

News snaps

Couple in jail

SUNAMGANJ, Mar 14: A couple who got married after falling in love through Internet from London and Sunamganj is now in jail, reports UNB.

A British-born Nargis and Nurul Haq of Gobindaganj of Chhatak thana are in jail since February 28 following a case filed by a relative of Nargis Nurul Haq and five others. The district magistrate sent them to jail rejecting their bail petitions. Earlier, they produced themselves before the court. Nargis, a resident of Jagannath thana, returned home alone after 19 years on January 6 to get married with her fiancée Nurul Haq. The marriage ceremony was performed on January 24 at a Kazi office in Sylhet.

Agri-fair concludes

JAMALPUR, Mar 14: A six-day agriculture fair concluded on Saturday at a local farmhouse, reports UNB.

Resaul Karim Hira MP inaugurated the fair as chief guest while Deputy Commissioner Achechudud Goswami attended as special guest which was organised by the district Agriculture Extension Department. Muhammad Golam Mostafa, Deputy Director of local Agri Extension Department, journalist Uplal Kanti Dhar and Muhammad Gias Uddin, a president award recipient farmer, among others, addressed the function presided over by Muhammad Fazlul Huq, Additional Director of Agri Department of Mymensingh region.

Irrigation hampered

NETRAKONA, Mar 14: Shallow tube-well engines are being used indiscriminately in boats hampering irrigation adversely, reports UNB.

According to an estimate about 5,000 engines of shallow tube-wells are being used for running country boats and crushing sugarcane. The engines purchased earlier by agriculturists were installed in the paddy fields for irrigation purpose. But a good number of farmers sold it due to financial hardships. About 3,000 shallow engines in Sadar, Atpara, Kendua, Madan, Mohanganj, Purbadhala, Barhatta and Kalkamanda thanas were reportedly sold either to the owners of the boats or small-scale industrial units.

1,772 identified as bonafide FFs

FENI, Mar 14: Some 1,772 people in six thanas have been identified as bonafide Freedom Fighters (FFs), reports UNB.

Muktijoddha Selection Committee, constituted by Bangladesh Freedom Fighters' Central Command Council also identified 1,587 people as fake freedom fighters. Of the total genuine fighters, 336 are in Sonagazi, 126 in Daganbhuiyan, 603 in Chhagalnaiya, 146 in Parshuram, 184 in Fulgazi and 377 in Sadar thanas. But 701 people in Sonagazi thana were identified as fake freedom fighters while 242 in Daganbhuiyan, 1,175 in Chhagalnaiya, 228 in Parshuram, 316 in Fulgazi and 697 in Sadar thanas.

Forestry workers deprived of salary

KUSHTIA, Mar 14: Several thousand field workers of social forestry here are not getting their remuneration for the last six months causing disruption to the programme, reports UNB.

The workers engaged as guards are passing their days in great hardships for non-payment of wage which they used to get as remuneration. The Non-Government Organisations, who are looking after social forestry work, have been disappointed as the Forest Department issued a notice discouraging the sanctions of wage.

Six wanted criminals held

NATORE, Mar 14: Police in their separate drives arrested six wanted criminals from different parts of the town last week, reports UNB.

The arrested were identified as Aminul Islam, Jahangir Alam, Milon, Azizul Islam, Abdur Rasheed alias Babu and Rafiqul Islam. They were sent to jail. Police also recovered a foreign-made revolver from the possession of Rasheed.

