

News snaps

Hons courses in Thakurgaon College

THAKURGAON, Feb 27: Honours courses in four subjects have been introduced in Thakurgaon Government College from 1997-98 academic session, reports BSS.

The National University has given permission to open honours courses in mathematics, accountancy, economics and political science. With the introduction of honours courses a long standing demand of the people of this district has been fulfilled. Thakurgaon Government College was established 40 years ago but honours courses were not introduced for lack of initiative by the previous governments.

Wheat allocated for uplift schemes

MADRIPUR, Feb 27: Some 1,202 tons of wheat have been allocated for implementation of 92 schemes under rural development programme during the current fiscal year in all the four thanas of the district, reports UNB.

Official sources said the schemes are being implemented to create employment opportunities for the poor people. The schemes include construction and repair of roads, educational institutions and earth work of rural roads. The break-up of the wheat allocation is: Kalkini thana — 298 tons, Sadar — 307 tons, Rajor — 239 tons and Stubchar — 358 tons.

Certificates distributed

MYMENSINGH, Feb 27: Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh Agricultural University Prof Dr Mohammad Hossain said our entanglement must be strengthened with the growing present day information technology, reports UNB.

He was speaking as chief guest at a certificate giving ceremony of first batch and inaugural function of 2nd batch of computer training course, organised by Bureau of Research Training and Consultation here on Monday. The VC emphasised on the introduction of full-fledged computer course in the syllabus of the University and said all the manpower of the University should be well-trained in computer. Presided over by Prof Dr Mohammad Nazrul Islam, the function was addressed, among others, by former VC Dr Mohammad Farooq, Dr Abu Ahmed Moinul Hossain and course coordinator Prof Akhtaruzzaman. Later, the VC distributed certificates among 14 trainees who have completed the course.

Massive potato farming scheme

CHUDANGA, Feb 27: A total of 1065 hectares have been brought under potato cultivation in the four thanas of Chudanga district in the current potato cultivation season, reports BSS.

According to an official source, of the total land 220 hectares have been brought under cultivation in Chudanga thana, 350 hectares in Alandanga thana, 355 hectares in Damurhuda thana and 140 hectares in Jibannagar thana. About 12,800 tonnes of potato is expected to be produced in the district. The harvesting of potato will start in the district in the first week of March. Potato cultivation target has exceeded this year in the district to 165 hectares.

Lord Baden Powell Day observed

JAMALPUR, Feb 27: The BP Day was observed here on Sunday through a rally participated by scouts, cubs and girl guides, reports BSS.

Later, a meeting on Lord Baden Powell (BP), founder of scouts movement throughout the world was held at Jamalpur High School. The day was observed as a part of national programme as directed by Bangladesh Scouts office at Dhaka. The Deputy Commissioner, an ex-officio president of Jamalpur District Scouts, presided over the meeting. Vice-presidents — Headmaster S M Yusuf Ali, journalists Utpal Kanti Dhar, District Scout Commissioner Ali Akbar Fakir, Secretary A S M Harun Rashid were, among others, spoke on the occasion.

Mother-child welfare centre sick

MADRIPUR, Feb 27: The lone mother and child welfare centre in the district headquarters is beset with manifold problems, reports UNB.

Sources said the centre is facing the problems of drinking water due to the unhygienic water tanker and most of the time the tubewells go out of order. Besides, there is no labour ward, no quarters for nurses, healthy visitors and attendants. The dirty toilets always emit bad odour vitiating the atmosphere. Besides, there are no sitting arrangements for the attendants, no waiting room for the visitors. Moreover, the morgue is adjacent to the centre which pollutes the environment. The lone ambulance of the centre is not functioning due to registration problems. Local leaders urged the authority concerned to take immediate steps to renovate the centre for the benefit of the local people.

Body recovered

RANGPUR, Feb 27: The body of one youth, who allegedly killed his fiancee on the previous day, was recovered from a rest house in Kotwali thana on Sunday, reports UNB.

