

Upazila roundup

JHENIDAH

Call to stop smuggling of Indian sugar

From Our Correspondent

April 6: A meeting was held at Agrani Bank premises of Jhenidah town protesting the selling of Indian sugar in local markets.

The meeting was organised by Eight-Party alliance, Five-Party alliance and United Communist League.

Speakers in the meeting strongly protested the selling of Indian sugar in local markets. They upon the authority concerned to take necessary steps for stopping the selling of Indian sugar and curb smuggling to save domestic sugar industries.

The speakers extended full cooperation with the authority in this respect. The speaker mentioned that sugar worth about Taka 60 crores remain stock piled in the godown of Mobarokganj Sugar Mills for which the mill owed Taka 3.5 crores to come growers.

Heroin seized

UNB adds: Police Tuesday seized at least 65 grams of heroin worth about Taka 7 lakh and arrested a man in this connection from Azad Rest House in the town here.

Acting on a secret information, police raided the rest house and arrested Monirul, a peon of the District Muktiyodah unit office and recovered the heroin from his possession. But the main man, however, allegedly managed to escape.

A case has been filed with local police in this connection.

DINAJPUR

One gets life term for murder

From Our Correspondent

April 6: The District and Sessions Judge of Thakurgaon Mr. Abdus Salam awarded life imprisonment to one Abul Bashar of village Gar Bhabanpur in Haripur upazila for killing his brother-in-law.

The case in brief is that Abul Bashar divorced his wife Kulum Begum verbally in July, 1987. But ignoring Islamic law, he was leaving with Kulum Begum in his house. In protest against the incident, the villagers boycotted than. On February 15, 1988, the villagers arranged a meeting with the request of Mr. Khamiruddin, elder brother of Kulum Begum. The villagers ordered Abul Bashar to divorce his wife Kulum Begum in written. They also ordered Abul Bashar to pay an amount of Taka 4,000 to Kulum Begum as iddat.

Abul Bashar agreed that he will fulfil these orders on the same day and leave the place. But on the same night, Abul Bashar killed Khamiruddin, elder brother of Kulum Begum and threw the dead body in a nearest jungle. The body was recovered next morning by the Haripur police.

After investigation, the police gave charge sheets against Abul Bashar and four others.

After hearing, the Judge awarded life imprisonment to Abul Bashar and fined Taka 5,000 in default further two years imprisonment. Other accused persons were acquitted of the charge.

MYMENSINGH

Independence Day celebrated

From A Correspondent

April 6: The Independence and National Day was observed in Mymensingh district town with much enthusiasm.

Mymensingh District administration and various socio-cultural organisations observed the day with their separate discussion meeting, children's rally and placing of wreath at local Shaheed Minar.

Mymensingh Press Club arranged a seminar "Independence and democracy" presided over by Prof. Nurul Islam, Vice-President, Mymensingh Press Club.

CHANDPUR

Tumour weighing 30 kg removed

From Our Correspondent

April 6: A large tumour weighing about 30 kg was extracted from the abdomen of a female patient who was admitted to Chandpur Hospital recently.

According to hospital sources, patient is Sahana Begum (35), wife of Mazibur Rahman Howlader of village Chandamara under Haimchar upazila. The patient when felt acute pain in the abdomen was successfully operated upon by

Dr. Badim Nuber Chowdhury, Consultant of the hospital. The doctor said such a big tumour is undoubtedly one of the rare finding in the hospital. The patient is now out of danger and is improving at the hospital.

SATKHIRA

Law, order situation discussed

From A Correspondent

April 6: The monthly meeting of Satkhira district law and order situation committee was held at the conference room of the Deputy Commissioner, Satkhira recently.

The meeting was presided over by Mr. Katebur Rahman, Deputy Commissioner, Satkhira, Police Super, Satkhira, UNO's, President, Press Club, Satkhira, and concerned officials and members of the committee attended the meeting.

The meeting discussed various development projects law and order situation in seven upazilas of the district.

In his address Mr. Katebur Rahman urged the concerned officials and people of the district to co-operate with police for maintaining law and order in rural areas.

KURIGRAM

Wedlock at 105

April 6: Manduram Barman (105) married a 15-year-old girl recently.

It is learnt that Zosna Bala (15) was living with her father at village Talala in Rajarhat upazila of the district. Her poor father was unable to provide dowry for her daughter's marriage.

So he accepted the proposal of Manduram Barman (105) of village Chakirpasha of Rajarhat upazila and married her daughter to an old man.

MANIKGANJ

Highway robbery rampant

April 6: Valuables worth about Taka 10 lakh were looted in eight dacoities over the last fortnight on Dhaka-Aricha road and Meghna ghat-Dhaka road, police said, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, five rice-loaded trucks were also looted by the dacoits over the same period.

