

Upazila roundup

CHUADANGA
8 degree examinees expelled

From Our Correspondent
May 15: Eight degree examinees from two centres of Chuadanga district were expelled recently on charge of adopting unfair means in the examination halls.
Of the total examinees, six examinees were expelled from Chuadanga Government Degree College centre and two examinees from Darsanga Government College centre.
This year a total of 1028 degree examinees are appearing at the examination from the district.

SYLHET
Diarrhoea claims four lives

From Our Correspondent
May 15: Diarrhoea has so far claimed four lives in Sylhet sadar and Biswanth upazilas of the district and the disease is spreading to other areas. About thousand more are suffering from it in Sylhet sadar, Golapganj and Biswanth upazilas of the district.
Oral saline is scarce and sells at high prices. Pharmacies this town have little stock because of non-supply of the item by the concerned organisation and brokers are buying away the item from the local market to other affected areas of the country for profiteering. The local pharmacists complain that the local agents of the oral saline suppliers instead of selling the item to them sell these to such brokers for higher profit.
Two children in Dipbandh and Madhavpur villages under Khajanirgaon union of Biswanth upazila died of the disease while two others in Nandirgaon village under Hatkhola union of Sylhet sadar were reported dead.

KUSHIA
Power failure frequent

May 15: Frequent power failure and load shedding have become a regular feature in the town and its adjoining areas causing much inconvenience to the town dwellers and loss to businessmen, reports UNB.
According to informed sources, electricity goes off plunging the entire town into darkness almost every night.
Erratic power supply has also affected production in the local mills and factories. Besides, irrigation has been adversely affected.
Decrease in production caused by power disruption has also indirectly affected the market. People can not crush their paddy and wheat due to absence of power supply.
Voltage fluctuation also caused damage to electric household goods.

MADARIPUR
Mourning Day observed

From Our Correspondent
May 15: Mourning Day was observed in Madaripur as a mark of respect for those who died in the cyclone and tidal bore.
National flag was hoisted at half-mast atop private and public buildings. Special prayers were offered in all mosques.
Meanwhile, relief goods and cash are being collected by the district administration and socio-cultural organisations for the cyclone affected people.

JAMALPUR
150 injured in cyclone

From Our Correspondent
May 15: At least 150 persons were injured in a cyclone that hit different parts of Jamalpur district on Friday last.
According to reports 150 were injured when a cyclone ravaged at least 12 villages under four upazilas of the districts.
About 300 houses were damaged in the cyclone that lasted only 10 minutes.
The affected upazilas are, Jamalpur Sadar, Madariganj, Melandah and Sarishabari.
The storm also caught damage to standing Boro paddy and uprooted many trees.
Five educational institutions at the district were damaged during by the storm.
Several injured persons were admitted to the different hospitals in a critical condition.
Jalal Ahmed, Deputy Commissioner, Jamalpur visited different cyclone hit areas of the district.

BORGUNA
Health centre smarts under problems

May 15: Amtali upazila health centre has been smarting under manifold problems affecting the medicare of both outdoor and indoor patients, reports UNB.
Sufferers complained of acute shortage of medical equipment and inadequate staff hampering treatment in the centre.
Two doctors of the complex, serving in the Middle East for the last two years, have not yet been replaced.
More than 300 patients visit the health centre daily but they go back disappointed in absence of doctors and necessary medicines.
Many emergency patients died as they could not be ferried to hospitals from the centre in absence of ambulance.

KISHOREGANJ
Dacoity in a noble way

May 15: A new technique was adopted while committing a dacoity at Madyasala village in Kulliarchar upazila, reports UNB.
Dacoits introducing themselves as plainclothes police personnel entered the house of Moniruddin of the village recently and decamped with valuables worth about Taka one lakh, according to witnesses.
Robbers numbering about 8-10 entered saying that they need to search the house. But they resorted to looting at gun point finally, Moniruddin said.
Police, however, arrested five people in this connection. A case was lodged with Kulliarchar police.

HATIYA
Call to gear up relief operation

May 15: The State Minister for Textiles, Abul Mannan along with Baksal Chairman Mohiuddin Ahmed MP, and Maulana Matur Rahman Nizami MP and Secretary-General of Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh yesterday visited the cyclone and tidal surge hit areas of Hatiya, Nijhumdwip, Ushkhali under Noakhali district and Sandwip of Chittagong.
During their visit to these affected areas they talked to the distressed people and enquired about their condition and also distributed relief materials among them.
While talking to the affected people of these areas, the State Minister said, government had taken all sorts of measures for rehabilitating the affected people. He urged all concerned to come forward to help the distressed people.
The State Minister said that government had geared up the relief distribution work in the affected areas. He said no irregularities would be tolerated. He called upon all not to be disheartened and urged them to engaged themselves in rehabilitation work.

