

Upazila roundup

GOURIPUR

Plea for night post office

From Our Correspondent

April 20: Gouripur municipal town in Mymensingh being an important business centre with growing population requires a night post office to facilitate daily postal transactions to the people especially the businessmen and service holders.

The existing post office which remains open at day time cannot cope with the heavy postal transactions in an expanding town like Gouripur and as such opening of a night post office brooks no delay.

MADARIPUR

Fodder scarcity

From Our Correspondent

April 20: Acute scarcity of fodder has been persisting throughout the district causing immense suffering to the farmers. Sufferers attributed recurrent natural visitations like floods and droughts to be the reasons behind the paucity. The situation further aggravated as farmers could not preserve straw during the last year.

SYLHET

Bar Assoc executives

From Our Correspondent

April 20: The annual general election of the Sylhet District Bar Association was held recently. The following are the office-bearers:

President: Ahsanuzaman Choudhury, Vice-president: Fafuruddin Ahmed, General Secretary: Sadul Amin Choudhury, Joint Secretary: Showkatul Raza Choudhury, social welfare secretary: Jamilul Haque, Library Secretary: Mr. Badrul Hussain, Asst Secretary Khairul Alam Khan. Auditors: Messrs Jaynul Islam Choudhury and Ahmed Ali.

The members of the executive committee are Messrs. Abdus Sabur Choudhury, Suleman Raza Choudhury, Dewan Golam Kibria Choudhury, Jitendra Narayan Deb, A.T.M. Dalil Uddin Choudhury, Abu Hussain Abdullah, Shamsul Hussain (Kamal), Abdul Mattin and Akther Uddin Ahmed.

MAULVI BAZAR

2 dacoits arrested

From Our Correspondent

April 20: Police arrested two dacoits from Bezbari area of Maulvi Bazar town recently.

Acting on a tip off police raided a house of the Bezbari area and nabbed Arjan and Abdur Rahim. They were wanted in connection with several inter-district dacoities, police said.

Illegal toll collection

It is learnt that the Roads and Highways division of Sylhet has decided to collect tolls from the newly constructed Sherpur Bridge on Sylhet-Maulvi Bazar-Dhaka Trunk Road. Taking this opportunity, a section of miscreants has already been collecting tolls from vehicle before any final order of the authority. The toll collectors have been collecting Taka 15 to Taka 25 from each vehicle.

The transport owners, drivers and passengers condemned the decision taken by Roads and Highways division. They also demanded withdrawal of this decision.

COMILLA

Arms recovered

From Our Correspondent

April 20: Kotwali mobile police led by S.M. Rabbul Karim arrested a young boy named Kazi Zashimuddin (20) with a pipe gun, a 37' ram-dao and other sharp weapons.

The arrested person is a dweller of Latmuri village under Burichang upazila in Comilla.

A case has been filed with Kotwali police.

SATKHIRA

Old man killed in road mishap

April 20: An old man was killed in a road accident on Satkhira-Assauni road Saturday, police said, reports UNB.

Witnesses said, Baker Sardar (75) of Razarbaj village in Sadar upazila was run over by a speeding motor cycle while crossing the road.

A minor boy was driving the vehicle, it is learnt. The body

was sent to Sadar hospital for autopsy and a case was filed in this connection.

PATUAKHALI

Dealers sell rice against false ration cards

April 20: Ration dealers are allegedly selling rice against false ration cards in the district, reports UNB.

According to sources, the dealers in collaboration with dishonest food officials are withdrawing the quota allotted against these fake cards and selling them in blackmarkets.

There are 149 rural ration dealers in six upazilas and 31,318 ration cards in the district. But it was found that most of the cards were fake and food department after investigation cancelled 5,000 fake cards in the Sadar upazila alone.

HABIGANJ

A tragic death

April 20: A minor girl met the tragic end when she along with her mother went to exchange Eid greetings with her grand father at Ramnagar village in Sadar upazila, police said here today, reports UNB.

Witnesses said Shafigue Ali, (50) attacked them with lethal weapons while they were dining with him on Eid day. Rozina (5) died instantaneously while her mother Mymonnesa (26) sustained grievous injuries.

Rozina and Mymonnesa were the daughter and wife of Siraj Ali, the nephew of Shafigue with whom he had a dispute over a plot of land. Mymonnesa was admitted to Sylhet hospital where her condition was stated to be critical.

