

## District roundup

## SATKHIRA

## Tk 17 lakh Indian goods seized

Mar 28: Bangladesh Rifles personnel recovered smuggled Indian goods worth about Taka 17 lakh and nabbed seven smugglers in two raids in the town recently, reports UNB.

BDR jawans seized 800 pieces of hides worth about Taka 11 lakh in a raid from a minibus (Satkhira Ta-04-0002) while passing through the town and 200 pieces of benarshi saris in another raid on Patkelghata Bazar.

Separate cases were registered with the police in this connection.

The nabbed were sent to jail hajat while the seized goods deposited with local customs authorities.

## FARIDPUR

## Anniversary of Jasimuddin's death observed

Mar 28: The 17th death anniversary of poet Jasimuddin was observed here, the birth place of the poet, with due solemnity on March 14, reports UNB.

Different socio-cultural and literary organisations chalked out elaborate programmes to pay glowing tribute to the "Pall Kabi".

Faridpur Shahitya Parishad, a noted literary organisation in the district held a discussion meeting on the life and works of the poet at the Islamic Foundation auditorium.

Paying rich tribute to the memory of the poet, the speakers said that Jasimuddin reflected the life and society of the rural people in his poems and other works.

As a real friend of the rural people he devoted himself to reflect the real picture of rural life and their sorrows and happiness, hopes and aspirations, they added.

The speakers called upon the poets-writers and novelists to reflect the real picture of rural people following the path of great poet Jasimuddin.

Presided over by Prof M A Samad, the meeting was also addressed by Prof Altaf Hossain, poet Abdul Latif Bhuiyan, SK Monirul Haq Mithu and journalist Mazhar Imam Milon.

The discussion meeting was followed by a milad mahfil.

## GOPALGANJ

## One commits suicide

From Our Correspondent

Mar 28: One Matur Rahman (22) of village Khanpakuria under Kasiani thana of the district committed suicide by taking poison recently.

It is learnt that Mottur Rahman loved one Kajol (16), daughter of one Enus Molla of the same village. At one stage, Mottur proposed to his lover's father to marry Kajol. But her father refused his proposal. As a result, Matur became angry and committed suicide by taking poison.

## CHUADANGA

## Property worth Tk 2.3 cr gutted in fire incidents

Mar 28: A minor boy was killed and property worth Taka 2.3 crore were gutted in two separate fire incidents that broke out recently in two villages of the district, reports UNB.

The dead was identified as Akan Ali (10) Utholi village of Jiban Nagar thana.

Property worth Taka three lakh were gutted at the same village in the same incident.

In another incident, property worth Taka two crore including 50 kutcha houses and 22 betel fields were gutted at Hizla village of Alamdanga thana on the same day.

At least 4000 people were rendered homeless in that fire.

## NETRAKONA

## Former poura chairman faces defalcation charge

Mar 28: Netrakona district Anti-corruption Bureau filed a case with Mohanganj police station against Amiruddin, former Chairman of Mohanganj Pourashava for misappropriating government money amounting to Taka 1,10,100, reports BSS.

Netrakona district Anti-corruption Office source said that Amiruddin when he was the Chairman of Mohanganj Pourashava had realised cash Taka 1,10,100 as trade licence fee from the local businessmen and allegedly misappropriated the amount.

## PATUAKHALI

## 60,000 hectares of land under wheat farming

Mar 28: About 60,000 hectares of lands have been brought under wheat cultivation programme in 11 southern districts during the current season, reports UNB.

The districts are Patuakhali, Barguna, Barisal, Jhalakathi, Pirojpur, Madaripur, Shariatpur, Gopalganj, Rajbari, Faridpur and Bhola.

According to Agriculture Extension Department (BAED), the target of production has been fixed at 1,15,000 metric tons of wheat.

BAED arranged 350 Model plots in the district so far to provide scientific methods of wheat cultivation.

Sources said 3,39,000 kgs of seeds were distributed among the farmers to implement the programme successfully.

## PIROJPUR

## Dacoit killed in bomb explosion

Mar 28: An alleged dacoit was killed when bombs, which he carried in bag, exploded at Chalpukria village in Sadar thana recently, reports UNB.

The alleged dacoit was identified as Abdul Gani Sheikh.

Police sources said the bombs exploded while Gani fell down on the way while trying to escape after being challenged by the villagers. Gani died on the spot.