BRAHMANBARIA
2 children killed in road mishap

May 15: Two children were killed by a speeding truck on the Brahmanbaria-Comilla highway at Mohiddin Nager of sadar upazila of the district yesterday, reports UNB.
The victims Shah Alam (6) and Safia Khatun (8) were run over while they were crossing the road. They were brother and sister. Shah Alam died on the spot while Safia died after being admitted to the Sadar Hospital.
Police, however, caught the Chittagong bound truck (Chittagong DA 237) alongwith its driver at Comiganj while fleeing.
The bodies have been sent to Sadar Hospital for autopsy. A case has been registered with the local police.

PATUAKHALI
Catching of fish fry rampant

May 15: Fish fry are being caught indiscriminately in the district despite government ban, reports UNB.
According to sources, fingerlings of ruhi, hileha, kot, magur, boal and gazar are being caught rampant from different waterbodies of the district.
The government order bans catching of fish below nine inches in length.



She has lost her family members in the tornado that hit Gazipur recently. Now the woman has very little to do but weeping for near and dear ones at the site of her devastated dwelling. — Star photo

Kishoreganj government college faces problems

From Our Correspondent
KISHOREGANJ, May 15: G. D. government college, the only government college in the district has been smarting under multifarious problems since long adversely affecting the students academic curriculum.
Human traffickers held
The Bangladesh Rifles personnel rescued three women and arrested three human traffickers from Baniapara village. Under Birol Upazila of the district of recently.
Acting on a secret information, the BDR personnel led by Major Mohammad Murad along with a Magistrate raided the house of one Ahela Begum of the village and nabbed them. The traffickers were identified as Siraj Khan, Abdus Salam and Alamgir Hossain and the names of the rescued women are Salama Akhtar, Rokeya Akhtar and Nargis Akhtar Begum.
A case has been registered with Birol PS in this regard and further investigation is proceeding.

Nor'wester lashes Noakhali, Rajbari: 12 killed

NOAKHALI, May 15: Twelve people including four women were killed and 8,000 dwellings flattened during a nor'wester in four upazilas of the district, reports UNB.
The tornado with a windspeed of 100 kilometres per hour hammered Chatkhil, Begumganj, Senbagh and Sadar upazilas on Thursday night.
Among the deceased who were identified included Mamun (4), Tayabunnessa (22), Serajul Huq (41), Barkatunnessa (14), Shahidullah (12) and Alauddin (10).
Standing crops on about 1500 acres of land were also badly damaged.
Locals have urged the authorities to despatch relief materials immediately to the affected areas.
A report from Rajbari adds: Two people were killed and 10 others injured when a nor'wester lashed several villages in Sadar and Goalundo upazilas Monday, officials here said.
The victims were identified as Makim Mandal (50) of Uttar Dhopaghati village and Mujibar Rahman (26) of Ambariar village in Sadar upazila.
Makim died when a wall collapsed on him while Mujibar was killed by lightning during the storm.
Of the ten injured, two were admitted to Sadar hospital and one to Goalundo hospital while the rest were released after first aid.
Deputy Commissioner visited the affected areas this morning and allocated Taka 10,000 on the spot for rehabilitation.
The nor'wester with a windspeed of 70 to 80 kilometres per hour razed to ground thousands of mud and straw houses, uprooted trees and damaged telecommunication facilities.
The mobile antenna of Daulatdia telephone exchange was also battered causing telecommunication disruption between Daulatdia and Faridpur. Tele-link between Goalundo and Baliaakandi also remained disrupted.
Six educational institutions including Adarsha College in the town were partially damaged by the storm.
Tin roof of the passenger sheds at Daulatdia ghat and Daulatdia rail station were blown away.
The ferry "Fobal" carrying 18 trucks also remained aground at Daulatdia char.

Warrant of arrest against UZ Chairman

From Our Correspondent
KISHOREGANJ, May 15: Md Amzad Hossain Khan, Magistrate of Tarail Upazila court issued warrant of arrest on May 11 against Israt Uddin Ahmed Babul, Tarail Upazila Chairman who is also the proprietor of M/S Babul Brick Field, Raouti for the establishment of brickfield without licence and using wood as fuel.
When the Magistrate came to know the fact he paid a surprise visit to the brickfield during mobile patrol on April 30.
In this connection Tarail P. S lodged a case against the Upazila Chairman and owner of the brickfield and filed a case in the Upazila court on May 5. After the police prosecution, the Magistrate ordered Upazila Chairman to appear before the court but the Upazila Chairman did not appear in time. Thus, the Magistrate issued warrant of arrest against him. This incident has created sensation among the local people.
Now this has become a subject of discussion among them. The Upazila Chairman is reportedly absconding.

