

District roundup

MAGURA

Ganja farming increasing gradually

Mar 29: Ganja cultivation in different rural areas of the district has been increasing day by day, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, some dishonest people have been earning huge amount of money by cultivating Ganja secretly in the remote areas of Sadar thana and other rural areas secretly.

Meanwhile four people were arrested and Narcotics department recovered some ganja plants from their houses.

Official sources said they are unable to carry out operation due to bad communication system.

Local leaders have urged the authorities to take strict measures against the persons involved in ganja cultivation.

BARISAL

Dacoits swoop on house, rob valuables

From Our Correspondent

Mar 29: Dacoits swooped on the house of one Monoranjan Sukul of Dharani and Sadar thana of the district and killed his son Niranjan (22) on March 16.

According to information, a gang of dacoits numbering about 70 entered into the house at dead of night and looted cash, valuables worth Taka 50,000 from the inmates of the house.

The dacoits being resisted attacked Niranjan with sharp weapons. He died on way to hospital.

A case has been registered with the thana in this connection.

COMILLA

35 hurt in road mishap

Mar 29: At least 35 people were injured, six of them seriously, in a road mishap on Dhaka-Chittagong Highway near Amjadnagar recently, reports UNB.

Seriously injured passengers were admitted into Chowaddagram health complex, from where Abul Khaer Patwary was sent to Comilla General Hospital in critical condition.

Witnesses said the accident occurred when a Comilla-bound passenger bus fell into a roadside ditch after colliding head-on with a speedy truck.

Police seized the bus from the spot and a case was filed with the local thana in this connection.

FARIDPUR

Pouira chairmen, commissioners take oath

Mar 29: The newly-elected chairman and commissioners of Faridpur poureshava were administered oath in a simple function held recent at the poureshava premises here, reports BSS.

Chairman-elect Fazlul Kabir Chand and nine commissioners took oath administered by K M Nurul Huda, Deputy Commissioner of Faridpur.

SYLHET

Three get 10 yrs RI for counterfeiting Bangladeshi taka

From Our Correspondent

Mar 29: The Assistant Sessions Judge, 1st Court Sylhet Md Abul Hossain, sentenced three persons to suffer rigorous imprisonment for ten years and fined Taka. One thousand each in default to suffer rigorous imprisonment for three months more on charge of counterfeiting some Bangladeshi Notes of different denominations.

The prosecution case in brief is that, the accused persons made a publicity at village Kandigram of Biswanath under Sylhet district that, they could make Bangladeshi taka. In support of their claim, they made some fake notes. A group of villagers caught the accused persons and handed over them to the police. Some inputs used for the purpose and some fake notes were also recovered from their possession.

The police after holding investigations, submitted chargesheet against seven accused persons. The court after examining all the records and witnesses, found the accused persons named as Abdul Motaleb, Jamirul and Dabirul guilty and sentenced them with the aforesaid punishment while also acquitted four accused persons of the charges brought against them in the same case.

NARAYANGANJ

Passenger train hits concrete mixture machine, one killed

Mar 29: One person was killed and ten others were injured when a passenger train hit a concrete mixture machine at railway crossing no 1 one Dhaka-Narayanganj rail road on Wednesday last, reports BSS.

The injured were given first aid at the Narayanganj Hospital.

GRP seized the mixture machine.

A case has been registered with Narayanganj GRP.

NATORE

Govt College Teachers Assoc executives

Mar 29: A 21-member executive committee of Bangladesh Government Colleges Association of the Rajshahi Division unit was elected here on Sunday, reports UNB.

AKM Nazrul Islam, Assistant Professor of Abdulpur Government College in Natore, and MH Khaled, Lecturer of Rani Bhavan Government College in Natore, were elected President and General Secretary of the unit respectively.

The election was held at a meeting, presided over by AKM Nazrul Islam.

KHULNA

All-party meet abandoned amidst clashes

Mar 29: An all-party discussion in observance of the 22nd anniversary of Independence and National Day was abandoned amidst clashes here on Friday, reports UNB.

The meeting, organised by Muktijoddha Sangsad at the Shaheed Hadis Park, was abandoned after some participants protested against one of the speakers, Mominuddin Ahmed of Jatiya Party. Police had to escort the JP leader to his home.

At one stage of altercation, participants resorted to stoning that ended the meeting in chaos.

