

BAU to publish souvenir

From Our Correspondent
MYMENSINGH, Mar 11: The Vice-Chancellor of the Agriculture University has formed a high level committee to publish a souvenir depicting its 22 years history.

The souvenir will include the establishment background of the university, administration, activities of its six faculties, research, training and extension activities since its inception (1961-93), said an official source.

Those who are involved in education and research activities of the university from 1961-93 have been requested to send their articles to the member-secretary and director of the committee by March 31.

Body recovered, BCL leader beaten

NARSINGDI, Mar 11: Bhalrab railway police recovered a body from railway line inner signal point near the police camp last week, says UNB.

The victim was identified as Pazu Miah (45) of Daspara village of sadar thana.

Police suspected that he was killed by the assailants following a previous enmity. The body was sent to morgue for autopsy. A case has been filed.

Another message adds: A local student leader was injured seriously when a gang of terrorists beat him at Janata Bank square, CB road in the town on February 22.

The victim was identified as Shredam Saha, 23 an activist of Bangladesh Chhatra League (M-I).

According to witnesses, Shredam while returning home from the house of a party leader was attacked by the miscreants numbering 15 to 20 at night.

He was rushed to the sadar hospital in a critical condition.

98 rural development projects in progress

MAJDEE COURT (Noakhali), Mar 11: Work on at least 98 uplift projects in six thanas of the district under Food for Works Programme is progressing fast, says UNB.

According to official sources, a total of 1,548 metric tons of wheat have been allocated for the implementation of the projects.

Of the total quantity, 384,657 metric tons of wheat were allocated for 26 projects in sadar thana, 411 mts for 34 projects in Begumganj thana, 179 mts for nine projects in Senbag thana, 165,528 mts for 6 projects in Chalkhil, 186,013 mts for 11 projects in Companiganj thana and 251,915 mts for 12 projects in Hatia thana.

The projects include construction and reconstruction of roads, bridges, culverts in rural areas and earth filling of school premises, the sources added.

The work is expected to be completed by April next.

Nine die of diarrhoea

Mar 11: Diarrhoea claimed nine people including four children and attacked 500 in a week in seven village of two thanas, unofficial sources said, reports UNB.

However, district Health office sources confirmed three deaths and 47 other victims.

According to local people, the deceased were identified as Mottal Sheikh, 62, Harezan Bibi, 60, and Rafiqul Islam, 11, of Pachbahar village, Muhura 2, of Tebaria village, Khodeja Khatun, 24, of Charbari, Samu Kha, 65, of Barodhankhola of Vangura thana, Jitsh, 6, of Sonahara village, Monsur Sheikh, 42, of Parkokilpur and Habija, 1, of Bonwarinagar of Faridpur thana.

