

Upazila roundup

SYLHET
Irregular appointments alleged

From Our Correspondent
May 3: The Sylhet Textile Mills authorities are violating the govern-orders in appointing staff and workers, alleged Sylhet Gono Dabi Parishad Chairman in a Press release issued recently.
The president, Alhaj Nubaswir Ali, said that although government directive requires 80 per cent locals to be recruited for corrupt practices to appoint their own men. He urged the mill authorities to stop such practice and fulfill the quota for locals following government order.

NETRAKONA
Law, order situation discussed

From Our Correspondent
May 3: A meeting was held at the conference room of Police Super Netrakona with the local journalist recently. In the meeting Kazi Joyntal Abedin, Police Super discussed various problems. The meeting emphasised the need for maintaining law and order situation throughout the district.
The meeting was addressed by Md Humayun Kabir Selim, Star Correspondent, Abdur Rahim, Correspondent of Dainik Sangram and Hafizur Rahman.
ASP, Netrakona Circle, Kazi Foyzul Hossain and Ayet Ali Sarker, C.I. Netrakona Sadar were also present in the meeting.

FARIDPUR
Killing of student protested

From Our Correspondent
May 3: A procession was brought out by the students of Mozziddin High School, in protest against the killing of Prodip Kumar Sarker (14) who was a student of Mozziddin High School.
The processionists demanded exemplary punishment to the murderers of Prodip Kumar Sarker. The procession paraded the main road of the town and chanted slogans against the killing of a school student.
It is learnt that the incident occurred when the boy aged got into an eveasting brawl with a group of youngsters who were also witnessing the sports meeting of Itam Girls High School.

NARAYANGANJ
One killed in road mishap

From Our Correspondent
May 3: One person was killed and four others were seriously injured, when a speeding truck (Dhaka Da-1949) and a baby-taxi collided head on at Shimral area on Dhaka-Chittagong highway recently, police said.
The victim, baby-taxi driver, died on the spot as bound truck hit the baby-taxi which was carrying five passengers.
The injured persons were sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital in a critical condition.
Police seized the truck which its driver managed to flee.
A case has been filed with Shiddirganj thana in this connection.

BARISAL
Four arrested

From Our Correspondent
May 3: Barisal police arrested four persons allegedly having connection with so called Sarbahara Party recently from Wazirpur upazila of the district.
Police has already started combined operations with the special armed police, research police and battalion police to curb the activities of the Sarbahara Party in different places of the district.
A police camp has already been set up in Bamrali village -operations are going on.

KISHOREGANJ
Pests damage boro paddy

May 3: Boro production target will not be achieved this year due to widespread pest attack, farmers feared, reports UNB.
About 40 per cent of the standing crops in all the 13 upazilas of the district have been damaged by pest locally known as "Pamri", they claimed.
Official sources said about 1.32 lakh hectares of land have been brought under boro cultivation in the upazilas this season. The target was also fixed at 3.30 lakh metric tons.

Pesticides, now available in local markets, are found ineffective and adulterated, farmers complained.
Farmers urged the authorities to spray insecticides on the croplands without further delay.

BRAHMANBARIA
Baishakhi Mela

May 3: A five-day Baishakhi Utsav 1398, organised by Shahitya Academy, Brahmanbaria to welcome the Bengali new year was held from April 19 to 23 at industrial school premises here, reports BSS.
Various kinds of traditional handicrafts, pottery, folk-items and cottage industry products were put on display in the Baishakhi Mela.
Programmes of the festival included discussion meeting on the culture and heritage of Bangladesh, recitations of poems and Punthi Path, Dramas, display of paintings and presentation of folk and patriotic songs.

MADARIPUR
Bus stand needs waiting shed

From Our Correspondent
May 3: Bus passengers are faced with manifold problems due to the absence of a waiting shed at Bhanga Bridge bus stand on Madaripur-Bhughata route.
Eyewitnesses said, passengers are to wait under the open sky for hours together for a bus. Besides, absence of utility services has fort her aggravated the situation.