He was identified as Aksarul, 19, of Parbatipur Puratan Bazar village of Dinajpur district. Police said the body of Aksarul was hanged from the ceiling fan of a room which he rented after stabbing to death his fiancee. The girl succumbed to her injury at Parbatipur Thana Health Complex on Saturday. Police suspected that he might have committed suicide being regretted at the demise of his fiancee. The body was handed over to his parents after the post-mortem. A case was filed with the Kotwali police.

5 robbers get 2-yr RI

SIRAJGANJ, Feb 27: A court here on Tuesday awarded two years rigorous imprisonment (RI) to five people each with a fine of Tk 1,000, in default, to suffer three months more for committing a robbery, reports UNB.

The convicted Tomsher Ali, Akbar Ali, Mohammad Ratan, Mohammad Shahidul Islam and Mohammad Swapani are the inhabitants of Bazar Badarghat village in Kamarkhanda thana. Of them, Tomsher and Swapani remained absconding. The prosecution story, in brief, was that a gang of armed robbers swooped on a truck on Sirajganj-Bogra road in February, 1994 at 12:40 am and looted money from the truck driver and businessmen who were on the vehicle. A case was filed with the Sadar thana and the police after investigation submitted chargesheet against them. After examining the witnesses and records Assistant Sessions Judge Mohammad Mukhlesur Rahman awarded the punishment.

Science Week in Chaudanga College

CHUDANGA, Feb 27: The 21st National Science and Technology Week was observed here from February 18 to 20 through various programmes held at Chaudanga Government College, reports BSS.

The programme included science projects exhibition, extempore speech and debate competition and prize distribution ceremony. The week was inaugurated by Prof Nurul Hoque, former Principal Chaudanga Government College on February 18 in the premises of Chaudanga Government College. Prof Siddique Rahman, Vice-Principal of the college presided over the function. Twenty educational institutions of the district set up stalls in the exhibition.

School girl gang raped

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, Feb 27: A school girl was gang raped by some miscreants at village Muraridaha under Kotwali thana on the night of February 13.

According to local source, one Osman Gani along with his four accomplices forcibly took the victim, Malati Rani Karim, 14, to a nearby crop field while she went out of her bedroom to attend to her nature's call and raped her by turns. The villagers rushed to the spot hearing shouting for help and rescued her. She is a student of Class-VIII of Dumrakandi High School.

Shallow pump machines being stolen

From Our Correspondent

MAGURA, Feb 27: Shallow pump machines are being stolen from IRRI-Boro paddy field at Kumarkota village under Shalikha thana in the district recently, police and family sources said.

According to the sources, a pump machine of Shahab Ali at Kumarkota village worth about Taka 20,000 was stolen from the field. A case was lodged with the local thana in this connection. It was reported that stealing of shallow pump machines have increased from the paddy field in the district. As a result, the IRRI-Boro paddy cultivation has been hampered in the area.

Scheme for reconstruction of pvt schools

RANGPUR, Feb 27: A scheme for the re-construction and extension of 43 primary schools in Kurigram district has been started under German financial assistance in the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

The scheme costs about Taka two crore. Local Government Engineering Department is implementing the scheme under the primary education development programme. The work of the scheme is expected to be completed by the end of the current fiscal year.

3 police officers, 5 cops of Balaganj PS rescued

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Feb 27: Three police officers and five constables were rescued on Tuesday following detention for a night by a group of villagers at Sunampur under Balaganj thana.

Police officials said, at about 10:30 PM on Monday two SIs, one ASI and 5 constables of Balaganj thana went to Sunampur village in Gouripur union to arrest some wanted accused persons. When the policemen were returning along with two arrested persons, namely Lichu Miah and Fazlu Miah they came under attack of the villagers. They made a hue and cry terming the police party as dacoits. The frightened police men then went back to the house of arrested Lichu Miah. The villagers then again gheraoed the police party and kept them detained for the whole night.