Police Thursday arrested the grandfather Shafigue and a case was filed in this connection.

MAGURA

Tk 43 lakh for 4 projects

April 20: Zila Parishad here with financial assistance of LGEB has sanctioned Taka 42.90 lakh for completion of four projects during the current financial year, reports UNB.

According to official sources, of the total, Taka 24.35 lakh has been sanctioned for construction of a bridge at Boraidah-Radhanagar road under Sreepur upazila and the rest has already been sanctioned for another three culverts and bridges.

The work on the projects has been started and is expected to be completed within June next.

After completion of the projects road communication with rural areas of the district will be improved to a great extent.

Flood control scheme

An ambitious scheme has been under taken to control flood and provide irrigation facilities covering Mohamadpur upazila of Magura and Lohagara upazila of Narail district.

Bangladesh Water Development Board has taken up the Madhumoti-Nabaganga Flood Control scheme at a cost of Taka 48.30 crore. It covers a gross area of 45,000 hectares of land of which about 38,000 hectares are cultivable.

The scheme includes construction of 155 kms flood control embankment, 190 small structures, 101 kms pucca road, 148 bridges and culverts, installation of 7 drainage regulators, 11 sluice gates and re-excavation of 317 kms drainage channel.

The work has been started and is expected to be completed by next year.

PABNA

Three commit suicide

From Our Correspondent

April 20: Three persons including one young girl committed suicide at different villages under Pabna Sadar upazila recently.

Rahima Khatun (19), wife of Mr. Abdur Rashid of the village Char-Kamalkhali committed suicide by taking poison on April 3.

An old man East Pramanik (60) of the village Bagchipara under Gopspur Union committed suicide by hanging himself on April 1.

A young girl Soheka Khatun (14), daughter of Julmat Sardar of the village Karalpur committed suicide by taking poison on March 30.

Actual cause of their suicide was not known. It is learnt that two of them were the patients of liver-pain.



With the recession of water during summer gypsies cannot move from village to village with their floating abode-boats. Photo shows gypsy women washing cloths while their children are having a dip in the Sitalakhya near Narayanganj. —Star photo

Fish worth Tk 3cr can be produced annually

1000 ponds lying unutilised in Thakurgaon

From Our Correspondent

THAKURGAON, Apr 20: About 1000 ponds in Pirganj, Haripur, Baliadangi, Ranisankal and Sadar upazilas of Thakurgaon district have been lying unutilised. These ponds are lying unutilised because of multishare ownership. If these ponds are re-excavated and brought under pisciculture in a proper way, fish worth about Taka three crore may be produced per annum in the district.

About 50 per cent ponds under share ownership have been silted and dried up due to lack of maintenance. On the other hand, a large number of ponds are covered with water hyacinths and fish cultivation

can not be undertaken in these ponds unless a comprehensive scheme is taken for proper utilisation of the same.

According to a cooperative farmer, concerned authorities should come forward with a motivation approach of cooperative farming to the share holders of the derelict ponds, so that they could realise their loss and get inspiration.

Moreover, steps to re-excavate the silted ponds, introduction of scientific process of fish cultivation, arrangement for training on pisciculture should be taken. Adequate fishery loan to the intending fish farmers should also be made available, it is felt.

The people who have to register deeds for transfer of property are suffering for want of cartridge papers and stamps in Thakurgaon. Some vendors have created artificial shortage of cartridge papers and stamps and are selling the items at exorbitant price.

It is learnt from a reliable source that in all five sub-registry offices in Thakurgaon district such misdeeds are being carried on by the vendors in collusion with some officials of the treasury.

Besides, absence of latrine and sanitation facilities in all sub-registry offices, causes much sufferings to the people including women, coming

from far-flung areas for registration of deeds.

It is learnt that most of the registry offices are housed on rental basis. Due to insufficient accommodation Mohrars and deed writers are to sit on verandah and sometimes in the open air.

Power failure

Frequent power failure in Ranisankal Pirganj, Haripur, Baliadangi and Thakurgaon town of the district has posed a serious problem to the consumers, during the last few weeks.

Power goes off every now and then causing loss to the husking mills and other industries in the district.

Pests threaten production

Mangoes nipped in the bud

From Mahbubur Rahman

CHAPAI NAWABGANJ, Apr 20: The production of mangoes in the district, the biggest mango producing district, declined rapidly in the past years due to lack of management pest menace and attack of different diseases.

