

Dispute over land leaves two dead

GAIBANDHA, Mar. 4 Two people were killed and two others injured in a clash over dispute on a plot of land at Talukrefayetpur village in sadar thana on Sunday, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, both the groups equipped with lethal weapons attacked each other killing one Ayenuddin on the spot and another victim Mozammel died at Rangpur Medical College Hospital.

The seriously injured Shahjahan and Khaledque are now under treatment in the same hospital.

Another report adds: District Anti-corruption Department filed a case against nine members of Kishoregari Union Parishad for misappropriation of rice worth Taka nine lakh.

Sources said, 115 metric tons of rice were sanctioned for the work of Akhira river project of which about 79 metric tons of rice were allegedly misappropriated by the UP members.

One arrested for disturbing girls

JAMALPUR, Mar. 4 Police arrested a youth for disturbing the school girls from Dayamoyee road in the town, near Jamalpur Singani Girls High School, reports UNB.

Police said, on the basis of the complaints lodged by the guardians, they raided the area on February 24 and rounded up Sutan, an activist of a student organisation.

Police also arrested another youngman and recovered a smuggled motorcycle from his possession.

Separate cases were filed with the sadar thana. A report from Natore adds: A mobile court led by a magistrate seized 24 mounds of Indian jute seeds worth Taka 28,000 from a Dhaka bound night coach at Natore Railgate last week.

Plea to transfer power to caretaker govt

MAGURA, Mar. 4 Awami League general secretary Zillur Rahman today demanded transfer of power to a neutral caretaker government for immediate holding of general elections, reports UNB.

"This government has totally failed to run the country and solve the problems of the people due to its inefficiency. It has no moral right to cling to power," he told an election rally at the Satruzitpur High School ground this afternoon.

Zillur, campaigning for Awami League nominee Shafiq-uz-Zaman Bachchu, said elections under the BNP government would never be free and impartial, and asked the ruling party to hand over power to a caretaker government.

Brother kills brother

CHITTAGONG, Mar. 4 One, Munshi Mia allegedly stabbed his own brother and his cousin to death one after another at Char Barama under Chandanaisa thana some 45 km off here on Sunday last, reports BSS.

According to district police, when Chhunna Mia, 55 was returning home from nearby market, his younger brother Munshi Mia attacked him with a dagger.

Munshi Mia stabbed him repeatedly as a result Chhunna died on the spot. His cousin, Abul Hossain when came to help the victim the alleged murderer also stabbed him and later hit on his head with a stick. The victim died on the spot.

Bid to kidnap foiled

DINAJPUR, Mar. 4 A bid to kidnap a teen-aged school girl from a hospital was foiled by the inmates on Sunday. The girl was attending her ailing mother at the hospital, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, a gang of miscreants numbering 8 to 10 entered the Dinajpur General Hospital and four of them went to the female ward where Shafali Begum, 16, was attending her ailing mother Shamsun Nahar in the evening.

They asked the girl to follow them. When she refused the miscreants in a bid to kidnap, started chasing the girl, and at one point chased the kidnapper who later fled the scene.

On information, police visited the spot. After the departure of the police, the hospital inmates said the miscreants changing their dress again came to the hospital and warned the girl that they would throw acid on her if a case was filed against them.

Dundee of the East presents grim look

NARAYANGANJ, Mar. 4 Narayanganj, a port town which was once called the 'Dundee of the East' has lost its importance for want of proper care and patronisation.

The industrial and trading centre had a very good railway, road and riverine communication with the rest of the country.

But at present it has become a town of problems as the authority did not take proper steps for the development of the town.

The present population of the town is over 10 lakh and the area has also been expanded but the authority failed to increase facilities for the residents.

A good number of jute, textile, hosiery and other mills were set up on the both banks of the river Sitalakhya. The country still earns crores of taka through 'export of jute, jute goods and hosiery products every year but the port town is not getting attention.

Most roads are badly damaged and unsuitable for vehicular. Potholes have appeared at a number of places threatening plying of rickshaws and movement of pedestrians.

The rickshaws in hundreds are run by unlicensed rickshaw-pullers in the age group of 12 to 15. Uncontrolled plying of rickshaws and illegal parking in and around the town have been creating problems to the town dwellers for a long time. Most rickshaws plying on roads do not have lamps at night.

Most roads are narrow and do not have footpaths. In many places old and damaged footpaths have made rooms for the traders who sell old garments, fruits or set-up make-shift shops for their livelihood.

The drains are full of dirt and garbage which spread bad smell posing serious threat to health and environment. These drains become breeding centres of mosquitoes.