Jobless female workers rising

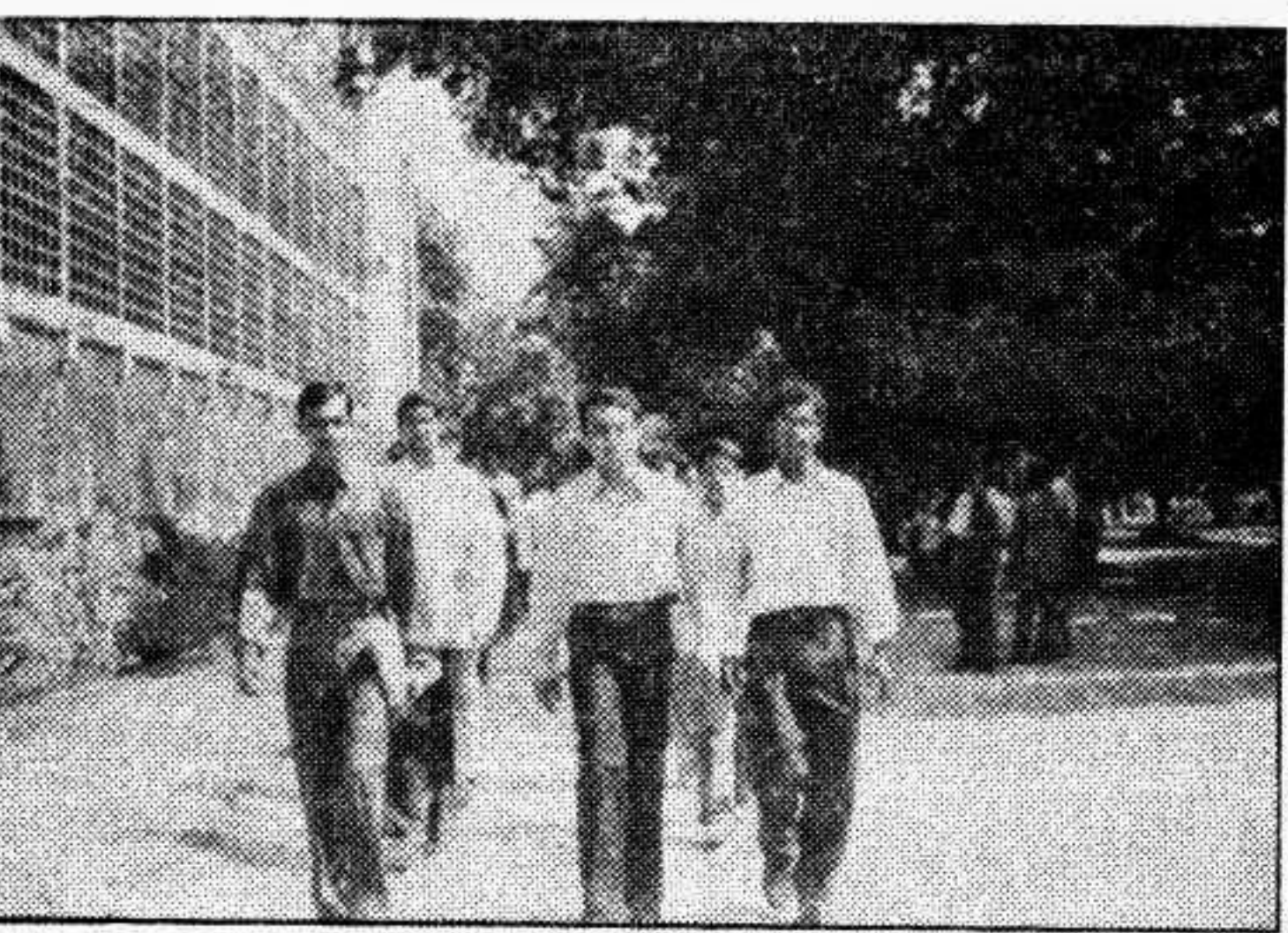
NETRAKONA, Mar 14: The number of jobless female workers in 10 thanas and four municipalities here had been increasing day by day, reports UNB.

About 15,000 women workers, who were engaged in paddy husking, tobacco crushing and bidi manufacturing, brick field and local government development works, have been rendered jobless due to various reasons. The government development work under the Food for Works Programmes has already been started, but the female workers are allegedly being denied the chance to get work. The jobless female labourers are passing their days in great hardships owing to the price spiral of rice, flour and other essentials.

Vocational training for destitutes

MADARIPUR, Mar 14: International Project for Rural Advancement (IPRA), Madaripur has imparted vocational training to unemployed destitute women, reports BSS.

A total of 120 destitute women were given training during the last two years. Of them 80 women were imparted training on tailoring and the rest on mass-education. IPRA has been conducting these types of training courses since 1997.



RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY: Bangladesh Chhatra Union brought out a procession on the university campus recently demanding a healthy education policy.

— Star photo

Loan for jobless youths

CHHAGALNEIYA (Feni), Mar 14: Youth Development Directorate of Chhagalneiya thana unit disbursed an amount of Taka five lakh forty thousand as loan among two hundred seventy five unemployed male and female youths, reports BSS.

The loan was given to provide themselves employment opportunities during 1997-98 financial year. The directorate has also imparted training to the borrowers. The money was disbursed for projects like poultry and cattle farming, nurseries, tailoring and small business. Recovery of outstanding loan is also satisfactory.

Programme to sink 424 deep tubewells

MADARIPUR, Mar 14: The monthly meeting of the district development and coordination committee was held on Wednesday at the conference room of the Deputy Commissioner here, reports BSS.

