

Upazila roundup

RANGPUR
20 lakh children, female suffer from malnutrition

April 14: Malnutrition has posed a threat in leading better life all over the northern districts.

A survey voluntarily conducted by a non-government organisation (NGO) has revealed a horrible picture of the human sufferings following continued malnutrition in northern region.

According to the statistics revealed based on the survey by the NGO, at least 20 lakh female and children have been suffering from the curse of malnutrition in 16 districts under Rajshahi division.

During the past two years, more or less five lakh female and children died of malnutrition in these districts.

Rate of child mortality is also alarmingly rising here due to various diseases following malnutrition, it was further gathered.

SIRAJGANJ
8 arrested on various charges

April 14: Police rounded up eight people from different parts of the town on charges of various crimes Thursday, reports UNB.

The accused Halim, Alim, Feroz, Shahidul, Rashid, Momen and Aziz were involved in various crimes like pick pocketing, hijack and looting, police sources said.

In another incident police recovered a body hanging from a tree in Bagdamur village of Sadar upazila of the district on the same day.

Family sources said Sultan (32) son of Boduzzaman told the inmates previous night that he was going to take rest in his room. But the following morning he was discovered hanging from a tree near his house.

A case has been filed Sirajganj police in this connection.

Notes from Narayanganj

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Apr 14: A young man faced a grim death under police custody in Rugganj police station recently.

According to the reports, sub-inspector Mr. Abdur Raahid in his bid to get confessional statement from Nasiruddin (35) who was arrested for abducting a young girl Rekha of Rugganj beat him so mercilessly that at one stage Nasiruddin succumbed to his injuries. This news sparked off much agitation in the locality.

When enquired about the incident, the Additional Police Super Mr. Tajul Islam said that Nasiruddin died of cardiac failure. But per the death certificate from Rugganj Upazila Health Complex the victim was severely beaten up by some relatives of Rekha before he was taken to police custody.

A case has been filed with Rugganj thana in this connection.

Youngman commits suicide

A young man Mr. Amir Humza (27) of Sabuzganj, Taltala, Narayanganj committed suicide by hanging himself in his own room on April 5.

The death was reported to be a result of family feud. An unnatural death case has been registered with Fatullah thana.

A discussion meeting on the significance of the Holy Ramzan was held under the auspices of Kashipur Union Parishad, Narayanganj at the Parishad premises recently.

Al-Haj Md. Ali a freedom fighter was the chief guest, while Hafez Mukhtar Hossain, the Chairman of Narayanganj Upazila was the special guest. Mr. Jalaluddin Ahmed a former President of Kashipur Union Parishad presided over the meeting which was addressed by Mr. Shahjahan, Mr. Mattur Rahman, Emdadul Haque and Mr. Shahid Hossain.

The speaker urged the local administration to maintain sanctity of the holy month.

Painting contest

"Taraka", a social, cultural, sports and youth organisation has organised "Mohammad Ali" Open Painting Competition to observe the Independence and National Day at Narayanganj Ali Ahmed Paura Auditorium recently.

Mr. Habibur Rahman, local S.P. inaugurated the competition as chief guest while Mr. Kutubuddin Aksir, the Secretary of Narayanganj District Sports Association was the special guest.

Mr. Md. Ayub presided over the meeting and it was addressed by Mrs. Mauda Hassan and Sumsus Salahin, Vice-President and Secretary of Taraka respectively.



The last sunset of the Bengali year 1397. Happy new year today.

—Star photo

Siltation jeopardises riverine transportation

PABNA, Apr 14: Riverine transportation has been jeopardised due to massive siltation in the rivers Padma, Jamuna, Boral, Secnie and Ichhamodi in the district.

With the onset of the dry season water level has fallen abnormally creating numerous shoals aggravating the situation further.

The depth of water has decreased to four to five feet seriously affecting the movement of launches and commercial boats.

Transportation of vegetables, milk, fish and other goods has come to a standstill and the small traders are compelled to send their goods from Dhaka to other places by air and trucks spending heavy fare.

It is further learnt that launch services between Nagarbari-Nakalia ghat, Paksey-Bheramara ghat, Nagarbari-Aricha ghat have changed their routes due to which extra half an hour is being spent to reach the destination.

From A Correspondent

Meanwhile, irrigation on the croplands of the river beds has been hampered because sizeable portion of the rivers have already dried up. As a result over 15,000 acres of land are being deprived of irrigation.

Faridpur unit BMA ad hoc body

FARIDPUR, Apr 14: An 18-member ad-hoc committee of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA), Faridpur branch, was formed at a meeting held amid much enthusiasm reports UNB.

