

Night coach skids off, ten injured

DINAJPUR, Mar 2: A night coach skidded off near a broken bridge at Bhishirbandar on the Dhaka-Thakurgaon highway injuring ten passengers Monday, reports UNB.

Of them, one Shaiful Alam 35 of Balladangi under Thakurgaon district received serious injuries.

It is learnt that the Thakurgaon bound chair coach from Dhaka has skidded off while passing through by pass broken bridge. As a result ten passengers sustained injuries.

Shaiful Alam was rushed to Dinajpur General Hospital while nine other injured passengers were admitted in local hospital and private clinic for treatment.

Another reports says: District and Sessions Judge Habibur Rahman in a judgement Monday awarded two years imprisonment to one Dulal Mia of Balubari in the town for keeping heroin under anti-narcotic law.

The prosecution story in brief is that Dinajpur BDR raided a residence of Dulal Mia and recovered eleven packets of heroin in his possession on December 12, 1992.

Heroin worth Tk one crore seized

COX'S BAZAR, Mar 2: The BDR seized one kilogram of heroine worth an estimated Tk one crore from a bus at the Ramu checkpoint on the Cox's Bazar-Chittagong highway Tuesday, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip-off BDR men halted the bus, bound for Chittagong from Cox's Bazar, at 1 pm and recovered the drug from a luggage of cloth.

The BDR sources said the luggage indicated that the heroine was made in Thailand with the trade mark 'Lion'.

They suspected that the heroine was being trafficked in through Teknaf border.

Ekushey observed

Lions Club of Chittagong presidency and Leo Club of Chittagong Mamota jointly observed Ekushey February with due respect, says a press release.

The members of the organisations placed floral wreaths at Shaheed Minar and arranged a discussion meeting in the evening on the significance of the day.

The meeting was held at Mamota office at Halishahar where Lion Alhaj Anwar Hossain, was the president.

Dr Iftekharuddin Ahmed, GS, CU Teachers' Association and zone Chairman Alhaj Rafiq Ahmed were present at the meeting as chief and special guests.

The speakers paid rich tributes to the martyrs of Language Movement.

Mass Literacy Programme taken up

By Staff Correspondent

FARIDPUR, Mar 2: Poili Unnayan Sangstha, a voluntary development organisation based in Faridpur, has initiated a mass literacy and environmental protection programme in sadar and Nagarkanda thanas of the district for the next two years.

The decision to start the programme was taken at the annual general meeting of the sangstha at Faridpur, City College auditorium Friday.

The meeting also elected a nine-member executive committee of the Poili Unnayan Sangstha with Advocate Fazlur Rahman as its president.

Housewife rescued from traffickers

SATKHIRA, Mar 2: Police rescued a housewife on Monday from a house at village Kalkhal in Shyamnagar thana where she was kept for trafficking to India, reports UNB.

The victim was identified as Taslima Begum, 19, wife of Ruhul Amin of Narayanpur in Kaliganj thana of Satkhira. Ruhul was also arrested for his alleged involvement in trafficking business.

According to police, Taslima was recovered from the residence of one woman trafficker, Shamsur Rahman of Kalkhal.

Earlier, she was reportedly sold to Abul Hossain of village Nakshakata in Shyamnagar on February 19 by one Mujibar and one Aminur with the connivance of her husband Ruhul Amin. He kept her at the custody of Shamsur Rahman.

Police also rounded up Abul Hossain.

Illegal extraction of resources of the Sunderbans going on

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Mar 2: Unauthorised extraction of the resources of the Sunderbans is going on unabated.

As a result, the government has been facing huge revenue losses every year.

The personnel of the Forest Department failed to take any steps to check the plundering of the resources.

The Sunderbans is famous for its forest resources and cover a vast area of Satkhira district. The government earns Taka ten crore every year from the Sunderbans, it is learnt.

Deer, tigers, golpata, honey, wood and other resources are being plundered everyday, according to a source. The government strictly prohibited hunting of wild animals in the Sunderbans. But professional and non-professional hunters are often seen hunting animals in the Sunderbans indiscriminately. The hunters enter the Sundarban without prior permission of the Division Forest Office (DFO) and hunt animals to sell their skin at high prices.

Besides this, honey, the nature's gift, produced in the Sunderbans which can earn a lot of money, is being exploited by unauthorised people and sold in markets of

Satkhira, Khulna, Bagerhat, Mongla and Jessore.

