Tk 1.35 lakh fine collected from brickfield owners

From Our Correspondent SIRAJGANJ, Mar 18: Month long mobile court in the district led by Magistrate Abdul Majid have collected fine amounting to Taka 1,35,000 and lodged five cases against the brickfield owners for violating laws by using firewoods

It is gathered that the mobile court have seized 200 maunds of firewood from different brick fields and realised the fine.

in the kilns.

Following action of the mobile court, the brickfield owners of the district are still seen using firewood in the kilns.

Petroleum supply position satisfactory

PABNA, Mar 18: The demand and supply position of petroleum and petroleum products all over the country including the western zone is satisfactory. It was stated here on Thursday. reports BSS.

Chairman of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) M Fazlul Hoq said this during a visit to the floating barges at Nagarbari, Pabna after reviewing the overall demand and supply position of petroleum fuel in the region. He held a meeting with the regional managers and the field level marketing officers of BPC, an official handout said.

Three floating barges with a combined capacity of eleven lakh litres of diesel have been installed by the BPC in January this year to cope with increased demand of fuel during the ongoing irrigation season in the northern region.

During the meeting it was noted with great satisfaction that the demand and supply situation of petroleum fuel in the region and also all over the country is completely normal, the handout said

It was further stated that the country has sufficient stock of petroleum fuel to cope with any emergency and abnormal situa-

Apart from commissioning some floating depots and barges in different parts of the country to keep the supply of petroleum products steady and normal during dry season, the government has also taken other measures like installation of railhead depot at Santahar which will be opened on Friday, the handout added.

The BPC Chairman asked the officials to constantly monitor and supervise demand and supply position to keep the overall situation normal.

Cultivation of local varieties of paddy decreases

NARAIL, Mar 18: With the introduction of IRRI-Boro, the cultivation of local varieties of paddy is decreasing day by day in the district, reports UNB.

Different local varieties of paddy such as Panisail. Binipakri, Kalijira, Khirshabhog, Bhajankalpa, Digha Kaili, Gourkajal, Baupagla. Sada Aus and Kalamanik used to be cultivated on vast acres of land. After the harvesting of those varieties the farmers used to procure sufficient straws for use as fodder.

Moreover, the farmers adequately used to cultivate Khesari. Masur and other pulses and their cattle never faced shortage of grasses and milk production was also suffi-

According to a recent survey. local varieties of paddy are now being cultivated on about 50,000 acres of land in the district which was 1,15,000 acres

during the previous years. But with the change of crop pattern particularly growing of IRRI-Boro in the recent years the traditional varieties have almost disappeared.. As a result, fodder crisis has turned acute and a large number of cattle have been suffering from malnutrition.

Besides, the farmers alleged that production cost of IRRI-Boro has increased day by day due to price hike of agricultural inputs over the years.

Mujib's birth anniversary

Observed
JAMALPUR, Mar 18: The 74th birth anniversary of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was observed here on Thursday, reports UNB.

District Awami League organised an art and poetry recitation competition at the lo cal Shahid Minar premises to

mark the day. Farrokh Ahmed Chowdhury. Convenor of the district Bangabandhu Birth Anniversary Organising Committee, presided over the function while Prof Salahuddin was present as

chief guest. Hundreds of children took part in the competition.



people irrespective of sex and

age have flooded the open

than 5000 men, women and

children from village areas

have rushed towards Siraigani

town and have taken shelter in

open spaces like railway sta-

tion, collectorate premises

bus terminal, launch ghat and

the Shishu Park. At daytime

they remain engaged in various

manual jobs including porter.

rickshaw puller, maid servant

and temporary labourers and at

A considerable 'number of

The floating people are

floating women are found as

mostly the victims of erosion

and have come from Kasipur,

Belkuchi, Chowhali and

Shahzadpur thana areas after

being rendered homeless by

devastating erosion of the.

people, civic life of the town

is disturbed. Knowledgeable

sources have opined schemed

rehabilitation of the floating

people to save the society from

shortage of bullock has been

prevailing in all the 13 thanas

of the district for the last six

than 75 per cent families have

no bullock of their own to till

the land. Consequently a con-

siderable area of lands remain

uncultivated every year. Most

of the farmers carry on tilling

their land on share basis as

hey are unable to purchase

bullock and cows due to the

is sold between Taka 12,000

take heavy toll on the cattle-

head every year. Natural

calamities also take lives of the

bullocks. Moreover, a large

number of cattlehead die due

to floods. On the other hand,

slaughtering of bullock has in-

creased to a great extent fol-

lowing the scarcity of fish in

the markets. Epidemics on the other

hand take heavy toll of cattle.

