

## Activities of BRCS lauded

**From Our Correspondent**  
SATHKHIRA Feb 19: A grand reception was accorded in honour of Abdul Muttalib, the newly elected member, Managing Board, Bangladesh Red Crescent Society by the Sathkhira Red Crescent unit, at Government Girls High School premises recently.

Advocate Samsul Haq presided over the function while Mujibur Rahman, Deputy Commissioner, Sathkhira and Anisur Rahman Police Super Sathkhira were present as chief and special guests respectively. Syed Iftikhar Ali, Secretary, Red Crescent Society, Sathkhira unit, Advocate Mostofa Lutfullah, Advocate Abul Hossain, Secretary Sathkhira Bar Association, Advocate Abdur Rahim, and A S M Rezaul Karim spoke on the occasion.

In his speech Mujibur Rahman highly praised the humanitarian activities of Sathkhira Red Crescent unit under the leadership of Abdul Muttalib.

## Wife strangulated to death

**From Our Correspondent**  
SYLHET, Feb 19: A young housewife was strangled to death by her husband at Jalalabad residential area of Sylhet town recently.

According to the reports, Rafique, a mason by profession, had an exchange of hot words with his wife, Rehana Parvin (25) over some family feuds in the night of incident. At one stage, he swooped on Rehana and strangulated her. On getting information, police took the body and sent it to the Sylhet MAG Osmany Medical College Hospital for post-mortem.

Rafique, who hailed from village Hajipur of Narsingdi sadar thana have been missing since the incident.

## Abnormal price hike of essentials

**From Our Correspondent**  
KUSHTIA, Feb 19: The prices of the essentials have shot up abnormally during the last one week affecting the poor and low income group, especially the Muslim devotees who are fasting during the holy month of Ramadan.

It is alleged that the traders have intentionally raised prices of eggs, edible oil, rice, pulses, onion, chillies, vegetables, fruits, molasses sugar, milk, meat, fish and spices.

Rice of different varieties are being sold between Taka 13.00 and 14.00 as against earlier prices of Taka 11.00 and 12.00. Ata is now being sold at record high prices as the government godown in the district have become empty. It is being sold at Taka 12.00 per kg.

The edible oil like soyabean now sells at Taka 48.00 per kg. Mustard oil is being sold at Taka 60.00 per kg.

Beef is now being sold between Taka 50.00 and Taka 55.00 per kg, while mutton costs between Taka 80.00 and Taka 90.00 per kg. Prices of chicken have also shot up from Taka 55.00 to Taka 75.00 per kg.

## 9173 criminals arrested from Barisal Div in 1993

**From Staff Correspondent**  
BARISAL, Feb 19: A total of 9173 persons were arrested from different districts under Barisal division during last year. Of the total, 446 are of outlawed Sarbahara Party members, most of whom were arrested from Barisal district.

According to police source, 2,173 persons were arrested from Barisal district while 1,178 from Bhola, 1,206 from Jhalakathi, 1586 from Pirojpur, 896 from Borguna and 2135 from Patuakhali district.

Different district police also recovered a large quantity of arms and ammunition that included 116 rifles, revolvers, pistols, SMG and sawed off rifles with 706 rounds of ammunition, 62 hand bombs and two grenades.

## Poisonous date juice kills two

JESSORE, Feb 19: Two children died after taking poisonous date juice here recently, hospital source and eye-witnesses said, reports BSS.

Besides, ten others were admitted to hospital as they fell sick. The incident occurred at village Churaman-kathi and Doulatdia under Kotwali thana.

Those who died were identified as Zilu, (2) and Runa, (2) of Doulatdia.

## Adverse effect of Farakka Barrage

# Irrigation work on 43,000 hectares now impossible

**From Our Correspondent**

SIRAJGANJ, Feb 19: Irrigation to 43,000 hectares of land under Ganges Kobadak (G K) Project, the biggest project of the country has become impossible due to adverse effect of Farakka Barrage constructed by India.

