

Upazila roundup

BRAHMANBARIA

Prices of baby food mark rise

April 27 : Prices of all brands of skimmed milk have gone up abnormally in the district during the last few weeks adversely affecting the consumers, reports UNB.

Market sources said each 2 kg tins of Dano, Red Cow and Anchor are being sold between Taka 255 and 258 against Taka 245 a fortnight ago.

Each 2 kg tins of Frisnia and Nespray brands which have risen by about 10 to 15 per cent are now selling between Taka 260 and 262.

Besides, one pound tins of Dano and Red Cow are being sold between Taka 65 and 68 as against Taka 55 and 60 respectively a week back.

Local people urged the authorities to take stringent measures against unscrupulous hoarders for price hikes and ensure smooth supply of the items.

RAJBARI

Property worth Tk 50 lakh gutted

April 27 : Property worth about Taka 50 lakh was gutted in a devastating fire at Pangsa bazar of the district on Thursday, police said, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the fire originating from electric short circuit soon engulfed the area burning down 15 shops which included jewellery and hardware shops, a rice godown and a video club.

Fire fighters after two and a half hours of frantic efforts brought the fire under control.

FARIDPUR

Rabi crops output not satisfactory

April 27 : The production of Rabi crops are not satisfactory in Faridpur district this year. It is learnt from the District Agriculture Extension Office that 94,694 hectares of land were earmarked for the cultivation of Rabi crops this year in the district.

But in reality only 72,935 hectares of land have been cultivated. As a result 21,759 hectares of land will remain uncultivated during the current season. The sources also added that the target fixed for the irrigation machines were 6750, power pumps 550, deep tubewells 500, shallow tubewells 5800. But the farmers lifted only 5679 irrigation machines, 338 power pumps, 235 deep tubewells, 5106 shallow machines. With the help of these machines about 30,198 hectares of land will be brought under high-yielding variety and local variety.

It is learnt that for the scarcity of diesel and fertilizer about 30 per cent land will remain unirrigated as a result, the target of the production will not be achieved in the current season.

NOAKHALI

Smuggled goods recovered : 4 arrested

April 27 : Four people were arrested for their alleged involvement in smuggling from Begunjan upazila, police said here today, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip, the police raided the shop of Dhani Mia at Chowmahani market and arrested Khalil Mia, Abdul Kader, Shah Alam and Sirajuddin for allegedly possessing 76 pieces of Indian sarees and 500 glasswares worth about Tk 20,000.

In another drive Sudharam police recovered a pipe gun and several rounds of bullets from the house of Siddiqullah at Eajlecha village of Sadar upazila.

Cases were filed in this connection.

Sports goods stolen

Sports goods worth about Taka 30,000 were stolen from the District Sports Association office on Sunday, police here said.

According to sources, the thieves broke the lock of the office and took away 50 footballs, a good number of hockey sticks, cricket bats and balls and jerseys from almiras.

A case was filed with Sudharam police in this connection.

KISHOREGANJ

Development coordination body meet held

From Our Correspondent

April 27 : The District Development Co-ordination Committee meeting was held at the conference room of the Deputy Commissioner, Kishoreganj recently. Nasrul Islam, Deputy Commissioner who is the President of the committee presided over the meeting.

Civil Surgeon, A.D.C. (Gen), ADC (Rev), U.N.Os, and other district level officers were present at the meeting.

A threadbare discussion was held on family planning and population control, health, E.P.I. programme, cultivation of vegetable, etc, construction of road, livestock, co-operative, supply of electricity, water supply, disbursement and realisation of loan, etc.

MADARIPUR

Pye-dog menace

From Our Correspondent

April 27 : The alarming increase in the number of pye-dogs over the last one year has become a menace to the town dwellers. The pay-dogs with scabby skins are seen roaming about here and there in the town and the pedestrians can hardly avoid their contact while walking through the roads and the lanes. The school going children are the worst sufferers.

The rush of these pye-dogs, especially in the meat, fish, milk and molasses markets causes a lot of troubles both to the buyers and the sellers.

The local pourashava authority in the wake of public demand initiated a drive to eliminate pye-dog menace about two years ago. But pye-dogs again increased alarmingly.

SIRAJGANJ

Smuggled goods worth Tk 7 lakh recovered

From Our Correspondent

April 27 : Sirajganj police, in a massive anti-smuggling drive, recovered huge Indian goods worth Taka at 7 lakh recently.