KUSHTIA
Death condoled

May 3: Workers of Kushtia Sugar Mills condoled the sudden demise of Mujahid, Publicity Secretary of Chintkal Federation and President of Sramik Karmachari Union of Darshana Sugar Mills, reports UNB.
In a meeting recently at the mills premises, they protested the dastardly killing of the labour leader who was vocal against smuggling of Indian sugar into the country.
They also demanded immediate arrest of those responsible for the killing of Mujahid.
Mujahid was allegedly killed by a group of smugglers on the night of April 26.
Earlier, leaders of Sramik Karmachari Union of 16 sugar mills of the country have demanded proper trial of the murderers of Mujahid.

C' NAWABGANJ
One killed in clash

From A Correspondent
May 3: One Faring Master died in a clash between two rival groups at Chunakhal under Shibganj upazila of Chapai Nawabganj district recently.
There was a clash between two rival groups headed by one Rabu Mia and one Mohsin on the Eid day. Faring Master of the Mohsin group died and about forty people were injured in the clash. Of the injured eight were admitted to the Nawabganj Sadar Hospital.
A case has been filed with Chapai Nawabganj P.S. and police has arrested ten accused persons.
In 1986 a man of Rabu group died in a clash of the same nature.

KUSHTIA
Medicare absent in health centres

May 3: Most upazila health centres here are groaning under manifold problems affecting medicare, patients complained, reports UNB.
Paucity of drinking water, lack of proper drainage system, absence of ambulances, blood banks, dental and ophthalmic equipment have been impeding treatment in the centres, they said.
X-ray machines are also lying inoperative at many centres aggravating the situation further.
Besides, most doctors allegedly remain absent from duties compounding the miseries of the patients.
Attendants of the admitted patients said they are to buy medicines from outside at exorbitant prices.
Sources in health centres, however, said steps are underway to replenish stock for emergency medicines.

TV programmes
Dhaka television programmes are regularly disturbed by ghost images and black lines on TV screen, TV watchers here complained.



Everything's gone, the survivors seem to say, while mourning the loss of their near and dear ones, swept away by the colossal tidal wave during the Monday's cyclone that ravaged the island of Kutubdia in Chittagong. —Star photo by Mohsin

Chittagong, Cox's Bazar in ruins
The nightmare that still haunts the survivors of cyclone

From Nazir Ahmed

CHITTAGONG, May 3: Tragic scenes among survivors wailing and crying for their near and dear ones were witnessed during visits to some worst-affected villages of Chittagong and Cox's Bazar districts devastated by the cyclone.
The once-idyllic sea-shore villages in the Cox's Bazar area have been turned into rubbles by the cyclone and the tidal surge. It is a common scene to witness people crying amidst scenes of destruction for food, shelter, cloth and medicines.
Mr. Ahmedur Rahman Chowdhury, Chairman of Halder Union of Banshkhalitold BSS amid wails that the calamity took the people by storm. He said 20 to 25 thousand people of Baharchara, Khankhanabad, Saraj and Gandamara Union were killed during the storm. The survivors are still crying for their near and dear ones and also clamouring for food, shelter, cloth and medicines. Mr Chowdhury said there was even dearth of shroud (kafan cloth). Crops had been fully destroyed. Cattle and poultry perished during the tidal surge, he said.
Mr. Chowdhury said in some areas decomposed bodies were spreading foul stench while the survivors were just struggling for mere existence often without food, drinking water and shelter.
Mr. Mizanur Rahman, a law student from Anwara upazila, said that Paipur, Barasat, Bhurumchhara, Tailerdwip, Barakhata, Hatfider and Bairagi unions were the worst affected

areas with several thousand people killed and nearly 50,000 head of cattle perished.
In Chakoria upazila of Cox's Bazar, Dhemeshaia, Ilishia, Bara Bheola, Badar Khali, Maghnama and Dulahazara unions were badly affected and the casualty figures might run between 10 and 15 thousand, according to Alhaj Anwar Hussein, a businessman of Chakoria.
Rescue and relief work was yet to start in the remote areas of Demoshia and Badarkhali, he said.
He said that almost cent percent of shrimp projects at Rampura, Palakata and Charandip were damaged while salt stocks at Badarkhali, Ujantia and other places had been washed away.

