

**District roundup**

**SATKHIRA**  
**Int'l Women's Day observed**

**From Our Correspondent**  
Mar 21: International Women's Day was observed in Satkhira on Tuesday as elsewhere in the country. Various socio-cultural and voluntary organisations of the district observed the day in a befitting manner.

A discussion meeting under the auspices of Human Rights Development Project, Satkhira was held at its office premises with Syed Kamal Bakht, Ex-MP and chairman of the organisation in the chair.

M. Ibrahim Sardar, General Secretary HRDP, Satkhira, Prof. Abu Ahmed, Prof. Pabitra Mohon Das, Nazma Begum and Shikha Rani Deb spoke on the occasion.

Mahila Samity, Satkhira also arranged a discussion at its office.

Speakers in the discussion meetings underscored the need for ensuring equal rights of the 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.

**COMILLA**  
**One gets 10 yrs RI for torturing girl to death**

Mar 21: A man was awarded 10 years rigorous imprisonment for torturing a girl to death in the name of evil spirit treatment, reports UNB.

The accused Nashu Mia of Brahmanpara thana locally known as Ojha, has to suffer 10 years RI and pay a fine of Taka five thousand or indefinite to suffer one year RI more.

According to prosecution story, a sick girl Kulsummer Nessa (18) was brought to Nashu Mia at his house in Shahebad village on October 18 of 1990.

Nashu Mia started his so-called spiritual evil treatment on the girl by beating her till her death on October 22 of 1990.

Kulsum's mother filed an UD case in local thana and after investigation police submitted a charge sheet against Nashu Mia.

After examining the witnesses and records the Additional Session Judge Nurul Wadud awarded the punishment Tuesday.

**SIRAJGANJ**  
**Valuables worth Tk one lakh looted**

Mar 21: Valuables worth about Tk one lakh were looted and five people injured, two seriously, in daring dacoity at Pangashi village in Rayganj thana on Friday night, reports UNB.

According to police, a gang of armed dacoits numbering 15/16 entered the house of Rabinranath Saha by blasting bombs and decamped with the valuables.

When resisted the dacoits stabbed the house owner (55), his wife Basanti Rani Shaha (40), his sons—Sudhir Kumar Shaha (26), Bangsi Shaha (24) and Aji Kumar (10).

Among the victims Sudhir Kumar and Bangsi Saha were rushed to the Sirajganj General Hospital in a serious condition while others were admitted to Rayganj Hospital.

A case has been filed with the police.

**AGRI-VARSITY**  
**Part I Bachelor classes from April 5**

Mar 21: The Part one Bachelor level classes for the newly admitted students of Bangladesh Agricultural University for the session 1991-92 will begin on April 5, says a press release.

It may be mentioned here that the University will reopen on March 30 after the end of Ramadan vacation. The halls of residence will remain open for the resident students in the morning of March 29.

Press release adds: An Ifar-cum-Doa Mahfil was held at the official residence of the Vice-Chancellor of the Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) on 17 March afternoon. Hosted by the Vice-Chancellor of BAU Professor M. Ashraf Ali Khan, the Mahfil was attended by senior faculty members and officers of BAU and elites of Mymensingh town including senior members of district administration.

The Mahfil prayed for the continued progress and development of our country as well as for the welfare of the Muslim ummah.

**TANGAIL**  
**35 projects under ADP taken up**

Mar 21: Basail thana parishad has taken up 35 projects under its Annual Development Programme at a cost of Taka seven lakh this year, reports BSS.

A thana parishad source said the development projects include 22 culverts and 12 primary and secondary schools.

Another project has been taken up for renovation of thana parishad building.

The work will be completed by the end of the current fiscal year.

**KISHOREGANJ**  
**15 hurt in rival groups clash**

**From Our Correspondent**  
Mar 21: At least 15 persons including two women were injured following a clash between two rival groups at village Guchamara under Shimulakandi union of Bhalrab thana of the district recently.

