

District roundup

SATKHIRA

One to suffer life-term for murder

From Our Correspondent
Mar 17: Tapon Kumar Rudra, Additional Sessions Judge, Satkhira sentenced a person to suffer life-term rigorous imprisonment for murder and fined of Tk 5000 in default RI for one year more.

The judge also convicted Abul Khair's first wife Shahanara Khatun and his brother Abul Basher and sentenced them 3 years RI and fined Tk 1000 in default RI for 6 months more each.

The prosecution story in brief is that the accused Abul Khair with the help of his first wife Shahanara and his brother Abul Basher killed his second wife Monowara Khatun on May 3, 1988.

A case was lodged with Kalara PS. After the investigations, police submitted chargesheet against the accused persons. The learned judge tried the case and found them guilty and awarded the aforesaid punishment.

SYLHET

One killed in rival groups clash

From Our Correspondent
Mar 17: One person was killed and several others were injured in a clash between two rival groups over fishing in a beel in Chhatak thana under Sunamganj district recently.

According to the reports, at about 2 am in the night of incident the clash ensued in the Dahskhai beel while both of them tried to fish there. One Chandu Miah along with others sustained serious injuries as both the groups used lethal weapons. Chandu Miah (45) died while he was being taken to the hospital.

A case in this connection had already been registered with the Chhatak police station. Police sent the body to the Sunamganj sadar hospital for post-mortem. None has yet been arrested. The victim Chandu Miah hails from village Kachudair under Chhatak police station.

TANGAIL

Philanthropists urged to help distressed

Mar 17: Tangail zila parishad held an inter party Friday at Tangail Shishusadan. Male and female inmates of two government Shishusadana local elite and district level officials attended the party, reports BSS.

Speaking on the occasion Abdul Matin Khondaker, Deputy Commissioner urged philanthropists in the society to extend their helping hands to the distressed humanity.

JESSORE

One killed as bus, lorry collide

Mar 17: A man was killed and six others were injured, three of them seriously, when a bus and lorry collided near Notun Khaer Tala Checkpost in the town on Monday, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, a Jessore bound night coach from Dhaka collided with a lorry from opposite direction killing a pedestrian and injuring six passenger of the bus. The body was sent to morgue for autopsy. The injured were rushed to the local hospital. A case has been filed with the police.

NARSINGDI

Work on 31-bed hospital in progress

Mar 17: Work on 31-bed health complex is progressing satisfactorily at Belabo thana under Narasingdi district at a cost of about Taka 2.5 crore, reports BSS.

Sixty per cent work have already been completed and the rest will be finished during the current year.

Another report adds: Four 33/11 kv. electric sub-stations were established and one thousands kilometer electric supply lines were built in Narasingdi - I area under Rural Electrification Board.

The area covered by the projects is Narasingdi Sadar, Palash, Shibpur, Rupganj, Aryhazar and Sonargaon. The total cost of the projects with World Bank assistance was about Taka 35 crores.

KUSHLIA

Inferior quality of Indian pesticides flood markets

From Our Correspondent
Mar 17: Indian pesticides of inferior quality have flooded the markets of greater Kushlia district.

These are being sold indiscriminately as the pesticide marketing companies have raised the prices of their products in view of huge demand in the market, it is learnt.

Due to ignorance of the farmers, about the bad affect of spurious Indian pesticides and cheap prices of the same, the dishonest traders are selling Indian pesticides in the rural markets. These are like agro-herect, lodinhil and acron-hilbish and these are freely sold at a very cheap price.

The agricultural scientists said that the extensive use of Indian pesticides decreases productive capacity and destroys soil fertility. The spurious pesticides are also causing health hazard and various kinds of ailments to the consumers of agro-products.

Another report adds:

Police arrested three persons in connection with a clash between two rival groups while catching fish in the river Kaliganga under Kumarkhal thana Sunday, reports BSS.

Among the three persons one was Motiur Rahman Majnu a ward commissioner and organising secretary of Awami League.

Demanding his release a big procession was brought out in the town.

KISHOREGANJ

Cash, booty worth Tk 12,000 looted

From Our Correspondent
Mar 17: Dacoits decamped with booty worth about Taka 12,000 including cash from four houses at village Dhuldia under Katiadi thana of the district recently.

A gang of armed dacoits numbering about 16 raided the houses of Arun Chandra Barman, Subash Chandra Sha Biraj Kumar Saha and Shankar Chandra Saha at the same night and entered the houses by breaking the doors. The dacoits first tied up the inmates of all the houses and then looted goods including ornaments, bi-cycles and wrist watches. The dacoits assaulted the inmates. Cases were registered with Katiadi police station in these connection. None was arrested so far.

