

District roundup

NETRAKONA
Tax Lawyers' Assoc unit executives

From Our Correspondent
Mar 27: The election of Netrakona Tax Lawyers Association was held in the local bar office with Advocate Abdul Ahed in the chair.
Advocate Mattur Rahman Khan and Jinnat Islam were elected President and General Secretary respectively of 13-member Netrakona Tax Lawyers Association of the year 1993-94.

KUSHITIA
Main highways in deplorable condition

From Our Correspondent
Mar 27: The main highways of Kushitia are in a deplorable condition due to heavy pressure on the roads.
The main highways are: Kushitia-Jhenaidah, Kushitia-Meherpur and Kushitia-Ishurdi roads. About five hundred trucks and buses ply on these roads daily as these roads connect Khulna port town with the northern region of the country.
But for want of proper and timely maintenance, most of the roads have become unworthy of plying any kind of vehicles particularly the small ones.
The roads have developed innumerable big and small potholes.
It is a general practice that after rainy season authorities concerned take up the repair work. But in Kushitia no step has yet been taken by the Roads and Highways Department for immediate repair or reconstruction of the same.

AGRI-VARSITY
BAU VC hosts Iftar party

Mar 27: An Iftar party was held at the official residence of the Vice Chancellor of the Bangladesh Agricultural University on Wednesday, reports UNB.
Hosted by Prof M Ashraf Ali Khan, Vice-Chancellor of BAU, the party was attended by senior faculty members and officers of the university and elite of the town.
After the Iftar a 'doa' mahfil was held in which mercy of Allah sought for the continued progress and development of the country as well as for the welfare of the Muslim Ummah.

CHIHTAGONG
Lailatul Quadr observed

Mar 27: Lailatul Quadr is being on Sunday night observed in this port city as elsewhere in the district with due solemnity and devotion, reports BSS.
Devout muslims are offering special prayers including zikr, ziarat at the mazars of the saints and feeding the destitute.
The night-long prayers will end with the akhiri munajat in the morning.

KHULNA
2 Cops dismissed from services

Mar 27: Two police constables were dismissed Sunday from their services for involvement in heroin trafficking, reports UNB.
Officials said the police administration took the action against Mattur Rahman and Fariduddin after extensive investigation of the charge.
Some 250 grams of heroin was recovered from the residence of Mattur Rahman in Purugali area of Khulna Police Lines on February 23.
Police authorities suspected the accused were involved in heroin trafficking while in service for a long time.

SATKHIRA
Housewife beaten to death

From Our Correspondent
Mar 27: One Taherunnisa (20), wife of Hossain Ali village Satkhira under Sadar thana was beaten to death by her husband, it is reported.
It is reported that the body of the victim Taherunnisa was found lying on her bed room on March 5. Her husband tried to suppress the killing as suicidal by pouring poison into her mouth. Having being informed police rushed to the spot of occurrence and sent the body to Satkhira morgue for autopsy.
A case has been lodged with Satkhira PS in this regard.

SIRAJGANJ
39 die of kalazar

Mar 27: At least 39 people died of 'kalazar' and 1,032 others were attacked in Sirajganj, Natore and Pabna districts during the last three months, official sources said here on Friday, reports UNB.
District wise breakup of the dead and those who were attacked by the diseases are: Sirajganj 15, attacked 401, Pabna dead 12, attacked 325, Natore dead 12 and attacked 306.
Officials said children were among the worst victims of the disease that broke out in the districts in early December, 1992.
Medical sources said the medicine of Kalazar were not available in the local markets.

RAJSHAHI
Bumper wheat output expected

Mar 27: Bumper wheat production is expected in Rajshahi district during current season, reports BSS.
Officials sources told BSS yesterday that 85,000 acres of land have been brought under dry weather wheat cultivation and about 70,000 tons of wheat, the highest ever, is expected to be harvested.