According to police, there had been a long standing dispute between the two groups over the boundary of a plot of domestic land.

Eleven injured persons were admitted into the Bhalrab thana health complex in critical condition while four others into a private clinic.

A case had been filed with Bhalrab police station in this connection. But none has yet been arrested.

**MADARIPUR**  
**Three young persons commit suicide**

**From Our Correspondent**  
Mar 21: Three young persons committed suicide by taking poison recently.

It is reported that one Mukund Lal Biswas, son of Anmirit Lal Biswas of Lakhanda village and Sri Nath Barlo, son of Manya Barlo of West Amgram and Panchoram Sikdar, son of Rabinranath Sikdar of Nagore village under Rajoir thana committed suicide following family troubles. Later, bodies were sent to Madaripur hospital for post mortem.

Three separate UD cases were lodged with Rajoir thana in this regard.

**CHITTAGONG**  
**Mayor hosts Iftar party**

Mar 21: Mayor of Chittagong Mir Muhammad Nasiruddin hosted an Iftar party at the local club here on Friday evening, reports BSS.

Eminent citizens including local MPs, high officials and journalists attended the Iftar party.

**BRAHMANBARIA**  
**Jatiya Party meet held**

**From Our Correspondent**  
Mar 21: A meeting of Zila Jatiya Party held at the local bar association auditorium of the district recently.

Organizing Secretary of central committee of the Jatiya Party Monirul Hoque Chowdhury MP was present in the meeting as chief guest while Syed Murshed Kamal MP and former Deputy Minister Humayun Kabir attended as special guests. The meeting presided over by Faroque Ahmed Chowdhury.

It was also addressed by Abdul Wahid Khan Labloo, Anwar Khan, Moshir Rahman Khan, Alamgir Osman and Abdullah al-Helal. Speakers demanded immediate release of Hussain Mohd Ershad and the other Jatiya Party leaders.