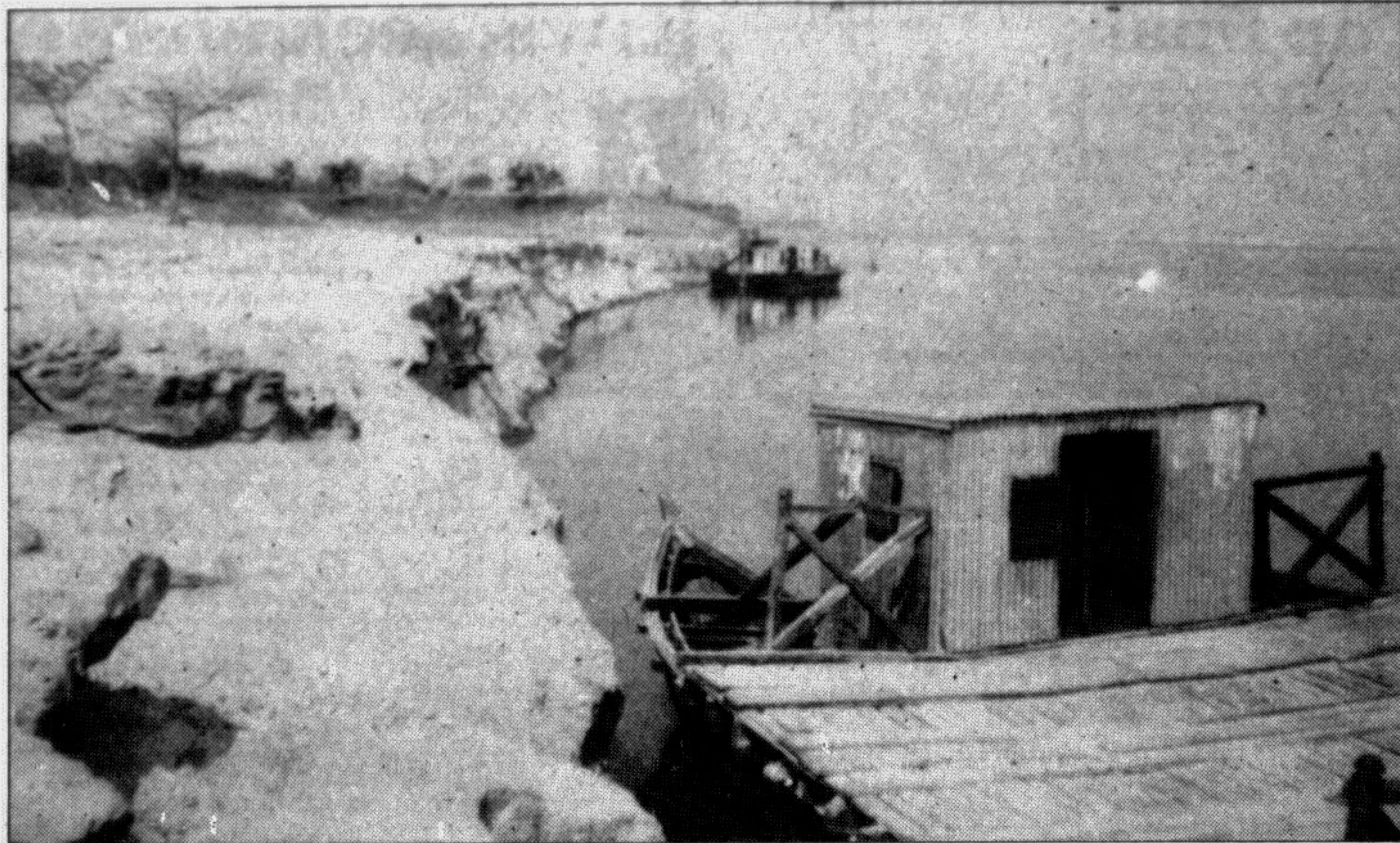
District Civil Surgeon said, paucity of pure water, consumption of adulterated food and malnutrition are the main causes for spreading the disease.

UP chairman arrested

DINAJPUR, Mar 11: Police after a pitched battle with the villagers managed to nab an UP chairman Monday for his alleged involvement with hijacking of a motor cycle, reports UNB.

According to police, they went to arrest the chairman of Mahmudpur Union Nayeb Ali on the basis of a confessional statement of an UP member Mahubur Rahman. He was earlier arrested for his involvement with the hijacking of the motor cycle.

Nayeb Ali's brother called the villagers to save his brother.



KURIGRAM: The erosion-hit Dharlaghat of the district.

— Star photo

New charlands hindering navigation, creating problems in carrying goods

From Our Correspondent

KURIGRAM, Mar 11: Emergence of charlands in 53-mile-long Dharla river route from Kurigram to Patgram is hindering the smooth movement of vessels causing much sufferings to businessmen in carrying merchandise and posing serious threat to irrigation over vast tract of land throughout the district.

During the dry season every year, the water level of the river falls abnormally hampering irrigation in about 75,000 acres of land.

Accumulated mud and sand carried by rain water from the hills and farmland pile up huge silt in the river and its tributaries.

Accumulated sand forming chars has meanwhile posed threat to 10,000 acres of land for cultivable in Kurigram, Patgram, Lalmonirhat, Fulbari thanas. Standing IRRI-Boro crops on about 50,000 acres of land have been facing serious irrigations crisis due to siltation.

Besides, about 10,000 acres of land in Kurigram sadar thana could not be cultivated

this year due to sharp fall in water level in the river.

It may be mentioned here that a programme for reexcavating the river was undertaken by the government, however, it was shelved for unknown reasons.

Another report adds: The town protection embankment of old Kurigram is being threatened by the erosion of the river Dharla.