The disease cannot be eradi-

cated due to the miserable

condition of the veterinary

hospitals were acute scarcity of

medicine is a common feature.

At present a pair of bullock

Besides various diseases

sharp rise in their prices.

and Taka 16,000.

According to sources, more

years hampering cultivation.

Due to on rush of floating

night take shelter in the se-

lected areas under open sky.

gay girls.

It is gathered that more

spaces of Sirajganj town.

Emergence of shoals on,

navigation threatened

From Our Correspondent

channels at newly shifted ferry

ghat at Nagarbari has also nar-

rowed by a great extent. The

big ferries can not take easy

turns. The entrance towards

Baghabari Port in Shahzadpur

thana is about to be opened by

dredging but heavy siltation of

the river is hindering dredging

work. The channel dredged

during day time is found filled

up by sand on the next day.

Such situation is also observed

during dredging at Doulatdia

charlands in these river

coutes, navigation is greatly

hampered every year during

the dry reason. The channels

of the rivers of Brahamaputra,

Jamuna, Dhaleswari and Padma

basins create problems in ply-

ing of navigational traffic

routes including railway ferry.

ferryboats, cargo launches, mo-

Transport Authority (BIWTA)

have expressed hope of im-

proving the situation during

of floating people have been

creating hazards at Sirajganj

town. Thousands of floating

One to suffer 10 years RI

for carrying illegal arms

From Our Correspondent

School committed suicide by

Shymal Roy. Headmaster of

Katiadi Adarsha Bidya Niketan

a vear ago. Her husband went

to Singapore for earning after

the marriage and since then

Shymal did not make any con-

incident. Soma went to the lo-

cal Shaheed Minar with other

students and placed floral

wreaths. After returning home

A UD case was registered

Meanwhile, property worth

with Katiadi police station in

about Tk one lakh was burnt to

ashes in a fire that broke out in

village Kachuri under Nandail

fire originated from a cowshed

and gutted four houses includ-

ing the household articles of

two families. Three goats were

also burnt alive. The villagers

later brought the fire under

Another report

Kishoregani adds

control after fighting about two

from

Acute

According to reports, the

In the morning of the day of

Some was married to one

taking poison recently.

tact with his wife.

she swallowed poison.

this connection.

thana recently.

hours.

the coming season.

Bangladesh Inland Water

Another report says: Influx

tor launches and oil tankers.

Following emergence of

ghat in Rajbari district.

SIRAJGANJ, Mar 18:

Emergence of charlands in the

Brahmaputra, Jamuna, Padma

and Dhaleswari basins is

threatening navigation in vast

river route from Doikhawa

(Kurigram) to Doulatdia

Plying of Ro-Ro ferries at

It is gathered that during

dry reason, with the fall in

water level of the rivers

Brahmaputra. Jamuna

Dhaleswari and Padma, about

5000 small and big charlands

(shoals) emerge in the 135-

mile-long river route from

Kurigram to Rajbari districts.

The number of the shoals are

increasing day by day. The

channels of Sirajganj.

Jagannathgani have also dried

up threatening railway ferry

services for last few months.

However, ferry service in

Sirajganj-Bhuapur route re-

sumed only a few days back

after remaining closed for last

three months. Depth of water

at Nagarbari and Aricha have

fallen nine to eleven feet.

Smooth plying of ferry boat's

has been threatened. The

KISHOREGANJ, Mar 18:

Iktedar Ahmed, Special Trib-

unal and Additional Sessions

Judge Second Court, Kisho-

reganj in a judgement de-

livered recently convicted one

Monir of village Dumrakanda in

Kuliarchar thana and sen-

tenced him to suffer RI for 10

years on charge of possessing

According to the prosecu-

tion, in the morning of Dece-

mber 23, 1991, Kuliarchar

police chased a gang of dacoits

who were preparing them-

selves for committing dacoity

on Bishwa Road near Dumr-

catching hold of one of the da-

coits named Monir along with

one cut-rifle. A case was regis-

tered with the Kuliarchar

Police Station in this connec-

tion and after investigation

submitted charge-sheet against

the evidences and witnesses

awarded the accused the

Another report says: Soma

Rani Roy, 16, a student of Class

VIII of Katiadi Pilot Girls' High

aforesaid punishment.

