

Upazila roundup

RAJSHAHI

Illegal welding shops cause health hazard

From Our Correspondent
May 12: Violating the factory rules, rampant growth of welding shops, beside the public roads have been causing immense inconveniences to residents of the Rajshahi city. The welding factories have become a threat to public health, particularly to the pedestrians and residents of the surrounding areas. People of the city are suffering from ophthalmic and skin diseases due to bad effect of rays from the welding factories. The sparkles often hurt seriously the eyesight of the children when they make curious look on it. City dwellers have urged the concerned authorities to take action against the illegal welding factory owners. The Master's degree examination of 1988 under science, life and Earth science Social science, Arts and Commerce faculty of Rajshahi University will begin from September 1, Controller of Examination sources said.

NARAIL

Law, order situation discussed

From Our Correspondent
May 12: The monthly Law and Order Committee meeting of Narail district was held at the conference hall of the Deputy Commissioner with Ali Hossain, Deputy Commissioner in the chair recently. It was attended by Mr. Mozammel Haque, Sp. Md. Abdul Awal, senior ASP, Upazila Chairmen and the UNOs of all upazilas and officials and other members of the committee. The over all law and order situation prevailing in the town and other places of the district was reviewed in the meeting and the members of the law enforcing agencies were directed to gear up their activities for further improvement of law and order situation. Discussions were also held in the meeting to check the activities of the anti-social elements and vested interests for maintaining peace in the society and to ensure security of life and property of the people.

MAGURA

Female education hampered

May 12: Female education in the district has been hampered by shortage of girls colleges and high schools, reports UNB. Three colleges and two girls high schools in the town can not cope with the need of increasing students, according to sources. Besides, lack of hostel facilities has discouraged many female students to prosecute their studies. College and school sources said financial constraint has affected construction of residential hostels. Guardians have called for early construction of hostels to facilitate female education in the district. Two people allegedly committed suicide by taking poison in separate incidents in Sadar upazila of the district, police said here on Saturday. According to police, Gour Chandra Sarkar (35) of village Darimagra under Magura municipal area and Morjina Khatoun (15), daughter of Moslem Uddin of Village Kandabshkuta under Sadar upazila allegedly committed suicide by taking poison recently. Cases were registered with the police-in this connection.

KUSHTIA

One injured in BSF firing

From Our Correspondent
May 12: One Lal Mohammad who received bullet wound by Indian BSF firing on May 7 was admitted to Kushtia General Hospital and was operated upon for removal of the bullet from his leg. It may be mentioned that one BSF Jawan intruded into Charakuri village of Daulatpur Upazila on May 7 and when challenged by the villagers opened fire which hit Lal Mohammad. BSF Jawan was overpowered by the villagers who handed him over to BDR camp of Chittuari Border area. Bheramara Police have arrested one Chand Ali of Insafnagar village under Daulatpur upazila from a Minibus on May 6 and recovered one Indian made shutter gun, 9 rounds of 303 ammunition and a big dagger from his possession.

BHERAMARA

14 degree examinees expelled

May 12: On the first day of degree examinations under Rajshahi University on May 9, 14 candidates have been expelled from the examination halls for adopting unfair means at Bheramara College centre, reports BSS. A total 905 examinees including 173 female have been appearing in degree examinations in this centre. Section 144 has been imposed within 400 yards of the examination centre. The examination was held in a peaceful atmosphere. The Deputy Commissioner, and Superintendent of Police, Kushtia and Rajshahi University team visited the examination centre.

JHENIDAH

2000 tons wheat will be procured

May 12: Wheat procurement target in the district has been fixed at 2000 metric tons this season, officials here said, reports UNB. According to sources, 300 metric tons (MTs) of wheat will be procured from Sadar, 300 mts from Shaikupa, 100 mts from Harinakunda, 4000 Mts from Kaliganj, 2000 mts from Kotchandpur and 700 mts from Moheshpur upazilas. Per maund of wheat will be bought at Taka 220 and a total of nine procurement centers have been opened to purchase the foodgrain through appointed dealers. Two hundred and fifty-three metric tons of wheat have already been purchased, the sources added.

