

**Goalpara power centre faces closure, urgent repairing needed**

**KHULNA, Feb 18:** Goalpara electricity producing centre which covers 19 districts of the southern region has been facing closure due to want of necessary overhauling, says UNB.

According to Power Development Board (PDB), the centre, which once produced 110 megawatt power under its six units, is now producing only 30 to 40 megawatt power.

Of the total units, one unit has been closed and another two are facing closure as production has come down due to lack of timely repair and maintenance.

An official said the Goalpara centre can be run for several decades if the repair work is done properly. The centre needs more than two months for its renovation work, but due to want of fund half-hearted work is done to somehow make the centre operative, he added.

Meanwhile, load-shedding has become a common phenomenon in the area causing untold suffering to the people in the current month of holy Ramadan.

**40 held on various charges**

**From Staff Correspondent**  
**BARISAL, Feb 18:** Barisal and Jhalakati police arrested 40 persons on various charges including 12 Sarbaharamen from Babuganj of Barisal and sadar thana area of Jhalakati districts during last three days.

Sarbahara are Jahangir Alam, Sahajahan, Abu Bakar Siddique, Shymal Das, Chandu Khan, Abdul Hakim, Ainal Haq, S Mujahidul Islam, Yusuf Ali, Sukharajan, Sahajahan Hawlader and Sukkur Jamader, police said.

Police is conducting special operation from February 10 to curb the activities of terrorists and the Sarbaharamen in six southern districts under Barisal division. Operation is still continuing.

Another report says: One Monoara Begum, 30, of Gabindapur village under Hizla thana of Barisal district has become a victim of dowry as she was beaten mercilessly by her husband, a rickshawpuller.

Married Monowara about ten years ago and for the last six years her husband has been demanding five thousand taka as dowry to his father-in-law to buy a rickshaw but at last he was refused. Following refusal angry husband beat Monowara in humanly.

Monowara was admitted to Barisal medical college hospital from where she was taken out by the man of her husband and beaten again. Later she was rescued by her relatives and admitted into Jhalakati sadar hospital with critical condition.

**Government primary schools in Moulvibazar facing set-backs**

**MOULVI BAZAR, Feb 18:** About two lakh 30 thousand 249 sets of text books have already been distributed free of cost among the students of primary schools in Moulvibazar district recently.

According to the District Primary Education Officer (DPEO), 63,700 sets of books were distributed for class one students, 57,900 sets for class II, 43,200 sets for class III, 38,288 sets for class IV and 27,161 sets of books were distributed for class V students under the Universal Primary Education Programme.

The DPEO Moulvibazar also added that, of the total distributed books, 36,338 sets were distributed in the primary schools of sadar thana, 34,759 sets in Baralekha thana.

**From Our Correspondent**

53375 sets in Kulaura thana, 25195 sets in Rajnagar thana, 41033 sets in Kamalgonj thana and 39549 sets were distributed in Srimongal thana.

On the other hand, it is gathered that the Compulsory Primary Education Programme (CPEP) in the district has been facing setback for want of teachers, dilapidated condition of school buildings and acute scarcity of furniture.

According to the official source, there are 693 government primary schools, 110 registered non-government primary schools and 95 unregistered non-government primary schools in the six thanas of the Moulvibazar district.

The total number of students is 178,640 and another 44,547 children remain out of

education facilities. It is alleged that most of the schools especially in rural areas enlisted fake names of students in their registered books and has also been given percentage of presence of such fake students. But real situation is quite different. The school teachers have been doing this only for showing CPEP a success one to the authority. The thana assistant primary education officers, most of whom had promoted this post from senior primary teachers and working at field level to monitor the activities of primary schools has been usually overlooking this.

Besides this in the rural areas, some of the government primary schools are running with 6 to 7 teachers. But another schools are running with only two to three teachers for 300 students of five different classes.

It is gathered that in 1983-84 financial year five school buildings of five government primary schools under Rajnagar thana was taken up for construction and the work was also started. But within few days contractors of these school buildings had withdrawn all the payments from the authority illegally and left from the construction site. And these school buildings till now remain incomplete. The schools are Janu, Bhejbal, Chotigaon and Kamalpur Government Primary Schools under Rajnagar thana.