According to a police source, Sirajganj Sadar thana police under headed by Upazila Magistrate Mr. Abdul Malek recovered 250 pieces of Indian sarees and arrested one Mr. Joy. The source further disclosed that Ullapara upazila police recovered 14 bags of Indian sugar while Belkuchi upazila police recovered 15 bales of Indian yarn and 525 pieces of Indian sarees. Police arrested 3 persons in this connection.

COX'S BAZAR

Painting contest

From Our Correspondent

April 27 : 'Avigyan Mukta Kendro' a noted social, cultural and science organisation of Cox's Bazar has arranged a 'painting training programme' at Ramu upazila.

Abul Mansur Advocate, Upazila Chairman of Ramu inaugurated the programme and it was presided over by Osman Sarwar Alam Chowdhury, Principal of Mahila College, Cox's Bazar. Abdul Hakim Mandal, U.N.O. of Ramu and Mustaque Ahmed, Principal of Ramu College were chief guest and special guest respectively.

It was addressed by Dr. M.A. Hossain, Dr. Younus, Professor Sumssor Chakrabarti, Biswajit Sen Bachchu.

KUSHITIA

Number of divorces on rise

April 27 : Number of divorces and marriage of minor girls are gradually increasing with mushroom growth of unlicensed marriage registrars in all the six upazilas of the district, reports UNB.

According to sources, at least 1500 divorce cases were recorded during the last two years in six upazilas.

These divorced women are reportedly taking recourse to illegal means for their survival. Young housewives are being abandoned by their husbands mostly for dowry.

Meanwhile, unlicensed marriage registrars are performing marriage deeds violating government rules. As per government rule none below 65 years of age is entitled to work as marriage registrars.

Besides, they charge exorbitant fee for each case.



Fish production has declined considerably. As summer is the lean season, these fishing trawlers lying aground ashore Kutubdia island. —Star photo

Diarrhoea claims 500 lives so far in southern districts

From Our Correspondent

BARISAL, Apr 27: Diarrhoea has claimed about 500 lives affecting more than 2,2693 persons in six southern districts of Barisal, Jhalakathi, Patuakhali, Bhola, Pirojpur and Borguna so far.

Situation in Patuakhali and Jhalakathi remained almost unchanged. In last 48 hours nine persons died and more than 400 persons were affected. In Sadar upazila more than 57 persons died affecting more than 1200. In Dashmina upazila six persons died while more than 700 were afflicted.

More than 400 medical teams including army medical teams were working in the worst affected areas round the clock.

Percentage of Cauliform bacilli has increased in the drinking water of Barisal town. This percentage varies from five to 12 in different places of the town area. The drinking water which is supplied from the underground reservoir of the Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital has been contaminated with the high percentage of Cauliform bacilli.

On the other hand it is alleged that some dishonest medicine shopkeepers are taking higher price for IVS and ORS in and around the town areas from the consumers.

According to the official sources, diarrhoea situation in Patuakhali district is yet to be improved. Five persons died and 358 persons were attacked on last Thursday. Updated figure in Patuakhali is 110 died and more than 4000 were affected, 65 medical teams including 29 doctors are working in six upazilas of the district.

Barisal Development Society and NGO have already distributed 42,000 packets of ORS, 500 bags of IVS and 20,000 WPTs while another NGO has distributed 1000 packets of ORS in the diarrhoea affected areas. BDS has also sent nine medical teams in the affected areas.

Our Narayanganj Correspondent adds: Out break of diarrhoea has been alarming in Narayanganj. Two persons: one Shuman Shaha (25) and the other at unknown man (50) have already died. People from various affected areas like Khanpur, Talcah, Bandar, Paikpara, Deobhog, Baboral are rushing to the hospitals with their patients. Everyday new areas are coming down in its clutch.

Diarrhoea ward source of Victoria Hospital says: around 200 patients have been treated in this ten-bed ward in the past twelve days. The ward is small compared to the number of patients. They are kept on the floor.

Chandpur

UNB from Chandpur says: With four more deaths reported in last 24 hours from four upazilas, the death toll from diarrhoea rose to 19 in

the district during the last one week, official sources said on Friday.

All the dead were minors. They were identified as Shaheen (7) of Haimchar, Fatema Begum (7) of Matlab, Shah Alam (13) of Hajiganj and Shahadat (3) of Sadar upazila.

More than 500 people were also attacked by the water-borne virus in the district during the period, the sources said.

Meanwhile, a field hospital has been set up in Faridganj, the worst-hit upazila. But, the sources said, no diarrhoeal death was reported from the upazila during the last 24 hours.