JAMALPUR

College annual sports held

From Our Correspondent
Mar 17: The annual sports and prize distribution ceremony of Asek Mahmud Government College was held at the college premises.

Jalal Ahmed, Deputy Commissioner attended the function as chief guest while Hannan Khan, Police Super was present as special guest.

Principal Asrafuddin presided over the function.

Later, the chief guest distributed prizes among the winners of the sports.

Another report adds: Five government employees, including Bakahiganj Thana Nirbahi Officer, were injured in a clash between local people and employees of the Revenue Department today, reports UNB.

The clash erupted when a group of about 50 people, led by Abdur Rouf Talukder, allegedly started fishing in a disputed pond adjacent to the Revenue office this morning, police said.

According to witnesses, the armed group of Abdur Rouf attacked the government employees when they were prevented from fishing in the pond leaving five employees injured, including the TNO Rezaul Karim.

Of the injured four were admitted to Bakhsiganj Health Complex with serious wounds.

GAZIPUR

Bar assoc executives

From Our Correspondent
Mar 17: The annual general meeting and election of the district bar association was held here at Rajbari its office premises recently.

Advocate Saifuddin Ahmed and Advocate Harejuddin Ahmed were elected as president and secretary respectively.

Later, a 19-member executive committee was formed.



State Minister for Social Welfare and Women Affairs, Sarwari Rahman distributing loan to a distressed woman under special loan giving programme at Mymensingh Women Affairs Office premises on March 10.

Sale, consumption of killer heroin open at town

DINAJPUR, Mar 17: Heroin, a deadly drug, is being sold in some areas of the town almost openly, local people complained, reports UNB.

The rickshawpullers, day labourers, frustrated youngsters and even the students were becoming addicted to the killer drug increasingly.

Witnesses said the drug was mainly being sold in Chowliapatty, Kanchan Colony, Hatahpara, Mission Road areas and Phutanipara rail line. They said some women were also found engaged in the business.

Meanwhile, seven people, including four women, were arrested from Phutanipara rail line areas for selling heroin during the last week. Local people said the heroin was being smuggled into the town through hill-borders of India by buses and trains.

The addicted people were selling even their households, commit theft and resort to snatching to meet their expenses of buying heroin.

Local guardians urged the

concerned authorities to take immediate measures to stop the selling of the drug to save the young generation from further ruination.

The number of gay girls is increasing day by day in different parts of the town including the railway station.

Local people said the railway station, Nurul Amin Market and slum areas in the town have virtually turned into the dens of the gays. They are also involved in other anti-social activities at dead of night including theft and hijacking.

Most of these gays are from poverty-stricken families, divorced housewives and the professional prostitutes. Some girls said they have been forced to take up the profession just to eke out their living.

City dwellers have expressed their indignation at the increasing number of gay girls who are alluring the customers before the nose of the law enforcing agencies and engaged in eroding moral values.

Local elite urged the

authorities to take up schemes to rehabilitate the gay girls so that they can lead a decent life.

Our Correspondent from Sylhet says: The number of drug addicts including the students is increasing alarmingly throughout the Sylhet district causing grave concern among the guardians.

It is observed that most of the drug addicts are young. The intoxicating items include drugs, liquor, opium, morphine, tablet, Mritsanjibani Sura.

It is reported that most of the addicts visit the pharmacies and stores after the sunset for collecting these drugs.

Local people have informed that Sylhet town and the thana headquarters and commercial places in rural and urban areas have turned into the open markets for drugs.

Some organised gangs are engaged in transporting all these drugs in cooperation with the members of the law enforcing agencies, it is learnt.

BKB plans to disburse Tk 7.35 cr as loan to boost agri-output

BARISAL, Mar 17: Bangladesh Krishi Bank has undertaken a programme to disburse a loan of Taka 7.35 crore in the district to boost agri production, reports UNB.

Official sources said the bank so far disbursed Taka 3.40 crore among the farmers. BKB, Barisal region, has already filed more than one thousand certificate cases against the defaulter farmers for realising Taka 2 crore during the current fiscal year.

Target of realisation of loan was fixed at Taka 8.50 crore this year.

Within January 31, this year, the bank realised about Taka 3.21 crore as outstanding loan from the defaulter farmers of Barisal, Patuakhali, Bhola, Jhalakathi, Faridpur, Gopalganj, Rajbari and Shariatpur, official sources said.

Another report says: Facilities Department under the Ministry of Education has already completed 16 projects during current fiscal year.

The educational projects in Barisal, Jhalakathi, Bhola and Jhrojpur districts were implemented at an expenditure of Taka 90 lakh.