It is also informed that teachers in many cases do not attend schools and some attend for only few hours.

The guardians have urged the concerned authorities to take necessary steps to mitigate the sufferings and make the compulsory primary education programme a success.

**In northern dists Oral saline distribution programme geared up**

**From Our Correspondent**

**RANGPUR, Feb 18:** To check diarrhoeal diseases, the health department has geared-up distribution of oral saline at free of cost all over 16 districts in the northern part of the country.

During the last one year from January to December, about 80 lakh packets of oral saline produced at local 'oral saline distribution and production project' has been distributed in these districts.

Situated at Rangpur sadar hospital premises, the project is producing more than six lakh and 50 thousand packets of oral saline per month.

Since past two years, this

project in the northern region is being funded by the health ministry. In the previous years for a decade, it was run by UNICEF.

According to the health staff working in the fields, the demands of the oral saline is much higher than that of the supplied quantity.

They said that the effectiveness, of the oral saline distribution project is very very successful.

This has drew attraction of common consumers in large extent which triggered its high demands in northern region, it was gathered.



**JHENIDAH:** An ASS and DBST road being constructed between Hatgopalpur and Narkelbaria under Jhenidah sadar thana of the district. — Star photo

**Cost-effective road construction method for rural communication**

**From Delwar Kabir**

**JHENIDAH, Feb 18:** Aggregate Sand Soil (ASS) technology can save crores of Taka every year if we construct our roads applying this technology.

According to a source, ASS is absolutely a local technology consisting of soil, sand, bricks, stone and bitumen designed by Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) which costs Taka 10.30 lakh per kilometre for road construction. This road is only feasible for a load of three tons vehicles. But it is observed that more than three tons of vehicles are moving through the roads. This road is still capable taking load of more than three tons.

It is a very low cost road in comparison with the roads constructed with the roads constructed by other departments. So, the ASS with sealing road may be constructed thousands of kilometres in the villages of the country. Sub-grade compaction has been done by locally made portable

roller usually 50 'mm khoa grafting (broken pieces of bricks), cut back, 12mm sealing materials. The ASS and sealing road may be treated as all weather roads innovated by LGED.

There is another road technology namely ASS and Double Bitumen Surface Treatment (DBST).

Taking to QM Kurshid Hassan, thana Engineer, Jhenidah sadar of LGED it was learnt that Aggregate Sand Soil (ASS) with DBST as follows:

1. existing 150 mm sub-grade having minimum eight per cent of California Bearing Ratio (CBR) at 95 per cent compaction
2. 150mm sand sub-base having CBR 15 per cent at 98 per cent compaction over 150 mm subgrade.
3. 100mm ASS first layer contain khoa, sand, soil having CBR 30 per cent at 100 per cent compaction over 150mm sand sub-base

4. 50mm ASS second layer contains khoa, sand and soil having CBR 65 per cent at 100 per cent compaction over 100mm ASS first layer.

5. 12mm thick bituminous carpeting over a coat of priming or Double Bituminous Surface Treatment (DBST) with stone chip with a provision improve subgrade and sand drain.

QMK Hasan informed that this typical road has been designed and recognised by local highly technical experts and donors jointly.

He also told that this road is durable, serviceable and having same strength and longevity like other carpeting roads constructed by other departments. He added that the donors are also very much interested for funding regarding ASS and DBST roads.

The engineer also informed that they had taken in hand 10 roads under ASS and sealing, two roads under ASS and DBST and four roads as ASS

and Bituminous Carpeting (BC) in six thanas of the district including Hatgopalpur-Nari Kelbaria road in Jhenidah sadar thana. The road is 4.22 kilometres in length. It will be constructed at a cost of Taka 86 lakh, that is per kilometre will cost Taka 20.38 lakh. The engineer also said that it had been proved that it is very cost-effective in comparison with other road construction methods like Roads and Highways Department (R&H) uses.