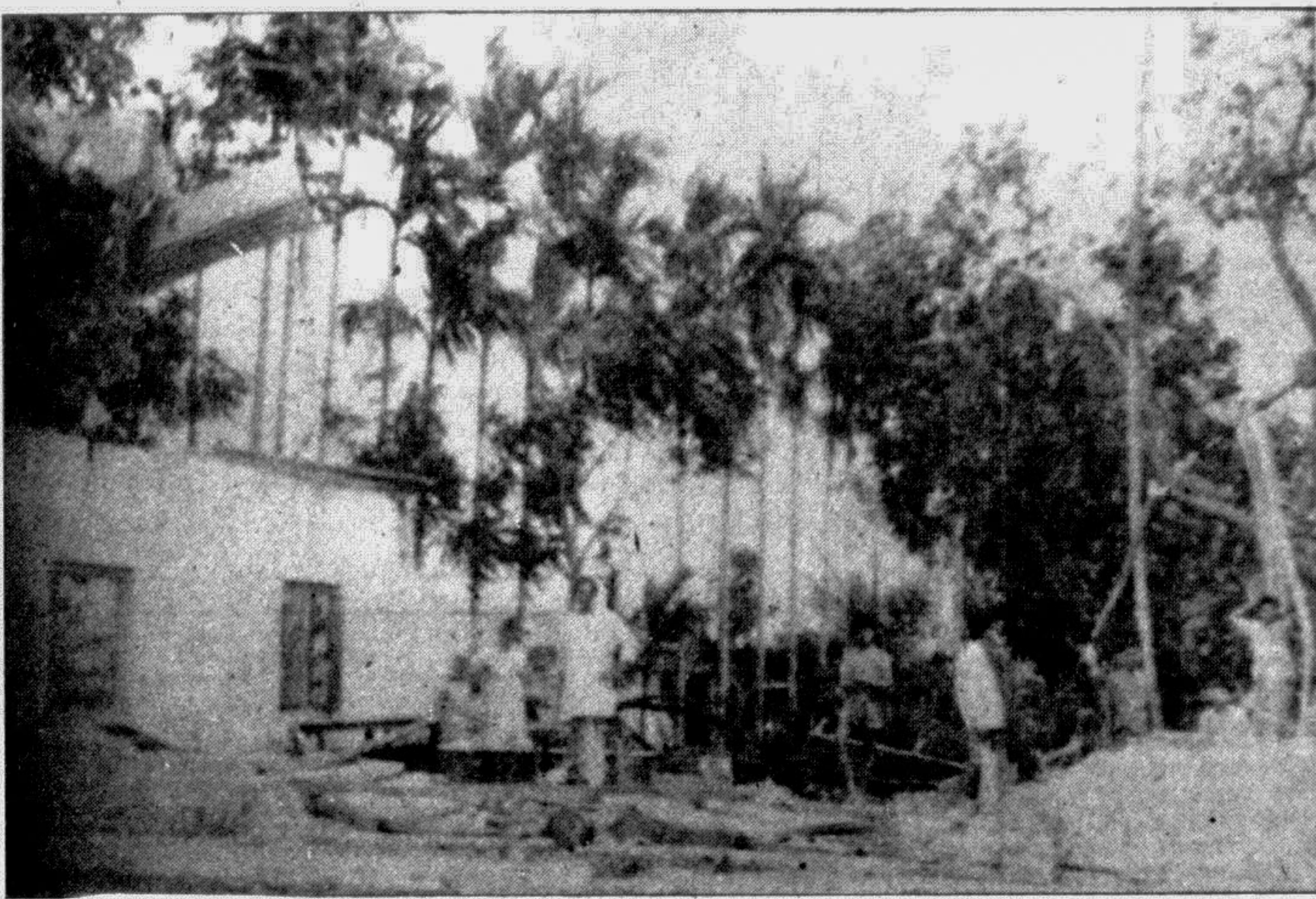
**JHENIDAH**  
**Armed dacoits loot rice from truck**

Mar 21: Armed dacoits looted rice from a truck in sadar thana of Kushtia district on the Jhenidah-Kushtia road on Friday night, reports UNB.

Police said a group of armed dacoits halted the Khulna-bound truck loaded with 95 bags of rice worth about Tk 1 lakh from Kushtia, by raising barricade on the road.

They forced the driver, helper and two others including owner of rice trader Ekhas aboard the truck to leave the vehicle and took it away.

Police recovered the empty truck from Dashedi area in Sadar thana of Chuadanga on Saturday.



RAJBARI: The roof of the Basantapur High School in the district has completely been damaged by recent cyclone. No initiative has yet been taken to repair this school. — Star photo

**Ground water level fall abnormal**  
**Drought prevailing for 3 months in Rajshahi**

RAJSHAHI, Mar 21: Several drought conditions have been prevailing in the Rajshahi region during the last three months for which ground water level has gone down abnormally, official sources said here on Saturday.

Talking to BSS, the sources said that as a result of this abnormal lowering of the ground water level, over 8,000 shallow tube wells have already become inoperative in the district.

The sources said that the water level has gone down to 71 feet at Dewpara and 65 feet in Baghair unions under Godagari thana due to adverse affect of Farakka. Water level has also gone down to 45 feet in Godagari thana. If the water level continues to go down, water will not be available for drinking purposes in many parts of the district, the sources added.

Meanwhile, the government has taken measures to install 112 shallow tube wells and 84 indigenous Tara pumps in the

district to overcome the 'water crisis' during the dry season.

In Paba, Mohanpur, Baghmara and Putiya thanas, water level has gone down below 12 feet from the surface. If it goes down to 26 feet, water will not be available through shallow tube wells in these areas, the sources expressed concern.

They pointed out that the rainfall in the district was recorded only at 0.2 inches during the last three months, whereas .55 inches rainfall was recorded during the corresponding period of last year.