It is learnt that the Dharla ghat road, which was constructed by a foreign organisation is also threatened due to Dharla erosion. About 500 erosion-hit families have taken shelter on the embankment near Dharlaghat. They have been living in great miseries for the last few years.

It is gathered that, government had taken a scheme, Secondary Town Integrated Flood Protection Project, (Kurigram Town Protection Prokalpa) aided by the Asian Development Bank with an allocation of Taka 15 crore in 1992-93 financial year. But the scheme could not be implemented due to the non ap-

pointment of a consultant for the purpose by the ministry concerned. The time period for the completion of the scheme was fixed within 1994-95.

In the meantime, one year has already lapsed. But, the Water Development Board, Kurigram spent only Taka three crore during 1992-93 for procuring related materials for the purpose. During the current financial year the government had allocated another six crore taka in the budget for the scheme. But the concerned ministry has not yet appointed any "consultant" for implementing the scheme. Due to this reason, the scheme could not be implemented, it is learnt.

Meanwhile, a press conference arranged by the "Kurigram Town Protection Sangram Committee" was held at the local pourashava campus demanding immediate start of the work. The conference was addressed by Kaziul Islam, poura chairman and convenor of the sangram committee and Abu Bakar Siddik, Omar

Farooque, Serajul Islam, convenors of the town protection sangram committee.

Frequent power failure

Kurigram town and its adjoining areas continued to experience load-shedding almost every day.

At night, all residential areas and shopping centres in the town and adjoining areas plunge into darkness for hours together while in the day, most of the small and medium industrial units remain closed due to loss of power causing a huge financial loss to entrepreneurs.

The domestic consumers suffer most fearing hijacking, theft and dacoity. The students are the worst sufferers.

It is a nightmarish experience when power supply fails giving rise to anti-social activities.

The press conference was also addressed by local Awami League leader Aman Ullah who criticised the role of local MPs who have failed to raise this issue in the parliament.

Power of love

BRAHMANBARIA, Mar 11: A furious lover stabbed one brother of his beloved to death and sent another brother to the hospital when they barred him to visit his beloved, says an UNB report.

According to police, Mosharraf was engaged as private tutor at Nurul Islam's house of village Chariahnira in Bancharampur thana some months back to coach his children. By this time the house tutor developed an affair with Yeasmin, 16, the younger sister of Nurul Islam.

When Nurul Islam came to know the matter he asked the tutor not to come to his house. At this, Mosharraf became angry and exchanged hot words with Nurul.

On February 28, Mosharraf again came to the house along with his two accomplices — Mohabat Ali and Pichu — picked up a quarrel with Nurul and his cousin Selim.

At one stage Mosharraf started stabbing both of them and injured them grievously.

4 killed in separate incidents

DINAJPUR, Mar 11: A beggar was run over by a minibus near Fulbari thana health complex on Dinajpur-Dhaka Highway Monday, reports UNB.

The beggar, identified as Naba, 40, died on the spot, when the Dhaka-bound minibus hit him from behind. He was crossing the road.

The body was sent to morgue for autopsy. Police seized the bus but the driver managed to escape. A case has been filed with the police.

Meanwhile, three people died in Chirribandar thana in separate incidents recently.

Mashur Ali, 13, son of Abdul Kader and Zahurul Haq, 28, son of Basir met the tragic end of their life. According to witnesses, the ill-fated two men while irrigating in the paddy field in the morning their scarps were wrapped up suddenly with the belt of the running shallow engine machine. They died on the spot.

In another incident, Rashida wife of Elahi Box of Bara Shamnagar, committed suicide by hanging from a tree, on February 18. Acute poverty was said to be the main reason behind the suicide.

Kushtia, a neglected town

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Mar 11: Kushtia district town has long been neglected by the pourashava authority.

Facilities at the town are minimum, say some inhabitants. Most of the roads are in very poor condition containing numerous cracks and open manholes. Besides, roads are comparatively narrow and poorly designed resulting in traffic jams. These roads are: S B Road, Palan Baksh Road, Mir Mosharraf Road and the road

linking G K Project. Few of these roads have been closed down for reconstruction work for quite a long time. It is alleged, Arjundas Agarwally Road has remained closed despite its connection with the highway affecting communication with other districts. The drains are in poor shape too. Except few most of the roadside drains remain blocked hindering water flow. This results in accumulation of stagnant dirty water encouraging breeding of mosquitoes. These drains are allegedly not cleaned or sprayed with chemicals to control mosquito growth.