These roads are being constructed at a cost of Taka about one crore. But LGED is constructing the roads with absolutely local technology designed by them and donors jointly.

He also expected that the country may be able to save crores of Taka every year and each and every corners of the country's roads might be constructed at a lower cost if all follow the ASS and DBST technology.

The money lenders are found busy during the Bengali months of Falgun, Chaitra, Baisakh, Jaistha and Ashar. After giving the loan at 20 per cent interest per month or a half maund of paddy for a loan of Tk 100 only they start realising the interest at the end of the every week.

The poor farmers are the worst sufferers as they are compelled to take money against their paddy, houses, cattlehead and gold ornaments during the farming seasons.

Social workers said, in many cases, the marginal farmers cannot repay the interest during the time fixed by the money lenders. Consequently the securities against the borrowed money are forfeited making the farmers almost pauper.

**Notes from Satkhira**

**From Our Correspondent**

**SATKHIRA, Feb 18:** One Adar Ali, son of Kamal Ali of village Magurali under Kaligonj thana was arrested with one kg 300 gram Indian smuggled silver worth Taka 25,000 by the police in front of the Sangita cinema hall of the town recently.

It is reported that Adar Ali when coming to Satkhira for selling silver. As soon, as he reached the place of occurrence, police on duty searched him and recovered the 'silver'. A case was lodged with Satkhira PS.

**Smuggled goods recovered**

The BDR personnel of 21 battalion led by Lt Col Ashkur Rahman Khan commanding officer and Major Arif Hasan 2nd in command raided several shops of Ujirpur Bazar under Assasuni thana recently recovered smuggled goods worth Taka about 5 lakh. The smuggled goods include sugar, sajt, cloths, bi-cycle, machineries etc.

**One burnt to death**

One minor girl, Salma, 7, daughter of Nizam Uddin of Magura village under Tala thana was burnt to death while a devastating fire brought out in her bedroom recently. It is reported that a fire broke out in the house of Nizam Uddin while they were sleeping at night. All but Salma came out of the burning house on the day of occurrence. As a result she was burnt to death.

**Housewife raped**

One housewife, Tapati Rani Sardar, 32, wife of Nibaran Sardar of Kathanda village under sadar thana of the district was raped by one Rabiul Islam of the same village recently.

It is reported that on the day of occurrence Rabiul Islam entered the house of Tapati Rani (when her husband was at home) and forcibly raped her. A case was lodged with Satkhira police station.

**One arrested with pistol**

One, Shafiqul Islam, son of Basir Uddin of village Deya under Kaligonj was arrested by Rabiul Islam, Officer in Charge Kaligonj thana from Uksa Club. Police recovered one pistol and 12 rounds of cartridges from his possession. A case was lodged with Kaligonj PS.

**One commits suicide**

One Abdur Rouf, 22, son of Sona Sheikh of village Kulia Durgapur under Kaligonj thana committed suicide by taking poison recently. Family trouble is the cause of his suicide, his family sources said.

**Pipe gun recovered**

Assasuni thana police recovered one country made pipe gun and 7 round of bullets from a heap of straw of one Majed Fakir of Boushumil village under Assasuni thana recently.

A case was lodged with Assasuni PS.

**One awarded 5 yrs for raping**

ANM Bashir Ullah, Judge Special Tribunal Court, Satkhira convicted one, Nurul Islam of Sadar thana of the district on charge of raping and sentenced him to suffer R.I for 5 yrs and to pay a fine of Tk 1000 in default R.I for one month more recently.

The prosecution story in brief is that Nurul Islam of Bardal village tried to rape one Sabirun Nessa, 24, wife of Anwarul Islam, which she resisted. At one stage, being angry, Anwarul stabbed her. Hearing hue and cry local people rushed to the place of occurrence and caught him red handed.

A case was lodged with Satkhira PS and after investigation police submitted charge sheet against him.

**Money lending business on rise in Narail**

**NARAIL, Feb 18:** Money lending business at high interest rate has been going on all over the district causing the poor and middle class people poorer day by day, reports UNB.