The number of Royal Bengal Tigers, the pride of the Sunderbans is decreasing due to random hunting. It is learnt from a preliminary survey report recently that the number of Royal Bengal Tigers now stands at 600.

According to reports, the number of male deer is one lakh and that of female is also one lakh. However, the numbers of crocodiles in the coastal areas of the Sunderbans is said to be increasing gradually.

It is learnt from a survey report conducted in the Sunderbans by World Wild Life Preservation Fund in 1978, that the population of Royal Bengal Tigers was 300. In 1985, it increased to 500. But a very recent survey revealed that the number increased to 600.

Human Rights aid camp

A day-long Legal Aid Camp under the joint auspices of Human Rights Development Project (HRDP) Satkhira, Bangladesh Human Rights Commission and PTSC Dhaka was held here at Puler hat premises under Tala thana recently.

Syed Kamal Bakhi, President HRDP, Satkhira presided over the function while Akram Hossain Chowdhury was present as chief guest. Advocate Nazrul Islam, Prof Abu Ahmed and M Ibrahim Sardar, secretary HRDP Satkhira spoke on the occasion.

Soil fertility declines

Use of cowdung as fertilizer is declining fast in the district greatly affecting cultivation.

Agriculture Extension Department sources said, fertility of soil depends on its organic chemical and biological ingredients which are formed from the use of cowdung and other organic components.

Rampant use of chemical fertilizer has been affecting fertility of soil. Most of the farmers do not know the use of correct proportionate chemical fertilizers on their crop-land.

Moreover, cultivation of same crops for years is another reason for decreasing soil fertility.

Local agri experts suggested that soil fertility can be improved by using cowdung and other natural manures in the croplands and training in this

regard is necessary for the farmers.

Housewife killed

One pregnant housewife was beaten to death by her husband recently.

It is reported that Rustom Gazi of village Dudhila under Tala thana of the district married Anowara Khatun, 20, daughter of Sarup Sardar of village Kuariati under Assassuni thana of the same district six months back.

At the time of wedding Anowara's father gave 3000 and other valuables as dowry to son in law, Rustom.

Recently, he demanded more dowry which was refused by the father. As a result, he tortured her quite often. On the day of occurrence Rustom tortured his wife mercilessly and killed her on the spot. Later, the husband tried to suppress the murder by hanging the body on the branch of a tree.

After getting news, Tala thana police rushed to the place of occurrence and sent the body to Satkhira hospital for post-mortem.

A case was lodged with the Tala police station.

Brickfield owners fined for using firewood

KUHSTIA, Mar 2: Three brickfield owners and a manager of another brickfield of sadar thana were fined for violating ban on using firewood for manufacturing bricks on Monday, reports UNB.

A mobile court headed by Magistrate Kamaluddin Talukdar fined them Taka 10,000 each, in default, he ordered to seize and sell the materials of the brickfields in auction.

Mentionable that local elite brought the matter to the notice of the district administration time and again that trees, bamboo clusters and valuable immature timber are being felled in the district indiscriminately for use as firewood in the brickfields.

The brickfield owners violating the government ban were using thousands of maunds of firewood for manufacturing bricks instead of using coal.

Local leaders expressed satisfaction over the action of the mobile court and called upon them to investigate other brickfields without further delay for necessary action.

Another report says: A discussion meeting was held at the Diabetic Society unit office here on Monday to mark the Diabetes Awareness Day.



NATORE: Prof M A Awal speaking at a discussion meeting arranged on the occasion of Ekushey February held at the local press club. — Star photo

District roundup

RAJBARI

Women of rural areas urged to take part in uplift works

Mar 2: State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahanara Begum recently called upon women to unite and organise themselves for ensuring a better social status for them, reports BSS.

Inaugurating a branch of the Association of Women Rights Implementation in Bangladesh (AWRIB) at Balliakandi in Rajbari the state minister said, women folk have a significant role to play in changing or improving the socio-economic condition of the nation.

She said to achieve this target they have to be trained properly in income generating projects. As a result, women of rural areas and the distressed could become self-reliant, she said.

The AWRIB is a non-governmental voluntary socio-cultural organisation, providing training and loan facilities to the distressed women for attaining self-sufficiency.

Prof Jahanara Begum also addressed a public meeting at Chardhunuchi in Rajbari recently organised by BNP.