A total of 58 medical teams are working in the diarrhoea affected areas of the district to combat the disease.

UP Chairman embezzles Tk 13.45 lakh in Jamalpur

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Apr 27: A case of misappropriation of Taka 13,45,000 allegedly by Chairman of Mahmudpur Union Parishad in Melandah Upazila under Jamalpur has been detected recently.

At least 14,531 kgs of wheat worth Taka seven lakh were sanctioned for 465 VGDC women in Mahmudpur Union in 1987-1988 and wheat sanctioned for VGD card holders for the month of December and January worth Taka two lakh 60 thousand and 600 maunds of wheat allotted un-

der FWP and CARE programmes worth Taka two lakh were withdrawn from Melandah LSD godown time to time and misappropriated.

Besides, Taka 35,000 from the ADP fund for development work of the Union Parishad building was also misappropriated.

Moreover, fertilizer of Taka 1,30,000 under Agri-Rehabilitation for flood hit people and soyabean oil worth Taka 20,000 allotted for flood hit people in 1988-89 has also been allegedly misappropri-

ated by the Chairman. Several allegations were submitted to the high officials including D.C., District Anti-Corruption Department and Local Government and Rural Development Ministry but no action has yet been taken in this regard.

The people of the Union urged the authorities to investigate into the matter as early as possible and take immediate action in this regard to mitigate the sufferings of the poor people.

The 60-kilometer Jamalpur-Madarganj road, constructed during the British regime has been rendered unworthy for the transport. Innumerable potholes and ditches have been developed on this brick-soled road on which 25 to 30 buses and over one hundred trucks ply everyday.

During the period of late President Ziaur Rahman the road was brought under renovation programme to extend the road communication in Bogra district. An amount of Taka 40 crore was sanctioned for the project. The World Bank agreed to provide Taka 40 crore grant for the project but due to sudden death of the late President the work came to a halt. Meanwhile, the devastating floods of 1988 brought a havoc to the road after which Taka 1.07 lakh was allocated for the repair work, but the road needs thorough renovation.

The condition of the road has become more deplorable due to reckless driving of heavy vehicles.

Anti-smuggling body formed

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Apr 27: An anti-smuggling committee to check smuggling and black-marketing in the district was formed in a meeting held at the chamber of Deputy Commissioner recently.

Presided over by D.C., Jhenidah, the meeting in its resolution felt great concern over recent increase of smuggling in the country for which the backbone of our economy is being fractured and urged upon all to come forward to eradicate this curse immediately.

Headed by Deputy Commissioner, Jhenidah the smuggling control committee was formed with journalists, businessmen, government officials, police personnel, political persons, motor owners and others.

6,177 tons wheat for 127 projects

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Apr 27 : About 6177.774 metric tons of wheat have been allotted for implementing 127 projects under the Food for Works Programme in 13 upazilas of Kishoreganj district during the current dry season.

According to district Relief and Rehabilitation office source, a total of 47 projects at a cost of 2929.600 metric tons of wheat will be implemented with the financial assistance of CARE, 59 projects at a cost of 3058.624 metric tons of wheat allotted by the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation and 21 projects, at a cost of 189.550 metric tons of wheat allotted out of general head.

The projects included construction, re-construction and repair of roads, embankments, culvert and bridges, excavation and reexcavation of canals.

5616 tons under VGD

The government has allocated 5616.288 metric tons of wheat for the mothers and children of Kishoreganj district under Vulnerable Group feeding Development (VGD) in the current fiscal year.

According to Relief and Rehabilitation Department

sources, the wheat will be distributed among 15,898 distressed families through 115 VGD centres in 13 upazilas and three pourashavas of the district. Each family will get 31.25 kgs of wheat per month.

Of the total, about 351.375 metric tons of wheat for 937 families were sanctioned in Itna, 630.750 metric tons for 1682 families in Mitamain, 292.875 MTs for 852 families in Austagram, 273.281 MTs for 795 families in Nikli, 423.375 MTs for 1129 families in Bajitpur, 263.531 MTs for 937 families in Kullachar, 300.093 MTs for 873 families in Bhairab, 600.509 MTs for 1747 families in Katiadi, 402 MTs for 1072 families in Hossainpur, 490.531 MTs for 1427 families in Pakundia, 563.750 MTs for 1640 families in Karimganj, 312.468 MTs for 909 families in Taral and 599.250 MTs for 1598 families in Kishoreganj Sadar upazila and 33.750 MTs for 90 families in Bajitpur pourashava, 33.750 MTs for 90 families in Bhairab and 45 MTs for 120 families in Kishoreganj pourashava.

