

District roundup

NAOGAON
Thunderstorm kills 2 girls

Mar 31: Two teen-aged girls were killed and three other members of the same family were wounded in a thunderstorm at Uzalpur village in Badalgachhi thana of the district on Friday, reports UNB. Rashma (19) and Lovely (15) died on the spot. The injured are six-month old girl-child Gita, Rubel (9) and Millon (11). According to family source, they were struck by thunderbolt during the Friday's thunderstorm.

DINAJPUR
Bullock shortage acute

Mar 31: Acute shortage of bullock due to rampant slaughtering and outbreak of diseases has been hampering the cultivation of the district, reports UNB. Roaming reporters said that about 30 per cent of land in the district usually remain uncultivated each year as most of the marginal farmers have no bullocks to till their land. Most of them plough their land on share basis and sometime they till their land with spade and by drawing harrows themselves while many of the farmers use milch cows to cultivate their land causing gradual reduction in milk production. A huge number of bullocks die each year due to outbreak of different disease and slaughtering has increased to a great extent due to fish scarcity in the local markets. Moreover, farmers are compelled to sell their bullocks at a throw away price due to acute shortage of fodder and low price of paddy and jute. Farmers alleged that no effective measure has yet been taken by the local veterinary department to check the outbreak of the diseases.

SATKHIRA
One killed by man-eater at Sundarban
Mar 31: One Manaranjan Mondol (45) of Dhumghat under Shyamnagar police station was killed and eaten by a man-eater at Sundarbans recently, reports BSS. According to a report reaching here, the victim and gone to collect wood in the Sundarbans with a few companions. As he was cutting a log a tiger jumped on him and dragged him into the deep forest.

MALJEE COURT
Water supply irregular
Mar 31: Irregular flow of water supply in the district headquarter has become acute which hampering the normal life of the town dwellers, reports UNB. Water supply in the town is quite inadequate as the Public Health Engineering Department has arranged to supply water in only one fifth area of the town. Total demand is 60,000 gallons of water for 1.50 lakh people of the town but the supply of water is only 10,000 gallons. Overhead tank which was built about 40 years back are now filled up with garbage and filth and most of the deep tubewells are now also out of order. Residents of the municipal area urged the concerned authority to take necessary measures including implementation of the Water Supply Project to meet the rising demand of water supply in the town.

TANGAIL
Tk 92.27 lakh for colleges, schools reconstruction, renovation
Mar 31: Eight government colleges and two government girls schools buildings under Tangail, Jamalpur and Sherpur districts are being reconstructed and renovated at a cost of Taka 92.27 lakh in the current fiscal year, reports BSS. Official sources said that the work is being executed by the facilities department of Tangail zone. The work includes hostel and academic building development of Kumudini, Sadat and Maulana Muid Ali Government Colleges in Tangail district, Melandah, Madarogonj, Zaheda Shafr, Bakshigonj, Government Colleges in Jamalpur district and Sherpur Government College, Sribordi and Mathuranath Hroodini Government Girls Schools in Sherpur district.

AGRI-VARSITY
Independence Day observed

Mar 31: The 22nd anniversary of the Independence and National Day was observed at the Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) campus in a befitting manner, says a press release. The Vice-Chancellor of BAU Prof M Ashraf Ali Khan, in a message on this occasion, stated that the War of Liberation was, in its truest term, a civil war, which was participated by people from all walks of life to establish an independent, happy and prosperous homeland based on equity and justice. He laid special emphasis on this significant aspect of independence and urged upon all concerned to consolidate their will and energies in establishing democratic values in all spheres of our national life. On this occasion, the national flag was formally hoisted by the Vice-Chancellor at 7 am in front of the Administration Building of BAU. The Vice-Chancellor, later on, laid floral wreaths at the Liberation War Memorial Tomb and the Shaheed Minar in order to pay homage to the sacred memory of innumerable martyrs. The Teachers' Association and Officers' Association of BAU and the BAU unit Muktyoddha Sangsad also placed floral wreaths at the memorial tomb and the Shaheed Minar.