Khulna City Mayor Sheikh Tayebur Rahman, Awami League MP Abdul Khaleq Talukder, Kamruzzaman Tuku of JCD-Rab and Advocate Enayet Ali of Ganotantrik Front were, among others, present at the meeting.

LALMONIRHAT

Ansars-public clash leaves 10 injured

Mar 29: At least ten people were injured, two of them seriously in a clash between the Ansars and the local people at Teesta Barage near Doani in Hatibandha thana recently, reports UNB.

Biplob (18), son of Kazi Mahbubul Alam, an employee of Teesta Barage was admitted to Rangpur Medical College hospital with bullet injury, while Ferdous Alam, an Ansar admitted to the Hatibandha Health Complex.

Witnesses said the clash ensued when Ansar personnel forbade two boys fishing near number 43 sluice gate of Teesta Barage. The boys refused and scuffled with the Ansars.

The boys along with their neighbours forcibly took the Ansar Mahbubul Alam to their colony. The Ansars in the nearby camp came to his rescue, fired three rounds of shots that hit Biplob.

A case was filed at the Hatibandha police station in this connection but none was arrested till late Sunday night.

FENI

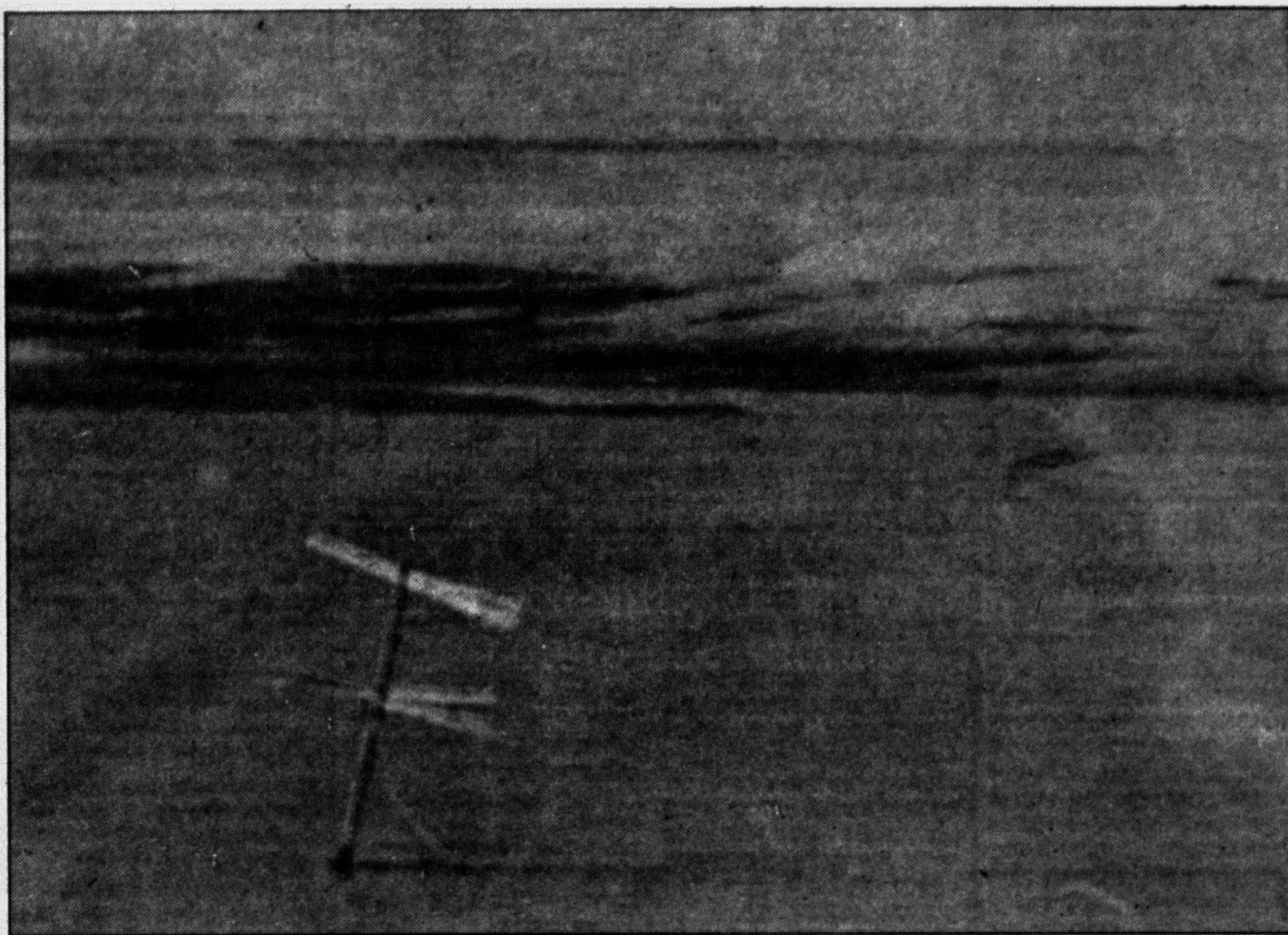
Young man killed in road accident

Mar 29: A young man was killed Friday night by a Chittagong-bound speeding bus at Fazilpur on Feni bypass road, reports UNB.

The dead was identified as Ishaque (24) of village Purbo Hinguli in Mirrsharai thana.

Police said the Chittagong-bound passenger bus from Feni crushed Ishaque while he was crossing the road. He came to Fazilpur to meet with his relatives.

Police seized the bus but the driver was absconding.



SIRAJGANJ: Charlands in Sirajganj-Bhuapur route of the river Jamuna which hampering navigation. —Star photo

Charlands hinder navigation on 175-km-long river route

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Mar 29: Frequent emergence of charlands (shoals) in the Brahmaputra, Dhaleswari and Padma basins hinder smooth plying of navigation on 175-kilometre-long river route from Dohkhawa in Kurigram district to Doulatdia in Rajbari district.

It is reported that about 6000 small and big shoals have emerged in the Brahmaputra, Dhaleswari and Padma rivers during last few months. The number of shoals is more than anytime of the past.

Besides, a large number of charlands are originating under river water which are locally known as 'Dubo char'. Due to emergence of thousands of charlands, plying of cargo launches, passenger launch services between Sirajganj-Kazipur, Sirajganj-Bhuapur, Enayetpur-Sohagpur-Bhuapur, Sohagpur-Nagarbari-Archa and Khashkaulia-Nagarbari routes has been closed.