Public latrines are few and those which in operation are not fit for use as the latrines remain uncleared, say some people.

Most of the tubewells at the town are lying out of order for which about 50 per cent inhabitants are compelled to collect water from the nearby ponds and canals. As a result, people have been suffering from intestinal disease. Markets on the other hand are always loaded with filth, garbage and are rarely cleaned causing serious inconveniences to both customers and sellers.

Int'l Women's Day observed

RAJBARI, Mar 11: International Women's Day was observed here by Bangladesh Association for Women's Right Implementation (AWRIB) on Tuesday, reports UNB.

Speakers at a discussion meeting underlined the need for a coordinated effort to maintain a consolidate the status of women in the society.

Among others, Deputy Commissioner of the Rajbari district Chowdhury Golam Mowla addressed the function. A colourful procession was also brought out by AWRIB in the town.

Private tuition now a profitable business

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, Mar 11: Private tuition has become a commercial practice at Chandpur town and other thanas of the district.

Teachers of both government and non-government schools and colleges are engaged in private tuition to earn extra money. Many guardians reported that teachers hardly teach the students sincerely in classes. So, the students find it difficult to understand their lessons taught in classes.

As a result, guardians are compelled to engage private tutors to get their words to be taught properly. Most of the students in primary, secondary schools and colleges usually employ their respective school teachers as house tutors to get goodmarks in the examination.

The guardians alleged that the private tutorial practice has become a professional business of the teachers. Science and English teachers

get a large number of students for coaching in batches. The teachers of commerce also coach the students in batches. Private coaching by teachers in batches start before and after school or college hours.

It is alleged during class hours some teachers coach the students. Many private coaching centres are found both in town and thanas. The number of coaching centres are increasing day by day.

Teachers are getting handsome amount for private coaching. Private coaching is being practice from class one to degree levels. Science students say that it has become impossible to do better results without the aid of private tutors. After school hours private coaching is started in every secondary high schools for the student who are appearing at the SSC examination. But coaching classes are not held properly.

District roundup

M'BAZAR

Krishi mela organised

From Our Correspondent
Mar 11: A three day long 'Krishi Mela' (Agriculture fair) was held at district Agriculture Extension Department (AED) office premises recently to create awareness about improved technologies among the farmers.

A total of 250 farmers from different thanas of the Moulvibazar district took part in the fair with their agricultural items.

Hari Pada Majumder, Acting Deputy Director of district AED told The Daily Star that the AED has decided to arrange the 'Krishi-Mela' at thana and district level across the country from this year. He said that this kind of 'Krishi mela' encourages farmers to learn about improved technologies. In this type of fairs, the farmers can see a wide range of appliances.

GAIBANDHA

Gang of dacoits caught red handed

From Our Correspondent
Mar 11: Police arrested food grain dealers Sukumer Shaha and one of his associates Jounal Abedin on charge of dacoity incident committed at Shibganj and Bhajanpur government food godowns under Thakurgaon and Panchagarh districts recently.

According to police, a gang of dacoits on February 9 robbed a government food godown at Shibganj under Thakurgaon district and took away 116 bags full of rice by a truck. After few days the said gang attempted to commit dacoity for the second time at Bhajanpur government food godown under Panchagarh district. They were caught red-handed by the local police and BDR personnel. Six miscreants were arrested by police.

According to the confession of Sukumer, police recovered 105 pieces of empty sealed bags of Shibganj food godown from the kitchen of one Manju Khushida Banu, a close associate of Sukumer.

It may be mentioned here that accused Sukumer Shaha was a government food dealer who was earlier involved in a food misappropriation case.

MYMENSINGH

Reunion of BAU's aged teachers, officers

From Our Correspondent

Mar 11: A two-day reunion was held at the Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) Club under the auspices of BAU Association for the Aged Teachers and Officers (AATO).

Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr Shah Muhammad Farouk was the chief while Professor Dr M A Hasnath presided over the function. Former Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr A K M Aminul Haque, Professor Dr Md Arshad Ali, Professor Dr A Salam Mia, Nabuddin Ahmed and others spoke on the occasion.