The production of mangoes in 1980 was about one lakh 60 thousand tons. But it came down to about only 83 thousand tons in '89. In 1990 the harvest was an alarming 12 thousand tons. Sources said this year's production will be further down. This decline in production occurs as the mango garden owners do not take any care of trees. They just sell the gardens to the businessmen during the season. Moreover, in last ten years, diseases like anthracnose, powdery mild, gamosis, and shootgall have ruined the trees. Most of the garden owners are not aware of the diseases and do not take proper care of their gardens.

Presently, there are about 16,160 acres of mango garden with more than four lakh trees. But this number is fast decreasing as owners are felling trees and using the land otherwise as mango production has gone down.

A mango research centre was established in the district in 1980 with a view to applying scientific and technological methods to the production of mango. Government has spent about Taka 40 crore for this institution. But the institution can offer a little help to the growers.



Fewer mangoes on a tree normally expected to give a much better yield. —Star photo

2 killed in Brahmanbaria

BRAHMANBARIA, Apr 20: Two people were killed on Eid day in separate incidents in the district, police said here today, reports UNB.

Abdul Hamid (21), a madrasa student of Dhantallia of Nasirnagar upazila was killed on the spot in a clash between two rival groups over a land dispute.

In another incident, Abdul Jaher (24), of Shalirpatha in Sadar upazila committed suicide by hanging. The cause of his self-killing could not be ascertained.

Post mortem of the bodies were performed at Sadar hospital. Separate cases were also lodged with police.

Heroin recovered, 4 arrested

MANIKGANJ, Apr 20: Police Tuesday arrested four people including two women from Nutanpara village in Shibabala upazila and recovered heroin and pathedine worth about Taka 50,000 from their possession, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip of police raided the house of Moniruddin (35) and seized the intoxicants. Police arrested Salma (30), Ataur Ali (36), and Abdus Sattar (35), and an unidentified girl from the house.

Monir, who has been selling drugs in the district for a long time, however, was not arrested, locals alleged.

Draft animal shortage

Cultivation in the district has been adversely affected by draft cattle shortage.

According to sources, the shortage has been caused due to recurrent natural calamities, rampant cattle lifting, diseases and fodder crisis.

Crops on 18,100 acres submerged in Maulvi Bazar

From our Correspondent

MAULVI BAZAR, Apr 20: Due to heavy rainfall in the Maulvi Bazar district since April 2, boro crops on 18,100 acres of land in five upazilas have been submerged, official sources said.

According to sources, in Kulsaura upazila 8750 acres of land were submerged by hilly water. Badly affected unions are Bhooksimul, Baramchal and Jayfarnagar.

Over 4330 acres of crop land were submerged at

Fotehpur, Panchgaon and Kamarchalk unions of Rajnagar upazila and 2590 acres in Sreemangal upazila have been affected.

Rahimpur union is badly affected in Kamalgonj upazila and boro crops on 1300 acres have been submerged here.

Baralekha upazila is also affected and 1100 acres of cropland are submerged by rainwater.

It may be mentioned here that according to official

sources, about 75,000 acres of land have been brought under Boro cultivation before the incessant rainfall.

If water recede sharply, the amount of losses may be limited, the source opined.

2 get life-term for murder

The District and Sessions Judge, Habigonj found Siraj Miah Member and Jharee Miah of Bahubal upazila in Habigonj

district guilty of murder and sentenced them to life imprisonment and a fine of Taka 500 each in default to suffer RI for one month more. The judge also awarded 4 years' RI with a fine of Taka 500 in default further RI for one month more to Jaill Miah.

In the same case Abdus Shahid and Ibrahim Ullah were awarded 2 years' RI and Shabad Ullah for 1 year RI. While 10 other co-accused were acquitted of charges.

Drinking water scarce in Pabna

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Apr 20: Acute scarcity of drinking water has been prevailing in Pabna town and its adjoining areas causing great sufferings to the people.

According to the sufferers of Pabna municipal area, most hand-driven tubewells of different areas of the district have gone out of order due to abnormal fall in underground water-level.