Ferry services between Nagarbari-Archa-Doulatdia and Sirajganj-Bhuapur routes have also been disturbed and take about double the time to cross the rivers. Disruption of Railway ferry services between Sirajganj-Jagannathganj and Teestamukh (Fulchari)-Bahadurabad has been a regular phenomenon. The river routes are not always navigable to allow the time schedule of the inter-city express trains to be maintained.

Other than communication, carrying of goods including fertilizers, petroleum, diesel, kerosene and LP gas has also been hampered. In the dry season, fuel crisis persists in the northern region, mainly for the reason that the oil tankers of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation can not enter through the Trimohani channel towards Baghabari ghat oil depots at Shahzadpur thana in Sirajganj district. The entrance point towards river Baral has been silted.

At present, the channels of Brahmaputra, Jamuna, Dhaleswari and Padma have become so narrower that the expert Pilots of the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) fail to ply the vessels as the channels change frequently. The peculiar changes of channels misguide the professional pilots of BIWTA.

When contacted, a pilot of Jashaldia-Khashkaulia route

told this correspondent that he has got no experience of such rapid changes during his service of last 20 years.

The big rivers like Brahmaputra, Jamuna, Dhaleswari and Padma with thousands of visible charlands and underwater charlands (Dubo char) hindering plying of navigational traffic in 175-kilometre of important river route. At many places only six feet draft of water is found. At different places the river beds have turned into big ponds surrounded by sandy chars.

Dredging has been proved useless because water carried sand and silt fill up the dredged area within a very short time. Yet BIWTA has been taking efforts to keep navigability of the rivers. But return is most unsatisfactory in comparison to the costs.

Knowledgeable sources have stressed the need for alternative fruitful measures by the water experts to keep navigability of the rivers for greater interest of our economy.

Rivers in northern part drying up

A UNB report from Chapalnawabganj says: Rivers in the

northern part of country have been drying up following continued fall in water levels caused by unilateral withdrawal of water at Farakka by India.