There is no public toilet or urinal in the town area. People respond to the nature's call by

the road side and office buildings thus polluting the environment.

In the town the number of dustbins is few and far between and these are never cleared properly.

There is a lone slaughter house at ledair area but most often cattle are slaughtered in the markets and this pollutes the environment. In the absence of proper checking substandard meat is sold off and on.

The ponds and tanks in the town are full of water-hyacinths. These are all breeding centres of mosquitoes. The absence of proper drainage and sanitary latrines town-dwellers suffer from various diseases including diarrhoea, dysentery and typhoid. The use of unhygienic latrines also cause outbreak of various diseases. Most street lights in the municipal

From Ehsanul Haque

areas are out of order. As a result some areas of the town plunge into darkness giving ample scope to the anti-socials in committing crimes. Frequent power failure has been affecting life and living of the town-dwellers and hampering production in mills, factories, workshops and hospitals in the district. The main fish and vegetable markets in the town are now in a deplorable conditions causing much sufferings both to the buyers and sellers. The condition of Digbazu Bazar and Kalir Bazar is the worst during rainy season. It becomes difficult to enter into the markets in a clean cloth. The main spots of the markets being under knee-deep water due to the absence of drainage system. It is too small to accommodate the buyers and sellers as a result the approach road of the market is now being occupied by the sellers. The roads in front of Khanpur Bazar and Masdair Bazar are so narrow that it creates traffic jam. Accidents occur when these roads are used by the trucks and other vehicles during peak hour. The condition of ordinary hotels and restaurants is pitiable because adulterated foodstuffs are sold in open places without any check by the concerned authorities.

The town-dwellers pay different types of taxes but they do not get any benefit whatsoever in return.

There were schemes to connect the town with DCC but expansion towards Narayanganj slowed down. Rajdhan Unayan Kartipakha (RAJUK) realised a big amount of money from Narayanganj but spent a very

little fraction of that for the development of the town.

The people of Narayanganj have reasons to believe that RAJUK has many things to do for the development of the city.

Besides RAJUK, other government departments and organisations should finish their unfinished work like Gymkhana play ground, Chadmay shooting range, Osmani stadium and construction and expansion of roads. The people of Narayanganj demand the upgrading of Govt Tolaram College into university college.

The withdrawal of mail trains, parcels and delay in booking of goods had already dealt a crushing blow to the travelling passengers and to trade and commerce of Narayanganj in particular. The daily business turnover of hosiery, fish and many other consumer goods home reduced by 80 per cent. Many small industries such as washing soap, saw mill, flour, ata, oil and thousands of small shop-keepers are on the verge of closing their business and others are finding their existence threatened.

The attention of the railway authorities was drawn many a times to remove the bottlenecks and to ease the situation but no appropriate measures have yet been taken. Since the withdrawal of mail train and steamer services from here, the miseries of the jobless workers increased manifold. The present number of trains running on Dhaka-Narayanganj line cannot cope with the fast increasing number of passengers and volume of trade and commerce.

According to the experts, a large-scale planning should immediately be articulated to revive the old glory back. Otherwise, the important industries, belted riverine port of the country, Narayanganj, the Dundee of the East, will be vanished in course of time.



NARAYANGANJ: People are walking on the railway track as the small traders have occupied the space on both sides of the lines. — Star photo

Power supply irregular, output in mills, fields hampered

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, Mar. 4 Frequent power failure, fluctuation in voltage and load-shedding have become regular feature in Chuadanga town now-a-days causing untold sufferings to the consumers.

Industrial consumers have been facing financial losses as production in mills and factories has declined keeping the workers idle due to frequent power failures.

Due to irregular power supply and continuous load-shedding, irrigation in all the four thanas of Chuadanga district have been badly affected causing serious impact on food

production this season. Moreover, normal production in mills and factories, including Talu Spinning Mills, Bangas Biscuit Industries and Asia Biscuit Industries is being hampered.

Shortage of power supply has also seriously affected water supply at Chuadanga town.

Bricks worth Tk 1 cr damaged
Raw bricks (unburnt) worth Taka one crore were damaged due to recent untimely heavy rainfall in Chuadanga district.

According to reports, unburnt bricks belonging to 40

brick field owners were totally damaged hampering production of bricks in the district.

A four-day-long Krishi Mela from February 17 to 20 was held here at the Office of Deputy Director of Agriculture, Chuadanga.

Fazlul Hoque, in-charge of Additional Director, Agricultural Extension Department-Jessore region, was present on the occasion as the Chief Guest on the opening day. The function was presided over by M Monsur Rahman, Deputy Director, Agriculture Extension Department, Chuadanga.