Dacoits stop trucks and buses and loot belongings by making drivers and passengers senseless either using toxic medicines or by beating.

The most vulnerable points for dacoity are Aricha, Nayrhat, Savar, Dharmal, Kanchpur and Meghna ghat areas.

A well organised inter-district gang of dacoits are committing dacoities on these roads and law-enforcing agencies remain indifferent to the growing menace, said a truck driver on condition of anonymity.

But police said due to shortage of manpower and vehicles, it becomes difficult for them to check the rising problem.

Ismail Hossain, secretary of inter district truck drivers' union, expressed his resentment over increasing dacoities and warned that if the situation continued, they would be compelled to stop plying vehicles.

SIRAJGANJ

Nor'wester claims 6 lives

April 6: The nor'wester that hit the district Friday left several hundred people homeless, reports UNB.

Scores of kutcha houses in 14 villages of the four upazilas of the district were damaged and hundreds of trees uprooted by the nor'wester.

About 80 school and madrasahs were also damaged. Meanwhile, relief materials announced by the government for the affected people of the district were yet to be distributed.

The government had announced relief of 50 metric tons wheat, 100 tin biscuits, 100 piece sarees and 100 piece of lungia. District Relief and Rehabilitation office issued Taka 500 each for the families of seven nor'wester victims in four upazilas of Ullapara, Sadar, Shahjapur and Belkuchi upazilas of the district.

Official sources claimed that one person died at Ullapara, three at Sadar upazila, two at Shahjapur and one died at Belkuchi upazila in the last Friday's nor'wester. Unofficial death figure was however 12.



Bumper production of potato has been reported from different districts this year. Here farmers harvesting the crop in a Munshiganj village. — Star photo

Medicare absent in rural health complexes

KISHOREGANJ, April 6: All Health Complexes in 13 upazilas of the district have been facing multifarious problems which include paucity of pure drinking water, absence of drainage system, ambulances, blood banks, dental and eye specialists, scarcity of medicines, shortage of staff and surgical instruments.

Everyday thousands of patients coming from the remote areas go back disappointed for want of proper treatment.

Due to absence of ambulances the patients cannot be removed during emergency to the district hospitals of Mymensingh or Dhaka Medical College Hospitals. Absence of blood banks also stands on the way for proper treatment.

The supply of drinking water has been hampered due to leakages in the reserve tank causing untold sufferings to the patients.

According to the reports, doctors and nurses in the Sadar Hospital in the district headquarters do not reside in the hospital compound as the residential quarters are not provided to them. Even most doctors do not attend the hospital regularly. Besides, the nurses and other employees in the hospitals are quite insufficient to cope with the rising number of patients.

The supply of medicines on the other hand is quite inadequate. Life saving medicines are not available in the hospital

to treat the patients.

Moreover, drugs supplied to the patients by the government are sold in blackmarkets by a section of dishonest staff. It is learnt. It is alleged that such illegal practices and irregularities are not checked. Most health complexes do not have X-ray machines and due to absence of ambulance services critical patients neither can be sent to other hospitals nor can be treated in the same for want of essential facilities.

The approaching roads to the health complexes are in deplorable condition. These become slippery and muddy after slight rainfall making impossible the movement of both pedestrians and vehicles.

Cases against 3 UP members, 1 municipal commissioner filed

PABNA, April 6: The Bureau of Anti-corruption, Pabna has filed cases against three members of Union Parishad (UP) and one Commissioner of municipality of Bera upazila for misappropriation of rice worth about Taka 14 lakh. The rice, about 142 metric tons, was released against 13 development projects in the district.

According to Anti-corruption charge, Abdul Majid, member of the Natun Bharenga Union Parishad had drawn 34 metric tons of rice valued at Taka 3,34,560 on October 10, 1990. He allegedly misappropriated the whole quantity.

Mr. Raoshan Ali, Ward Commissioner of Bera municipality took delivery of 20 metric tons of rice worth about Taka 96,000 but did not utilise the same in the project.

Tofazzal Hossain, member of Nakalia Union Parishad drew 18,660 kg of rice worth about Taka 1,83,614 which was misappropriated. This consignment was released for land filling, cleaning of water hyacinth, construction of ap-

From Our Correspondent

have urged the concerned authorities to take legal action against the culprits.

Plan to put 66,500 acres under boro farming

FENI, Apr 6: A massive plan is underway to bring about 66,500 acres of land under boro farming in five upazilas of the district during the current season, reports UNB.

According to Agriculture Extension Department, about 40,000 acres will be brought under high yielding variety while the rest under local variety.

Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation has distributed seeds, fertilizers and other agri-inputs among the growers for the implementation of the programme.