A case has been filed with the local police in this connection.

## RANGPUR

## Two smugglers held with contraband goods

Mar 28: Police arrested two smugglers and recovered contraband goods worth Taka 75,000 from their possession in a raid on a truck on Rangpur-Bogra highway near Dharmadash village in Sadar thana recently, reports UNB.

The arrested were identified as Kibria and Mofazzal.

Acting on secret information, police halted the truck (Dhaka Da-2909) and recovered 391 pieces of Indian stainless steel dishes and nine bags of jute seeds and arrested the two alleged smugglers from it.

Police seized the truck and a case was filed with the Sadar thana.

Another report says a dacoit was committed at the house of a retired ASP Saibon areas in the town in broad day light on Wednesday, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, a gang of armed robbers stormed the house of Shahidur Rahman in the evening, severely beat up Shahidur's wife and decamped with one pistol, two rifles, 30 rounds of ammunition and Tk 5,000 cash.

A case was filed with Kotwali thana. Police arrested one Akbar Ali from Lalmonirhat district in this connection.

## JAMALPUR

## 12 hurt in road mishap

Mar 28: At least 12 people were injured, four seriously, when a passenger bus turned over on Dhaka-Jamalpur highway near Monglapur last week, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the accident occurred on March 14 when the Tangail-bound bus from Jamalpur fell into road side ditch due to brake failure while trying to overtake another bus.

Property worth about Taka one lakh were burnt to ashes in a devastating fire at Anamangar Bausha Bazar under Sarishabari thana of the district recently.

It is learnt that the fire originated from a shop and soon engulfed the entire area. Later, fire brigade brought the fire under control.

## BARISAL

## 153 fire incidents in one year

Mar 28: A total of 153 fire incidents took place in Barisal, Pirojpur, Jhalakathi and Bhola during the last one year, reports BSS.

According to an official source, property worth at least Taka 2,41,05,295 were damaged in these fire.

At least 15 persons were killed in these fire incidents.



RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY: Prof M Anisur Rahman, Vice-Chancellor, Rajshahi University placing floral wreaths at Shaheed Minar on the occasion of Independence and National Day. — Star photo

Demand for routine patrol  
Piracy still unrestrained  
in the Bay of Bengal

From Aroop Talukdar

BARISAL, Mar 28: Piracy in the Bay of Bengal is still rampant.

The armed pirates recently committed dacoity on two fishing trawlers about 60 kilometres off Patharghata of Borguna and decamped with goods of about ten lakh taka including cash, fish, fishing nets, engine spare parts and other articles. At least eleven fishermen wounded, seven of them seriously, were admitted into Patharghata hospital.

In another piracy last month, a group of armed pirates looted away fish, nets and other articles including cash of about fifteen lakh taka from five fishing trawlers. At least fourteen fishermen engaged in fishing in the deep sea were injured.

Piracy in the Bay has increased alarmingly. According to fishermen of southern region, about 90 pirates were committed in fishing boats and trawlers in the Bay during last two to three months and at least two hundred fishermen were injured.

It may be mentioned here that the pirates are seen active in the fishing season every year. The pirates not only loot the goods and cash of the fish-

ermen, they also beat them mercilessly.

The pirates often throw the fishermen in the sea in tied position.

Following the continuous piracy, thousands of fishermen of coastal areas went on strike and stopped fishing in the Bay in protest against piracy. They demanded their security.

## New RU dormitory to be named after Zia

RAJSHAHI, Mar 28: The Syndicate of the Rajshahi University has taken the decision to name the under construction 13th student dormitory of the university "Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Hall," reports BSS.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the Syndicate held last night with the Vice-Chancellor Professor M Anisur Rahman in the chair.

One of the three blocks of the hall which will accommodate 288 students has already been completed at a cost of Taka one crore 80 lakh. Over Taka three and a half crore would be needed to build the two remaining blocks.

It is learnt that the law enforcing agencies almost failed to control the situation and the pirates in the coastal areas. The government tried to control the situation deploying naval force with mobile vessels in the Bay. But it was a temporary measure for controlling the pirates. When navy men were withdrawn, pirates became active again.

It may be recalled that the question of protection of the fishermen was discussed in the parliament and a proposal was given to form a marine police force to protect the lives and wealth of fishermen. But no decision has been taken as yet.