Aus farming

A total of 2.71 lakh hectares of land will be brought under Aus cultivation this season in 10 districts of Khulna division, officials said. According to Agriculture Extension Department, 39,515 hectares will be brought under Sadar, 30,352 hectares in Jessore, 18,555 hectares in Narail, 32,388 hectares in Magura, 5,384 hectares in Khulna, 16,450 in Satkhira, 35,880 hectares in Chuadanga, 22,812 hectares in Meherpur and 62,708 hectares in Kushtia districts. Of the total, 53,243 hectares will be brought under high yielding variety while the rest under local variety. With the implementation of the programme, about 3.10 lakh metric tons of rice is expected to be produced during the season.

PATUAKHALI

Salinity affects crops

May 12: Salinity has alarmingly increased in Patuakhali and Barguna regions over the last few years, reports UNB. According to farmers, paddy and vegetable production are being seriously affected by saline water intrusion. Local Agriculture Department said Irri-Boro yield have also been hampered this year due to water salinity in greater Patuakhali district. According to experts, the intensity of salinity in coastal belts has adversely affected various crop production. The people of Kalapara, Dashmina, Galachipa, Amtali, Patharghata, Mirzaganj, Bauphal, Banna, Betagi have become worried over the rise of salinity in crop fields.

MAULVI BAZAR

Flood situation worsens

May 12: Due to further increase of water in the river Monu and Dholai 43 unions of five upazilas under Maulvi Bazar district have been submerged, reports BSS. Water level in the Monu and the Dholai is flowing 1.24 metre and 0.90 meter respectively above danger level. According to preliminary information, about 40,000 homestead have gone under water in the district. Crops on about 45,000 acres have been inundated. Flood situation in Maulvi Bazar town remained unchanged. Cracks have appeared in town protection embankment and the river water entered the town. The district administration has taken up measures to provide shelter to the flood affected people in Maulvi Bazar town. Flood protection embankment was washed away at the villages Baliarbhag, Baliakandi and Ashia. Road communication with Kularua, Kamalganj, Shamsnagar, Juri and Pultala have been disrupted.

Relief worth Tk 5.5 lakh embezzled

JAMALPUR, May 12: Relief material worth Taka 5.5 lakh was allegedly misappropriated by the Chairman of Char Bankpuria Union Parishad under Melandah upazila of Jamalpur district. According to the allegations, 25,000 kg of wheat worth Taka 1,70,000 sanctioned for destitute women in 1988-89 financial year, 3,500 maunds of rice and 2211 kgs of wheat worth Taka two lakhs allotted for VGD women in 1989-90, 37,177 kgs fertilizer worth Taka 1.2 lakh allotted for farmers distressed by 1988 flood, 1006 kgs soyabean oil worth Taka 30,000 allotted in 1988 for the devastating flood affected poor people under special programme and at least 221 kgs of almond and onion seeds allotted for poor farmers under special programme in 1988-89 were misappropriated and sold in the black markets by the said Chairman. People of the union lodged a written allegation with concerned authorities including LGRD Ministry, District Anti-Corruption Bureau, Deputy Commissioner and UNO of the Melandah upazila but no necessary action has been yet taken against the chairman. They urged the government to investigate into the matter at the earliest.