The situation aggravated further due to the withdrawal during the dry season hampering navigation and irrigation. Innumerable chars and shoals have already emerged on the rivers beds.

In many places, with the onset of dry season, the depth of the water has gone down to three to five feet seriously affecting plying of launches and other heavy vessels.

The rivers like Padma, Jamuna, Teesta and other rivers including Mohananda, Dharia, Brahmaputra, Dudkumori, Tamuneswari, Ghagot, Kortoa, Punarbhava, Atrai, Katirowa, Bangal, Fulbore, Ichchamati, Baral, Tetulia, Narod, Hursagar, Gomati, Kakun, Kakasoric, Chakni, Rupnat etc in Chapalnawabganj, Rajshahi, Naogaon, Natore, Pabna, Sirajganj, Bogra, Joypurhat, Gaibandha, Nilphamari, Kurigram, Rangpur, Dinajpur, Thakurgaon and Panchagarh districts are being dried up gradually

due to withdrawal of water at the upper stream by India.

Meanwhile, process of desertification has already been started in the northern region. Irrigation facilities are shrinking following closure of a large number of power pumps due to abnormal fall in the surface and underground water level.

Navigational is being hampered seriously. At present small boats and engine driven boats are only means of river transportation. Traders complain that they have been forced to carry goods by roads as transportation through roundabout riverine routes costs more.

Beels, ponds and other waterbodies have already dried up all over the northern region resulting in acute water crisis. Irrigation on croplands in rural areas has almost come to a standstill.

According to Water Development Board sources, water level in Mohananda river come down 10 to 25 feet in the dry season while Karotoa 5.4 feet at Shahzadpur.

Local leaders and elite have urged the government to take an ambitious programme to stop desertification in the northern part of the country without further delay.

Dredging essential

Another report from Kishoreganj adds: Dredging of the rivers Meghna, Brahmaputra, Arial Kha, Kali, Dhanu, Ghorautra and Narasunda in the district has become essential for smooth plying of river vessels during the dry season.

The rivers were once blessings for the district which provided better communication, fishing and irrigation facilities.

In the monsoon, the water overflows the banks as these rivers cannot contain the water rolling down from upper stream. But in the dry season, all the rivers almost dry up and the total irrigation and navigation systems hamper greatly.

Local people are facing economic hardship as their return from cultivation in the dry season falls abnormally and trading is hampered due to large-scale siltation on the river beds.

They urged the concerned authorities to take up measures to dredge the rivers to mitigate sufferings of the people and boost agricultural products of the district.

Tomado hits Rangpur: 25 injured

RANGPUR, Mar 29: At least 25 people were injured, 1000 kutcha houses damaged and hundreds of trees uprooted when a tornado swept over eight thanas of the district on Friday, reports UNB.

Accompanied by hailstorm the tornado lasted for half an hour and also damaged standing crops on vast acres of land in the district, witnesses said.

The affected thanas are: Sadar, Gongachar, Pirgachha, Pirganj, Doroganj, Mithapukur, Kaunia and Taraganj.

The tornado hit people urged the authorities to provide them with relief materials and grants to help them rehabilitate without further delay.

Miscreants kill newly married wife

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Mar 29: A newly married wife was hacked to death by miscreants at village Chanpur-Goaliapara under Katiadi thana of the district recently.

According to police, the miscreants numbering about 7 to 8 knocked the door of the house of Murshed Miah at 11 pm and introduced themselves as policemen. Murshed Miah who married two months back, was out of the house on the night of incident.

The miscreants asked Rexona Begum Tony (18), wife of Murshed Miah and her mother-in-law to go with them to the house of the ex-UP chairman of the same village. The miscreants kicked the mother-in-law of Tony. They took her to an unknown destination. The body of Rexona Begum was recovered from the bank of Chankhali Khal next morning. Her throat was cut with sharp weapons.

A case was registered with Katiadi police station but one person was arrested in this connection. The body was sent to the morgue of Kishoreganj Sadar Hospital for post-mortem.

Another report says: A housewife and mother of

two children committed suicide at village Rajabaria under Nandail thana recently.

It is reported that Behula Khatun (28) wife of Afaruddin hanged herself from the branch of a jack-frutt tree near her house. The cause behind the suicide could not be known.

A case was registered with Nandail police station and the body was sent to the Kishoreganj Sadar Hospital morgue for post mortem.