The judge after examining

The police succeeded in

illegal arms.

akanda bazar.

Nagarbari-Aricha route has also

endangered become risky.

by the BNP government.

Hospital, health centres need development

COX'S BAZAR, Mar 18: The Sadar hospital of Cox's Bazar and thana health complexes of the district have been plagued with multiple problems due to absence of necessary facilities causing immense sufferings to the patients. Treatment is hampered due to absence of Medical

officers and nursing staff. According to sources, Tk 27 lakh as annual allocation for medicare is quite inadequate to meet the requirement of about 14 lakh population of the district. The average medicare allocation for a people of the district is only Tk two. One doctor is appointed for every seven

The source mentioned that a

The 50-bed Sadar hospital is unable to extend the minimum services to the patients who come to the hospital. No renovation or repair work has been done of the hospital building though it is essential.

The diet supplied to the pa tients is also not up to the standard. Many patients coming from far-flung areas everynecessary medicines.

thana health complexes are quite not satisfactory. The indoor patients are being treated in all the 6 thana health complexes in an unhygienic condition. Number of beds in each thana health complexes is only 31 and Sadar thana health office have no treatment facility.

health sub-centres at union level under civil surgeon. Scarcity of medicine in those sub-eentres has posed a great problem. As a result, poor patients have been suffering a lot. They are unable to purchase medicine at an exorbitant prices from the open market. There is no X-ray machine in

day with the hope of proper of for want of accommodation.

thousand people of the district.

total of seven to eight hundred indoor patients and about 50 thousand outdoor patients is treated in all the hospitals, clinics and thana health complexes of the district every months.

Treatment facilities in the

Cox's Bazar district has 15

Moheskhali health complex.

The existing bed of the Sadar hospital and thana health complexes can meet only 40 per cent requirement of the patients seeking admission. On the other hand, campus and wards of Cox's Bazar-sadar hospital remain very dirty-emitting bad odour all the time. Dogs and cats move freely in the wards round the clock.

From Our Correspondent

treatment go back disappointed Due to shortage of drugs, the patients are not provided with

BNP workers

asked to increase

organisational

activities

Affairs Minister Mirza Gholam

Hafiz has called upon the BNP workers to strengthen organisa-

tional activities in grass-roots

level for materialising its objec-

tives and ideals, reports UNB. It's necessary to reorganise

the party in all spheres for

creating dynamism in the or-

ganisation, the Law Minister

said while addressing a meeting

of the BNP Panchagarh district

unit and its front organisations

at the district auditorium on

created wave of development in

almost every sector, Mirza Hafiz

said adding that it was the re-

sponsibility of the party workers

to reach the fruits of govern-

meeting at Magura High School

premises of the district, Mirza

Hafiz called upon the people not

to be misled by the propaganda

being spread by a vested quar-

ter and urged them to sponta-

neously participate in the de-

velopment programmes initiated

Later, addressing a public

ment's success in rural areas.

The present government has

Thursday.

PANCHAGARH, Mar 18: Law. Justice and Parliamentary NARAIL

reports UNB.

in these roads.

cent flood.

pitiable condition.

NAOGAON

reports UNB.

rural markets.

Most roads,

bridges, culverts

in bad condition

roads, bridges and culverts of

the district are now in a de-

constructed either during the

British or the Pakistan periods.

But due to lack of proper de-

system for several decades.