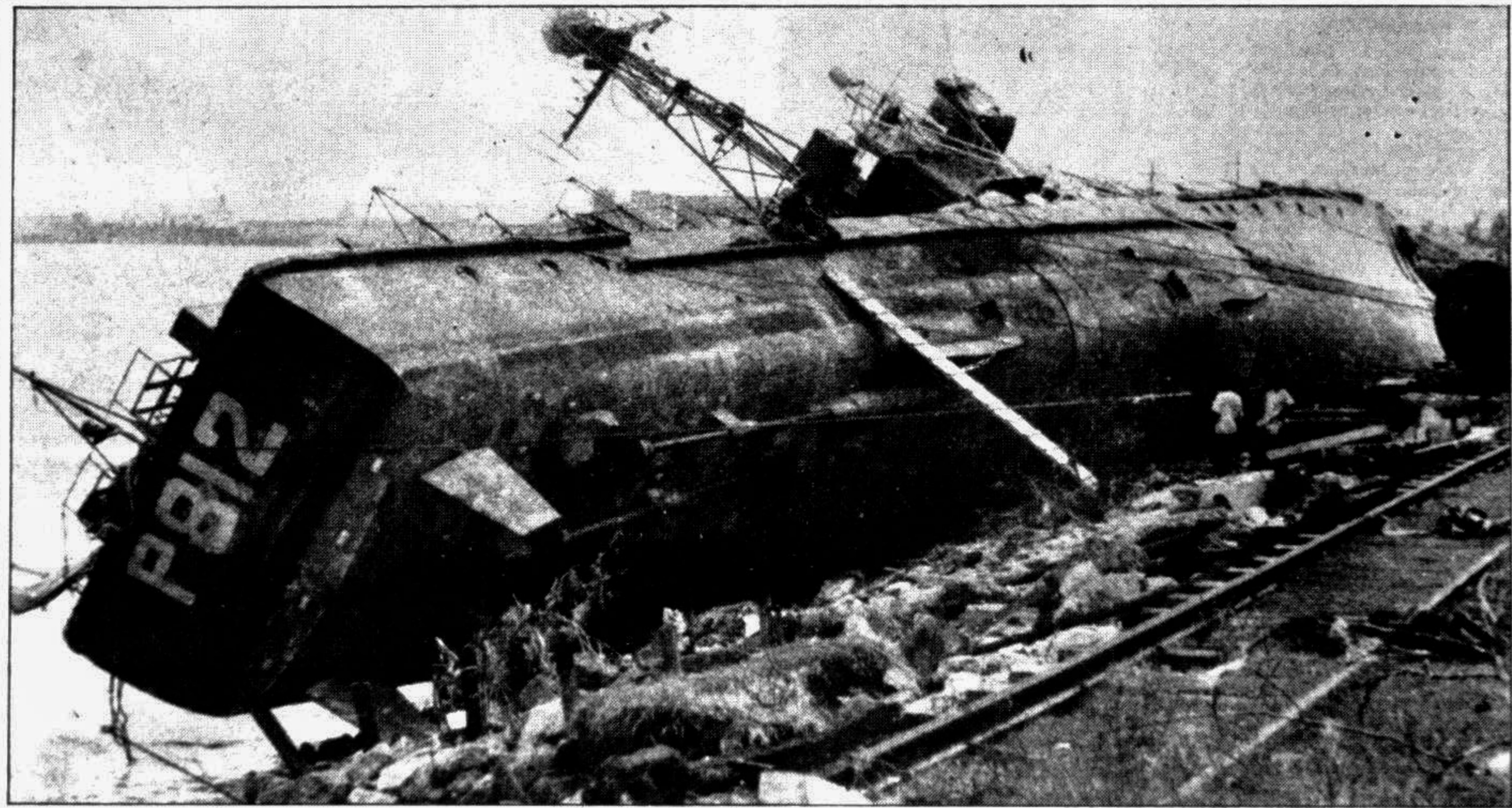
Property gutted
Property worth Taka three lakhs were burnt to ashes and at least 14 families lost their belongings in two separate incidents in Jamalpur Sadar upazila and Bakshiganj upazila recently. The fire originating from the house of one Hanifuddin Sheikh spread very fast and engulfed the adjacent areas fourteen houses along with valuable property worth Taka two lakh including Taka 50,000 in cash were destroyed and ten families rendered homeless in the fire incident in Jamalpur Sadar upazila. In another incident the fire originated from the cow-shed of village Daniya and gutted property worth about Taka one lakh. Besides, three cows and one goat were roasted alive and four families have lost their shelters. Property worth about Taka 1.5 lakhs were gutted in three separate fire incidents at different places of Bakshiganj upazila recently. At least 52 houses were gutted and a cash of Taka 3,500 were destroyed. Abdul Kalam Azad (AK) and Abdur Rauf, Chairman of Bakshiganj Upazila Parishad visited the place.