Passengers coming from Cox's Bazar to Chittagong city said that the death and destruction in Kutubdia, St Martin and Sonadia islands of Cox's Bazar was massive. But assessment of the death and destructions could not be made for lack of communications, they said.
They said that Sonadia, St Martin and Kutubdia islands were under eight to fifteen feet of water and thus loss of life and property could be colossal there.
Communications Minister Col (ret'd) Oli Ahmad who has been supervising rescue and relief work here almost round-the-clock in the affected areas of Chittagong and Cox's Bazar said after an aerial survey of

Banskhali, Kutubdia, Sandwip and Chakoria that the casualty figure might be higher than what we are getting now. He said that 20 to 25 thousand people may have died in Banskhali, Chakoria, Anwara and Kutubdia alone. He apprehended more deaths in Kutubdia, St Martin, Sandwip, Sonadia and Urir Char islands as there were the worst hit areas.
He said that army relief teams had been sent to the affected areas while two naval ships with relief materials were despatched to Kutubdia and Sandwip.
The combined death toll in Chakoria, Kutubdia and Maheshkhali might go beyond 40,000. Houses and property

of other nature were all either destroyed or damaged. A good harvest of crop expected this year has all been destroyed by the surging saline waters from the Bay.
According to 'eyewitnesses' account the pictures in Hatya, Manpura and other small islands along the stretch of the Bangladesh coastal belt are almost the same.
The country's major sea port and the airport here still bore the mark of the fury of the devastating storm which hit the terminal building of the civil aviation and other valuable equipment and objects in and around the airport area.
About 350 people belonging to 70 families of the staff of the civil aviation there narrated the harrowing tales of the night to the journalists. The inside view of the terminal building of the civil aviation still gives a ghostly look with its downstairs rooms filled with tons of debris including broken pieces of costly windowpanes and rubbles carried by the tidalbore which rose about 15 feet at the place.
The low-paid staff who survived the fury of the catastrophe climbing up the roof-tops of their residential buildings lost all belongings in their house except what they were wearing on at the time of the storm.
The angry staff members of the civil aviation yesterday refused to accept rice, pulse, dried rice, onion, molasses and potatoes sent in 12 sacks from Dhaka which they described too meagre for their needs.

Early steps to eradicate mosquitoes demanded

SATKHIRA, May 3: Mosquito menace has made life miserable in Satkhira pourashava area.
Mosquitoes are seen in abundance even in day time. People to keep themselves safe from mosquito bites are using curtains even in the day time. The worst victims are the poor inhabitants who are unable to buy mosquito nets or mosquito coils. The SSC, HSC and BA examinees cannot concentrate on their studies due to round

the clock attack of mosquitoes. People alleged that the concerned authorities are not taking any initiatives to clean the dirty drains and ditches which are the main breeding places of the dreadful insects. People of the area urged the authorities concerned to take step of eradicate mosquitoes.
Cricket
The final match of Shyamnagar Cricket Tournament '91 between Sultampur Club and Shyamnagar Club

was held at Nakirpur High School play ground recently which was inaugurated by Abdur Razzak, upazila Nirbahi Officer.
Sultampur club became champion defeating Shyamnagar Club by 60 runs. Baban and David of Sultampur Club were declared men of the match. Shaik Sajedur Rahman, a veteran sports sports personality of Shyamnagar distributed prizes among the competitors.

Drought affects Irri-Boro crops

NETRAKONA, May 3: Persisting drought has been seriously affecting the standing Irri-Boro paddy in the districts of Netrakona, Kishoreganj and Mymensingh, reports UNB.
Abnormal fall in the underground water level has compounded the situation. Most of the hand driven, shallow and deep tubewells are on the verge of disorder leading to scarcity of drinking water. Irrigation facilities have also come to a standstill.
According to Agriculture Extension Department, about 3.5 lakh hectares of land have been brought under Irri-Boro cultivation in the region this season. The cultivation is being hampered greatly due to persisting drought.
Almost all the canals, ponds, beels and rivers have been drying up following the

Relief goods looted

SIRAJGANJ, May 3: Relief goods were looted from a godown in the Deputy Commissioner office premises early Monday night, police said, reports UNB.
Miscreants, according to police, broke the district relief godown grills at 10 pm and took away the goods including sugar and corrugated iron sheets.
Police, immediate after the dacoity, launched a hunt and recovered five bags of sugar in a raid on a house at nearby village Diardhangara at around 1 am.
Four people were taken to custody from the house. The arrested persons were named Hanu Mian, Ferdous, Tara Mian and Bablu.
A case was lodged with Sadar thana.