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NATORE: Overloading of passengers and goods on different routes has become a common feature. — Star photo

Over 1,500 tonnes of wheat under insect attack in LSD godowns

From Our Correspondent
RANGPUR, Mar 27: More than 1,500 tonnes of wheat in nine LSD godowns of the food department in the district under insect attack.
The stocks of wheat have been lying in the food godowns untouched for the last one year. During this period, all the Food for Work Programmes have been executed utilising rice and paddy.
As a result, the unutilised stocks of wheat have been attacked by insects following long storage in the food godowns.
The Food Department in the meantime have started spraying poisonous gas named "Mithali Bromide" in a bid to kill the insects. It may be mentioned here that Iran used this poisonous gas against Iraq during war.
The Food Department have imported, this gas this year and supplied it to Rangpur and some other LSD's in the country to destroy massive insect attack on the food stocks.
This is apprehend that due to spraying of powerful poisonous gas, the entire stocks of wheat have turned poisonous.
The Food Department, in the meantime trying to disburse this wheat stocks for execution of different Food for Work Programmes to avoid damages by insect attack. But before its despatch from the godowns, a thorough investigations on fitness and the impact of these poison are most essential. The Food Department is ignoring it saying that, after elapse of danger period these will be supplied to various schemes.
Another report says: The entire Rangpur town streets are in deep darkness since February 12 last following snapping of the connections of road lights by the Power Development Board due to non-payment of outstanding electric bills.
This has resulted immense sufferings to three lakh town dwellers. Various kinds of crimes like thefts, robbers and hijacking have increased manifold.
Many people, particularly the females prefer to stay at home instead of going out for shopping or other purposes at night for fear of harassment by the criminals under the cover of darkness, it is informed.
A spokesman of Rangpur Paurosava said that there is no fund with the Paurosava to meet outstanding bills of the PWB.
The salaries of the teachers of paurosava run schools and pauro-office staff are also lying un-paid for over fifteen months causing unfold sufferings to these ill-paid office staff.
Another report adds: A week-long eye camp was held at Shalti Gopalpur Hamidia High School premises recently.
Nurul Huda Sultan, a well known, social worker and industrialist inaugurated the camp.
At least one hundred and fifty eye patients were operated upon while over six hundred patients have been given first aid treatments.
A ten-member team of eye experts headed by Dr Nazrul Islam and Dr Masudul Haque of Bogra Missionary Hospital had performed the operation and treatments of the patients at free of cost.
The eye patients have been supplied with medicines and spectacles by the management of the camp.

Divorces in rural areas on rise

From Our Correspondent
FARIDPUR, Mar 27: The number of divorces in the rural areas of the district has increased due to various reasons.
More than 1500 divorces have been recorded during the last three years in eight thanas of the district.
Primary causes of divorce have been identified as dowry, polygamy, poverty and immoral activities.
It is felt that the government should take stringent action and ensure the registration of marriages at nominal fees so that the oppressed women can get legal action.
The law of the land.
It was informed that the local marriage registrars demand higher fees which the poor guardians cannot afford to pay.
Despite legal restrictions, many men marry several times particularly in remote areas without the written permission of the first wife.
The poverty-stricken women are the worst victims. Non-registration of marriages leaves the women helpless as they can not take protection of the law of the land.
A day-long training course on technique of growing potato seed, farmers problem and its solution at field level, was held at the BADC Cold Storage auditorium recently.
Deputy Director, Seed Distribution, Md. Shahidullah chaired the inaugural function while KM Nurul Huda, Deputy Commissioner of Faridpur was the chief guest.
Addressed among others by AFM Monjur Alam Deputy Director Seed Processing and Pijush Kanti Banik, Deputy Director, Potato Seed.