Thousands of farmers of Jhenaidah, Magura, Meherpur and Kushtia are in problem due to stoppage of water supply for irrigation purpose in the zone under G K Project.

The irrigation programme remains suspended since January 2 of this year following abnormal fall in the water level of the river Padma.

Due to unilateral withdrawal of water by India through Farakka Barrage, the water level of the Padma have fallen abnormally during the current dry season and minimum level of water (15 feet) is not available now to run three big and 12 small pump machines of the G K Project.

The Padma at Hardinge Bridge point has dried up and water is available in only 600 meter area which also needs dredging every year.

Following abnormal fall in the underground water level, not only the districts under, G K Project but also the other districts including Sirajganj, Pabna, Rajshahi, Natore, C'Na-wabganj, Naogaon, Narail,

Jessore, Sathkhira, Faridpur, Rajbari and Gopalganj are also affected.

The northern rivers and canals have dried up. Thousands of tubewells have been remaining inoperative causing scarcity of pure drinking water also. A project at Talbaria was taken up by the government in 1980-81 fiscal year to ensure irrigation in the north

and south-western districts at the estimated cost of Taka 1131 crore but programme of the work is very slow and uptill now only Taka four crore have been released.

The problems caused by the Farakka Barrage and water exploitation by India have meanwhile been discussed in different forums including the UNO but the situation remains as usual. Remedy to water shortage has been urged by the affected people to keep the G K Project active. Problems of abnormal fall in the underground water level needs planned scheme of mitigate the sufferings of every year in the country.

Another report says: The number of child labourers have been increasing alarmingly in greater Pabna district.

About 20,000 children of Pabna and Sirajganj districts are now engaged in different professions of physical labour.

It is gathered that following continuous erosion of Jamuna, vast tracts of land and homesteads have been devoured renderings lakhs of people homeless and landless. Most of the homeless families could afford new accommodation. The children of the landless and homeless families have fallen victim of child labourers.

The children are engaged in different professions including handloom factories, tea-stalls and bearer in private offices.

A considerable number of children within age limit of 10 to 15 are pulling rickshaws and vans in the village roads.

When contacted a child Moya (8) of village Chala in Belkuchi thana told this correspondent that after devouring their house at Delna, his father is now engaged in earth work. He is to take part in maintaining the family by working in a handloom factory from where he earns Taka 10 to 15 per day. The rickshaw and van pulling children also take a vital part in maintaining their families.

The number of child labours is on increase at an alarming rate in the erosion affected Sirajganj and Pabna districts.

They take part in different odd jobs but can not go to school which is usual for them at this age.

# Pure water scarcity acute

**From Our Correspondent**

KISHOREGANJ, Feb 19: A total of 884 hand driven tubewells has been lying out of order in 13 thanas of Kishoreganj district causing acute scarcity of pure drinking water.

According to an official source, 20,888 hand driven tubewells have been installed in the district by the Public Health Engineering Department which are inadequate to meet the demand of the people of the rural areas.

Of the 884 out of order tubewells, 172 are in sadar, 77 in Karinganj, 48 in Tarail, 11 in Hossainpur, 90 in Pakundia, 69 in Katiadi, 93 in Baitpur, 39 in Kulliarchar, 48 in Bhairab, 57 in Austagram, 30 in Nikli, 42 in Mitmain and

48 in Itna thana.

The tubewells went out of order due to lack of proper care, repair and maintenance.

**Demand for police camp**

The establishment of a police camp at Shambhupur near vocational institute beside the Bhairab-Kishoreganj Road has been demanded by the people of Shibpur and Kalkiprasad unions of the district.

A portion of the Bhairab-Kishoreganj Road from north Bhairabpur to TTDC of Bhairab Pourashava via Shambhupur has become the dens of criminals.

The people of Kalkiprasad and Shibpur unions use the road. But it is impossible to move in the area after sun-set.