Housewife killed

Another report adds: Mystery shrouds over the death of one Baneecha Khatun (25) wife of Nuru Miah of village Kabirkhandan in Austagram thana recently.

Relatives of Nuru Miah informed the police that Baneecha Khatun had committed suicide by hanging herself from the ceiling of the house. Besides Md Nazu Miah, nephew of the victim complained to the police that she had killed.

An unnatural death case was registered with Austagram police station in this connection. Nuru Miah with his family members have been absconding.

Eight to suffer life-term for murder in Mymensingh

From Our Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, Mar 29: Md Nurul Haq, Additional Sessions Judge, Mymensingh sentenced eight persons to life-term imprisonment and fined Taka 5,000 each in default to suffer R I for one year more on charge of killing one Yunus Ali of village Charkumaria under Trishal thana recently.

The tried persons are: Samed Ali, Mizan Ali, Ahd Ali, Zaili, Motaleb, Mannan, Kashem Ali, and Kamal of village Maizpara under Dhanikhala union in Trishal.

According to the prosecution on February 14, 1991 the accused persons killed Yunus Ali by sharp weapon. A case was filed with police who after investigation chargesheeted eight persons. The judge after examining the witnesses and evidences sentenced all the accused to life-term.

Our Moulvibazar Correspondent adds: District and Sessions Judge of Moulvibazar Mahmud Hasan Siddique in a judgement awarded 7 years rigorous imprisonment to one Mayna Miah on charge of killing his wife and fined him Taka 5 thousand in default to suffer 3 months more rigorous imprisonment recently.

The prosecution story in brief is that on August 11, 1991 accused Mayna Miah of village Badeuhata under Kamalganj thana killed his wife Honulfa Bibi at his residence over some family matters.

After the investigation, police submitted chargesheet against husband Mayna Miah. After trial, honourable judge found the accused guilty and sentenced him to R I for 7 years.



GOPALGANJ: Farida Kanis, wife of local Deputy Commissioner and President of Ladies Club distributing clothes to a distress child on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr at Gopalganj Officers' Club premises. —Star photo

Irregularity in payment of agri loans

MANIKGANJ, Mar 29: The existing rule for advancing loans to the small and marginal farmers through pass books is not working properly, it is alleged, reports UNB.

According to local elite, a group of middle class people and landlords are taking agri loans in fictitious names depriving the genuine poor and marginal farmers who are unable to produce security bonds.

It is alleged that they lend the money to the poor peasants at high rate of interest. Meanwhile, large number of poor and marginal farmers have turned landless and destitute due to recurrent flood, draught and other natural calamities. No step has yet been taken to rehabilitate them.

Moreover, due to oppression of landlords and money lenders many poor farmers had to sold out their land which were mortgaged to them due to financial stringency. Most of them are now living on begging.

It is also alleged that a section of bank officials are taking benefits from the recipients of the pre-arranged non-productive loan.

On the other hand, most of the poor and marginal farmers who took loans earlier are receiving notices almost every day to repay the loans and other taxes.

Local leaders have urged the authorities to look into the matter and take immediate steps to save the marginal farmers from ruination.

1323 cases lying pending

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Mar 29: About 1323 cases of different incidents have been lying pending for a long time in nine thanas of the district.

Out of the pending cases, 310 cases in district judge court, 21 in additional judge court, 400 in sub-judge court, 234 in assistant judge court, 32 in Alghoria thana court, 56 in Ishurdi thana court, 45 in Vangura thana court, 18 in Bera thana court, 19 in Faridpur thana court, 72 in Santhia thana court and 49 in Sujannagar thana court.

UNB report adds: About 5,000 people were killed and over 15,000 others injured in road accidents in different

routes of 16 northern districts during the last five years, officials said here.

According to Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA), a total of 4,990 people were killed and 1,503 others injured in 2,891 road accidents in 123 thanas of the districts.

Most of the cases filed in this connection were dismissed due to lack of witnesses and police inaction, BRTA sources said.

Meanwhile, BRTA sources said about 4,000 of different vehicles moving without fitness certificate in collaboration with the police in the northern zone.



MYMENSINGH: Fakir Ashraf, Secretary of Greater Mymensingh Samity distributing prize to a winner of art competition held recently. —Star photo