Due to adverse affect of Farakka, rivers, ponds, wells and other sources of water have gradually dried up for which irrigation to farm lands had been affected badly, agricultural department sources said.

If drought condition prevails for another month, Aus and jute cultivation in the district will be badly affected. Sugar cane in 47,000 acres

has been affected during the current season due to the drought, they said.

Ecological and environmental conditions in the district have also changed during the last few years. 'Too much extraction of ground water through deep tube wells, inadequate rainfall and unilateral withdrawal of Ganges water at the Farakka end have also adversely affected the ecological condition in the district,' the sources said adding that environmental conditions are gradually changing due to random felling of trees for fuel and other purposes.

Besides, crop pattern has also been changed, officials said adding that potato, wheat and mustard productions have increased during the recent past in the district, whereas paddy production had gradually decreased as the top soil is being eroded due to scanty rainfall and adverse affect of Farakka.

**Prospect of watermelon output bright in Kishoreganj**

**From Our Correspondent**  
KISHOREGANJ, Mar 21: The prospect of watermelon production in the vast charland of Kishoreganj district is bright.

An encouraging result has been achieved from the experimental cultivation of watermelon on the charland of the Meghna, Brahmaputra, Dhanu, Ariakha, Kali, Narasundha and Ghorauttra rivers and more farmers have become interested to cultivate watermelon.

Experts are of the opinion that charlands are suitable for the cultivation of watermelon at a low cost. During the dry season, these charlands emerged on the bed of Brahmaputra, Meghna, Dhanu, Ariakha, Kali, Narasundha and Ghorauttra rivers where watermelon is a profitable crop in these areas. But a little effort has been made by the Agriculture Extension Department to produce improved quality of watermelon.

The farmers urged the concerned authorities to extend help and provide them with improved quality of seeds and financial assistance for the cultivation of watermelon.

UNB report says: A total of

10,743 hectares of land will be brought under sweet cultivation in greater Mymensingh district during the current rabi season.

According to Agriculture Extension Department, 1800 hectares will be cultivated in Tangail, 2000 hectares in Mymensingh, 3000 hectares in Jamalpur, 1200 hectares in Natrakona and 2500 hectares in Kishoreganj district.

Official sources said production target of sweet potato has been fixed at 1,07,430 metric tons.

**Assailants kill retired school teacher**

GAIBANDHA, Mar 21: A retired school teacher was killed by a gang of assailants near Indradighi of Bhatgram in Sadullahpur thana on Tuesday, reports UNB.

The victim Ambika Charan Sarkar (55) of Ulla village in Saghata thana was attacked by a gang of four miscreants while returning from a house of his relation of Bhatgram village.

(BADC) will supply seeds, fertilizer, insecticides and other necessary inputs among the farmers at fair price to make the scheme a success.

Besides, 50 demonstration plots have been set up in three greater Mymensingh districts to acquaint the farmers with the modern methods of cultivation of different varieties of sweet potato.

**Boro cultivation**  
UNB report from Maulvibazar adds: The Agriculture Extension Department has taken up a programme to bring 37,000 hectares of land under Boro cultivation in the district.

According to official sources, of the total about 27,600 hectares will be brought under Upsi variety and 10,000 hectares under local variety.

Another 17,000 acres of land will be brought under wheat cultivation during the current season.

For the successful implementation of the programme Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation will supply high yielding variety seeds, fertilizers, pesticides among the growers at fair price.

**Notes from Sylhet**

**From Our Correspondent**

SYLHET, Mar 21: Armed miscreants looted one SBBL gun alongwith seven rounds of ammunitions and valuables worth about Taka one lakh from a house of village Gird under Golapganj thana recently.

According to the reports, at about 7 pm in the night of incident, the miscreants attacked the house of one Saleh Ahmed Chowdhury. They snatched away a gun, seven rounds of ammunitions, gold ornaments at gun point, from the women in the house. A case in this connection had already been registered with the police station.