these have become unfit for

use. Innumerable holes and

deep breaches have developed

adequate fund had not been

allocated during the last finan-cial year to develop the roads

There are 70 miles of

roads, 28 culverts under Narail

Zila Parishad of them two cul-

verts on Narali-Gobra, one

each culvert on Lohuria-

Lohajara, Gobra-Phultala and

Lohagara-Mahjan roads have

been fully damaged by the re-

Baranal Road, Narail-Magura

Road, Narail-Mulia and Narail-

Ghorakhali roads are also in a

cerned authorities to repair

the damaged roads, bridges

and culverts immediately to

Hats, bazars

need development

bazars in all the 11 thanas are

sence of proper maintenance

causing great inconvenience to

both the sellers and buyers,

The shopkeepers and

traders alleged that they have

been paying enhance taxes and

tolls to the authorities and lo-

cal leaseholders but no at-

tempt has been taken for ex-

tension or development of the

in population and business ac-

tivities, the hats and bazars

which had ben set up by local

initiative fail to meet the min-

imum needs of traders, it is al-

vendor, sanitation, proper

drainage system, water supply

and sewerage are stated to be

problems common to all the

hats and bazars of these thanas

and urinals compel the people

to defecate in the open space

polluting the environment, lo-

concerned authorities to take

necessary steps for extension

and development of these hats

3 members of

a family killed

in road mishap

killed and six others injured in

a head-on collision between a

car and bus on Tuesday at

Kazirhat, five kms from here,

occurred on the Dhaka-

Chittagong highway when a

wheel of the car got detached

and it collided head-on with

the bus coming from opposi-

bers of a single family. They

were returning to Chittagong

by the car after attending a

marriage ceremony in

Tarit Kanti Chowdhury (60).

The injured — Nina Barua,

Lina Barua, Chandra Barua,

Shourav Barua, Sagarika Barua

and Sumishti Barua - were

admitted to Feni Sadar

Hospital where the condition

of Nina was stated to be criti-

Smriti Parishad

tormed

Mar 18: A 101-member

Abdul Kuddus Makhan Smriti

Parishad" was formed here re-

cently with Faruq Ahmed

Chowdhury and Amanul Huq

Sentu as its President and

Secretary respectively, reports

The committee was formed

BRAHMANBARIA

All the victims were mem-

Police said, the accident

Mar 18: Three people were

and bazars immediately.

cal people alleged.

FENI

reports UNB.

tion direction.

Noakhali.

Absence of sanitary, latrines

Local leaders urged the

Lack of space for shops and

Besides, with the increase

in deplorable condition in ab-

Mar 18: About 300 hats and

mitigate their sufferings.

Local people urged the con-

Bordia-Gazirhat Road, Kalia-

under the Zila Parishad.

Local people alleged that

velopment and maintenance

Mar 18: Almost all the

JP for holding polls under caretaker govt

CHANDPUR, Mar 18: Jativa Party Acting Chairman Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury Wed nesday charged the ruling party with rigging the city corporation elections and reiterated the JP demand for holding future polls under caretaker government, reports

"Jatiya Party didn't get exact results in 403 centres of the recently-held Dhaka City Corporation election... the government rigged the polls," the JP leader said while addressing a gathering at Balakhal High School premises, some . 18 km east of Chandpur town.

Presided over by Hajiganj thana JP president Dr Abdus Sattar, it was addressed, among others, by party leaders Major General (Retd) M. Shamsul Hug, Col (Retd) M A Malek, Whip Manirul Huq Chowdhury, Begum Razia Faiz, Harun-Al Rashid, Abu Taher Dulal an Jahangir Alam Pradhan.

"We don't want anymore election under ruling party ... it must be held under a caretaker government," he said, adding other opposition parties are also echoing the de-The JP Chairman said be-

fore the 1991 parliamentary elections, the ruling party had made lofty promises, many of which were not yet fulfilled.

The BNP government has not scrapped the Special Powers Act, but enacted a black law, the Anti-terrorism Act, to hook the opposition, he

The BNP promised jobs to one crore people, but it is now retrenching thousands of government officials and employees, he added.

Three youths held with arms

COMILLA, Mar 18: Three youths were arrested with arms from the premises of Tarashail High School in Chauddagram thana, police said on Wednesday, reports UNB.

Witnesses said, the youths were loitering suspiciously and at one stage one of them stopped Nasrin Akhter, student of class nine while she was going to the school and tried to hand over her a love-letter last

When refused to accept the letter one of the youths drew a pistol and threatened her for dire consequences.

Dredging of five rivers

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Mar 18: Dredging of the rivers Mohananda, Padma, Punarvaba problem. and Pagla in the district has become essential to ensure smooth playing of vessels and boost agri-production during

In the monsoon the water of these four rivers usually overflow the banks and inundate the low-lying areas of the district due to siltation in the river bed and overflow of water from upper riparian.

the dry season, reports UNB.

But all these rivers almost dry up in the dry season disrupting navigation and hampering the irrigation system.

