

### 30 injured in Sirajganj clash

SIRAJGANJ, Mar 12: At least 30 people were injured, four seriously, in a clash between two rival groups at Moitrapbarahar village in Ullapara thana today, police said, reports UNB.

The clash ensued when a group of about 60 people armed with lethal weapons, led by Abdur Rauf Pannu and Abdul Haye, attacked Abdur Razzak's house this morning in a sequel to previous enmity over fishing in a pond, police said.

### Notes from Kishoreganj

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Mar 12: One person was killed in an accident at Gazaria on Kishoreganj-Bhairab Road recently. The victim was identified as Haj Md Rangun Miah of village Chhota Gazaria in Bajipur thana of the district.

Police sources said, a Dhaka-bound passenger bus knocked down him while he was crossing the road. He was immediately admitted into Bhagalpur Hospital where he died later on. A case was registered with Bajipur police station in this connection. The body was sent to Kishoreganj sader hospital for postmortem.

#### Annual sports

The annual sports competition of Tarail Pilot High School recently.

A M Towhidul Islam, TNO of Tarail and A K M Badruddoza, Principal, Tarail Mukti Joddha College attended the function as chief guest and special guest respectively. The sports competitions were divided into three groups. Md Omar Faruk became the champion in senior group. Anuha Akhtar, Khatun in intermediate group and Rubel in junior group. Later, prizes were distributed among the winners.

#### One killed by screants

One Saicu, 18, of village Ahaotargati under Nandail thana was killed by miscreants recently while he was returning home from Itna.

He came under attack by miscreants when he reached Khaliyan beel. He died on the spot. The body was sent to Kishoreganj sader hospital for autopsy and a case was filed with the Nandail police station in this connection.

#### One succumbs to injuries

Mastu Miah, 27, of village Rajanagar in Bhairab thana succumbed to his injuries at Dhaka Medical College Hospital recently.

Mastu Miah sustained injuries following an altercation between him and some of his neighbours on a trifling matter. The people belonging to opponent group threw a spear that pierced into his body. He was first admitted into Bhairab thana health complex from where he was removed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

A case has been recorded in this connection with Bhairab police station. None has been arrested so far.

#### Half-day hartal observed

Half-day hartal was observed at Kuliarchar Thana Headquarters in protest against the police assault on a SSC examinee recently.

A protest meeting was also held with Syed Hassan Sarwar in the chair. It was addressed, among others, by Syed Mohammed Musa, Md Ishaq Miah, Zillur Rahman and Gaisuddin.

The speakers alleged that Anwar Hossain, Sub-inspector of Police, Kuliarchar beat Zamam mercilessly. Later, he was taken into custody. Speakers demanded exemplary punishment to the police officials responsible for the incident.

#### Newsprint price up

Newsprint price in the greater Mymensingh district has again gone up inflicting sufferings on the publishers including newspaper owners.

According to reports, the paper is being sold at Tk 120 per ream as against Tk 80 last month. Students of the lower middle-class families were reported among the worst sufferers.

They said, crown size newsprint is being sold at Tk 360 per ream as against Tk 260 last month while foolscap paper at Tk 200 as against Tk 170 during the period.

#### One to die for murder

Abul Mansur, Additional Sessions Judge, First Court, Kishoreganj in a judgement delivered recently sentenced one Suruj Ali of village Kilpur under Bhairab thana of the district to death by hanging on charge of killing one Alaudin of the same village. Suruj Ali was tried in absentia as he had absconded.



SYLHET: Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda speaking as chief guest on concluding day of two-day-long function arranged on the occasions of 15th founding anniversary of Sylhet Cadet College held here recently. — Star photo

## One lakh educated youths in Kurigram now jobless

From Our Correspondent

KURIGRAM, Mar 12: Unemployment has been gradually increasing in the district causing concern among the people.