In his speech the Vice-Chancellor stressed the need for introducing various developmental programmes for the next generation from the Agricultural University.

Professor Dr M A Hasnath explained the aims and objectives, including future plans of the newly formed BAU Association for the Aged Teachers and Officers.

A sum of Taka fifty thousand donation was announced by Professor Dr A Salam Mia, a scientist of international institute AATO.

Later, the Vice-Chancellor and former Vice-Chancellor jointly inaugurated AATO office room at the BAU club building. Other programmes in the two days AATO reunion were: Commemorative lecture, cultural function and tree plantation at BAU campus.

NARSINGDI

Four guns recovered

Mar 11: Police recovered two SBB guns and two pipe guns from a house of West Kañdapara Mohallah in the town last week, says UNB.

Acting on secret information, a contingent of police led by ASP (Circle) Zainul Abedin raided the house of Bhanu Begum and recovered the arms from her bedroom.

Bhanu Begum said, a gang of miscreants kept the illegal arms in her bedroom forcibly. Police arrested Bhanu Begum. A case has been filed.

KUSHTIA

Khas land allottees not given document

From Our Correspondent
Mar 11: The landless people of Khoksa thana who were allotted khas land in five cluster villages were not provided with any allotment documents even after five years. It is reported some influential people have taken advantage of the situation and forcibly evicted some of those allottees. The poor allottees did not get any fruitful result by informing this to the concerned offices.

One hundred acres of khas land were given among 72 landless families from eight thanas. But the influential group of people have so far evicted 32 families forcibly and taken possession of 40 acres of land. The rest of the families residing in cluster villages, may be thrown out at any time since they do not possess any documents.

KHULNA

318 murdered in Khulna Division

Mar 11: At least 318 people were murdered in separate incidents during the month of January, '93 to February, '94 in ten districts of the Khulna division, police source said, reports UNB.

Family feud, dowry, dispute over land, business and shrimp culture and political rivalry were the main reasons behind the murders.

Of the victims, 28 people killed in Sadar, 39 in Bagerhat, 37 in Satkhira, 57 in Jessore, 52 in Jhenidah, 10 in Narail, 16 in Magura, 45 in Kushtia, 33 in Chuadanga and 11 in Meherpur.

Moreover, activities of the outlawed political parties have been geared up in the division and a number of people were killed by the activists, the sources added.

PABNA

Three held, huge arms, ammunition recovered

Mar 11: Three people were arrested in connection with different cases on Wednesday night from Kalachand area on the district, reports UNB.

The arrested people are: Tuhin, 25, Abul Hasem, 32, and Liton, 26.

Meanwhile, police recovered a huge quantity of fire arms from Sadar and Sujanagar thanas of the district during the last two days and six cases were lodged.

Police said during the raids they recovered two Indian revolvers, four pipeguns, two shutter guns, one cut rifle and three rounds of bullets.

MALDEECOURT

Hebron killings condemned

Mar 11: The members of the Noakhali Bar Association condemned the February 25 killing of 63 and injuring several hundred Palestinian Muslim devotees at Ibrahim Mosque in Hebron, reports UNB.

The Bar President Abul Kalam at a meeting held on Tuesday demanded security of the Palestinians and called upon the people of the world to rise up to support the just cause of the Palestinians who are fighting for self-rule for decades.

SATKHIRA

One awarded 10 years RI for dacoity

From Our Correspondent

Mar 11: A N M Bashir Ullah, Special Tribunal Judge, Satkhira, convicted Afsar Moral of village Goalchamat under Kachna thana of Bagerhat district on charge of dacoity and sentenced him to suffer 10 years RI recently.

The prosecution story is Ibrahim Gazi of village Gobindapur under Kaira thana after selling thread at Mahishkur bazar under Assassuni thana was returning home. When he reached Eksara village under the same thana, the said accused, Afsar stopped him and looted away all his belongings at gunpoint. On November 7, 1991 a case was lodged with Assassuni police station. Following investigation, police submitted charge sheet against him. The learned judge tried the case and found him guilty and awarded him the said punishment.



NATORE: The people of the district especially the children use charies, big earthen wares in fishing which is a common scene here.

— Star photo