Bamboo production falls

KUSHTIA, Mar. 4 Production of bamboo has been declining in the greater Kushtia district due to lack of proper care and maintenance, reports UNB.

Once very rich in bamboo, the district is now facing an acute scarcity of it causing abnormal price hike in the market.

Rampant uprooting of bamboo clusters by ignorant farmers for use as firewood has made the problem acute as it hinders the further growth of bamboos.

The scarcity has affected adversely the bamboo-based traditional cottage industries and construction of rural houses. Here, 90 per cent of the houses in the rural areas are kutia and bamboo is basically used in the construction

of those houses.

According to agriculture experts at least 20 tender plants grow from a cluster after proper nursing whereas at present in the absence of proper care only two to three plants are grown.

Another reports says: Police recovered some arms and ammunition from different areas of Mirpur thana on Sunday on the basis of confidential statements of arrested Biplobi Communist Party leader and his accomplice.

According to police, one .22 bore rifle, two Indian shutter guns, one country made pipe gun and accessories of making pipe gun, 15 rounds of .22 bore rifle bullets, five rounds of 303 rifles ammunition and five round cartridges were seized from the thana area.



SYLHET: Two students are donating blood at a programme at Madan Mohan College. It was organised by the Rotaract Club of Sylhet Pioneer and Sandhani recently. — Star photo

Construction of 108 pry schools in progress

JESSORE, Mar. 4 Building construction of 108 non-government registered primary schools by the Local Government Engineering Department in eight thanas of Jessore district has been progressing satisfactorily, reports BSS.

A total of Taka 4.53 crore under financial assistance from Asian Development Bank is being spent for these schools.

Forty-five such school buildings are being constructed at a total cost of Taka 1.90 crore. Ninety per cent work of these school buildings have been completed. These schemes are expected to be completed by the end of December this year.

Construction of another 63 school buildings at a total cost of Taka 2.63 crore has just started. It will be completed by the end of June, this year.

Nineteen of these schools are being constructed in Jessore sadar, 27 in Monirampur, 14 in Chaugachha, 10 in Sarsa, 16 Abhaynagar, 13 in Jhikargachha, 12 in Keshabpur and 6 in Bagherpara thanas of the district.

will also reconstruct 23 government primary school buildings in 7 thanas during this fiscal year at a total cost of Taka 92 lakh. Each of these buildings will cost of Taka 3.90 lakh. These schemes are located in Jessore sadar, in Jhikargachha, Bagherpara, Abhaynagar, Monirampur, Sarsa and Keshabpur thanas.

When completed about 65,000 primary-level students will get better academic atmosphere and environment.

Rally round Hasina to redeem democracy: Razzak
MAGURA, Mar. 4 Awami League presidium member Abdul Razzak MP today urged the people to rally round Sheikh Hasina to redeem the hard-won democracy from the 'corrupt' rule of the BNP, reports UNB.

Addressing an election rally at the Merulbolita High School ground, he also requested the voters to vote for 'Boat' in the March 20 parliamentary by-election in Magura-2 constituency.

District roundup

NETRAKONA

Tk 1.4 lakh loan for distressed women

Mar. 4: Thirty-six distressed women of three thanas under Netrakona district were provided with loan amounting to Taka one lakh and forty thousand by the Women Affairs Directorate for improving their socio-economic condition, reports BSS.

The three thanas are Barhatta, Kendua and Mahanganj. The Whip of Treasury Bench in Jatiya Sangsad Advocate Mohammad Abdul Karim distributed the loan among the women at a simple ceremony held here recently.

Deputy Commissioner, Netrakona, Dewan Afserruddin, local elite and government officials attended the function.

Price of rice has increased on an average of Taka two per kilogram (kg) and price of meat increased by Taka ten, per kg while prices of fish also shot up.

Besides prices of green vegetables, milk and fruits including banana have also increased.

BARISAL

New Bengali daily to be published

Mar. 4: A new Bengali daily 'Ajker Barta' will be published from the Barisal Divisional headquarters from March 26 next, reports BSS.

The publisher and editor of this daily is Mehrun Nessa Begum, wife of a local businessman Kazi Nasiruddin Babul. Babul is also General Secretary of Barisal Press Club. With this the number of local dailies will stand at ten.

Besides, five weeklies including one in English are being published from Barisal.

COMILLA

Programmes to strengthen economy

Mar. 4: Environment and Forest Minister recently said the present democratic government was implementing a wide range of programmes with a view to strengthening the economy of the country, reports BSS.

He called upon all to strengthen the hands of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia for successful implementation of these programmes.