Dr. Zahidul Huq, Dr. Mustafizur Rahman and Dr. S. M. Abul Khair Mia became the President, General Secretary and Treasurer respectively.

The office bearers urged the fellow members to serve the humanity with renewed vigour in order to make happy and prosperous society.

facilities in the district.

Pest menace

IRRI Paddy on more than 20,000 acres of land has been attacked by 'Pamri and 'Majra' pests in Hemaitpur, Tarapur, Dupnea, Dasura, Sing and Kalkapur pump projects in Pabna Sadar and Ishwardi upazilas.

The green leaves of paddy turned yellowish following pest menace.

Aerial spraying planes fly twice over these areas but do not spray any insecticides on the paddy fields. Further poor farmers can not afford to purchase insecticides due to exorbitant prices, it is alleged.

Chicken pox

Chicken pox has broken out in an epidemic form in several areas of the district. The affected areas are sadar upazila, Chatmohor and Ishwardi upazilas.

A large number of patients are being treated in hospitals and private clinics. Adulterated food and supply of impure water have been attributed to the outbreak of the disease.

Darwani textile mills earns Tk 2.5 cr profit

From Our Correspondent

DINAJPUR, Apr 14: Darwani Textile Mills has earned Taka 2.5 crore profit during the last nine months, it is learnt.

According to the report, the Darwani Textile Mills of Nilphamari became second in the country by profiting an amount of Taka 2,46,83,000 from July, 1988 to March 1989. However, the production target of the mills for the current financial year was fixed by the Bangladesh Bastra Shilpa Sangshtha at Taka 2,35,40,000 which was almost achieved within nine months. In 1987-88 financial year, the mills earned a profit of Taka 88,04,000.

There are 25,056 spindles in the mills of which 22,598 are in operation. The rest 2,408 spindles were idle during the period for want of necessary power supply, it is alleged. On the other hand, there is no transport facility for the workers of the mills which also hampers production.

97 uplift schemes executed

Ninety-seven development schemes under Food for Works Programme have been successfully completed in five upazilas under Thakurgaon district during the current dry season.

According to the report, some 4,483 metric tons of wheat have been spent for the said development schemes in five upazilas of the district.

Thirty-six roads were reconstructed under world food programme with 2,871 metric tons of wheat. Of the roads, 13 were reconstructed in Sadar upazila, eight in Pirganj, four in Rani Sankal, eight in Baidandangi and three in Haripur upazila were reconstructed.

Ponds reexcavated

Forty-eight derelict ponds were reexcavated with 611 metric tons of wheat to augment fish production. Of the total ponds, 19 in Sadar upazila, six in Haripur, five in Ratisankal, 10 in Pirganj and eight ponds were reexcavated in Baidandangi upazila.

Five connecting roads of five growth centres (hat and bazar), one in each upazila under Thakurgaon district were reconstructed with 436 metric tons of wheat.

Besides, 231 metric tons of wheat have been spent for construction of five heliports in Sadar, Haripur, Pirganj, Baidandangi and Ratisankal upazilas.

Cluster village

Earth work of three cluster villages in Haripur, Ratisankal and Pirganj upazilas have been completed with 231 metric tons of wheat. Some 368 bundles of C1 sheets have been distributed among the families of those cluster villages by the Chairman of Thakurgaon Zila Parishad recently.

Tornado lashes Habiganj Maulvi Bazar: 3 killed

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Apr 14: Three persons were killed and atleast hundred others injured in a tornado that lashed parts of Habiganj and Maulvi Bazar districts Wednesday evening.

About two thousand houses and innumerable trees, telephone and electric poles were razed to the ground.

Electricity and telecommunication are yet to be restored in Habiganj upazilas of Baubal, Banisong, Lakhal and Sadar Habiganj. The tornado, lasting

Judge shortage in Brahmanbaria courts

BRAHMANBARIA, Apr 14: Civil cases in four upazilas of the district are piling up in the courts for want of judges, reports UNB.

Posts of assistant judges have been lying vacant in Akhaura, Kasba, Bancharampur and Nasirganj upazila of the district for the last few months, official sources said.

It has been alleged that despite repeated reminder no measure has yet been taken to fill in the vacant posts.

over half an hour, played havoc in Goyasnagar, Bhatrabazar, Mokampur, Niteswarpur and Kalapur of Srimangal of Maulvi Bazar district leaving one dead near Bhatrabazar when a tree fell on him.