From Our Correspondent

A young housewife Amala Begum (20), wife of Tota Miah was reportedly raped by Jydr Rahman, son of Rahimuddin Khan of village Megarbari under Melandah upazila recently. It is learnt that Amala was asleep along with her husband while the miscreant broke open the door and forcibly raped her. No case was registered with the local police station in this connection.

15 ration dealerships cancelled
BSS adds: District Controller of Food cancelled 15 ration dealerships on charges of various irregularities and corruption in four upazilas of the district. Official sources said four palli ration dealers in Dewan-ganj, four in Islampur, four in Melandah and three in Sarishabari upazila were cancelled. Two ration dealerships were cancelled in Sherpur district. The government appointed 189 palli ration dealers to supply foodgrains at a reduced rate in the rural areas in Jamalpur district and 121 in Sherpur district.

Bar Assoc executives
Annual general meeting and election of Jamalpur District Bar Association were held here recently. Nazrul Islam Dulu and Nirmal Kanti Bhadra have been elected President and General Secretary respectively for the next term. Besides, 20 members of the executives committee have been elected.



A naval ship was lifted from the sea by the catastrophic cyclone on April 29 and placed it on the railway track at Patenga. — Star photo

Non-government schools beset with problems

From Our Correspondent
SATHKHIRA, May 12: Education in non-government schools and madrasahs is being hampered since long in the district. Due to shortage of teachers, school buildings, science laboratories, hostels and other accessories the students are badly affected hampering their education. There are 517 secondary schools and madrasahs in the district. Of them 175 are high schools, 20 junior high schools and 322 madrasahs of which 28 of them are for girls. There are no pucca buildings in 125 schools and science laboratories are absent in 96 schools. Absence of toilets and urinals in more than 100 schools creates much troubles specially to the girl students. Allocated money for the development of the schools and madrasahs was said to be misused in many cases. Of the total only 35 per cent expenditure for the government declared free schooling for the girls has so far been met up. There are 26 teachers in a government high schools where as in non-government school there are only nine teachers. As a result the students are deprived of proper education. Besides, a non-government school teacher has to teach three to four subjects and draws much less salary compared to the government school teacher. Moreover, they do not get salary timely. As a result they are compelled to explore other means to earn money for maintaining their families and cannot concentrate on the teaching. So 90 per cent of the students in the non-government schools suffer despite their latent merit and cannot bring forth good results. The people of the Sathkhira district urged the government to take necessary steps to solve the problems to gear up the education of the rural children.

Relief goods sent to affected areas

From A Correspondent
KUSHTIA, May 12: Kushtia district administration has taken up a programme to send relief goods to the southern parts of the country ravaged by unprecedented cyclonic havoc on April 29. Deputy Commissioner Syed Hafiz Ahmed told that two truck load of relief goods had already left for greater Barisal district and Additional District Magistrate Sekandar Ali Mondol has gone there to coordinate distribution. Earlier Deputy Commissioner had a meeting with the people of all section of the society and DC sought help and succour for the cyclone affected people. The relief materials which were collected and sent to the affected areas of southern Bangladesh includes rice, chira, molasses, sares, lunges old garments, flour, biscuits and utensils. Cash money donated by generous people including students to the tune of Taka 6769 have also been sent, the DC added. He also said that more relief goods including substantial quantity of pulses are being collected for sending them to the affected places very soon. Meanwhile Chairman, Khoksa Upazila had rushed to cyclone affected places of Bhola and distributed considerable quantity of chira, flattened rice, molasses and other daily necessities among the affected people, according to another report received here. In this connection a relief fund has been opened in Khoksa upazila. People have been urged to donate generously. Sammlita Sanskritic Jote, Kushtia branch has also collected money and materials by rendering songs in the streets and are preparing for sending them for the affected people. Faridpur district administration has so far despatched 9,405 kgs of 'chira' and 3,465 kgs of molasses for the cyclone affected people.