It is learnt that during the fishing season of November to March a small number of fishermen went for fishing in the Bay but for fear of armed pirates, they returned.

The piracy has hampered the supply of fishes to the markets and fish exports were also hampered.

Thousands of fishermen of the coastal areas of the southern districts urged the government for continuous routine patrol by deploying naval vessels to curb the armed activities of the pirates in the Bay.

## Notes from Kushtia

KUSHTIA, Mar 28: Miscreants attacked a house and seriously injured the house owner at Radhanagar village in Sadar thana of the district recently, reports UNB.

According to police, a gang of miscreants stormed the house of Hasan Joarder, beat him seriously and left the place after firing several gun shots.

Joarder was rushed to the Kushtia Sadar hospital in a critical condition.

A case was filed with the police.

## Cash, gold ornaments looted

Armed miscreants ransacked a house at Betbaria in Kumarkhali pourashava on Thursday night and looted cash and gold ornaments.

According to witnesses, a gang of miscreants broke open the door of the house of Md Jalaluddin Sheikh, looted the valuables and cut down several fruit bearing trees on the premises of the house and escaped safely.

This sort of activities are being carried out by an organised unidentified gang for quite a long time. But police failed to trace them out.

Meanwhile, the Islamic University Teachers Association Thursday expressed their grave concern over the deterioration of law and order situation on the campus.

The association is apprehending a fresh violence between the rival student groups over the admission test of the new students.

The teachers urged the district and university authorities to take proper steps to take necessary steps to stop any untoward incident.

## Pharmacy owner arrested

The owner of a local pharmacy was arrested in Bheramara last week for producing and marketing adulterated life saving drugs.

Police also recovered a huge quantity of adulterated life saving drugs including insulin and tetracycline from his possession.

Police said the arrested person, Ibrahim Khalil, was involved in illegal trading of the drugs for long time.

The pharmacy of Khalil was sealed and a case was filed with the local police in this connection.

## Roads in pitiable condition

Our Correspondent adds: Almost all roads within Kushtia pourashava are in pitiable condition causing untold sufferings to the town dwellers.

It is learnt that absence of proper and timely repair and maintenance for a long period has turned these roads miserable. Innumerable potholes have developed on many points creating obstacles to the movements of vehicles and pedestrians.

The heavily damaged roads are Kabi Azizur Rahman road, Sirajudowla road, RCRC road, Arjundas Agarwala road, Rajab Ali Khan Chowdhury road and the road connecting OK Rest House. Plying of vehicles through these roads has become risky and hazardous.

It is reported that LGED has allocated considerable amount of money for reconstruction of these roads.

## Diarrhoea claims six, attacks 200 more

MAULVIBAZAR, Mar 28: Diarrhoea claimed six lives and attacked 200 others in Nabiganj thana of Habiganj district, according to a report received here today, reports UNB.

Of the dead four were identified as: Sham Chandra Das (45), Dharant Kanta Das (50), Binu Pada Das (35), Sachindra Das (30) and rest two housewives whose indentity could not known immediately. All the dead belong to Chowki village in Nabiganj thana, sources said.

According to the affected people the disease broke out in an alarming proportion in the area a few weeks ago and is spreading in new areas.

They alleged no medical has yet been sent to the affected areas and oral saline packets and emergency medicines are scarce and diarrhoea attacked people are seeking medical help from the village quacks.

Scarcity of pure water and consumption of adulterated food were attributed to the outbreak of the deadly disease.

## Drinking water scarcity

A report from Manikganj adds: Scarcity of drinking water has been persisting in most of the rural areas of the district as a good number of

tubewells have gone out of order for quite a long time.

Water borne diseases like diarrhoea, dysentery have broken out in many parts of the district due to scarcity of pure water, doctors said.

According to sources, of the total 6,000 tubewells in seven thanas of the district, 2,210 tubewells have gone out of order following poor maintenance and shortage of spare parts.

Villagers complained that plastic pipe used in many tubewells went out of order within a short time of installation.

## Fish disease in Kishoreganj

KISHOREGANJ, Mar 28: Fish disease has broken out in an epidemic form adversely affecting both the consumers and fishermen community in all the 13 thanas of the district, reports UNB.

The disease known as "Ulcerative Syndrome" broke out about two months ago killing different species of fish like koi, puti, ruhi, magur, shing, boal katol, telapya, gazar, taki, bain shol etc, sources said.