Farhad Rahman, Deputy Commissioner, Madaripur presided over the meeting. Development activities and implementation of the programmes relating to the departments of education, health, family planning, livestock, food, agriculture, telephone, zila parishad, Power Development Board, public health and Local Government Engineering Department were discussed in the meeting. The meeting was informed that the Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) has taken up a programme to sink 414 deep tubewells in four thanas in the current fiscal year.

Students deprived of library facilities

MADARIPUR, Mar 14: Thousands of students of non-government secondary schools and madrassahs in greater Faridpur district are being deprived of library facilities at their institutions, reports APB.

Most of these educational institutions, particularly those in rural areas of Faridpur, Madaripur, Shariatpur, Gopalganj and Rajbari districts, do not have libraries. Authorities of some of the institutions said they do not have funds to build up libraries and arrangements for appointing librarians.

New telephone connections in Comilla

COMILLA, Mar 14: Sixteen hundred new telephone connections will be given in Comilla town soon, according to local T&T sources, reports APB.

Equipment for 1,600 lines have been installed at the Comilla telephone exchange. In the first phase, 600 connection will be given for which, cable ducts are being laid and demand notes issued. The connections will be given as soon as money is deposited by the clients, they said. Work on the remaining 1,000 lines will begin after the first phase is complete.

Prospect of IRRI-Boro farming at CIP bleak

From Shirin Akhter

CHANDPUR, Mar 14: Irrigation at Chandpur Irrigation Project (CIP) is threatened due to acute shortage of water for the last one month.

As a result IRRI-Boro cultivation here is being hampered.

According to Chandpur irrigation office source, about 25 thousand hectares of land was brought under IRRI-Boro cultivation in CIP area during the current season.

Farmers started the cultivation of IRRI-Boro in the month of February. Scarcity of water is also continuing till the middle of February.

Some farmers even failed to cultivate the land due to lack of water. They complained that they can not transplant IRRI saplings due to water scarcity.

Almost all internal canals within the project area have

been dried up. Canals are the main source of water. Pumps on the bank of the canals can not be operated due to scarcity of water supply.

So IRRI-Boro crops on about 12 thousand hectares of land have been dried up. Saplings in this area have become yellowish and reddish.

Md Aminul Islam, Executive Engineer of CIP told this correspondent that due to low voltage of electricity in pump house at Charbagadi, pumps can not be properly operated. To operate six pump machines the pump house requires minimum two thousand and two hundred voltage of power daily. But they are getting only two hundred voltage of electricity daily. So only 2 to 3 pump machines can be run by this power. These

pump machines can operate only five to six hours daily. To supply required water in the project area they require minimum two thousand two hundred voltage of electricity per day. So water level in the project area now stands only between five to six RL. The normal requirement of water is between seven to eight.

CIP office has drawn the attention of the higher authorities, but low voltage of power have not yet been improved. So the prospect of IRRI-Boro cultivation at CIP is bleak during the current season.

The farmers raised a hue and cry in the area. A large number of people from Faridganj, Haimchar, Chandpur and Laxmipur areas brought out processions de-

manding immediate supply of water in the project area and to save the farmers. They also laid siege to the office of the Executive Engineer at Chandpur and Faridganj.

It may be mentioned Taka 80 crore CIP is one of the biggest irrigation project of Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB). The project was commissioned in 1978. The project area covers on about 50 thousand hectares of land of Chandpur, Faridganj, Haimchar thanas of Chandpur district and Laxmipur, Raipur, Rangaj thanas of Laxmipur district.

About eight lakh people of these areas are benefitted by the project. The project area is covered by 65 miles of embankment.



SYLHET: The Sylhet unit of Udichi Shilpi Gosthi brought out a procession in the town demanding punishment to those responsible for the bomb attack in Jessore.

— Star photo

Student politics hampering education at IU

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Mar 14: A tense situation was prevailing on the Islamic University (IU) campus since its reopening on January 26 after its 37 days' closure.

Chhatra Shibir and Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists are on frequent gunfights. Session jams are longer here. Despite ban on politics such activities are going on unabated here. A total of 300 police personnel are guarding the campus to prevent any untoward incident. The campus is not peaceful at present and congenial academic atmosphere is not prevailing there, some resident students said. The teachers are also involved in politics, a source said.

A survey conducted recently among 1,500 students revealed that 85 per cent students are in favour of banning all political activities on the campus. Eight per cent gave their opinion in support of political activities

on certain conditions. Seven per cent are in favour of political activities which according to them, should be continued because of the present political situation in the country and 85 per cent students said that politics give rise to terrorism, murder, loss of property, session jam and ultimately offer a dead body to parents instead of education. Session jam cripples the parent's economically and gives rise to frustration.