The dwellers in Pabna municipal areas are getting water supply from three deep tubewells only while another three deep tubewells are out of order. Only two over-head tanks are available with water holding capacity of 2.5 lakh gallons are available. The total number of water connection in the municipal area is only 2328. The number of hand driven tubewells in this area is only 286 most of which have gone out of order. Ultimately the users of hand driven tubewell are also becoming dependent on tap water.

Consequently, the villagers are compelled fetch water

from rivers and ponds. As a result, a good number of them have been suffering from various gastro-intestinal ailments.

The authorities concerned have been urged to take effective measure to ensure adequate supply of pure drinking water here, immediately.

Tahsilder killed

A Tahsilder (Tax collector) was killed by some miscreants of Sujanagar upazila under the district recently.

Mr Mohiuddin (56) of Malifa Upazila Tahasil at the village Manikhat under Sujanagar upazila was attacked by some miscreants when he came out to take Shri. He was left about 40 feet apart from his room with serious wounds. Later he was admitted to Pabna Sadar Hospital by the villagers. Mr Abu Solaiman Chowdhury, Deputy Commissioner visited him in the hospital. He was transferred to Dhaka Medical College Hospital and died there on April 6.

Smuggled cloves recovered

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, Apr 20: Smuggled cloves weighing seven quintal worth about Taka one lakh were seized by the Damurhuda bus stand recently.

It is learnt that the smuggled cloves while being taken to Darsana, acting on secret information the Damurhuda thana police under Chaudanga district seized the said cloves from Damurhuda bus stand. The driver of the truck was arrested in this connection.

A case has been started in this connection with Damurhuda police.

Investigation is going on.

Obituary

Mr. Nurul Huda (47), Chairman, Notipota Union Parishad under Damurhuda upazila of Chuadanga district died at his village home at Notipota following a massive heart attack on April 2 last.

He was laid to rest at his village graveyard at Notipoka village.

He left behind his wife, sons and daughters and a good number of relatives and friends to mourn his death.

Notes from Rajshahi

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Apr 20: An old man was killed and two others were injured in a road accident at Gopalhati under Puthia upazila on Rajshahi-Natore Highway recently.

Eye-witnesses said, one Lal Mohammad (50) was killed on the spot when he was knocked down by a Natore bound truck.

The injured persons were admitted to a local hospital. The driver made a good escape. A case has been registered with Puthia thana in this connection.

Arms recovered

Godagari police recovered one rifle, one gun and six rounds of ammunition from Paksi village under Godagari upazila recently. None was arrested in this connection.

On a secret information police raided the house of one Sikander Ali and seized the arms and ammunition. A case has been filed with local police station.

Training on journalism

An eight-day long training course on journalism for university correspondents sponsored by Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) held at Rajshahi concluded recently.

A total of 28 university correspondents of different newspapers participated in the course. Prof. Amanullah Ahmed, VC of Rajshahi university distributed certificates among the participants in the concluding ceremony, while Mr. Enamul Haque Director-General of PIB was in the chair.

Unplanned rice mills pose health hazard

From A Correspondent

CHUADANGA, Apr 20: Unplanned growth of rice mills in different urban and village areas of Chuadanga, Meherpur, Kushtia and Jhenidah districts have been causing serious hazard to public health by polluting environment.

The rice husking plants of the region have been set up at the roadsides and localities without taking into consideration the sufferings of the people residing there. The owners of the mills have been earning a good profit from the business. But they bother little about the matter relating to the public health and sound living of the populated areas. While visiting the areas, this correspondent found suffocating offensive odour comes out from the water pools few hours after watering of the paddy to wet. The vaporous wind wastages of brans and ashes of the oven pollute air to create health hazard.

A number of husking mills were seen at the populated areas of the villages and towns which were meant for husking rice and crushing ata and flour. Almost round-the-clock operation of the mills were creating

noisy sounds affecting normal life in the areas.

Godowns in Madaripur need repair

From Our Correspondent

MADARIPUR, Apr 20: For want of necessary repair and renovation six godowns of Food Department in Madaripur Sadar upazila have become unfit for food storage.

According to official sources, the godowns built in the year 1956 at riverport Charnugria under Sadar upazila were not repaired or renovated. Windows of the godowns have been either damaged or stolen. Floor of these godowns have developed cracks and innumerable pot-holes and the walls are on the verge of collapse.

The surge of flood water of 1988 has extensively damaged the boundary walls of the godowns.

The approach road to the godowns which have turned unserviceable requires immediate repair for loading and unloading of foodgrains.