The passenger buses and trucks while passing through the Bhairab-Kishoreganj Road are attacked by the dacoits at night.

As a result, local people and passengers of the district have been facing difficulties.

Local people and political leaders have urged the concerned authority to look into the matter and take immediate measures to establish a police out post at Shambhupur near vocational institute beside the Bhairab-Kishoreganj Road.

**Dacoity**

A dacoity was committed in the house of Rafiqul Islam of village Pabaikandi in Kishoreganj sadar thana recently.

It is reported that the dacoits entered the house by cutting earth and looted a TV, one tape-recorder, ornaments and other valuables worth about Taka 32,000 at dagger point.

A case was registered with the Kishoreganj sadar thana police mentioning the names of four culprits in this connection.

**Notorious dacoit held**

Nandail police arrested notorious dacoit Nazimuddin alias Naizya in a raid at village Kaizalirchar recently.

Police recovered one revolver, five rounds of ammunition from his possession.

According to police, Nazimuddin was a member of inter-district gang of dacoits and at least ten cases like arms, dacoity, murder had been pending against him with police station.

**Diabetic assc executives**

The election of Kishoreganj Diabetic Association was held recently. All the candidates were elected uncontested.

Md Faziul Haque, Deputy Commissioner was the ex-officio President of the association while other office bearers were Vice-Presidents Masud Hilal and Alamgir Humayun Reza, General Secretary Bhubendra Bhowmik Dulan, Assistant Secretary A T M Mostafa, Organising Secretary A B M Mahmuduzzaman, Office Secretary Maruf Ahmed, Treasurer, Md Aminul Islam Tarek.

turtle and fell in a ditch. One Jiban, 40, and another unknown old man, 70, died on the spot. Seven other persons were admitted to hospital in serious condition.

A meeting, organised by Law and Order Committee, was held on Thursday to review the law and order situation of the district.

Chaired by Deputy Commissioner Md Nazrul Islam, the meeting was participated by Superintendent of Police and other high officials of the district.

While reviewing the situation, it was revealed that 51 crimes, including three murders, three slashes, one dacoity, three hijacking, four burglaries, three cattle lifting, five arms cases were committed during the month of January, the number is lower than that of December, 1993.

The newly posted DC urged the concerned officials and people to help the law enforcing agencies to bring the culprits to book and ensure peace and discipline in the district for the greater interest of the common people.

He also assured to evict the illegal occupants of Zila Parishad Dak Bungalow annexed building. The building was allegedly grabbed by some people since August, 1992.



MYMENSINGH: Prof Dr S M Farouk, VC of BAU handing over a presentation to Prof Dr A K M Aminul Haque, Ex-VC as a mark of respect at a meeting of the Elderly Teachers Officers Welfare Organisation of the university held recently. — Star photo



SIRAJGANJ: The present condition of the river Padma at Hardinge Bridge point. Irrigation to a vast tract of land under Ganges Kobadak (GK) Project, the biggest project of the country has come to a halt for abnormal fall in water level. — Star photo

## Peace gathering camp at Santosh concludes

SANTOSH, Tangail, Feb 19: The 10-day "One World Camp", an international peace gathering of young people from different parts of the world, concluded here at the Santosh Islamic University premises with a commitment to work for global unity and peace, reports BSS.

Participated by the boys and girls from 12 countries — Congo, France, Germany, Hong-kong, Japan, S Korea, Netherlands, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Sri Lanka and host Bangladesh, the main aim of the February 4 to 12 camp was to bring together youths from global community to enable them to work for reconciliation and peace among caste, creed, religion and culture.

The 1994 "One World Camp" (OWC) was jointly organised by the Bangladesh-German Sampreeti (BGS) and Society for Peace and

Development (SPD) to mark the 75th anniversary of international fellowship of reconciliation.

A wide-range of topics were discussed and shared by nearly 100 participants on youth, culture, inter-religions harmony, non-violence, development and peace during the 10-day camp.