According to a recent report, about two lakh out of total 11 lakh people of the district are unemployed. Of whom, 50 per cent are educated with minimum qualification of SSC, 10 per cent are Master Degree holders, 15 per cent are graduates and 25 per cent are HSC and SSC pass. All of them coming from lower middle class and middle class families and they are passing hard days.

About 2000 Master Degree holders, graduates and intermediate pass candidates were absorbed in government health services, government primary and secondary schools, government colleges and other government services recently and more one lakh in 9 thanas of the district remained unemployed.

The post in government services, banks and private organisations lying vacant are very limited while private college and schools can accommodate a few persons.

There is no big mill factory and firms in the district except a lone textile mills at Kurigram sader thana.

The milad mahfil, arranged by Mukti Joddha Sangsad, Kurigram zila unit, seeking "magferat" for the departed souls of late Abdul Quddus Makhan, an organiser of Mukti Joddha, late Mahfuzar Rahman, ex-chairman of Bangladesh Mukti Joddha Sangsad, Central Command Council and late Abdul Latif, ex-Deputy Commander, Fulbari thana command (Kurigram), was held recently at the premises of Kurigram Zila Mukti Joddha Sangsad.

The milad mahfil was con-

ducted by Moulana Mozammel Haque, Principal, Kurigram Senior Madrasa.

The milad mahfil was attended by local freedom fighters, government officials, elite, journalists, political leaders including Aman Ukil (AL), Advocate, Samsuddin (BNP), Advocate and Aminul Islam (BSD).

Serajul Islam, Commander of the district unit of Mukti Joddha Sangsad, welcomed all the invitees.

It was rounded off with an iftar party.

#### Krishi mela

A three-day krishi mela held under the auspices of District Agriculture Extension Department at the "Khamarbari" complex concluded.

In the exhibition several stalls were set up with notable exhibits agricultural production, pisciculture, handicrafts, horticulture, livestock and modern agricultural equipment.

Farmers from nine thanas of the district including cross section of people visited the exhibition.

The exhibition was formally inaugurated by Abdur Rouf, Director, Agriculture Extension Directorate.

On the concluding day, Tarik Hasan, Deputy Director, Agriculture Extension Department, Kurigram, distributed prizes among the participants of the exhibition.

## More 45,000 hectares of land in Magura to get irrigation facility

MAGURA, Mar 11: The work on Modhumati-Nabaganja Irrigation Project at the cost of Tk 64 crore will be completed by the end of this year, reports UNB.

Over 45,000 hectares of the district and its adjacent areas will be brought under irrigation programme, after completion of the project.

State Minister for Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Mosharrif Hossain Shahjahan directed the concerned officials to com-

plete the work of the project on schedule while visiting the Modhumati-Nabaganja project site Thursday.

Later, the State Minister visited the under construction Sreepur-Khamarpura bridge at a cost of Tk 1.60 crore over river Kumar.

The work of the bridge is expected to be completed by June this year, said a press release.

Another report says: Agriculture and Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Minister said present government has undertaken massive programmes to alleviate poverty from rural areas of the country.

The Minister Maj Gen (Retd) M Majid-Ul-Haq was addressing as chief guest in the regional conference of "Shanirvar Bangladesh", an NGO at the Primary Teachers' Institute premises of the district Tuesday, said an official handout.

The minister said only the government support is not enough for total development of the condition of our rural people. Non-government organisation can play important and exemplary role in overall socio-economic uplift of the country, he said.

All field workers and officials of Shanirvar Bangladesh of the Magura and Narail districts attended the day-long conference.

### 200-yr-old antiques recovered

JAMALPUR, Mar 12: Some 200 years old valuable antiques were recovered from a hill at Dakpara village in Sadar thana last week, says UNB.

The antiques include 2.5 kgs of gold, ornaments and a huge quantity of ancient coins.

Witnesses said Fazal Ali, son of Jasim Uddin of the village, recovered the valuables from a pot on March 2 while he was leveling a nearby hill.

Villagers urged the concerned authorities to take step to preserve the antiques.