Speaking on the occasion, she called upon the leaders and workers to gear up party activities at the grassroots level for materialising the 19-point programmes of Shaheed Zia to attain autarky on every sectors.

KUSHITIA

Child labourers on rise

Mar 2: The number of child labourers among the floating people who come from rural areas to the town, is increasing, reports UNB.

Children who are expected to attend schools or madrasahs or remain engaged in sports with their playmates are compelled to work in factories and mills for earning their livelihood.

Due to poverty these children are working in the hotels and restaurants as boys, in houses as servants, as rickshawpullers and as labourers in mills and factories, as porters in the rail stations, hats and bazars and as cowboys in the fields.

The labour they offer, does not fetch actual wage and there are statutory rates for wages and service rules. The meagre amount they earn cannot satisfy their hunger. The privileged people taking advantage of their poverty exploit them.

According to a survey conducted by some local journalists, about 5000 children, between the age group of five and ten years engaged themselves in manual works to 'eke out their living.

These children have no shelter in the town. They after the day's work, spend the night in the bus terminals, in front of the cinema halls and in open spaces.

LALMONIRHAT

1243 mt of wheat given for 61 uplift projects

Mar 2: The government has sanctioned 1,243 metric tons of wheat worth about Tk one crore for execution of 61 development schemes in five thanas of the district under Food for Works Programme (FWP) during the current dry season, an official handout said recently, reports BSS.

Under the programme, construction and reconstruction of rural roads and embankment and earth-work is being done.

Besides, implementation of 19 projects with an allocation of 375 metric tons of wheat is nearing completion in the district under post monsoon rehabilitation programme.

CHUADANGA

2 Purba Bangla activists held

Mar 2: Police arrested two people from Katpara village of Alamdanga thana and recovered one pipe gun, five rounds of rifle bullets from their possession, reports UNB.

Acting on a secret information, police raided the village and arrested Amrull Islam Togor and Abu Boror, the alleged activists of Purba Bangla Communist Party.

A case has been filed with the local thana.

FARIDPUR

1237 tubewells to be installed

Mar 2: Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) has undertaken a scheme to install 1,237 tubewells in five districts of Faridpur region to ensure supply of drinking water, reports UNB.

The programme with the financial help from UNICEF, Saudi Arabia has been taken up specially to ensure pure water supply in rural areas of Faridpur, Shariatpur, Madaripur, Gopalganj and Rajbari.

Official sources said, of the total 1237 tubewells, 175 are deep and 1062 are shallow tubewells and the scheme is expected to be complete within June, this year.

According to official sources, of the total, 288 shallow and 55 deep tubewells will be sunk in Faridpur, 200 shallow and 67 deep tubewells in Gopalganj, 203 shallow and 67 deep tubewells in Shariatpur, 138 shallow and 53 deep tubewells in Madaripur and 233 shallow tubewells in Rajbari.

With the completion of the scheme about 1.85 lakh people will get benefit from supply of drinking water.

PABNA

Tk 7.92 crore uplift projects in progress

Mar 2: Works on 235 projects at a cost of Tk 7.92 crore in nine thanas of the district are progressing fast, reports UNB.

According to Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) the projects include construction of one connecting road, three growth centres, reconstruction of government primary schools and repair and renovation of non-government primary and high schools.

These projects will be jointly financed by Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Bangladesh government, the sources added.

KISHOREGANJ

Female students face transport problem

Mar 2: Female students of the town and adjacent areas are facing serious problems to attend their classes in the absence of transport facilities, reports UNB.

There are three girls' high schools and one government and one non-government women's colleges in the town and over 3000 students are attending their classes regularly.

The students said, they are to go to their respective educational institutions on foot crossing a number of busy roads with risks.

The guardians are always kept in anxiety for the reckless driving of buses and trucks and innumerable rickshaws. Guardians complained that accidents are occurring in the busy roads due to reckless driving and violation of traffic rules, but the authorities took no step in this regard.

Besides, many female students who walk to their respective institutions are often teased by unruly and wayward youths, it is alleged.

Work on 5 bridges going on

RAJBARI, Mar 2: Local Government Engineering Department has taken up a scheme to construct five bridges in the district at a cost of Taka 69 lakh, reports UNB.

The scheme has been taken up under the 'Rural Project-4' with the financial assistance from CIDA and NORAD, to help develop the existing rural communication network.