Another report writes: Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation has installed over 5,000 power pumps, 8,000 shallow tubewells, 400 deep tubewells,

1,000 hand driving tubewells in Barisal Agriculture Zone.

BADC has also installed 1,200 types of other irrigation equipments and inputs for irrigation purposes to boost agri production in the zone.

2,26,500 hectares of land under boro farming

Our Correspondent reports: 2,26,500 hectares of land has been brought under boro cultivation in eleven southern districts of Barisal, Patuakhali, Bhola, Bogura, Jhalakathi, Perajpur, Madaripur, Faridpur, Gopalganj, Rajbari, and Shariatpur during the current season. Of the total 1,88,500 hectares of land are being brought under 'Ushi' variety while the rest under local variety.

Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) has distributed 57,000 kgs of high yielding variety of boro seeds among the farmers. BADC also installed tubewells for regular irrigation purpose.

Besides, Bangladesh Agriculture Extension Department (BAED) has arranged 370 modern methods of farming to the farmers of these districts.

Plan to implement 17 dev projects
Local Government and Engineering Bureau (LGEB) has undertaken a programme to implement 17 development projects in Bhola pourea area

during the current financial year.

To implement these projects 1.25 crore taka has been allocated.

Nine primary schools will be constructed in 4 southern districts under newly formed Barisal division during the current financial year.

Facilities Department under the Ministry of Education with the financial assistance of Islamic Development Bank (IDB) will implement these projects.

According to official sources, these projects will be implemented with an estimated cost of 9.50 crore taka.

Mosquito menace alarming

Mosquito menace has assumed an alarming proportion in and the adjoining areas of the town making lives of the people miserable.

Mosquitoes in surams buzz around and make it difficult for students to prepare their lessons at night. Different professional people like doctors and nurses in the hospitals, lawyers and shopkeepers who are to work at late night are the worst sufferers.

It maybe mentioned that the ditches and derelict ponds filled with dirty stagnant water and hyacinths, silted up drains, kutcha and semi-pucca service latrines are the breeding centres of mosquitoes which are to be eradicated.



DINAJPUR: Local District and Sessions Judge distributing prize to a winner of self-composed poetry competition arranged under the auspices of local Press Club recently.

Across the country

A legendary mosque — miles away from Murshidabad

From Atiur Rahman

JESSORE, Mar 17: Murshidabad, immediately after the fall of Nawab Siraj-ud-Dawla at the battle of Plassey, went into total administrative vacuum for want of governance in the country. The result was anarchy, lawlessness, savagery and violence gripped the capital city and the whole setting was reduced to a veritable inferno.

Traitors, betrayers and disruptive elements of the Siraj were now ready to take full advantage of the situation and make good their troubles during the earlier regime. Plunder, rape, rampage, genocide and arson swept the city. It was a reign of terror those people let loose on the city.

City dwellers felt life and property was insecure and began to desert the capital to avoid being killed. Inmates of the palace were not spared. They were equal partners in the nightmare with the common people and looked for a chance to run away.

Just then, an estranged wife of the chief of the Nawab's personal staff, who was known for her chastity, nobility and beauty sent for a handsome

untraced on the way of no return.

Days, months, and years rolled by. Rivers, brooks, fields and deserts were crossed and they hit the deltaic plains of Jessore. On landing on the eastern bank of river Kapotakkha Zohura flatly refused to continue the journey and at last revolted. This bickering annoyed the Jamader and broke all his patience.

When Zohura fell asleep, the Jamader, drew his sword and beheaded Zohura in a stroke. The Jamader dug a hole near the bush for disposal of the body and buried it there.

Calm and quiet, the Jamader brought the packet, so long kept with Zohura poured into the contents and was overwhelmed to see only gold in mohairs and meggets. He repented his crime and planned to spend the wealth of Zuhara on religious undertakings.

Accordingly, the very next day, he engaged labourers to construct a mosque there.

The historic mosque, decorated with sculptural

daily attendance of visitors from far and wide is also remarkable.

But during the last long two hundred and fifty years, no steps were taken for its maintenance.

It is learnt, doctor Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, then Deputy Commissioner Jessore, took it up a project for its thorough repair. But his initiative was shelved after his transfer.

Sources say that former upazila chairman, Rashidur Rahman Rashid sanctioned one hundred maunds of wheat under food for work programme.

Some petty repairs were done on priority basis. The upazila chairman initiated a project for completion of the major work. But that produced little result.

Witnesses say that four walls and domes of the mosque have been cracked, affected by saline moisture. Saying prayer is now quite risky there. It may topple down without any warning.