In Habiganj two children Bishpati and Gopal of village Mohajan under Sadar upazila were killed when roof of the house collapsed on them.

Details of death and damage in outlying upazilas of Habiganj could not be ascertained immediately.

The tin roof of Habiganj Girls High School has been blown away and parts of stadium wall levelled to ground. DC, Habiganj visited the house of the dead children and donated five hundred Taka to the families. He also arranged removal of injured persons from the house to Habiganj hospital.

Anti-smuggling drive reduces business activities

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Apr 14: Anti-smuggling drive launched by the law enforcing agencies has reduced business activities in the town and adjoining areas, a report reveals, reports UNB.

Transactions at hats-bazars, banks and other business establishments of the district were very thin during the last three months.

BDR personnel began an anti-smuggling campaign in the district during the period. So far they have seized smuggled goods worth about Tk 2,07,39,284.

According to the report, transactions in different banks of the district have also come down remarkably during the period.

BDR sources said the drive has automatically put restriction on illegal money flow in the market which affected all aspects of economic and social activities.

They said crackdown on smuggling and smugglers would continue unabated despite pressure from a section of unscrupulous businessmen.

Shortage of nets, boats leads fishermen to unemployment

From Our Correspondent

BHOLA, Apr 14: About 20,000 fishermen in seven upazilas of Bhola district are now unable to carry on their ancestral occupation due to nonavailability of fishing appliances as well as working capital. The fall in fishing trade began in the district two years ago following price hike of fishing appliances including nets and boats.

The situation has aggravated due to last year's flood and the life of the fishermen has become too miserable.

Bhola District Fishermen's Association sources said that the flood affected fishermen of the district were not properly rehabilitated. So they are unable to run their trade afresh.

In the local market a fishing boat along with a net are now being sold at about Taka three lakh to Taka 3.50 lakh which is beyond the purchasing capacity of the fishermen.

The soaring prices of fishing boat, net and other appliances persisting in the district have by and large, crippled the professional fishermen. They are also being deprived of government allocation extended to Fishermen's Cooperative Societies due to machination of the local influential quarters.

The beels and haors of the district and the rivers Meghna, Tatulia, Illisha were once the main sources of fish production. But the production has declined this season because of massive siltation and unplanned irrigation. Reckless fishing by the non-professional has also considerably affected the production in the beels, haors and rivers.

Meanwhile, a large number of fishermen has left their profession and switched over to other job. It may be mentioned that, the genuine fishermen were once conventionally given lease of haors, baors, beels, and rivers. But now a days a section of fake fishermen in collusion with the vested quarters in taking lease of the jalmahals.

Despite government provision the local fishermen are not being supplied with yarn at control price due to corruption in the Fishermen's Cooperative Societies.

Arms factory discovered

From Our Correspondent

KUSHLIA, Apr 14: Kumarkhal police has discovered an arms factory in Elongy of Kumarkhal town.

It is learnt that according to a secret information, police found out the factory of manufacturing pipe guns in the temporary house of Mr. Asaduzzaman at Elongy Railpara.

Police arrested Asaduzzaman Badsha with 3 pipe guns and equipment. A case has been lodged with Kumarkhal P.S in this connection.

The accused is now at jail haunt.

Alamdanga police recovered an abandoned gun from a village Fullbagadi at the time of returning to police station after attending a meeting on control of crimes in the village.

It is guessed that the miscreants have left their arms due to the activities of the law enforcing agency.

It is noticeable that many miscreants have already deposited their arms.

One beaten to death

One Razzak (26) Thana para, Kushtia was killed in a clash between two rival groups recently.

It is learnt that beating mercilessly with hockey sticks the murderers left Abdur Razzak in the open air. The victim succumbed to injuries at Kulhita General Hospital.

A case has been lodged in this connection.

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Despite government provision the local fishermen are not being supplied with yarn at control price due to corruption in the Fishermen's Cooperative Societies.

On the other hand, bank loan facilities are not adequate to develop pisciculture in seven upazilas of Bhola district.

Production can be doubled

There is a big prospect of producing more than 20 lakh maunds of fish worth about Taka 50 crore in 16 southern districts under Khulna Division, if the government and public take proper steps by re-excavating the derelict ponds and tanks.

According to a report, some 80 thousand ponds and tanks of various size measuring about 1,32,000 acres are lying uncultured in 16 southern districts for the last 30 years. Of them about 17,000 derelict ponds and tanks in Bhal, Barisal, Pirojpur, and Jhalakati, 1100 ponds in Barguna and

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