

## News snaps

### Telephone subscribers' woes

JAMALPUR, Mar 19: Telephone subscribers in Sarishabari thana here have been facing various problems with their telephone connection due to old machinery at the exchange, reports UNB.

About 100 subscribers, out of the total 128, can not use their telephone connections properly due to frequent line disorder, unwanted sound and cross connection. Most of the lines remain without dial tone for hours together. Besides, getting connection through the operators of the exchange to the desired number is very hard because of limited number of cords, which remain operative presently. The subscribers alleged that the thana remain totally detached from the outside world due to poor telecommunication service as it took many hours to get a line to the capital. Irregularities and corruption by some officials and employees aggravated the situation, they alleged.

### 110 uplift schemes being implemented

RAJBARI, Mar 19: A total of 110 uplift schemes are being implemented in four thanas under the post flood rural infrastructure reform programme, reports UNB.

The works, initiated by Disaster Management and Relief Ministry under food for works programme, included reconstruction and renovation of roads, educational institutions, mosques and madrasas and earth filling of the educational institutions in Sadar, Pangsha, Goalunda and Ballakandi thanas. Most of the work has already been completed and the rest will be completed in the next month. Another 258 development schemes costing Tk 1.7 crore are also underway in four thanas during the current fiscal year. The schemes included development of communication, agriculture, education, physical infrastructure and construction and reconstruction of bridges and culverts.

### Scheme to cultivate Aus paddy

PIROJPUR, Mar 19: A scheme has been taken up to cultivate Aus paddy on 28,450 hectares of land in the current year, reports UNB.

According to Agriculture Extension Department, of the land, high yielding variety will be cultivated on 13,950 hectares and the rest under local variety. A total of 6,800 hectares will be brought in Sadar, 2,400 hectares in Kaukhali, 5,100 hectares in Nesarabad and 5,450 hectares in Nazirpur, 4,000 hectares in Bhandaria and 4,700 hectares in Mathbaria thanas. The production target has been fixed at 51,106 mts of paddy. Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) will supply necessary supply seeds, fertiliser and other inputs at fair prices to make the scheme a success.

### 3 alleged terrorists held

GAZIPUR, Mar 19: Police arrested three terrorists with four rounds of bullets in Tongi here on Saturday night, reports UNB.

Police said Yunus Ali, Mokter Hossain and Shahjahan were detained on suspicion of their movement at the station road area of the thana and recovered the bullets from their possession. The arrested were engaged in various criminal activities for long in the area.

### Wheat farming on 18,100 hectares

SHERPUR, Mar 19: Wheat plants on a vast tract of land ushered in new hopes among the farmers after the worst flood last year, reports UNB.

A total of 18,100 hectares of land were brought under wheat cultivation with a production target of 40,453 metric tons this season. According to Agriculture Extension Department, at first, it was decided to cultivate wheat on 17,182 hectares of land with a production target of 38,402 mts of wheat. But the target has been surpassed as the farmers showed interest to cultivate the crop on more lands to overcome their losses incurred during the devastating flood. The growers, this year, cultivated wheat even in an unfavourable climate in the beginning. They also purchased seeds at high prices.

### Krishi mela ends

GAZIPUR, Mar 19: A three-day agriculture fair concluded at Kaukhali thana Parisad here on Tuesday, reports UNB.

A total of 16 stalls were established where agricultural products, seeds and fertiliser were exhibited. A 65-kg pumpkin attracted the attention of the visitors among many other special attractions in the fair. Thana Parisad and Agriculture Extension Department jointly organised the fair, which was inaugurated by Akhteruzzaman MP as chief guest on Sunday. Meher Afroz Chkumi MP also addressed the function as special guest.

### Killer gets life term

SUNAMGANJ, Mar 19: A man was sentenced to life term imprisonment by a court here recently for killing his wife, reports UNB.

According to prosecution, Abdul Khaleque of Baraihati village in Doara Bazar thana strangled to death his wife on July 10, 1993. After examining records and witnesses, District Sessions Judge Abdul Mukit Majumder found Khaleque guilty of murder and handed down the verdict, court sources said. The Judge, however, acquitted three people — Karim, Mahmudur Rahman and Segu Mia — as the charges brought against them were not proved.

### Land office realises revenue

MADRIPUR, Mar 19: Local land office realised Tk 47.51 lakh in revenue during the last fiscal despite its manpower constraint, reports UNB.

Official sources said 30 posts of Tahsildar and Assistant Tahsildar have been lying vacant for long. Of the revenues, Tk 20.94 lakh were realised from sadar thana, Tk 10.67 lakh from Kalkini, Tk 5.19 lakh from Rajoir and Tk 10.70 lakh from Shibchar thanas, they said.

### Loan for farmers

PATUAKHALI, Mar 19: Agrani Bank disbursed a Tk 1.24 crore farm loan among 2,025 peasants of the district in the current fiscal, reports UNB.