During the short span of life of the university, it has experienced murder of several students and a guardian on the campus, loss of property worth lakhs of taka, impediment on the way to developing the university.

Thus 85 per cent students have demanded immediate ban on all kinds of political activities on the campus in the greater interest of the students and the country as well.

RU Sammilito Sangskritik Jote's protest

From RU Correspondent

RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY, Mar 14: The university unit of Sammilito Sangskritik Jote has condemned the attack on cultural activists at Jessore.

The condemnation was made at a meeting of the organisation recently. The Jote members brought out a procession on the campus where a large number of students, teachers, journalists and cultural activists took part. The processionists paraded the main thoroughfares of the campus. The processionists chanted anti-terrorism slogans.

They also demanded exemplary punishment to the terrorists.

Rangpur rally for punishment to killers of Udichi members

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, Mar 14: A big meeting was held here on Monday protesting the killing of seven members of 'Udichi' by bomb blast in Jessore town.

The speakers strongly condemned the killing and injuring of the innocent members of Udichi. They demanded exemplary punishment to the persons involved in this brutal act.

Among others, Md Afzal, President, Ganotantri Party, Advocate Shamsuzzaman, Secretary, Ganotantri Party, Dr Rezaul Haque, Biplob Proshad, Prof Resul Karim, Vice-President, Udichi, Rangpur, spoke on the occasion.

In northern dists

Severe heatwave in daytime, chilly weather after sunset

PANCHAGARH, Mar 14: Money lending business is going on in full swing across the country's northern-most Panchagarh and Thakurgaon districts ahead of the current Boro harvest, reports APB.

Poor farmers covering Boda, Atwari, Debiganj, Tentulia, Ranishankail, Haripur, Pirganj and Badiadangi as well as Sadar thanas of Thakurgaon and Panchagarh are knocking at the doors of the lenders during this period due to their financial insolvency.

Under compulsion, the growers borrow money on condition of paying in kind of paddy after the harvest. They receive the money as it is easy for them to collect the same and to avert harassment in case of lending from the financial institutions.

The moneylenders are giving the farmers Taka 100 to Taka 120 per maund of paddy on harvest. They charge a high rate of interest on their loans.

Most of them are interested in lending money to the poor farmers on high interest rates instead of depositing the same in the banks.

The commercial banks through their branches in the areas have started disbursing about three crore taka among the poor farmers. But the growers are not markedly motivated to borrow from the banks because of various complexities.

Different beneficiaries remain active around the banks while disturbing the loans and with the help of some unscrupulous bank officials they cheat the farmers and also harass them in various ways, some locals complained.

Accommodation problem at RU Fine Arts Deptt

From RU Correspondent

RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY, Mar 14: An acute accommodation problem has been prevailing in the Fine Arts Department of the university.

The department sources said, at present, there are eight class rooms, including theoretical and practical, for four honours course batches while another batch is to be enrolled in the current session. There are also pass course students. The pass course students have also been given the chance of completing the Masters course parallelly with the honours students, the sources also said.

The students of the department are categorised into six groups as Drawing and Painting, Ceramics, Sculpture, Craft, Graphics design, and Print making.

Actually, each group requires five class rooms. Thus the total requirements for both practical and theoretical

classes stand at 30; but we have only eight rooms which hampers the academic activities of the department. Dr Abu Taher, Chairman of the department told this in an interview with The Daily Star.

Earlier, considering the humble condition of the department the first phase construction work of the Fine Arts building costing 23 lakh taka started last year. But the university vigilance team had ordered suspension of construction of the building in January, as it was proved that the construction materials are of low standard following some allegations.

Dr Abu Taher also felt the need to restart the construction work of the incomplete building with standard construction materials with a view to mitigating the sufferings of the students and teachers.

Highway dacoity now a regular feature

JESSORE, Mar 14: Incidents of dacoity have increased on Jessore-Khulna highway in Abhaynagar thana areas but police is almost inactive, local people and transport workers alleged, reports APB.

Several incidents took place in the last two weeks but no case was successfully investigated and no arrest was made, transport workers alleged.

A series of such incidents took place in a single night at Abhaynagar in which robbers beat a number of passengers

and bus drivers and decamped with cash, ornaments and other valuables worth over Tk 6 lakhs.

In another incident, about 15 to 20 dacoits barricaded the highway at Bablatola near Changuatia bazaar at about 2 am by placing big wooden logs. They beat the drivers and conductors and looted goods worth Taka 4 lakh from 15 trucks.

The sources alleged that the armed cadres of different outlawed parties are mainly responsible for the dacoities.