Corruption by railway station master alleged

From Our Correspondent
CHAPAINAWABGANJ, May 12: Corruption in Chapainawabganj Railway Station has become a frequent feature causing heavy loss both to the passengers and government. Besides, the railway employees are openly involved in this heinous activity, it is alleged. Recently, a Neem tree worth Taka 5000 has been chopped down by the Station Master for his personal use. When the incident brought to the notice of Mr. Baker Hossain, the BARWEL President, he lodged a strong protest against it resulting in suspension of the Station Master temporarily. But after four days the suspension was mysteriously lifted and he rejoined the office. The Station Master was also chagrined for huge income by illegally transporting contraband goods. Commanding Officer of 31 battalion (BDR) instructed him to restrict the booking and releasing of the contraband items but he defied the instruction. On the other hand the tubewell in the station premises has gone out of order since long. The toilet of the waiting room remains dirty emitting bad odour. Besides, many persons are said to be engaged in grabbing railway land illegally and constructing buildings over it.

Power supply erratic

From Our Correspondent
NARAIL, May 12: Frequent Power failure and load shedding have become a regular feature in Narail town and its adjoining areas causing much inconveniences to the residents and heavy loss to the businessmen and industrialists. Town dwellers complained that the areas plunge into darkness almost everyday giving rise to anti-social activities. Many electric and electronic household gadgets have become inoperative due to erratic power supply. Production in the local mills and workshops including irrigation in the irri-boro blocks have also been affected. The price hike of foodstuff in the markets is largely attributed to the frequent Power failure.

Coastal areas need more cyclone shelters

From Aroop Talukder
BARISAL, May 12: More cyclone shelters are needed to save the people of the coastal belts from natural calamity. After the great cyclonic disaster of May 25, 1985 a decision was taken to construct 500 more cyclone shelters in the coastal areas with the assistance of international Red Cross. Society. But only 62 shelters were constructed under this programme in which only about 38 thousand people can take shelter in each centre. Only three lakh people out of 70 lakh along coastal belt, may be accommodated in cyclone shelters and the lives of the rest 67 lakh people remain unsafe. Structurally these cyclone shelters are 12 feet high from the ground but some time when the tidal surge mount upto 20 feet these shelters become unsafe. Red Crescent Society is trying to collect fund for constructing more cyclone shelters in each village of the coastal belts for safety of the people. Besides, 156 clay-forts like shelters were constructed to save the cattlehead of these areas of which maximum forts were either damaged or destroyed. Bodies yet to be buried
Meanwhile, hundreds of decomposed human bodies and carcasses are yet to be buried in the char areas and far flung islands of Monpara and Charfasson upazilas of Bhola, Sandwip, Hatiya and Cox's Bazar. About 60 lakh cyclone victims of 289 unions of 24

upazilas of vast southern coastal belt are passing their days under the open sky. According to official sources, six lakh 42 thousand 553 houses have been completely and five lakh 62 thousand 271 houses partially damaged in 47 upazilas of 15 districts. Government particularly for Bhola district, meanwhile has allocated 15 lakh Taka for reconstruction of 78,765 damaged houses and one lakh maunds of rice and wheat for about nine lakh affected people of the district. The Forest Department has taken up a decision to supply wooden pillars for reconstruction of damaged houses at the rate of Taka 5 per pillar. Relief materials cannot be supplied by water ways due to foul weather till date.

Relief materials and drinking water are being supplied to the affected people of offshore islands by airdroppings. Meanwhile, only an army water vessel could reach Monpara and Dhalchar with relief materials. On the other hand, no medical team except one army medical team could reach the far off islands due to shortage of water transport. A doctor of a medical team who went to Charfasson of Bhola Monday last told the Daily Star that water borne diseases are fast spreading in offshore islands but we had nothing to do as we had no necessary medicine for them, the source added. He also told his inability of going to the remote islands with his medical team for want of water-vessels. Four medical teams having

two doctors in each team were sent to Bhola under the leadership of Civil Surgeon of Bhola. The four medical teams were deployed in four upazilas of Bhola Sadar, Lalmoan, Daulatkhanda and Charfasson of the district. A zonal coordination office for relief operation has already been set up in Barisal for smooth distribution of relief materials in the affected areas in the districts of Bhola, Patuakhali and Barguna. The authorities constructed 237 cyclone shelters along the coastal region in phases with the financial assistance of some foreign donor agencies including International Red Cross Society. In each shelter one thousand people can get shelter on an average. But lately, maintenance of these shelters were ignored.