The Environment Minister was addressing a public meeting at the newly constructed Gumti bridge premises at Majigachha under Chandpur district.

After inaugurating the bridge, the minister said the present government was fulfilling the pre-election pledges one by one and assured that all the commitments would be met in phases.

Presided over by Advocate Md Mozaffar Hossain Bhuiyan, the meeting was also addressed by Comilla pourashava chairman Md Kamaluddin Chowdhury and other local BNP leaders.

Earlier, the minister laid the foundation of a madrasa complex at Comilla high school premises.

GAIBANDHA

Miscreants kill one, another dies at hospital

Mar. 4: A middle-aged man was killed by some unidentified miscreants at a place under Puran thana on last Monday, police and hospital sources here said, reports UNB.

The victim was identified as Rafiqul Islam Sarker Makhon, 74, registrar-writer of Gobindaganj thana Sub-Registrar's Office of the district.

Police said the miscreants attacked Makhon when he was heading towards his residence at villages Khashi under Gobindaganj thana. However, the reason behind the incident could not be known immediately.

Makhon was killed on the spot due to several cut injuries on his body, hospital sources said.

Another report says: An old man succumbed to his injuries at Gaibandha Hospital last Wednesday, police and hospital sources here said.

The deceased was identified as Abdul Kader, 74, of village Saighara under Gobindaganj thana of the district.

Kader was seriously wounded when a tank-lorry dashed him from behind when he was crossing the Dhaka-Rangpur highway last Monday.

FENI

Property worth Tk 8.5 lakh gutted

Mar. 4: Fire gutted property worth Taka 8.50 lakh in two separate incidents at sadar and Sonagazi thanas of the district in the last week, reports UNB.

A petrol station was gutted at Trunk Road in the town on Monday and property worth Taka 50,000 were destroyed.

The fire originated from a motor cycle when it was given fuel. Another devastating fire gutted property worth Taka 8 lakh at Sanu Miah Bari of Sonagazi thana on Saturday.

The fire originating from a kitchen of a house engulfed the surroundings and charred eight houses along with the valuables.

The villagers rushed to the spot and after frantic efforts brought the fire under control.

Another report says: Bangladesh Rifles seized Indian smuggled goods worth Taka 3.50 lakh from an inter-city train at Feni rail station last week.

Acting on secret information, BDR jawans stopped the train 'Mohanagar' and seized Indian saris, clothes, spares of bicycle by raiding the compartments.

The seized goods were handed to the local customs office. A case has been filed with the sadar thana.

TANGAIL

Communication gets priority

Mar. 4: Lutfar Rahman Khan, State Minister for Industries, has said that development of communication was essential for the progress of the nation, reports BSS.

With this idea in mind the government has given priority on development of communication, he said and added that the government has been constructing bridges and roads to connect the growth centres in various parts of the country.

The state minister was addressing a public meeting at Ghatail Public School playground recently. He urged the people to cooperate with the government in the nation building activities.

Earlier, the state minister inaugurated four bridges at Gunagram, Kulia, Niamatpur and Rampur. These bridges were built at a total cost of Taka twenty two lakh.

SATKHIRA

One gets life imprisonment for murder

Mar. 4: A N M Bashirullah, Additional Sessions Judge, Satkhira recently convicted Afzuddin of Bhaluka Chandpur under this district and sentenced him to suffer life imprisonment on charge of murder, reports BSS.

He was also fined Taka five thousand in default to suffer rigorous imprisonment for one year more.

The prosecution story in brief is that on September 24, 1990 in a dispute over harvesting of paddy Afzuddin threw a bomb. As a result, Santosh Kumar Ghose of village Habashpur died on the spot.

In the case police submitted charge sheet.

KUSHTIA

"Poverty main hindrance to development"

Mar. 4: State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan inaugurated the re-excavation work of 1800 metre-long Hisna canal at Daulatpur thana and 5,000 metre Sagorkhali canal at Mirpur thana on Tuesday, reports UNB.

Addressing two separate meetings on the occasion the state minister said hunger and poverty are the main hindrances to the national development.

He stressed the need for coordinated efforts to eradicate the two menaces.

The present government has given due importance to the agriculture sector of the country with a view to attaining self-sufficiency in foodgrain production, the state minister said.

The government has undertaken massive programme in agricultural sector and initiated canal digging programme in the country and we are getting positive results, Mannan said.

Among others, Parliament Member Abdur Rouf Chowdhury, Abdul Khaleque, Ahsanul Haque Mollah and Begum Selina Shahid also spoke on the occasion.



NATORE: The industrial estate here was set up 13 years back but not a single unit has yet been set up except the administrative building. — Star photo