2,541 MW electricity likely to be produced by Dec

GHORASHAL, Mar 27: Country's daily production of electricity is expected to rise to 2,541 Megawatt, 591 MW more than the national demand, by next December on completion of two power plants, reports UNB.
At present the country produces on an average 1,650 MW of electricity per day against the demand of 1,750 MW.
The two power plants — Rajganj Power Plant in Chittagong and the 5th unit of Ghorashal Thermal Power Plant — will go into operation by April and December this year respectively.
The staggering loadshedding problem will be minimised to a great extent on completion of these two projects, said Syed Mohiuddin Ahmed, Chief Engineer of Operation and Maintenance Division of Ghorashal Thermal Power Plant.
He told a visiting group of journalists on Saturday that 72 per cent work of the 5th unit of Ghorashal Power Plant had already been completed.
The construction of the unit, a Taka 576.11 crore project, beginning 1988-89 with financial and technical assistance from Russia.
Meanwhile, an agreement was signed between Bangladesh and Russia on January 15 last year to set up another 210 MW power unit, the 6th unit of Ghorashal Power Plant.
The construction of the unit costing Taka 493 crore is likely to start by next January. It is expected to go into operation by March, 1996.
On completion of 5th and 6th units, Ghorashal Power Station with 950 MW capacity will be the biggest power station complex in the country. The present installed generation capacity of the complex is 530 MW.



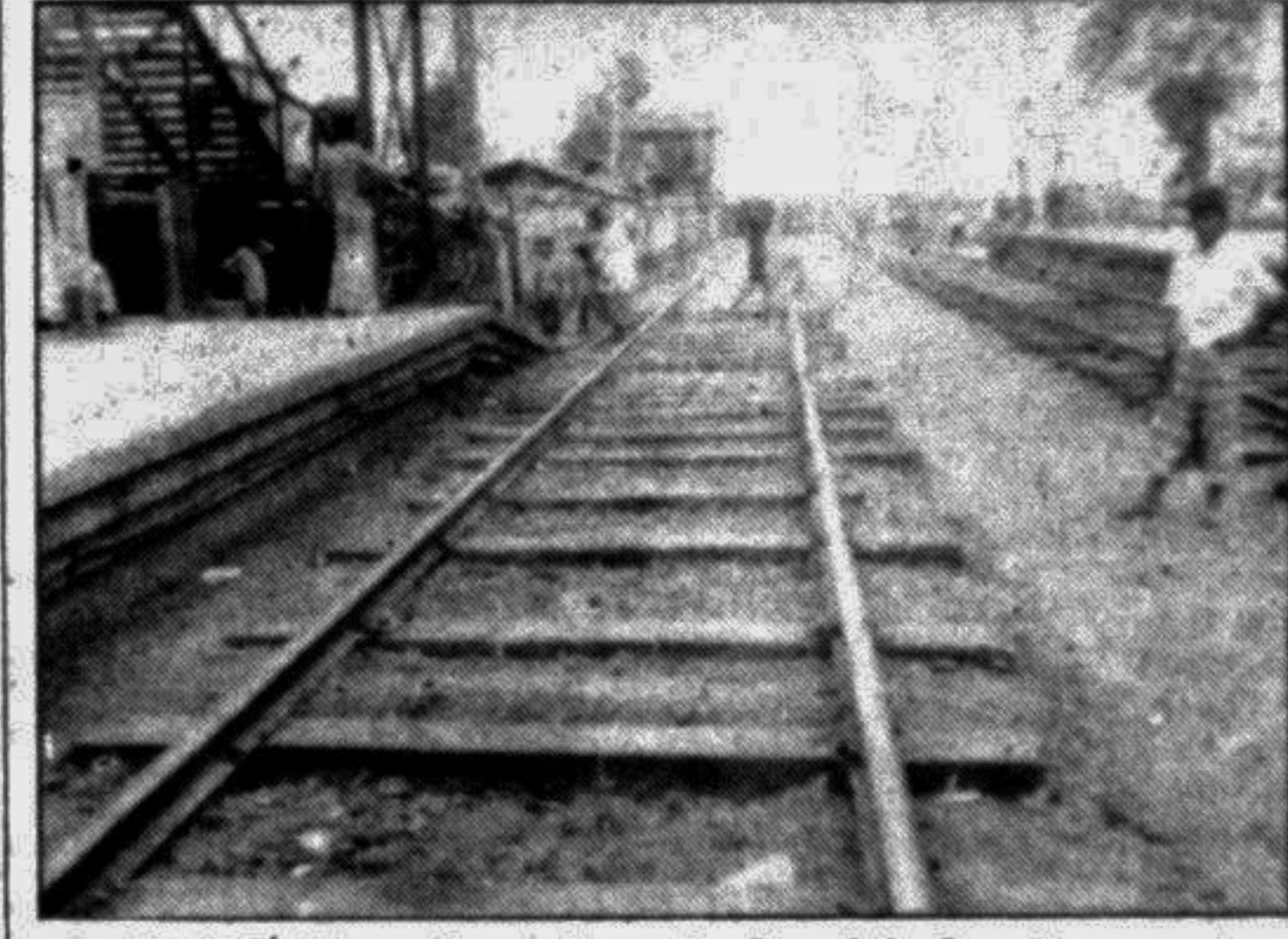
JAMALPUR: The cyclone-hit Kuna Maluncha Amena Dakhil Madrasah of the district. It needs early repair. — Star photo