When contacted the Civil Surgeon of Maulvi Bazar, told that there were no news of diarrhoea, chicken pox, measles and blood dysentery as an epidemic or alarming form. Blood dysentery has broken out in an alarming proportion in Sadar upazila of Maulvi Bazar. The worst affected areas are Gumrah and Nittaswar villages of Glasnagar UP (Union Parishad), Sampashi village of Akhalikura JP, Aganshi, Mordinal and Atghar villages of Nazrabad UP, Goygarh and Sampashi villages of Mostafapur UP. According to a reliable source the disease claimed three lives and attacked scores of others during last three weeks. The deceased were identified as Rokeya (12), daughter of Chini Miah of village Mordinal, Summi Begum (12), daughter of Rangu Miah of village Atghar and Roshul Ameen (12), son of Asmant Miah of village Atghar.

Notes from Maulvi Bazar

From Our Correspondent
Maulvi Bazar, May 12: Maulvi Bazar Pourashava authority has decided to organise a relief committee with the poura-Chairman Syed Mohosin Ali as its convener. The decision was taken at a meeting held on Saturday with poura-Chairman in the chair. The poura relief committee has started collecting funds and relief materials. A relief team of the committee headed by poura-Chairman left for Chittagong to conduct relief operation. The team carried with them adequate relief materials like dry food, cloths etc. The poura relief committee source said, it would try its best to continue such programme. They urged the people of Maulvi Bazar to come forward in aid of the cyclone victims.

Mourning Day
National Mourning Day was observed Saturday throughout Maulvi Bazar district in memory of the victims of the cyclone. National flags flew half-mast atop public and private buildings. Special prayers were offered for the salvation of the departed souls of the cyclone victims. A Gaebana Janaza was held at Hozrat Syed Shah Mostafa (R) Major mosque after the Juma prayer for the peace of the departed souls.

Diarrhoea breaks out
Diarrhoea has broken out in an alarming proportion in Maulvi Bazar town and different upazilas of the district during last three weeks, sources said. Hospital sources said, at least seven persons were admitted to hospital. Local doctors said, patients are coming to their chambers in large number. It is alleged that, acute scarcity of oral and intravenous saline is prevailing in the markets here adding to the misery of the diarrhoea patients, sufferers said. The affected people has called for urgent steps to increase the supply of oral and IV saline. On the other hand chicken pox and measles have also broken out in different places of the district.

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16,000 tons sugar remain unsold
From Our Correspondent
DINAJPUR, May 12: Huge quantity of sugar remained unsold in the mills in greater Dinajpur district due to glut in the market with smuggled Indian sugar. According to informed sources, more than 16,000 metric tons of sugar worth about Taka 33 crore remained unsold in Setabganj, Thakurgaon and Panchagarh Sugar Mills. Of them 1,200 metric tons in Setabganj, 4,800 metric tons in Thakurgaon and 10,000 metric tons sugar in Panchagarh Sugar Mills remain unsold. Sources said that, only 600 metric tons of sugar worth about Taka 1,80,000 have so far been sold during the season in these three sugar mills. Besides, some 28,000 metric tons of sugar have been produced in these three sugar mills during the current crushing season. On the other hand, as sugar remained unsold, payment to growers remained outstanding to an extent of Taka four crore in these three sugar mills. Thakurgaon Sugar Mills exceeded sugar production target by achieving an output of 9,200 metric tons of sugar during the current crushing season. Besides, the Panchagarh Sugar Mills also exceeded sugar production target achieving an output of 10,181 metric tons of sugar during the current crushing season as against previous target of 9,145 metric tons. The Panchagarh Sugar Mills crushed 1,17,875 metric tons of sugarcane in 120 days since its operation.