MOULVIBAZAR
One gets life term for murder
From Our Correspondent
Mar 31: Mahmudul Hasan Siddique, District and Sessions Judge of Moulvibazar sentenced a man to suffer life imprisonment on charge of a murder case recently. The court also fined him Taka 5 thousand, in default to suffer one year more of rigorous imprisonment. The learned court also sentenced another 2 persons to suffer 3 months RI each in the same case and in default to suffer one week jail. According to the prosecution story in brief is that Jahid Miah of village Keola under Rajnagar thana of Moulvibazar district killed Abdul Goni of the same village in a paddy field on 19th Poush, 1398 BS. After investigation, police submitted charge-sheet against the accused persons. The learned judge after examining the witnesses and records delivered the said judgement.

KISHOREGANJ
Mosquito menace takes serious turn
From Our Correspondent
Mar 31: Mosquito menace has taken a serious turn in almost all parts of the district causing problems particular of the examinees of the degree and SSC examinations. Life here in general has become intolerable with the growing menace of mosquitoes. The situation turns worse after sundown, ditches, derelict ponds in Bhairab and Bajitpur industrial town, Kishoreganj Pourashava and its adjoining areas were filled with dirty waters and garbage causing bulk breeding of mosquitoes. Experts said that the mosquitoes at their larvae have developed a resistance power within themselves which can not be vanquished by spraying kerosene and larvicide. Local people have urged the authorities to take effective steps to eradicate the mosquito menace.

BRAHMANBARIA
39 female smugglers nabbed
From Our Correspondent
Mar 31: Bangladesh Rifles arrested 39 female smugglers with Indian sarees from border area of the district recently. Later, the arrested female smugglers were handed over to Akhaura thana.

JAMALPUR
Chairman, ward commissioners take oath
Mar 31: Newly-elected chairman and commissioners of Jamalpur Pourashava were administered oath by the Deputy Commissioners. Jamalpur recently, reports BSS. Held at the local public hall, the function was attended by Serajul Haq, Deputy, Minister for Health and Family Welfare as the chief guest. Fatzur Rahman have been elected chairman of the municipality.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing Syedpur Zila BNP workers at the local town hall on March 30. Irrigation Minister Majid Ul Haq and Communication Minister Oli Ahmed are also seen on the right of the Prime Minister. —PID photo

Sylhet MAG Osmany Airport
Runway extension work to begin this month

From Our Correspondent
SYLHET, Mar 31: Extension work of the runway of Sylhet M A G Osmany Airport will be started this month. Taka 17.50 crore has been sanctioned for the implementation of the work. When contacted, an official source informed this correspondent that on completion of the project, the runway will be fit for landing and taking off of the big planes like 'Air bus'. Many people of the four districts in the greater Sylhet region living abroad will be benefited from it.

7 dacoits held with arms, booty
The police of Sunamganj sadar thana have arrested seven dacoits and recovered two pigeons, ammunition and some booty from a house at village Syedpur under Rangarchar union recently. On getting secret informations, a police party headed by the Officer-in-Charge of Sunamganj sadar thana gheraoed the house of Abdus Sattar, a former Union Parishad Chairman of Rangarchar union when a gang of dacoits of about 40 to 50 were preparing for dacoity on that night. Realising the presence of the police, the miscreants began to flee. The police, however, caught five of them and recovered on pigeon and some other booty from the house. The arrested persons include, Abdus Sattar, a former Chairman of the Rangarchar Union Parishad. The police later recovered three rounds

of ammunition and arrested two other dacoits from village Sunapara, on the same night, after a confessional statement. The booty was looted by the gang of dacoits from a house of village Polash under Biswambharpur thana on the previous night of the Eid-ul-Fitr, the police source informed. Two separate cases have been registered with the Sunamganj police station in these connections.

Diarrhoea claims 4 more lives in Satkhira

SATKHIRA, Mar 31: Diarrhoea claimed 4 more lives today (Sunday) raising the death figure in last four days to 24. Some 5,000 people in the district were attacked by diarrhoea during the period, unofficial sources said, reports UNB. Official death toll, however, stood at seven for last few days. The epidemic so far claimed 1,328 lives and attacked over 33,291 people across the country despite government and non-government efforts to contain the disease. Of the fresh deaths, five were reportedly children and three women. Among them five died at Ashashoni, six at Shamnagar, four at Kaliganj, five in sadar and four in Tala thana. The water-borne disease spread to seven thanas of the district. The affected villages are: Budhata, Bagra, Chapra (Ashashoni), Kashimati (Shamnagar), Krishnanagar (Kaliganj), Ghona (Sadar) and Jumna-khola (Tala). Doctors of the hospitals and health complexes said preventive measures were being taken to contain the disease. At least 3 medical teams were working in each thana.