Eight unnatural deaths in 10 days

MAULVI BAZAR, May 3: At least eight unnatural deaths were reported in the greater Sylhet district during the last 10 days, police and hospital sources said, reports UNB.
Road accident, thunder bolt, strangulation and drowning were stated to have caused the deaths.
Among the victims, three were identified as Indra Begum (7) of Nokakandi village in Chhatok upazila, Liyakat Ali (50), of Vogeon of Chhatok, Abdur Rashid (32), and two unidentified men were killed in three road mishaps.
A minor girl (10) of Jamalganj upazila drowned recently.
Besides, an unidentified youngman was killed by lightning at Sreenatpur village in Kamalganj upazila during the

Diarrhoea claims more lives

JHENIDAH, May 3: Diarrhoea situation in the district deteriorated further Thursday with two more deaths raising the death toll to 25, official sources said, reports UNB.
According to Civil Surgeon, during the last 48 hours 140 people were also attacked by the disease in the district.
The deceased were identified as Abed Ali (45), of village Vagabannagar in Sadar upazila

Housewife beaten to death

SATKHIRA, May 3: A housewife was allegedly beaten to death by her husband in Shikhandia village of Sadar upazila Wednesday, reports UNB.
Beauty (20), mother of a child was mercilessly beaten by her husband Anisur on the fateful night which led to her tragic death, police said. She was killed for alleged non-payment of dowry money.
Family sources said Beauty went to her father's house to collect the money but returned with a small amount which infuriated Anisur.
Her body was sent to the local hospital for autopsy.
None has so far been arrested.

Principal removed from service

FARIDPUR, May 3: Mokhe-sur Rahman, Principal of Nagarkanda College has been removed from service by the college governing body with effect from April 21, informed sources said here, reports UNB.

Allegations were brought against the principal for admission irregularities, fake registration and malpractice while conducting HSC examination in 1990.
The decision was taken on the basis of the reports of three-member enquiry committee formed by Controller of Examinations, Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Board, Dhaka. The team also suggested cancellation of the college examination centre.
The team comprising three Principals of Rajendra, Rajbari and Yasin colleges was formed by the Board on the suggestions of a vigilance team headed by ADC (General) SM Shahjahan.

Paira devours 8 villages in Patuakhali

From Our Correspondent
PATUAKHALI, May 3: Erosion of river has taken a serious turn in Patuakhali. With the gradual erosion of the Paira river in Patuakhali district eight villages in the meantime have already vanished. The river Paira has swallowed them. Among the lost villages Algi and Rajganj belong to Patuakhali Sadar upazila and the rest six Durgapoor, Sundra-Kalikapoor, North Rampoor, East Rampoor, Vikakhali and Piprakhal belong to Mirzaogonj upazila. An estimated eight thousand people are the worst victims of this natural calamity.
Seventy-three houses of Durgapoor village, 31 houses of Bandra Kalikapoor, 76 of North Rampoor, 21 of East Rampoor, 12 of Vikakhali and 10 of Piprakhal village have been completely devoured by the erosion of the Paira river.
Hundreds of arable land have been submerged which will immensely affect the farmers.
People have been made destitute and helpless. As a result to try their luck many of them now have migrated to Dhaka.

Chicken pox breaks out in Netrakona

NETROKONA, May 3: Chicken pox has broken out in an epidemic form in the town and other parts of the district, reports UNB.
According to informed sources, new areas are being engulfed by the disease creating panic among the people. A large number of patients are coming to the chambers of the doctors seeking treatment.
It is alleged that preventive measures are yet to be taken to check the spread of the disease.
The situation aggravated further for non-availability of medicines in the local markets. Local hospital and health complexes also lack sufficient medicines to treat the patients.
Affected people have urged the authorities to take immediate steps to combat the growing menace.