The youths of various colours, religions and cultures exchanged their gifts, jokes, played games and sang and danced together during the gathering. The participants also engaged themselves in the gardening, cleaning of surroundings, planting trees and levelling of roads.

At the end, the participants decided to hold the next camp in 1995 in the same venue of Santosh Islamic University, which was established by Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani.



NATORE: Visitors at a one-day exhibition on vegetables held at the local press club on February 12. — Star photo

## One gets life-term for snatching ornaments

CHITTAGONG, Feb 19: The Anti-terrorism Tribunal and Second Additional sessions Judge here Syed Enayeturrahman in a judgement on Thursday sentenced one Shahidul Karim Alias Shaheed to life-term and fined Taka ten thousand in default to suffer more two years rigorous imprisonment on charges of snatching away of golden ornaments from a woman, reports BSS.

The prosecution story is in brief that the complainant Anjumanara Khanom was travelling by a rickshaw in front of Dr Khastagir Girls' High School on October 2, last year at 1 pm and suddenly the accused Shahidul Karim who came with an autorickshaw on the dagger point intercepted the rickshaw in which the woman was riding.

## New couple commits suicide

**From Our Correspondent**  
SIRAJGANJ, Feb 19: A couple, married only one year ago, committed suicide by taking pesticide at village Garamashi in Belkuchi thana, recently.

It is gathered that Sohail Ahmed (28) and Shipra (22) were married about one year back. Their parents did not accept the marriage and since then, they were residing at the house of one Shamsur Rahman of village Garamashi in Belkuchi thana.

On the night of the incident, both of them took pesticide and Sohail died after a few hours at Belkuchi thana health complex.

A UD case was lodged with Belkuchi police.

On dagger point the accused snatched away her two golden rings one bracelet and one wrist watch.

On hearing the hue and cry the passersby alongwith patrol police caught the hijacker red handed.

The complainant filed a case with kotwali police in this connection.

The Learned judge examined five witnesses and found the accused guilty and gave the judgement.

Another report says: Leaders of Jatiyotabadi Lawyers Forum and Chittagong South District BNP on Thursday hailed repatriation of tribals from Indian state of Tripura to Bangladesh.

In separate statements here, they commended the role of Communications Minister Oli Ahmad in repatriation of tribals from refugee camps in Tripura, India.

They also expressed satisfaction over the measures taken by the government in rehabilitating the tribals in their own land in hill tracts.

The signatories to the statements were, among others, Advocate, Abu Saleh Chowdhury, Alhaj M A Rahim, Advocate M Kabir Chowdhury and Fazlul Amin Chowdhury.

Another reports adds: Office-Secretary of Chittagong south district BNP Advocate M Fauzul Amin Chowdhury on Thursday appealed to the government to extend financial and material help to victims of a fire incident which occurred on Tuesday last at Fakirpara of Raipur union under Anowara thana here.

## District roundup

**KUSHTIA**

### Shortage of doctors, medicine in hospital

Feb 19: Kushtia General Hospital is ailing due to shortage of doctors, medicines, accommodation and necessary appliances, reports UNB.

The 100-bed hospital cannot cope with the rising demands of the patients as the existing beds can only meet 25 per cent requirement.

The prevailing situation of the hospital was reviewed at meeting of the District Health Service Development Committee held at FVVTI auditorium on February with Alhaj KM Abdul Khaleque Chantu, MP, in the chair.

The meeting was told that the government had a plan to transform the hospital into a 200-bed one using the adjacent Medical Assistant Training Schools (MATS). The school is lying unused for about five years due to lack of students.

Inadequate supply of medicine from the government store, fund crisis and establishment of a separate ward for the patients suffering from infectious diseases also came up in the discussion.

Dr Aliuddin Alamgir Khosla, a senior consultant, proposed that the doctors posted at MATS should be deputed to the Kushtia General Hospital as they are taking salary without work.