On a tip-off, the Thana Nirbahi Officer and Officer-in-Charge of Balaganj thana went to the village and asked the villagers to release the police party but the villagers refused.

Later, a police contingent from Sylhet went to the village and rescued them at about 10 am. A case has been registered, but no arrest has yet been reported.

Child burnt to death

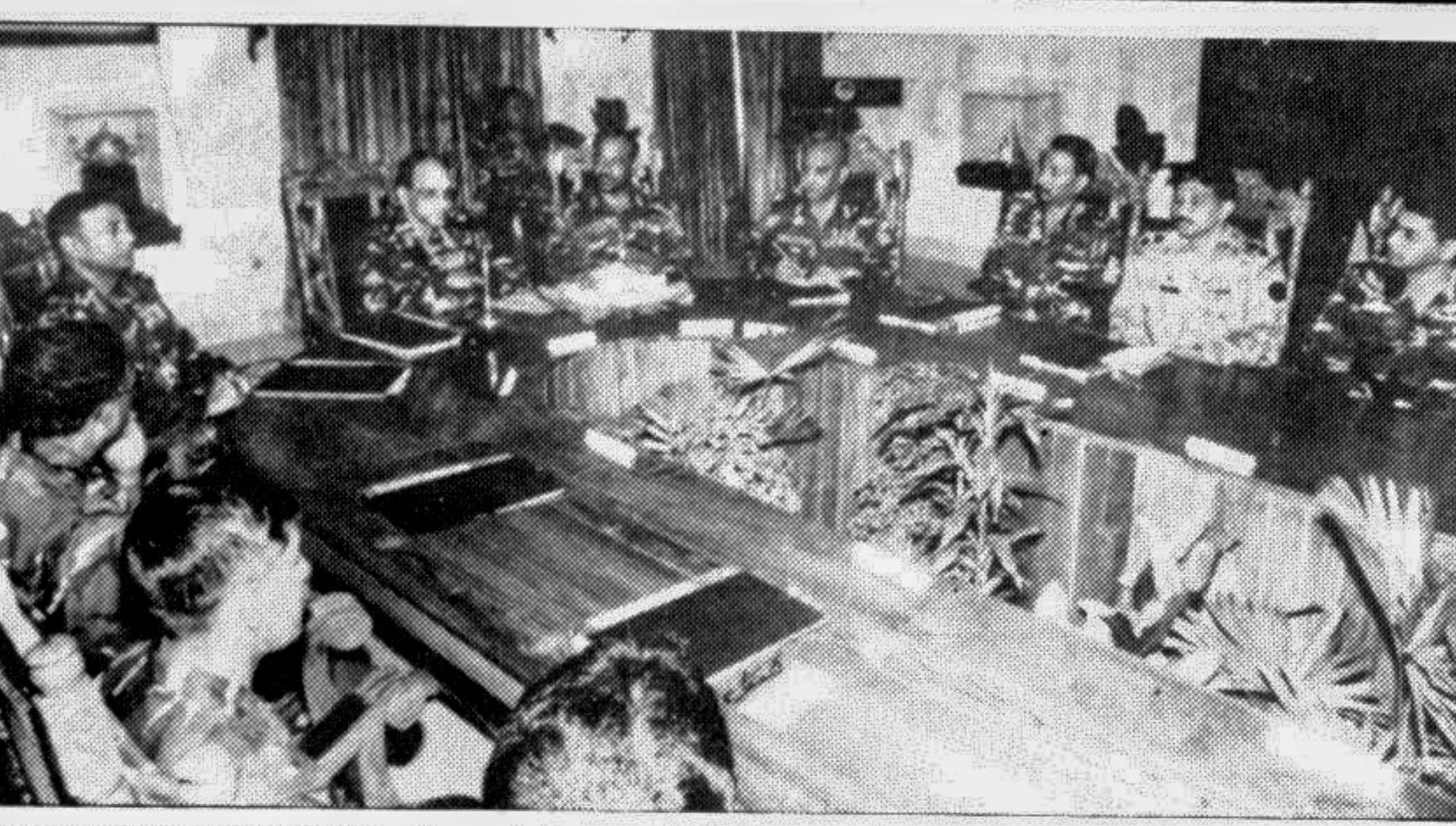
From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Feb 27: A child was burnt to death and four others received serious burn injury in Chapra bazaar area under Tatore thana on Wednesday, when a barrel of petrol burst and turned into inferno.