The money lenders are found busy during the Bengali months of Falgun, Chaitra, Baisakh, Jaistha and Ashar. After giving the loan at 20 per cent interest per month or a half maund of paddy for a loan of Tk 100 only they start realising the interest at the end of the every week.

The poor farmers are the worst sufferers as they are compelled to take money against their paddy, houses, cattlehead and gold ornaments during the farming seasons.

Social workers said, in many cases, the marginal farmers cannot repay the interest during the time fixed by the money lenders. Consequently the securities against the borrowed money are forfeited making the farmers almost pauper.



**NARAYANGANJ:** Members of Shapla, a prominent cultural organisation presenting songs at a function marking its founding anniversary at the local Shaheed Zia Hall auditorium recently. — Star photo

**In northern region 15 major rivers drying up**

**From Our Correspondent**

**KURIGRAM, Feb 18:** Atleast fifteen rivers in the northern region of the country have dried up following continued fall in the water flow level during dry seasons hampering irrigation and navigation.

Dhara, Brahmaputra, Sonkosh, Dudkum in Kurigram district, Teesta, Jamuneswari in Rangpur, Ghagat in Gaibandha, Mahananda and Korotoa in Panchagor, Punarbhaba in Dinajpur, Atrai in Natore, Teesta in Lalmonirhat, Katirowa and Bangali in Bogra, Fulbore in Sirajgonj, Ichamati and Baral in Pabna, Mahananda and Padma in Rajshahi district are drying up gradually due to withdrawal of water in the upper stream by India. Innumerable shoals have

emerged in the rivers beds. The entire northern region is turning into desert. Irrigation facilities in the region are shrinking following closure of large number of pumps due to abnormal fall in the surface as well as underground water level.

Navigation in different rivers is being affected. At present, small boats and engine driven boats are only the means of river transport. Everyday, hundreds of people travel by these boats.

Beels, ponds and other water bodies have already dried up all over the northern region resulting in acute crisis of water.

Innumerable shoals have emerged in the rivers bed hampering navigation greatly. It is worth noting that fall

in the water level in the northern region has badly affected water supply and irrigation by shallow tubewells and deep tubewells in the paddy fields under IRR schemes. The impact of such brought like situation will result in the poorer degree of production of paddy in the northern region.

The situation deserves attention of the agricultural departments of the government who may find out some solution to the grave problem. Paddy growers in the region are in great anxiety about their future with regard to a probable low scale harvest. The situation is such that if a solution to the revival of water level is not brought about by diplomatic ways and means, again, the people of this region may have to experience famine.

**BSCIC operating income generating programmes**

**NATORE, Feb 18:** Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) has been operating various income generating projects in this district under its Women Entrepreneurs Development Programme (WEDP), reports UNB.

Since 1993, WEDP has been directing its efforts to organise, motivate and train the destitute women to make them self-reliant.

WEDP has been operating 25 projects through its 40 centres in the district in which about 10,000 rural women are directly or indirectly involved.

The WEDP projects include jute handicraft, livestock, poultry farming, dairy farming, cow

fattening, leather processing, paddy husking, tailoring, embroidering etc.

The poor, hapless rural women are gradually become self-reliant and able to contribute for their family through these types of income generating projects.

The WEDP disbursed a total of Tk 28.91 lakh as loan among the women of which Tk 21 lakh has already been realised till last December.

Under the programme, training has been given to the loanees so that they can utilise the loan properly in the respective sector.

The WEDP loans are being disbursed through commercial banks with 10 per cent interest.

**Water supply crisis worsens in Noakhali**

**MAIJDUE COURT, (Noakhali), Feb 18:** Dwellers of Noakhali Pourashava have been suffering much due to inadequate supply of drinking water, reports UNB.

Town dwellers said many of them are forced to carry out house-hold works including cooking and bathing using water from ponds and ditches.

Official sources said about 30 lakh gallons of water are required for more than one lakh people in poura area but only about 10 lakh gallons of water are being supplied at present.