**Rickshawpuller killed in road mishap**

One rickshawpuller was killed in a road accident at Tillagar area of Sylhet town recently.

According to the reports, the incident occurred when a speeding truck (No Sylhet, TA-02-0049) loaded with stones from Jafflong hit a rickshaw from behind at the Tillagar point. The victim who was driving the rickshaw was crushed under the wheels of the speeding truck. The rickshaw was also scrapped totally.

The victim Saidul Islam (24) hailed from Mymensingh. The local people seized the killer truck and handed over to the police. However, both the driver and helper managed to escape from the spot just after the accident.

**Muggers snatch away Tk 1.50 lakh**

Armed gang of muggers snatched away Taka one and half lakh from a businessman stabbing him at Ganeshpur union under Chhatak thana of Sunamganj district recently.

According to the reports the victim Nazrul Haque (40) while he was on his way home, was attacked by the miscreants at Ganeshpur area. They took away the money after stabbing him suddenly. He was admitted to the Chhatak Thana Health Complex at a critical condition.

A case had been registered with the police. But no action had yet been reported.

**One UP member arrested**

One union parishad member and another persons were arrested by the police while a gun looted earlier was recovered after 14 days from a village under Madhabpur thana of Habiganj district recently.

According to the reports, on getting secret information, the police of Madhabpur and GPH went to the house of one Olf Miah, Member of Bahara Union Parishad and recovered a 303 rifle (NO 2965) and arrested Olf Miah and Tofazzal Haque from the house.

It may be stated here that, a gang of armed dacoits in disguise of passengers looted the rifle alongwith other goods in a dacoity from the Surma Mail at Mantala railway station on February 15 last.

**Cash, valuables looted**

A daring dacoity was committed in a house at village Khola under Ajjalabad union of Chhatak thana under Sunamganj district recently.

According to the reports, a gang of dacoits attacked the house of one Mohabbat Miah. They tied up all the inmates of the house with ropes, and took away 14 tolas of gold ornament and other valuables worth about Taka one lakh from the house.

A case in this connection had been registered with the police.

**787 tonnes wheat for 18 schemes in Chuadanga**

CHUADANGA, Mar 21: A total of 787 metric tons of wheat has been sanctioned to implement 18 schemes in four thanas of Chuadanga district in the current season under Food-for-Work Programme, reports BSS.

According to an official source, 163 metric tons of wheat have been sanctioned for implementation of three schemes in Chuadanga Sadar thana, 242 metric tons of wheat for six schemes in Alamdanga thana, 313 metric tons for seven schemes in Damurhuda thana and 69 metric tons for two schemes in Jibannagar thana.

Work of the schemes includes construction and reconstruction of roads in the rural areas.

Another report adds: A total of 18,000 hectares of land have been brought under wheat cultivation in four thanas of Chuadanga district in the current season, reports BSS.

Agriculture Extension Department source said 4,000 hectares have been brought under cultivation in Chuadanga Sadar, 8,000 hectares in Alamdanga thana, 4,000

hectares in Damurhuda thana and 2,000 hectares in Jibannagar thana.

About 35,000 metric tons of wheat are expected to be produced in the district this year, the source said.

**Tk 3.92 lakh Indian sarees seized**

COMILLA, Mar 21: The BDR personnel seized Indian sarees worth about Taka 3.92 lakh arrested four alleged smugglers in separate raids in Kotwali thana from March 7 to 14, officials said, reports UNB.

**3 killed in road mishaps**

JAMALPUR, Mar 21: Three persons were allegedly killed in two separate road accidents in Sherpur district recently, reports BSS.

Eye witnesses said a truck skidded off the road at Raniganj feeder road under Nalitabari thana killing Nawsher Ali (35) on the spot. Truck driver Sunil succumbed to his injuries on way to hospital.