Chuadanga Pourashava beset with problems

From Our Correspondent
CHUADANGA, Mar 27: Chuadanga Pourashava which was established just after independence is now beset with manifold problems. It lacks basic amenities causing great difficulties to the tax payers.
The pourashava was established when population was hardly a few thousands and amenities at that time were proportionate to it but with the expansion of pourashava areas and the increase of population the amenities did not increase rather they kept static thereby causing unfold sufferings to the town dwellers of about 75 thousand.
The narrow roads and lanes, absence of proper drainage system, irregular clearance of night soils, poor health and sanitation system, drinking water scarcity and lack of other amenities have gripped the life of town dwellers.
There is no proper drainage system in the town. All the existing drains are found full of garbage and for want of proper care these have turned into mosquito breeding centres.
Mosquito is making the life of the town dwellers miserable. It may be mentioned that during the last few years there have been a deterioration of the situation and now it is hardly possible for the people to work at night. The worst sufferers are the students who are now used to read till late hours at night. The situation rather becomes intolerable during the rainy season which is somewhat unusual.
The authorities are quite indifferent to the problem. The Chuadanga Barabazar market situated on the bank of river Mathabhanga is the sorrows of the people of the pourashava. In the rainy season, this market becomes turbulent and the whole area inundated causing immense sufferings to the inhabitants of the town. But the pourashava authority is indifference towards the development of this market.
Most of the street lights have no bulbs. As a result the town plunge into darkness just after sunset and finding it advantageous the anti-socials become active in their nefarious activities, shortage of accommodation in barabazar fish and vegetables markets is also causing immense sufferings.

Chemical fertilizer use decrease fertility of land gradually

NATORE, Mar 27: The fertility of soil in the northern region has been decreasing gradually due to indiscriminate use of chemical fertilizer in the land, reports UNB.
It was learnt that most of the land of the region are being used for growing 2 to 3 crops in a year.
The farmers are often apply overdose of TSP, MP, Urea and Zinc sulphate in their land for growing additional crops practically decreasing the soil fertility.
While visiting some areas of the region this correspondent found the farmers are using chemical fertilisers in their crop land indiscriminately instead of natural manure. They have no clear idea on the proportionate use of fertilisers.
Besides, soil fertility is also being hampered due to heavy iron contained in underground water which is extracted by deep and shallow tubewells for irrigation purposes.
Use of natural manure like cow dung has been greatly decreased as farmers use the same as fuel. Growing of green manure plants are also decreased as the farmer are more interested in growing cereals and other cash crops.
Soil experts said for maintaining the soil fertility it was obligatory to apply organic manure and proper doses of chemical fertilizer in the soil.
Indiscriminate use of chemical fertilizer and continued cultivation of same crop in the same land have been greatly destroying the fertility of the soil, the experts said.
They suggested that chemical fertilizers should be used after proper soil testing, otherwise, the productivity of the soil will continue to decrease.