The sources said only two to three km water pipelines have been set up in the 15 to 20 km areas of purashava. As a result, 70 per cent of the people are deprived of drinking water facilities.

Physicians said use of pond water for house-hold affairs including cooking is dangerous for health as the pond, ditch and canal waters are contaminated.

Dwellers have urged the concerned authorities to take necessary measures to enhance the water supply system for their greater interest.

**26th death anniversary of Dr Zoha 'Please, don't shoot'**

**From RU Correspondent**

**RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY, Feb 18:** 'Before the bullets hit the students they would pierce my body,' said Dr Zoha the night before he was killed: Shaheed Dr Shamsuzzaha uttered the aforesaid words in the meeting arranged in Bengali Department of RU in protest of killing of Sergeant Zohurul Haq, an accused of Agartola Conspiracy Case on February 17-1969 night and on the following morning he received bullet injury in his chest. Dr Shamsuzzaha is the first martyrs intellectual of the country. Dr Zoha, more popularity known was the Reader (equivalent to assistant professor) of Chemistry Department and also the Proctor of the Rajshahi University in 1969.

He established a rare example in the country by sacrificing his life while he was on duty as proctor and by saving the lives of the students of the university.

In 1969 the Pakistani government observed that the agitation situation was getting out of control. They designed a blue print to kill the intellectuals of the country. As a first step of their blue print they killed Sergeant Zohurul Haq, one of the accused of Agartola conspiracy case in prison on February 15, 1969. The whole Bengali population burst into anger in protest of killing Sergeant Zohurul Haq. The full day strike of February 16 in protest of the killing totally paralysed the whole east-Pakistan. Several people were killed by the police fire.

Students of Rajshahi University also brought out processions in protest of the killing. Police attacked the procession which left many injured. A week-long Ekushey programmes were organised in the Bengali Department of RU. The discussion

meeting of February 17 turned into a protest meeting. Dr Zoha expressed his decision to face the police face to face. In that meeting Prof. Mazharul Islam presided over

On February 18 (Tuesday) morning the students of Rajshahi University arranged a procession in protest of police action and tortures on student procession on Feb 16. When the procession was about to start by breaking section 144 the Pakistani forces opened fire that hit Dr Zoha. 'Please, don't fire, I will ask my students to go back to the campus,' those were his last words shouting to the Pakistani Army. But he failed to convince the troops. He was taken to the Rajshahi City Corporation by military van and was kept without any care in a small surgical room until 3 p.m. He was declared dead at 3.30 p.m. at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital. On February 19 of 1969 the whole country burst into anger once again. Several people were killed at Dhaka, Noakhali, and Kushtia by police firing.

Dr Zoha was buried in front of Administrative building of the Rajshahi University. A memorial plaque was put up at the killing spot of Dr Zoha at the main gate of the varsity beside the Dhaka-Rajshahi highway. A hall of the Rajshahi varsity is also named after Dr Zoha.

Dr Zoha was appointed proctor of the varsity on April 1968. He also participated in the Language Movement of 1952 as a student of Dhaka University. He was also associated with sports and coaching games like football, cricket in his student life.

A noble and dedicated teacher, like Dr Zoha is our dire-need to save the students from terrorism in the campus.

Besides, the development works of the three hill districts have been hindering due to the reign of terror by the Shanti Bahini activists.

A dozen contractors who engaged in development works told this correspondent that the Shanti Bahini men demanded Tk 10 per cent of the total 'budget of the work adding as such they are thinking to wind up from the area.

Besides, those who have got permit to collect forest goods from the deep jungle are also being subjected to various harassment of the bahini men.

Local people have urged the government to take necessary steps to ensure their safety and security from the hands of the so-called bahini.



**NATORE, Md Sirajul Islam, Chairman of Rajshahi Education Board addressing as the chief guest at the annual sports and prize giving ceremony of Rani Bhabani Women's Government College of the district. Photo on the right shows two students dressed as Tipu Sultan on the 'dress as you like' competition on the sports day of the college. — Star photo**