Official sources said a total of Tk 1.90 crore had been earmarked for Boro cultivation while Tk 15 lakh for fish farming and other agro-based economic sectors.

### Loan for destitutes

PIROJPUR, Mar 19: Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) disbursed loan amounting to Tk 4.28 crore among destitute people in six thanas in the current fiscal, reports UNB.

The loan was disbursed among 6,973 people of 397 associations under BRDB's Palli Bittahan Programme. Of the amount, Tk 53.31 lakh were disbursed in Nazirpur thana, Tk 1.45 crore in Swarupkati, Tk 43.12 lakh in Kaukhali, Tk 66.26 lakh in sadar, Tk 54.78 lakh in Mathbaria and Tk 37.35 lakh in Bhandaria thanas.

### Prices of onion, garlic up

NETRAKONA, Mar 19: Even though the new harvest has hit the market, prices of onion and garlic have again shown an upward spiral ahead of the Eid-ul-Azha, reports UNB.

Market sources said hoarders were trying to cash in ahead of the festival although the supply of onion and garlic were adequate. When asked some traders attributed the soaring prices of onion and garlic to short supply. Local people urged the authorities concerned to crack down on the hoarders in a bid to keep onion price stable during the Eid.

### Fund shortage hampers work

NAOGAON, Mar 19: The construction work of the district jailhouse here could not be completed in seven years due to unavailability of funds, reports UNB.

Public Works Department (PWD) estimated Tk 12.43 crore for the implementation of the work. PWD sources said the construction work of the jailhouse was started in the fiscal of 1992-93 and only 25 per cent of the work has been completed after seven years. Only Tk 4.37 crore so far allotted for the work till the fiscal 1997-98. Cost of the construction work has already increased by 20 per cent due to dilly-dally process of releasing funds.

### Rivals' clash leaves 6 hurt

MAGURA, Mar 19: At least six people were injured in a clash between rival groups at village Parla of Sadar thana here on Sunday, reports UNB.

Police sources said Abul Bashar and his accomplices swooped on the house of Abdul Latif at the village at about 11 am and severely chopped Latif, his son Harun, 25, and neighbour Mohan, 50. The clash was the sequel to an incident on Saturday when Latif, aided by some villagers, stopped horse race and *Jatra* organised by Bashar and his group in the village. Three others injured in the clash were identified as Nurul Islam, Nazrul Islam and Baharul Islam. All the six injured were admitted to Sadar Hospital, but Latif was shifted to Dhaka in a critical condition.

### Two alleged terrorists held

MEHERPUR, Mar 19: Meherpur sadar thana police with the help of local people arrested two alleged terrorists and recovered two fire-arms with five rounds of ammunition from their possession recently, reports BSS.

According to police the arrested terrorists were Md Jamat Ali and Md Jalal Mia. Two country-made guns and five rounds of bullets were recovered from their possession.

# 22 committed suicide in Gopalganj in February

From Our Correspondent

GOPALGANJ, Mar 19: A total of 22 persons including nine housewives committed suicide due to failure in love, family feud and diseases in five thanas here in the month of February this year.

An unnatural death (UD) case has been registered with Kasianni PS in this connection.

Police sources said, nine persons in Kasianni thana, six persons in Gopalganj sadar thana, three persons in Mukundpur thana, three persons in Kotalipara thana and one person in Tungipara thana committed suicide.

Salma Begum, 28, wife of Atiar Rahman of village Bhabrasul in Kasianni thana committed suicide by hanging for a quarrel with her husband over maintenance of family on February 2. An unnatural death (UD) case has been registered with Kasianni PS in this connection.

Liton, 14, son of Badshah Khan of village Char Bhatpara in Kasianni thana committed suicide by taking poison for failure to buy a thing on February 8. A UD case has been registered with Kasianni Police Station in this connection.

Rashida Khanam, 20, daughter of Hemayet Hossain Sheikh of village Char Bhatpara in Kasianni thana committed suicide by taking poison for lost love on February 13. A UD case has been registered with Kasianni PS in this connection.

Tanika Akter, 12, daughter of Tamjiduddin Ahmed of village Bishwanathpur in Kasianni thana committed suicide by taking poison after being beaten by her father and mother on February 8. A UD case has been registered with Gopalganj PS in this connection.

Sunil Chandra Basu, 45, son of Jotish Chandra Bosu of village Golabari in Gopalganj sadar thana committed suicide by hanging for a quarrel with his wife on February 10. A UD case has been filed with Gopalganj PS in this connection.

Monirul Khanam, 16, a college student and daughter of Mohan Mollah of village Sharakandhi in Kasianni thana committed suicide by taking poison for failure in love with her college mate on February 10. A UD case has been registered with Kasianni PS in this connection.

Monimali Rani Roy, 25, wife of Parimal Roy of village Char Kusali in Gopalganj sadar thana committed suicide by taking poison for a quarrel with her husband over family feud on February 28. A UD case has been filed with Kotalipara thana.

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