Smuggled goods seized
Smuggled goods worth about Taka one lakh were seized by the BDR men at Charkhal Check Post under Beanibazar thana of Sylhet district recently. According to a report, the BDR jawans recovered smuggled Indian Tubelights and blankets from a minibus at the Charkhal Bazar. The goods were not claimed by anybody, the source added. These were deposited with the Customs Department. A case in this connection had been registered with the Beanibazar police station.

Phone subscribers face untold sufferings for malpractice

MAULVIBAZAR, Mar 31: Telephone subscribers of Maulvibazar exchange have been facing untold suffering due to poor services and malpractice of some officials here, reports UNB. It is informed that some subscribers get undue facilities of having small amount of telephone bills while others are getting inflated bills. Some dishonest operators are allegedly manning the whole affair. Phone lines and sets remain dead or disturbed most of the time and many sets receive wrong calls frequently. But after the month inflated bills are pouring to the subscribers much to their astonishment, some subscribers alleged. Businessmen and the local newsmen are the worst sufferers. Local businessmen and officials of the town informed that they have been facing immense difficulties in maintaining communication with the capital city and other places of the country. They urged the concerned

Carpenter beaten to death in Savar

SAVAR, Mar 30: A carpenter was beaten to death allegedly by his former employer at Roopnagar Saw Mill near the Savar bus stand here today, police said, reports BSS. Shanti Sarkar (40) of village Saigaon in Munshiganj district went to Abdur Rahim, owner of the mill, to collect his wages but instead of giving him the money Rahim beat him up with a wooden stick. Sarkar was rushed to Savar health complex where doctors declared him dead.

authority to take proper steps to mitigate the sufferings of the subscribers. Bangladesh Rifles recovered smuggled Indian goods worth Tk 5,000 in a raid at Srimangal Railway station, police said here on Monday. Acting on secret information, BDR jawans raided the station and recovered 187 kg of Indian sugar on Thursday. None was, however, arrested in this connection. A case was filed with the local police. Local people alleged that smuggled goods are coming abundantly through the different border areas with the connivance of some dishonest officials and some vested quarters. Every day lakhs of taka contrabands are being sold in different markets before the nose of the law enforcing agency men.

Double murder case: Feni BCL leader held
FENI, Mar 30: Police arrested a leader of Awami League backed Chhatra League here today for his alleged involvement in a double murder case, reports UNB. Maidul Alap Lablu (22), Vice President of district BCL, was picked up from his residence at Masterpara in the town in connection with the killing of two people on Sunday. Titu (23), an employee of an electric shop and Arjun (21), a barber, were beaten to death in the town by a group of unruly youths Kamaluddin, a vendor, who was also beaten up, is undergoing treatment at the Sadar hospital. Police arrested Maidul on the basis of Kamaluddin's statement. He was produced before the court and was later taken to three days' police remand. Meanwhile, Jattiyatabadi Chhatra Dal held a rally and brought out a procession in the town demanding exemplary punishment for the accused. District JCD President Mizanur Rahman presided over the meeting.