About 76,500 metric tons of boro paddy are expected to be produced in Sadar, Sonagazi, Porsharum, Daganbhuiyan, Chagalnalya upazilas of the district.

proach road and reconstruction of a high school building. Mr. Hossain also drew 25 metric tons of rice worth about Taka 4,29,614 on October 8, last year. The rice was sanctioned for vulnerable group of people.

Al Mahmood Sarker of village Brishalika under Bera upazila drew 20,146 kg of rice worth about Taka 1,88,049. The rice was sanctioned on November 24, 1988 and May 5, 1989 for use in repairing of Shaikhpara Jame Masjid, FDP club room, building of Sanket cultural organisation, Shaikhpara rehabilitation project, earth filling of the yard of Jagorani Sangha and Boroshila graveyard. The rice was misappropriated and no master-roll was submitted.

Chairman of Bera upazila sanctioned 24 metric tons of rice worth about Taka 2,36,160 in the name of Abdus Samad of Pura Bharenga in 1990. This rice was also misappropriated. Police arrested Al Mahmood Sarker in this connection. The local people

Electric supply to tubewells disrupted
Rabi crops farming on 1.86 lakh acres hampered

From Our Correspondent

THAKURGAON, April 6: Lack of irrigation facilities and disruption in electric supply to the deep tubewells in Panchagarh, Thakurgaon and Dinajpur districts will hamper the rabi crops cultivation on one lakh 85 thousand and 800 acres of land, this year.

It may be mentioned here that a total of 959 rehabilitated and newly installed deep

tubewells of Bangladesh Water Development Board, under the North Bengal Tubewell Project, Thakurgaon, having 200 acres of commanding areas for each DTW (deep tubewell) had been sold to the Grameen Bank at a cost of Taka 17 crore on instalment repayment schedule with a grace period of 10 years.

In a decision by the deposed Ershad Government, an agreement was signed in between Grameen Bank and Bangladesh Water Development Board to handover the possession of the DTWs.

On November 29 of 1989, the Flood Control and Irrigation Ministry issued a letter stating that no deep tubewell would be allowed to operate until and unless the Grameen Bank took over the possession.

Accordingly all the DTWs remain useless except 30 and power connection in 130

DTWs had been disrupted. The cause of snapping electric lines was stated to be fund shortage to pay the arrear electric bills to the Power Development Board.

But as on date, the Grameen Bank could not take over the charge of DTWs, in the face of strong resistance by the farmers.

They alleged, the face value of the DTWs was at Taka 280 crore where as the sale value to the Grameen Bank is only 17 crore, which is a policy to deprive the poor farmers, they said.

Members of the different political parties also support the demand of the peasant under DTWs against the decision of the government.

People of this area have urged the government to remove the hindrance to grow more food.

Notes from Kushtia

From Our Correspondent

Ten persons were injured in a collision to take possession of "khash land" arisen on the Padma under Daulatpur upazila of Kushtia district.

It is learnt the Mr. Rayet Sardar, Mr. Rahul Sardar, Mr. Haji Sardar of Phitpnagar village tried to occupy forcibly the khash land with an organised gang of more than 100 club-men, but collision occurred when persons of Bajmara and Jotashahi char obstructed them who occupied the land earlier.

Tension is prevailing in the locality.

Press Club convening body

A nine-member convening committee of Daulatpur Press Club has been formed dissolving the old committee.

A discussion meeting under the presidency of Mr. Mamun Reza, ex-president selected unanimously Mr. Abesh Ali, convener, Mr. Mamun Reza, Joint Convener and Mr. Saffuddin Ahmed, Mr. Mosharaf Hossain Khan, Sher Ali Shabuz, M. G. Mahmood Mantu, Mr. Amirul Islam, Mr. Lokman Hossain and Mr. Shafiqul Islam as members.

Foundation laid

The foundation stone of Gangni upazila office building was laid by Mr. Mamtazur Rahman, D. C. Meherpur, recently.

Taka three lakh was earmarked to construct this office building. Other administrative officers and chairmen, members of union parishads were present on the occasion.

One killed by lightning

Mr. Shamsuddin (60) member of Bahichar Union Parishad of Bheramara upazila under Kushtia district killed by lightning recently.

It is learnt that he was offering his "fazar" prayer in the open corridor at the time of accident.

Drinking water scarce in Netrakona

NETRAKONA, Apr 6: Acute scarcity of drinking water has been prevailing in the town and adjacent areas causing great inconveniences to the dwellers, reports UNB.

According to informed sources, most of the hand driven tubewells of different upazilas of the district have gone out of order due to abnormal fall in underground water level.

The dwellers in pourashava areas are getting water supply from the public health department through deep tubewells. The people in urban areas are taking water from the town through different carriers.

When contacted the local public health engineering officials said due to fund shortage they cannot take up any scheme to ensure smooth supply of water in the town and its adjacent areas.