Meanwhile 3736.75 metric tons of wheat have been distributed among the distressed people.

Drug addicts on rise in Bhola

From Our Correspondent

BHOLA, Apr 27: Ganja, rectified spirit, drug, wine and other narcotics are widely used by a section of young people. This is vitiating the atmosphere and poisoning the minds of new generation in Bhola district town.

It is alleged that, narcotics and liquor are being sold freely in different shops of the town although there is an office of Narcotics and Liquor with full-fledged staff whose main duty is to check illegal sale of liquor. It is alleged that, they seldom discharge their duties. The drug addiction among the youths of the town has increased, it is also alleged. The

addicts are taking different types of sleeping pills for want of other drug, according to a drug shop owner of the town. The guardians are concerned about the rising immoral activities of their wards as well as young boys.

'BNP aims at corruption-free administration'

SINGAIR, Apr 27:

Communications Minister Oli Ahmad yesterday said the objective of the BNP government is to improve the quality of life of the common people.

He was addressing at a function, marking the inauguration of the construction work of 240 feet long bridge on the 8 km Hemayetpur-Singair road here yesterday.

Mr Oli Ahmad stressed the need for a corruption-free administration for the implementation of socio-economic development programmes. He said peaceful law and order in the society is the prerequisite for the progress and prosperity of a country.

The function was also addressed by Industries Minister Shamsul Islam Khan, Harunur Rashid Khan MP, Neyamat Ullah Sabu MP and Mrs Farida Hasan MP.

Anwar visits tornado-hit areas in Comilla

COMILLA, Apr 27: Shipping Minister MK Anwar recently visited the tornado-hit Champaknagar and Kalajuri areas of Comilla district to see or himself the relief and rehabilitation works there, reports BSS.

The Minister went round, the affected areas and talked to local people. He expressed his satisfaction after hearing from the affected people that they had been provided with adequate succour.

Mystery shrouds killing of labour leader

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, Apr 27: Hundreds of workers of Darsana Sugar Mills demonstrated in front of the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Chuadanga on April 23 and chanted slogans condemning the killing of their union President Majaheed Hossain.

It may be mentioned here that Majaheed Hossain was found in a critical condition on the road near Purapara village on Chuadanga-Darsana road on April 14 last who was immediately taken to Darsana Sugar Mills Hospital where he succumbed to his injury.

The workers of the mills described his death as unnatural. They demanded proper enquiry and necessary action in this regard. A memorandum was handed over to the Deputy Commissioner of Chuadanga. Earlier, a big public meeting was held at Darsana Sugar Mill football field with Liaquat Hossain Shah in the chair where the speakers strongly condemned the killing of Majaheed Hossain and demanded immediate enquiry and necessary action in this regard.

Meanwhile, a murder case has been started with Damurhuda police station in this connection. Three persons including two women have been arrested in this connection. Investigation is going on.

Another report adds: Mystery shrouds death of Majaheed Hossain, President of Carew's Employees Union, Darsana. The incident of his death is yet to be inquired into.

It is reported that the labour leader was enticed to come to Chuadanga over a telephone call and so he was coming to Chuadanga by a mo-

tor cycle at 10 pm on April 14. Pedestrians saw him lying down unconscious having grievous injuries on his head on Damurhuda-Chuadanga highway near Purapara passengers shed. He was shifted to Carew's Hospital in a critical condition where he succumbed to his injuries at 12 pm.

It was learnt from the local people that he was killed by assassins.

Potato growers deprived of fair price

From Our Correspondent

NARSINGDI, Apr 27: Potato growers of the district have been deprived of fair price of their produce.

The farmers have achieved a bumper production of potato this season. They are coming to hats, bazars and markets of the district with sacks full of potatoes. Due to plenty supply the prices have come down. Potatoes are being sold in the market at Taka 3 per kg. Sweet potatoes sell at Taka 2.50 per kg where production cost is Taka 4 and Taka 3 respectively.

There is no cold storage in Narsingdi. For this reason, the farmers are bound to sell potatoes at lower price.

IRRI-Boro production of six upazilas in the district is affected by persisting dry spell.

According to the sources, prolonged drought dried up almost all sources of water like pond, canal, beel and river.

Most of the shallow tubewells in the areas have become dry and unserviceable following abnormal fall in the underground water level.



Blacksmith engaged in making agricultural tools in a rural area. Local production meets nearly 90 per cent of country's total requirements of farm tools. —Star photo