**43 smuggled Indian cows worth Tk 3.88 lakh seized**

**From Our Correspondent**

SYLHET, Mar 21: Forty-three smuggled Indian cows worth over Taka 3.88 lakh were seized in two separate raids in Sylhet on Saturday last.

According to an official source, the jawans of the special contingent of BDR at Chafkhal under Beanibazar thana seized six Haryana variety of Indian cows worth about Taka 58 thousand from Kaliganj bazar while these were being smuggled into Bangladesh. These were later handed over to the Customs Department. A case had already been registered with the police.

In another raid, the anti-smuggling task force seized 37 Indian smuggled cows on the same day from Jawa bazar under Sunamganj district. The value of these cows would be about Taka three lakh thirty thousand, said an official source.

A case in this connection had also been registered with the police.

Another report says: A housewife committed suicide at village Bazargaon of

Doarabazar thana under Sunamganj district recently.

According to the reports, Jharna Rani Das (40) wife of one Ananta Kumar Das of village Bazargaon of Mannargan union by hanging herself in her house on Friday last. The cause of the incident could not be ascertained immediately.

A case of unnatural death, had been registered with the Doarabazar police in this connection. The body was sent to the Sunamganj Sadar Hospital for post mortem.

**Tk five lakh property gutted**

Another report adds: Property worth about Taka five lakh were gutted in a big fire at Dhakadakhin bazar of Golapganj thana under Sylhet district recently.

According to the reports, the fire originated from the sweetmeat shop of one Hiralal Pal soon spread to the adjacent shops. Four shops were gutted in the fire. Upon hearing, Fire Service personnel from Sylhet reached the spot but the local people had brought the fire under control before their arrival.



SYLHET: Anirban Krira Chakra became the unbeaten champions in the Power First Division Cricket League held at the Sylhet stadium recently. They defeated white Mohammedans by 84 runs. — Star photo

**Hats, bazars beset with manifold problems**

KISHOREGANJ, Mar 21: Hats and bazars in different thanas of the district are beset with manifold problems causing inconvenience to the buyers and sellers, reports UNB.

Hats in Sadar, Karimganj, Kotiadi, Hossainpur, Pakundia, Itna, Mitamain, Kullarechar, Sararechar, Bajitpur, Tarail, Nikli, Austagram, Channarghat and Neyamatpur thanas are in pitiable and unhygienic condition for a long time.

Local people complained that filth and garbage are polluting the environment in most of the hats and bazars as there is hardly any arrangement for clearing them.

There is no public toilet in any hats and bazars and arrangement for water supply is almost absent. People are seen using the drains for defecation causing health hazards.

The interior lanes and by-lanes of the markets have developed potholes and cracks obstructing movement of the buyers and sellers.

Moreover, in the absence of proper drainage system stagnant waters and filth and scattered garbage have been vitiating the surroundings. Our Correspondent adds:

Bhairab railway junction, one of the busy railway junctions has become the centre place of floating prostitutes, smugglers and musclemen. Local people and passengers alleged.

The unlawful activities of the miscreants have increased before the nose of the railway authorities and even the law-enforcing agencies.

Some of them alleged that the anti-social elements receive cooperation from the law enforcers.

**Six commit suicide in two days**

SATKHIRA, Mar 21: Six people in sadar thana allegedly committed suicide by taking poison on March 17 and 18, reports UNB.

Family sources said Babar Ali of Patharghata, Amena Khatun (28) of Michridanga, Razia (42) wife of Ahmad Ali of Payradanga, Vakuppa (27) of Sanka, Shabanaz (10) of Shetunala, Purnima Karmakar wife of Gebinda of Nileakhali committed suicide by taking endrin following their family feud.



AGRI-VARSITY (MYMENSINGH): A view of the Ifar-cum-Doa Mahfil hosted by the Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) Prof. M. Ashraf Ali Khan at his official residence on March 17. — Star photo