Across the Country

Kumarkhali must be more easily accessible

Mahammad Amjad Hossain
It is really difficult to reach Kumarkhali, a historical place in Kushtia district either by road or by plane. From the capital it takes a minimum of six hours by bus, launch and train to reach Kumarkhali or four if one takes a plane to Jessore and finds readily a timely train running to time. The journey would stretch to nine and a half hours by road if it is made via Pabna and Kushtia. This being the situation, the government of late Ziaur Rahman had undertaken a project for building a road from Rajbari to Kushtia via Kumarkhali which would ease the problem. But on completion of 60 per cent of the construction, work on this vitally important road has practically been abandoned. If the job is completed, the people in Pangsa, Khoksa and Kumarkhali thana would immensely be benefitted in both economic and social terms. The road communication would certainly facilitate business to expand between these areas and the capital and other places directly. Time is an important factor in one's life. A direct road would save time and money to reach Kumarkhali. Kumarkhali is exposed to the ravages of the river Goral. As a result of erosion of the river, a chunk of the town including prosperous Tebaria has been engulfed in the river. The river did not spare the oldest high school of the country which was set up in 1856. All out efforts are required to protect Kumarkhali town. Kumarkhali is proud for the galaxy of luminaries she produced. Although Kumarkhali is progressing well in the field of textile industries and agriculture, BRAC and Gramen Bank have, of late, opened their branches in an effort to fight poverty in the rural areas. Apart from offering credit to rural people to start business, BRAC has started a project for sericulture on a plot of land near the railway track. They might have taken a clue from the history that Kumarkhali was famous for sericulture during the time of the East India Company. BRAC has engaged workers, both male and female, for plantation and nursery of mulberry plants for the development of sericulture for the benefit of workers and the employer as well. It is learnt that BRAC has a plan for planting 7.6 million mulberry saplings by the end of 1993 which will provide benefit to fifty thousand people. To make the workers literate schools up to class five level have been opened at different villages but religious leaders and wealthy money lenders are persuading village people not to join the BRAC schools as these were designed to make them Christians. Representatives of BRAC and other saner elements, however, are making sincere efforts to make the villagers understand the true purposes of the projects.

Body to probe launch capsized
The government has constituted a four-member committee to enquire into the causes of the M. L. Jubair Express disaster on March 26 near Sripur under Mehandigonj thana of Barisal district, an official press release said here yesterday, reports BSS. A. K. M. Ruhul Amin of Narayanaganj Engineer and Ship Surveyor and Registrar of Inland Ships was made convener of the committee. Other members of the committee include Acting Deputy Director of Marine Transport, Dhaka Mohammad Tayeb Ali and Port and Transport Officer of BIWTA, Barisal Sudharsan Chatterjee. Special River Transport Security Officer of Marine Transport Directorate S. M. Abul Basher will act as Member-Secretary of committee. The committee will submit its report by April 10.

2 children burnt alive
SIRAJGANJ, Mar 31: A boy-child was burnt alive and five other persons were wounded, and five houses were gutted in two separate incidents of fire in the district Monday night, family sources said, reports UNB. The boy-child (7) whose name could not be known immediately, identified as the son of Moyan Ali of Barakoirar Char village in Sadar Thana. Moyan Ali's tin-made house was completely gutted in a fire where five other persons were injured, engaged in extinguishing the fire, at about 10 Monday night. The fire originated from oven. On the same day, another fire of incidence took place at village Ullapur in Ullapara Thana at about 11 pm in which four houses of residence were gutted. The fire had originated from a ignited jute-stick. Our Correspondent says: A two and half years old girl of village 'Hatah-para' under Damurhuda thana of Chuadanga district was burnt to death and 53 Kutchha houses were completely damaged in four separate fire incidents which occurred in different places of the district from March 17 to 20 last.

Three jailed by anti-terrorism tribunal in Ctg
CHITTAGONG, Mar 31: Anti-Terrorism Tribunal Judge Abu Bakar Siddique today sentenced three persons to five years rigorous imprisonment (RI) and fined Taka 5000/- each in default to suffer RI for two years more on charge of terrorism and hijacking, reports BSS. The persons sentenced were Lijquat Ali s/o Rafiqul Islam Majumdar, Abu Yusuf s/o Yunus Ali, Mohammad Sagir s/o Abdul Hakim of Double Mooring thana. The prosecution story is that one Gulam Kibria lodged a complaint with Double Mooring police on December 9, 1992 against five persons



MYMENSINGH: Saleha Begum, an executive of local mahila parishad speaking at a discussion meeting held here recently in observance of International Women's Day organised by the Mymensingh unit of the parishad. —Star photo



PAKSIA (Jessore): The physicians of Bangladesh Blind Foundation treating eye patients at a three-day eye camp concluded at Dehi Union under Sharsha thana recently. About 1738 children got free treatment. Dehi Union Public Library organised the eye camp. —Star photo