RAJBARI: The railway lines in Poradah Junction are in pitiable condition. The lines need early improvement to avoid any accident. — Star photo

Teachings of Islam can help solve problems

CHIHTAGONG, Mar 27: Speakers at a discussion on Shaab-e-Qadr here on Saturday stressed the need for practising the teachings of Islam in all spheres of life to get rid of various problems being faced in this present day trouble-torn world, reports BSS.
Highlighting the significance of Shaab-e-Qadr they said that the holy Quran was revealed on this night for the emancipation of the entire mankind. Termining Islam as a complete code of life they said that the holy Quran could give solutions to all problems of the mankind.
The discussion was arranged by Chittagong Islami Mohila Pathagar (Muslim Women Library), in observance of the holy Shaab-e-Qadr at its Katalgong Office premises.
Begum Omar Faruque, wife of Chittagong Divisional Commissioner, attended the function as chief guest while organisation President Fazlul Qadr presided. Serajul Huq, Director of Chittagong Centre of Islami Foundation presented a key-note paper in the discussion while library General Secretary Dilruba Islam Helan took part in discussion.
The function was followed by an Iftar party.

Govt trying to meet basic needs of people

NARAYANGANJ, Mar 27: State Minister for Finance Mojibur Rahman has said that the present democratic government is committed to meeting the basic needs of the people, reports BSS.
The government wants to solve the problems being faced by the people in phases based on priority consideration as its resources are limited.
The state minister was speaking as chief guest at a discussion meeting on "the role of trade unions in development of the banking sector, the current perspective", organised by Rupali Bank Employees Union, Narayanganj, on Thursday, an officials handout said on Saturday.
The state minister said that the nation has a bright future as the present government is trying hard to unite and integrate every body in development pursuits. He called upon the people to implement the positive policies and programmes of the government through deeds and not through words.
The discussion meeting was also addressed, among others, by local member of Parliament Sirajul Islam Straj and Advocate Abul Kalam Azad MP.

Notes from Jamalpur

From Our Correspondent
JAMALPUR, Mar 27: District Additional Police Super Md. Anwar Hossain inaugurated a night school at police line area recently.
A meeting was held at the night school ground in this connection. Muslimuddin Sujan and Mosharrar Hossain spoke in the meeting.
Int'l Women's Day observed
International Women's Day was observed here in a befitting manner recently.
Various socio-cultural and voluntary organisations chalked out elaborate programmes in the district town in observance of the day.
A meeting was organised by district women department at local Shilpakala Academy auditorium.
Jamalpur Sadar thana Magistrate Vikarunnissa presided over the meeting while it was addressed among others by Md. Saidul Islam, Dilwar Hossain, Shika Shaha, Saida Akhter, Jahannara Begum and Farida Mallik.
Sugar mills sramik union executives
The election of Zeal Bangla Sugar Mills Sramik Union was held recently at the mill auditorium.
Dilbar Rahman and Nasiruddin Ahmed were elected as President and General Secretary respectively.
Freedom Party unit confce held
Jamalpur Sadar thana Freedom Party unit conference was held at BRDB auditorium in the town recently.
District President of Freedom Party Reza Khondokar attended in the conference as chief guest. It was addressed among others by Rezaul Karim, Motiur Rahman, Hazrat Ali, Abdur Razzak, Jamaluddin, Amnur Rahman and Siddiqur Rahman.
Later, a 21-member executive committee of Jamalpur Sadar thana Freedom Party was formed with Rezaul Karim Bacchu and Motiur Rahman Master as President and Secretary respectively.