Local farmers said they are facing manifold problems due to shortage of water adding that production comes down during the dry season causing economic hardships. They also said, these rivers once consid-

now essential ered as the blessings of the district have now become the

Another report says: Bidis are being sold without bandrolls in all the five thanas of the district depriving the government of huge revenue.

According to a reliable source, most of the bidi factory owners in connivance with some dishonest officials are selling bidis without bandroll in

at a meeting at the local Shilpakala Academy with a Locar pusinessmen informed view to preserving the memothat consumption of bidi have ries of the late students leader been increased in recent years who was one of the organisers due to rise in the prices of the of the country's War of different brands of cigarettes. Liberation.

The meeting was presided ing forged bandrolls. Samad

District roundup

MYMENSINGH

Minister visits rice markets

Mar 18: Food Minister Mir Shawkat Ali on Saturday visited different rice markets of Mymensingh and Netrakona

districts to see the price situaplorable condition which caustion of rice there, reports BSS. Food Minister found that ing great inconveniences to IRRI rice was being sold at Tk the people and traffic system. 11 to 11.50 per kg in These roads with the Mymensingh and at Tk 11 per bridges and culverts were

kg at Netrakona. Mir Shawkat talked to the people and came to know that price of rice is within their purchasing capacity.

The Food Minister also talked to the rice producers on his way from Mymensingh to Netrakona. Producers told the Food Minister that production in the coming season will increase since they are getting incentive price of their produces.

He also met the local BNP leaders at Netrakona Circuit House and discussed with them organisational matters.

PANCHAGARH

Govt extending educational facilities

Mar 18: Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar said here on Saturday that the BNP government has laid utmost emphasis on building educational infrastructures so that the students could get facility of acquiring academic knowledge properly, reports

He was addressing a function here at Mokbula Rahman Women's College while inaugurating the newly-built science building of the college.

The Facilities Department has constructed the threestoried building at a cost of about Tk 50 lakh. The minister said, compre-

hensive steps had been undertaken to facilitate secondary and higher education along with spreading primary education. In this context, he said National University, Open University and private universities had been set up to spread higher education through eliminating session

The Education Minister later inaugurated Raynagar Girls' School and Gohiman Nesa Madrasha and laid foundation stone River View School and academic building of Tunirhat Kazal Dighi School.

SYLHET

Dacoits loot valuables

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Mar 18: Armed dacoits looted valuables and cash including foreign currency worth about Tk two lakh from a passenger on Friday night at Tola Haor of Sylhet Sadar.

Golam Rabbani of village Umairgaon reached Sylhet on Friday from Jeddah, while he was on his way home was attacked by a gang of 10 to 12 dacoits armed with deadly weapons. They snatched away the belongings including clothes, valuables, passport (No J-398030) return ticket and other travel documents from Golam Rabbani. The dacoits also gave them a good beating. The incident took place at about 10:00 pm on Friday.

The victims were given first A case has been registered

in this connection with Sylhet kotwali police.

COMILLA

Relatives receive The dead were identified as accident victims his son Sajal Kanti Chowdhury and grand daughter Tina Barua bodies

.Mar 18: Bodies of 11 out of 15 victims of Sunday's accident at Poduarbazar in Kotwali thana in Comilla district were handed over to their relatives early Monday, officials said on Tuesday, reports UNB.

At least 15 people were killed and about 100 injured when a Chittagong-bound bus from Dhaka was hit by a Chandpur-bound train at Podurbazar levelcrossing on Sunday morning.

Nine of the dead were identified as: Md Karimul Haque Majumder (52). Monsur Ahmed Patwari (22). Shamim Ara Begum (35) and Soma (14) of Chhagalnaiya thana and Md Shahadat Ullah of Sadar thana in Feni district, bus driver Bashir Ahmed (22) and his helper Alamgir Majumder (24) of Choddagram thana in Comilia district, Abul Bashar (32) and Mominul Haque (35)

Noakhali district. Twenty-nine people, who were admitted to Comilla General Hospital in critical condition, were reported to be

improving.

of Companiganj thana in

over by district NAP (M) President Advocate Abdus

MYMENSINGH: The students of BAU brought out a colourful procession on the occasion of silver jubilee of the Faculty of Fisheries of the university. - Star photo

They urged the authorities to take immediate steps to dredge

the open market.

It is often found that owners of the bidi factories are supplying their products in the markets without bandroll or by us-