President of the committee Abdul Khaleque MP assured the members that he would discuss the matter with the Health Minister to improve the condition prevailing at the hospital.

**PIROJPUR**

### 3 arrested on charge of dacoity

Feb 19: Police arrested three people in connection with a robbery case at Gilatala village in Nazirpur thana last week, reports UNB.

The arrested Afzal, Towhid and Belayet confessed their involvement in the dacoity; in three houses of the same village on February 10.

Police said a gang of armed dacoits swooped on the houses of Ramkrishna Shikder, Narendra Nath Shikder and Atul Chandra Shikder and looted cash, goods, belongings and ornaments.

The dacoits also beaten up the inmates of the houses when they resisted and decamped with the booties.

Meanwhile the accused were produced before the court. But their bail petitions were rejected in the court of the thana Magistrate.

**SYLHET**

### Minor boy killed in road mishap

**From Our Correspondent**  
Feb 19: A minor boy was crushed under wheels of a speeding van at a place near Lalbazar on Dhaka-Sylhet highway Sunday afternoon.

Traffic movement on the road remained closed for about four hours as the agitated people blocked the road just after the incident.

According to the reports, the victim Anwar Ali, 10, son of one Syed Ali while trying to cross the highway was hit and crushed under wheels of the speeding van (No Dhaka Metro-Ma-05-0130) which heading for Sylhet.

The people chased and stopped the van at the Sylhet Railgate. However, the driver managed to escape.

**COMILLA**

### Tk 10 lakh property gutted

Feb 19: Some 150 people were rendered homeless and property worth about taka 10 lakh gutted in a devastating fire in Shadanddi village in Daudkandi thana on Tuesday, reports UNB.

Witnesses said three people were also injured in the fire. Of them one was rushed to Dhaka in a critical condition. A gang of armed miscreants attacked the village at about 12 noon on the day and set some 27 houses on fire.

Deputy Commissioner and SP of the district visited the spot. A case was filed with the local police.

**LALMONIRHAT**

### One killed while resisting attempt of dacoity

Feb 19: A middle-aged man was killed while trying to resist a group of armed dacoits along with villagers at a food godown in sadar thana Monday night, reports UNB.

Police said the dacoits, numbering about 13, tied hands and legs of a night-guard, Abed Ali, of Teesta LSD godown and broke open its locks.

The victim, identified as Mantu, 35, of village Teesta, died on the spot as he was stabbed by the dacoits.

**FENI**

### Agriculture fair ends

Feb 19: A tow-day-long Agriculture Fair-94, organised by Agriculture Extension Department (AED) was held at Sadar thana Parisad premises, reports UNB.

Razzakul Haider Chowdhury, Additional Director of AED, Chittagong zone inaugurated the fair on February 9. The fair was attended by Nesarul Islam Kutubi, Acting Deputy Director of the District.

A total of 20 stalls were set up by AED, Livestock Department, Farming Complex, Agriculture Equipment Factory, Pesticide industry, Seed Godown and Saimun Garden.

African magur fish of 8 kg, silver carp fish of 32 kg, gourd of 22 kg, Pumpkin of 18 kg weight were main attraction of the fair.

**NARSINGDI**

### Dacoit beaten to death

Feb 19: An alleged dacoit was beaten to death and three others were injured by the angry villagers in Raipur thana last week, reports UNB.

The dead was identified as Nasrullah while the injured as Biplob.

Police and witnesses said 10 villagers were also received bullet injuries while trying to nab the dacoits.

They said a gang of about 35 armed dacoits attacked nine houses of Khagchar, Asharampur and Shahpur villages and looted valuables worth Tk five lakh. The dacoits opened fire on the villagers when they tried to resist them and left six people injured.

Two dacoits — Nasrullah and Biplob — were caught by the villagers and beaten to death on the spot.

Of the injured, Zaher Miah, Moshlehuddin, Bachhu Miah, and Khokon were admitted to Raipur Health Complex.