Some local elites including M Ishaque, M Azhar Ali and



JESSORE: With the advent of British rule, the fugitive soldiers of Nawab Siraj built the historic mosque in sixties of eighteenth century at Kayemkola of Thinkergacha. — Star photo

young and courageous spy of the guard regiment, Jamader Abu Baker Mahmud from inside the palace. This message took him aback and, bewildered, he responded in hot haste. The unique manner of approach and the feminine charm of Fatema Zohura won his heart. Both agreed to quit Murshidabad and try their luck elsewhere far away from the Murshidabad madhouse.

At the dead of night when the city had plunged into darkness, roads were desolate and nothing could be seen, Zohura joined Jamader with a packet in hand for the flight. They set out unnoticed and

arabesques of rare workmanship, is still in existence at Kayemkola of Jhikorgachha thana in Jessore. It is built on a bigha of land with under-size bricks and a combination of chips and lime.

With three big sized domes and no roof, it was erected. No sand and cement was used nor iron rods in the construction. Built with four minars, three doors and two windows measuring fifteen cubits long and six cubits wide the old mosque is now standing in a dilapidated condition.

Every day a big crowd of devotees come here to say prayer at this mosque. Besides,

Advocate Shamsur Rahman, told The Daily Star that the mosque was a monument built by a fugitive soldier of Siraj-ud-Dawla at the advent of the British rule in India. They said that attempts were made to invite archeologic department to take it over but in vain.

The mosque now needs over a million taka at the moment for its repair. The amount was too big for the local people to arrange and go for the work.

It was so high time for the government to look into the matter and take effective steps to develop it as a tourist spot.

Rally demands punishment to terrorists

JHENIDAH, Mar 17: Hundreds of people brought out a procession Monday in the town demanding punishment of the notorious terrorist and alleged murderer Yusuf, reports UNB.

Police nabbed Yusuf on the same day while the local people chased him from a residence at Adarshapara.

According to the villagers, Yusuf of village Lakhikole in the pourashava area of the town was engaged in toll collection, hijacking and other terrorist activities for a long time. They also said he murdered one Aman of the same village in February last.

Tk 10 lakh property gutted

SATKHIRA, Mar 17: Property worth about Taka 10 lakh was gutted in a devastating fire at village Banashipur in Shyamnagar thana on Saturday, reports UNB.

Villagers said 12 dwelling houses, six granaries and cash and belongings were burnt into ashes in the fire which was originated from an oven.

Fire Brigade from the district town rushed to the spot and brought the fire under control.

A villager in sadar thana met a tragic end of his life while operating a shallow pump on Saturday.

Police said Bhaktipada Gain (27) of village Sanka died instantly when his wearing cloth wrapped with the running wheel of the pump.

Law, order situation deteriorates

PABNA, Mar 17: Law and order situation has deteriorated to a great extent in the district during the last few days, reports UNB.

According to police, at least 123 crimes were committed in nine thanas of the district in the last week. Of them, seven murders, 23 dacoities, 12 incidents of riot, 35 snatching, three rape, 27 thefts and 11 other crimes have been committed during the period.

In the last year, 2590 crimes including 40 murders, 106 dacoities, 1162 thefts, 54 riots, 153 rape and 400 other crimes were committed in the district. The number of crime in the district in 1991 was 1352.

Local leaders have urged the authorities to enforce the Anti-terrorism Act strictly to check the growing crimes in

the district.

Police recovered a decomposed body of an unknown woman from an abandoned marshy land in town on Monday.

Police suspected that the woman (30) was killed after being raped about 25 to 30 days back.

A case has been filed with the police. The body was sent to morgue for autopsy.

Another report adds: Armed miscreants looted a truck load Indian cows at Bagchipara area on Pabna-Nagarbari highway on Monday night.

Villagers said a truck loaded with 20 cows from Hajrat was on way to Dhaka. A gang of armed miscreants stopped the truck at gun point and beat the driver and helper and fled away with the truck.

Accommodation problem acute in sub-jail

MAGURA, Mar 17: The district sub-jail is beset with manifold problems for a long time causing sufferings to the inmates, reports UNB.

The century-old Magura sub-jail constructed during the British rule cannot accommodate increasing number of convicted and under trial prisoners due to space problem.

Official sources said that the sub-jail has an accommodation capacity of 32 male and three female prisoners but with the

increase of crime the number of prisoners has increased manifold.

At present there are 275 prisoners in the sub-jail. The prisoners complained that they cannot sleep at night for want of space and pass the night standing and sitting in great distress amid sultry weather and mosquito bite.

Some prisoners alleged that the inmates are also suffering from various diseases due to unhygienic condition in the sub-jail.