Of these, three bridges will be constructed at Balliakandi and the rest two will be at Goalanda.

Official sources informed that the construction work on the bridges has already been started and is expected to be completed by the current fiscal year.

When completed, the communication between Balliakandi and Goalanda thanas

will be improved to a great extent.

Another report says: Work on the seven projects under Food for Works Programme is progressing fast at a cost of 316 metric tons of wheat.

Local Government Engineering Department initiated the project in cooperation with the World Food Programme.

Earth filling on the fields of two government primary schools at Bahadurpur-Patikabari and re-excavation of two pond to help boost pisciculture are also in progress.

Meanwhile, Water Development Board has taken up five projects in the district under the Food for Works Programme at a cost of 3,771 metric tons of wheat.

511 tubewells lying out of order

BRAHMANBARIA, Mar 2: About 511 tubewells in eight thanas of the district has gone out of order causing paucity of drinking water in the areas, reports UNB.

Local people alleged that the tubewells installed by the Public Health Engineering Department are not adequate to meet the requirement of the people.

Local people urged the concerned authorities to take measures to resink the choke up tubewells.

Meanwhile, the department has undertaken a scheme to install 448 tubewells and 133 pumps in the district during the current fiscal year.

Another report says: An under trial prisoner died at

Brahmanbaria District Jail last week, police said here today (Friday).

Abdul Mannaf, an accused of Goalia village murder case, died at the jail hayat on February 7. The cause of death could not be ascertained.

Another report adds: Police nabbed an alleged smuggler with different foreign currencies from Station Road area of the town on February 7.

Police, on suspicion, arrested Shaful Islam of Sikarpur village in Casbah thana and recovered 68 US dollar, 50 Pound Sterling and 119 Saudi Riyal (Tk 50,000) from his possession.

A case was filed with Brahmanbaria police in this connection.

Hats, bazars in bad shape

KISHOREGANJ, Mar 2: The hats and bazars in almost all the thanas of the district are in pitiable condition, causing immense sufferings to the people for quite a long time, reports UNB.

Lack of proper maintenance and negligence by the authorities concerned is the main reason behind it, it is alleged.

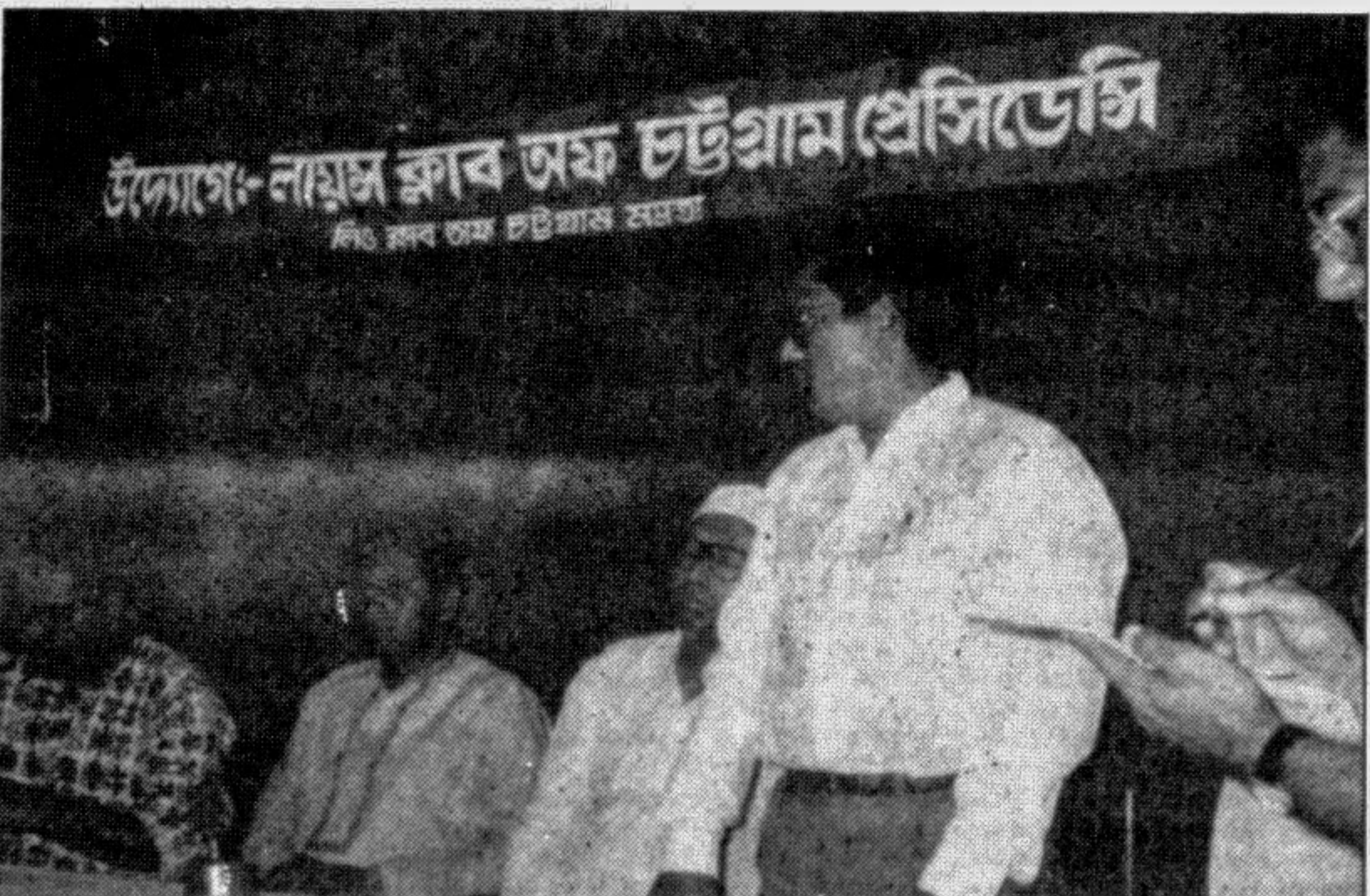
Most of the markets came into being at local initiatives, but these have not been expanded proportionately according to the growing population.