Office of the Executive Engineer Sirajganj O&M Division, BWDB, Sirajganj Invitation for Bids (IFB)

River Bank Protection Project (1998 Flood Rehabilitation Works) (Credit No: 2791-BD)

IFB No: 13/98-99

Dated: 11-03-99

- The People's Republic of Bangladesh has applied for a supplemental credit from the International Development Association in various currencies towards the cost of River Bank Protection Project (1998 Flood Rehabilitation Works) intended that part of the proceeds of this credit will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for Supply of Hard Stone Boulders for protective works of Sailabari Groyne (ID No 10).
- The Executive Engineer, Sirajganj O&M Division, BWDB, Sirajganj now invites sealed bids under National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures from eligible bidders for the supply of Hard Stone Boulders for protective works of Sailabari Groyne in Package No 10/G1 to 10/G7.
- Payments made under this contract will only be in Bangladesh Taka. Interested eligible bidders (including foreign bidders who are willing to receive payments in Bangladesh Taka) may obtain further information from and inspect the bidding document at the office of the Executive Engineer, Sirajganj O&M Division, BWDB, Sirajganj. Telephone No Office-72268 & Resd-72368.
- Bidding documents may be purchased at 1) Office of the Divisional Commissioner, Rajshahi, 2) The Manager, Janata Bank, Main Branch, Gaibandha, 3) The Manager, Janata Bank, Masumpur Branch, Sirajganj, 4) The Manager, Janata Bank, BSIC Branch, Bogra 5) The Manager, Agrani Bank, Wapda (Irri) Branch, Sapura, Rajshahi and 6) The Manager, Sonali Bank, Wapda Branch, Wapda Building, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka, during bank hours up to 12-4-99. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the office of the undersigned.

Bid Pkg No	Brief description of supply	Cost of tender documents per set (non-refundable)	Time allowed for completion of supply	Class of Contractor/Bidder	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6
10/G1	Supplying of Hard Stone Boulder in connection with Rehabilitation of Sailabari Groyne under BRE Project	Tk 2,000/-	90 (ninety) days	"A" Class & Special "A"	-
10/G2	-do-	Tk 2,000/-	90 (ninety) days	-do-	-
10/G3	Supply of Hard Stone Boulder in connection with Rehabilitation of Sailabari Groyne under BRE Project	Tk 2,000/-	90 (ninety) days	-do-	-
10/G4	-do-	Tk 2,000/-	90 (ninety) days	-do-	-
10/G5	-do-	Tk 2,000/-	90 (ninety) days	-do-	-
10/G6	-do-	Tk 2,000/-	90 (ninety) days	-do-	-
10/G7	-do-	Tk 2,000/-	90 (ninety) days	-do-	-

- The provisions in the instructions to bidders and in the general conditions of contract are the provisions of the standard bidding documents: Procurement of Goods (SBD) National Competitive Bidding (Trial Edition-June 1997), issued by the World Bank Resident Mission in Bangladesh. The sample forms (except price schedules) of the SB remain unchanged.
- Bids must be accompanied by a security of 2.50% or 1% for FD holders of the total quoted amount in favour of the Deputy Director, RAC, BWDB, Bogra and must be delivered to the office of the 1) Deputy Commissioner, Sirajganj, 2) Executive Engineer, WD Division, RBPP, BWDB, Sirajganj and 3) Executive Engineer, Sirajganj O&M Division, BWDB, Sirajganj during the office hours up to 12-04-99 and up to 12.00 hours on 13-04-99.
- Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders representatives who choose to attend at 13.00 hours at the office of the Executive Engineer, Sirajganj O&M Division, BWDB, Sirajganj.

PANI-386/98-99 GD-195

Md Zillar Rahman
Executive Engineer
Sirajganj O&M Division, BWDB, Sirajganj

Woman killed in road accident

From Our Correspondent

BRAHMANBARIA, Mar 14: One person was killed in a road accident at on Dhaka-Sylhet highway in Sadar thana recently.

According to police sources, an unidentified woman aged about 25 was crushed under the wheels of speeding truck while she was crossing the road. Driver of the truck managed to escape the scene with his vehicles. Autopsy of the body was done at Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital.

RU Rokeya Hall students' agitation

From RU Correspondent

RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY, Mar 14: The female students of Begum Rokeya Hall here have started agitation protesting the recent decisions of the hall administration. The decisions are not to allow 'ayas' (maid servants) to work in the rooms of students for cooking and other household works, compulsory dining at the hall and imposing guest charge.

The students under the leadership of Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU), RU unit have started agitation protesting the decisions.

Resident students of Begum Rokeya hall recently brought out a procession inside the hall.