## Shortage of bullock

## Cultivation severely affected

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Mar 12: Cultivation of Irri-Boro is being hampered greatly due to acute shortage of bullock in all the four districts of greater Sylhet region for the last few years.

According to sources, more than 50 per cent families have no bullock for tilling their land for cultivation in this region. Consequently, cultivable land remain fallow every year. Most of the farmers carry on their agricultural works on share basis. They can not afford to purchase bullock or cow due to the abnormal rise in the prices of those bullock.

At present, a pair of bullocks cost Tk 6,000 to 9,000 or more at different markets. For this, the farmers often have to hire bullock for cultivating their lands.

Sometimes, they have to till their lands with spades. Many of them are also seen to use milch cows to cultivate the lands.

Police suspected her to be a member of a gang which manufactures arms.

According to a survey, every

year, it is also alleged that, a section of people are found poisoning cattleheads in different areas of the region only to collect skins of the animal.

On the other hand, slaughtering of bullock has increased to a great extent following scarcity of fish in the region. Epidemic of diseases also have claimed heavy toll on cattleheads.

Acute shortage of necessary staff and medicines in the government veterinary hospitals is a regular feature especially in the rural areas. Scarcity of fodder in different areas is also prevailing. As a result, the poor and middle class farmers are selling bullocks at cheaper rates.

Taking advantage of the situation, a section of the cow traders are purchasing hundreds of cows from the farmers.

If the trend continues cultivation of crops would be seriously affected, it is expected.

## Business centre lacks civic amenities

SREEPUR, Mar 12: Sreepur thana, an important business centre in the Gazipur district, lacks civic amenities, hampering the overall development of the area, reports UNB.

Absence of proper drainage system and recreational facilities, paucity of drinking water, inadequate street lighting and deplorable condition of roads are among the common features of the town.

Town residents said due to lack of smooth drainage system there is always stagnant water in the town areas, most of which remain submerged during the rainy season.

Frequent power failure and voltage fluctuation has become a regular feature which hinders production in the commercial enterprises.

There is hardly any light on the streets. As a result, the town is plunged in darkness at night.

Shortage of pure drinking water is acute in the town as it has no water supply system. About 30 per cent people drink water from the tube wells while the rest use water from ponds, beel and rivers.

The roads of the town badly need repairing and reconstruction as several breaches and cracks have developed at many points which hamper traffic movements.

Mosquito menace has added to the already tedious town life. Lack of adequate conservancy services, silted drains, derelict ponds and garbage, dumped on roadsides, are the ideal places for breeding of mosquitoes.

Shortage of teachers and educational apparatus are also causing hindrance in smoothly running of two high schools, one college and four primary schools in the town.

River erosion is also causing alarm to the town people. The river Shetakha continues to erode the nearby Barmy Bazar in the thana and other adjoining rural areas, devouring huge property.

Local leaders have urged the concerned authorities to look into the problems and take remedial measures for making the centre a prosperous business area.

A total of 56 headmasters and headmistresses of Mymensingh zilla school recently participated in the workshop.

Organised by the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) the workshop was inaugurated by professor Muhammad Salihuddin, Principal T-T College, Mymensingh. Professor Md Abdul Mannan, consultant and Md Samiur Rahman specialist, NCTB were present as resource persons.

According to witnesses, most of the village markets established by local initiatives have not been expanded proportionately with the growth of population of the locality.

Villagers said, markets lack drainage facilities. Besides, consumers have facing multifarious problems due to lack of latrines and urinals, toilets and absence of drinking water supply facilities.

The situation worsens during the rainy season. After a slight rainfall most of the roads of the hats and bazaars go under water causing problems to pedestrians.

Faths and garbages are dumped emitting bad odour and polluting the environment.

Moreover, different commodities are being sold in the congested spaces causing difficulties to both sellers and buyers.

Lack of drinking water facilities in another problem.

Local people urged the authorities to look into the matter and take necessary steps to renovate the hats and bazaars for the interest of the buyers and sellers.

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