It is learnt that about 5,000 tubewells of different upazilas of the district have gone out of order deepening the pure water crisis in rural areas.

OMS rice sells in blackmarkets

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, April 6: Rice allotted for Open Market Sale (KDS) in Jamalpur district is allegedly being sold in blackmarket by a section of dealers, traders in collusion with some dishonest food officials.

According to the sources, 32 tons of rice were allotted for upazila wise distribution in Jamalpur district in March and April to the District Food Controller.

It is learnt that the Food Department officers did not follow the rules of distribution and allowed the traders and dealers to sell the rice in

blackmarket, without the knowledge of Deputy Commissioner. When enquired about the matter, Food Officials denied their involvement in the matter and District Food Controller also showed his ignorance to the malpractice. On the other hand different varieties of rice are being sold between Taka 16 and 18 per kg and OMS rice is regularly being sold in black market.

When contacted the Deputy Commissioner, Jamalpur he said that immediate measures are being taken for combatting the situation.

6000 tons coal lying unsold in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, April 6: A huge quantity of coal has been lying unsold in different depots here depriving the government of revenue, reports UNB.

According to sources, about 6,000 metric tons of coal are now stored in various depots of the district. Quota not lifted by some brickfield owners has created the glut.

There are 30 brickfields in the district but only 10 of them have lifted coal from the local depots. It is learnt.

Brickfield owners, however, prefer firewood to coal as it costs them less.

Trees are being indiscriminately felled for use in brickfields causing environmental degradation.

The owners of coal depots here have called for strict implementation of government rule regarding use of coal in the brickfields.

Five people died of diarrhoea and about 500 others attacked by chicken pox in the district during the last week.

Indiscriminate felling of trees continues

BARISAL, Apr 6: Trees are being indiscriminately cutting down in the southern districts despite government ban, reports UNB.

Dishonest brick manufacturers in collusion with farmers are chopping down the trees affecting ecological balance.

Owners are allegedly using firewood instead of coal to burn bricks in about 150 brickfields in Barisal, Patuakhali, Bhola, Jhalakathi, Bogura and Projpur districts.

The prices of coal per ton is Taka 2,964. Usually 25 to 30 tons of coal are necessary to manufacture one lakh bricks.

The victims were identified as Moslem Uddin (50) of Bansala village, Nazrul Islam (15) and Darbesh Mollah (70) of Borogoria village in Chalan beel areas. Two villagers of Tarash upazila also died of the disease.

Meanwhile, chicken pox showed a rise in Ratnakhali union of Sadar upazila creating panic among the villagers.

Civil Surgeon of the district told UNB that necessary medicines have already been supplied to the affected areas.

Bridge over canal needed

From A Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, April 6: The broken bridge over Brahmanchari canal on Kaliganj-Rajgati is posing threat to thousands of passersby including students of primary, and high schools and madrasahs.

It is learnt that during early sixties work on pucca bridge was started, but it was suspended due to negligence of Union Council and till today it was not completed. People of the area construct bamboo bridge for their use which often gets ineffective due to pressure of passersby.

The construction of pucca bridge is urgently required to minimise the sufferings of the users.

In absence of latrines in Rajgati-Daspara, Darilla, Passdarilla and Atergati government

primary schools, the staff and students are facing untold sufferings. According to guardians, the girl students are the worst sufferers. The authorities concerned have been urged to take early steps in this regard.

Pilferage of rly accessories rampant in Jamalpur

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, April 6: Pilferage of railway accessories and goods has become rampant from railway compartments and wagons which are kept at the outer stations and also from the trains running on Jamalpur-Bahadurabad, Jamalpur-Mymensingh and Jamalpur-Jagannathganj routes.

Since last one year railway accessories and spare parts worth Taka 50 lakh were pilfered from railway compartments further deteriorating condition of the bogies.

The goods pilfered include gearing brasses, cushions from seats, brake blocks, hoses, pipes, springs and other items

and movable goods like spring sheets, motor drills etc.

Besides, a section of organised miscreants in collusion with some dishonest railway employees is allegedly engaged

Poor quality seeds hamper wheat production

RANOPUR, Apr 6: Poor quality seeds imported from abroad has affected wheat production in Rangpur zone during the current season, reports UNB.

In stealing these items from outer stations and selling the same in blackmarkets at exorbitant prices.

It is learnt that the miscreants mostly teenagers, residing around the stations are found very active who get free access to the waiting compartments and wagons.

The railway security which is supposed to protect railway properties is not very vigilant to check the pilferage. It is alleged.

It is felt that if such a large scale pilferage continues and remain unnoticed the railway department will incur heavy loss.



CHANDPUR: Childrens display physical feat on the occasion of Independence Day at local stadium. — Star photo