While talking to UNB, some fish traders said demand for fish has abruptly fallen in the local market.

## 18,169 hectares under potato cultivation

KISHOREGANJ, Mar 28: At least 18,169 hectares of land have been brought under potato cultivation in the greater Mymensingh district during the current Rabi season, reports UNB.

Agriculture Extension Department sources said of the total, 8,709 hectares have been brought under Ufi variety and the rest 9,460 hectares under local variety.

Of the total land, 4,365 hectares were brought in Tangail, 4,288 hectares in Mymensingh, 3,096 hectares in Jamalpur, 1,182 hectares in Sherpur, 1,474 hectares in Netrakona and 3,764 hectares in Kishoreganj districts.

The production target has been fixed at 1,81,690 metric tons.

Besides, 145 demonstration plots have been set up to acquaint the farmers with the modern methods of potato cultivation.

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

BSS from Chuadanga says: A total of 900 hectares has been brought under potato cultivation in four thanas of Chuadanga district in the current Rabi season.

According to an official source, potato was cultivated in 250 hectares in Chuadanga sadar thana, 300 hectares in Alamdanga, 200 hectares in Damurhuda and 150 hectares in Jibannagar thana.

Meanwhile, harvesting of potato has begun in the district. About 9,000 metric tons of potato will be produced in the district this year, the source said.



NARAYANGANJ: A view of dance from a cultural show held at local Shaheed Zia Hall in observance of the 20th founding anniversary of 'Shapla' recently. — Star photo

## Chicken pox breaks out in Bauphal thana

PATUAKHALI, Mar 28: Chicken pox has broken out in an alarming proportion in many parts of Bauphal thana of the district, reports UNB.

About 50 people of the thana have been attacked with the disease with the onset of the dry season, sources said.

The disease has already engulfed four unions of the thana and gradually spreading in new areas.

Local people said children of the thana were found more prone to the chicken pox. No medicine is available in the area for the treatment of the disease.

The affected people have urged the authorities to take immediate step to check the spread of the disease.

## Boro farming

About 2.27 lakh hectares of land have been brought under Boro cultivation in 11 southern districts in the current season.

According to official sources here, the districts are: Patuakhali, Barisal, Bhola, Barguna, Jhalakathi, Pirojpur, Madaripur, Faridpur, Gopalganj, Rajbari and Shariatpur.

Of the total land, 1.89 lakh hectares have been brought under high yielding variety while the rest under local variety.

## Help bring economic emancipation of people

GAZIPUR, Mar 28: State Minister for Religious Affairs Prof M A Mannan on Friday called upon all to be imbued with the spirit of resistance movement against the occupied Pakistani army in 1971 to bring about economic emancipation of the teeming millions of the country, reports BSS.

He was addressing a public meeting as the chief guest in observance of the 22nd anniversary of the Resistance Day at Joydevpur.

## Over 25,000 children suffer from malnutrition

From Our Correspondent

SHERPUR, Mar 28: Over 25,000 children have been suffering from malnutrition in five thanas of the district.

According to a survey report, due to price hike of vegetables, fish, beef, mutton and other daily necessities, the poverty-stricken people of the villages can not afford to buy nutritious food to their children.

As a result, the children suffer from malnutrition. Moreover, lack of proper treatment facilities and requisite medicines in hospitals and health complexes leave the

poor patients helpless. Poor knowledge about food is one of the main reasons for malnutrition.

Local people urged the concerned authorities to supply the requisite medicines to the hospitals and health complexes to meet the requirement of the people.

Another report adds: Standing IRR: Boro paddy on about 8000 acres of land have been damaged by pest attack and fresh areas are on way to be attacked by pests in five thanas of the district.

The pests locally known as

'Mazra' have been causing extensive damages to the crops in Chandrakura of Nakla, Charnuchanya, Charshepur, Kamarechar of Sherpur Sadar, Belaya, Khoirakazir Char of Sreebordi and same areas of Jhenaigathi-Naletabari of the district.

According to the farmers, after the attack, the paddy plants are turning into yellowish and gradually drying up.

Agricultural official sources said that adequate preventive measures could not be taken up due to acute scarcity of insecticides and spray machine.



JHENIDAH: The Fire Brigade personnel and the local people are trying to extinguish a fire at Saikupa Bazar. Property worth about Taka one lakh gutted in the incident recently. — Star photo