Sources said, Alamgir, 7, son of a petrol trader unconsciously put up a burning lamp on a barrel of petrol in their house on Wednesday night. The mouth of the barrel was open. So soon the fire petrol in it caught fire. The barrel (drum) burst into an inferno. Alamgir was burnt by the fire and four members of the house received serious burn injury. Three of them have been admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) in a critical condition. They are Bablu, 32, Marium, 20, and Jaria, 16. Seven houses of the area were also gutted. The fire brigade team from Rajshahi rushed to the spot and brought the fire under control.

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Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General Muhammad Mustafizur Rahman, Bir Bikram addressing the Commanding Officers Conference at the Armoured Corps Centre and School at Bogra Cantonment on Wednesday.

Steps taken to modernise armed forces : PM

BOGRA, Feb 27: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said her government has taken the initiative to tread the path of development and prosperity by maintaining peace and stability at all levels, reports UNB.

Addressing the ceremony at Shadheen Lt Baduzaman parade ground, the Prime Minister said after assuming power her government took massive programmes to modernise the armed forces and increase its skill and equipment.

The government is working with determination for further development of the armed forces, she said, adding that "we want to build up a modern and progressive armed forces."

She said steps have been taken to raise a new support battalion and an engineering construction battalion for the army, to purchase frigate and other equipment for Navy and

to procure MIG-29 jet fighters, C-130 transport plane and helicopters for the Air Force.

The work for establishing National Defence College, Military Medical College and Military Engineering College is in progress and courses will soon start in these colleges, she added.

Lauding the role of the armed forces in establishing peace in Chittagong Hill Tracts region, Hasina hoped that alongside protecting the country's independence and sovereignty they would also work for the development and welfare of the people and the country.

Earlier, the Prime Minister reviewed a parade presented by the members of the Corps and took salute at the impressive march past.

Ten telephone exchanges in pitiable condition in M'bazar

From Our Correspondent

MOULVIBAZAR, Feb 27: The telephone service of Moulvibazar district is now in a very pitiable condition due to apathetic activities of concerned officials, lack of maintenance and corruption of T and T staff members. As a result, subscribers are suffering a lot.

There are 10 telephone exchanges in Moulvibazar district under T&T Department. Of these, six telephone exchanges of six thana headquarters and four others are situated at different places.

Telephone exchange in Moulvibazar district headquarters is a digital one. Srimongal telephone exchange is an analogue one. Telephone exchanges of Baralekha and Kulaura Thana headquarters are operated in CB system. Rest six telephone exchanges including thana headquarters exchanges are in traditional magnetic system.

Juri and Kajaldhara telephone exchanges, of the district are being operated without any operator of T&T Department.

The attackers took the girl to Deobhog area and confined her in a house there. Later, they raped the girl in turn till 8 pm on that day.

About two hours later, the youngsters freed the girl in Shalikha area.

The victim was quoted by police as saying, the girl lodged the case on Tuesday as she fell sick following the rape.

Meanwhile, a 17-year-old girl, filed a case with Narayanpur Sadar thana on Tuesday night. The girl, daughter of a rickshawpuller, resides in Shashgonga area in Fatullah, police said.

The identities of the 10 accused persons could not be known immediately. Police said the attackers were youngsters in Deobhog and Kajaldhara localities.

Police quoting the FIR said a gang of about 10 young men in a microbus kidnapped the girl when she went to Chashara area under Sadar thana at about 2 pm on Saturday.

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