Local people alleged that not a single market has drainage facilities. All the markets lack latrines and urinals. In the rainy season, the situation worsens, submerging most of the places.

Filths and garbages are piled up hither and thither, emitting bad odour and threatening public health. Absence of pure drinking water facilities in the markets is an added problem, they added.

Shopping of different commodities on the adjacent roads and lanes is a regular feature. Congested places for selling fish, vegetables and other commodities and extortion of tolls by jharadars have multiplied the difficulties of both sellers and buyers, local people said.

They urged the authorities



CHITTAGONG: P K Barua, Secretary, Chittagong Presidency Lions Club speaking at a function on the occasion of Ekushey February held at the Mamota office. — Star photo

Loan realisation rate poor

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Mar 2: The loan realisation rate of Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) is too during the current year in 11 southern districts of the country.

The bank has realised only Taka 28 crore out of the total outstanding amount of Taka 72 crore. The realisation rate is only 38.88.

The eleven southern districts of the country are: Barisal, Patuakhali, Bhola, Borguna, Pirojpur, Faridpur, Gopalganj, Shariatpur, Madaripur, Jhalokathi and Rajbari.

The loan was disbursed among the farmers to boost cultivation of aman, wheat, boro, potato, vegetables, poultry farming, dairy farming, mustard and some other agrobased productions, a source said.

During this time, the target of collection of outstanding agriculture loan was fixed at 70 crore taka.

Out of the total loan, the bank has realised Taka 2.60 crore from Barisal, Taka 2.50 crore from Patuakhali, Taka 2.70 crore from Bhola, Taka 1.40 crore from Borguna, Taka 1.68 crore from

Gopalganj, Taka 4.85 crore from Faridpur, Taka 2.54 crore from Madaripur, Taka 3.47 crore from Rajbari, Taka 1.25 crore from Jhalokathi, Taka 3.15 crore, Taka 1.82 crore from Pirojpur and Shariatpur.

For the expansion and development of education system, particularly in the remote areas of the country, government has established Bangladesh Unmukta Biswa Bidyalaya (BUB).

Under this Unmukta Biswa Bidyalaya (Open University) ten regional centres will be established which will have eighty educational centres.

7 arrested with arms, ammunition

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, Mar 2: Police have recovered huge quantities of illegal arms and ammunitions from four thanas of Chuadanga district during the month of January.

Seven persons were also arrested during the period on charge of possessing illegal arms.



BRAHMANBARIA: The local police seized 400 bottles of smuggled phenidyl syrup recently. — Star photo