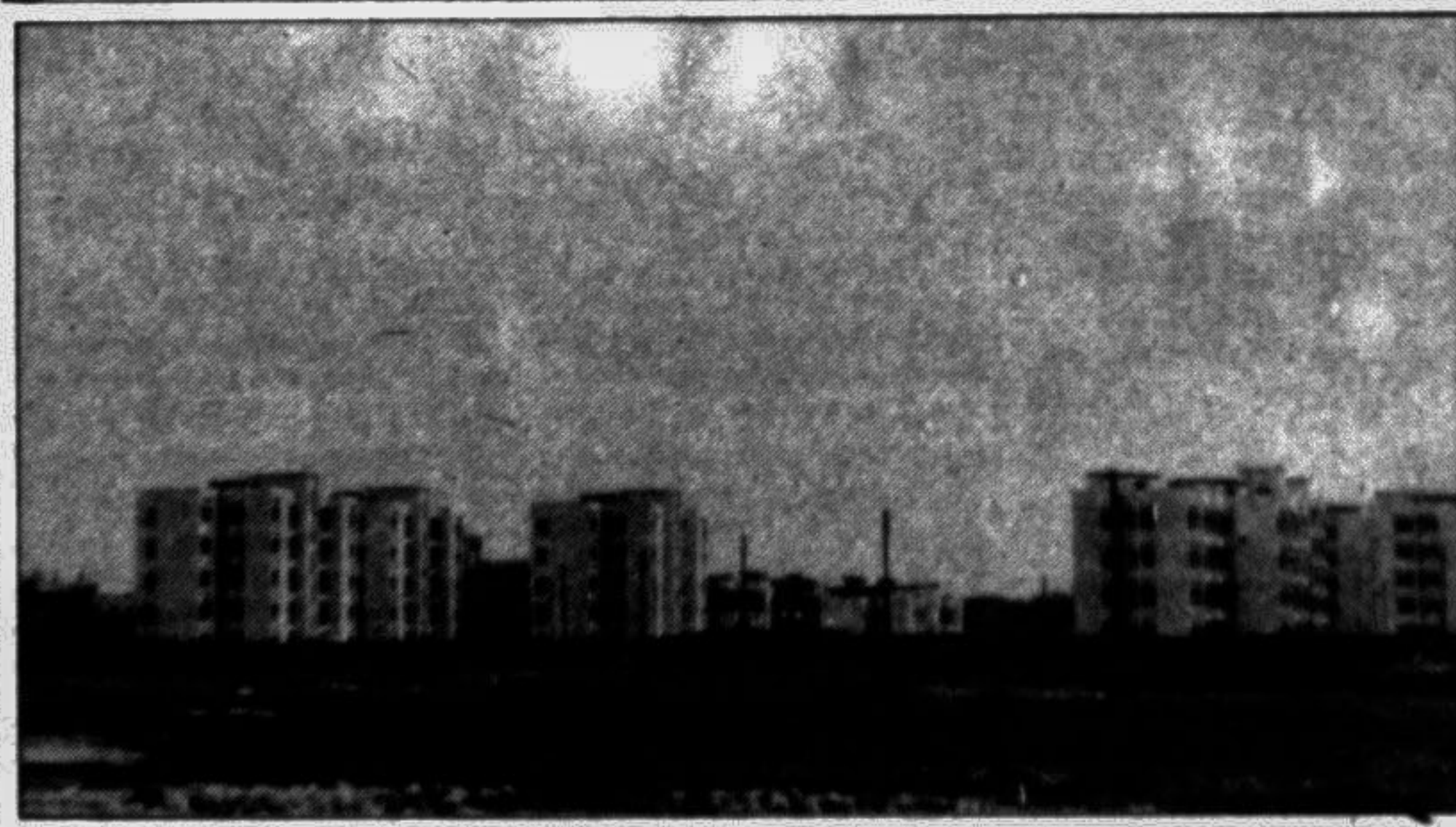
Meanwhile, most medicine shops in rural and urban areas of the district are being run without drug licences it is learnt.

Knowledgeable circles suggested that no drug should be marketed without certificate from the concerned authorities.

Local elite demanded exemplary punishment to the manufacturers of substandard medicines.

Plan to instal 700 hand tubewells taken up

TANGAIL, Mar 16: Public Health Engineering Department, Tangail has taken up a programme to commission seven hundred hand tubewells and forty deepset taps pumps for pure drinking water in the district in this fiscal year, reports BSS.



SYLHET: Bangladesh Bank staff quarter buildings constructed here a couple for years ago have been lying unused for unknown reasons.