Malpractice by phone employees Government loses huge revenue

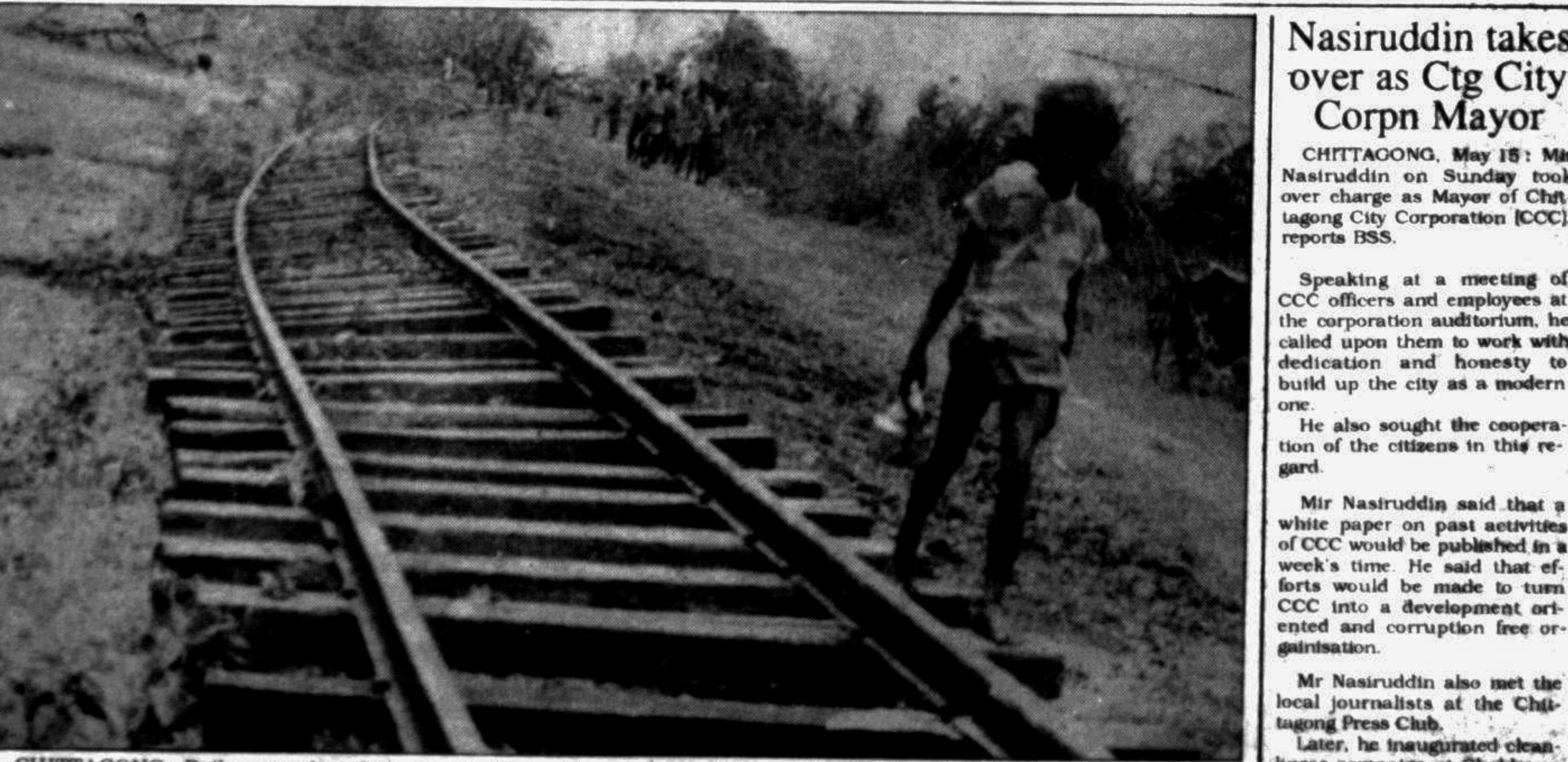
From Our Correspondent
CHAPAI NAWABGANJ, May 14: The government is being deprived of huge revenue earning every year due to mismanagement and malpractices including illegal telephone calls in the local telephone exchange and public call office.
The telephone subscribers and the persons who book telephone to send emergency messages to their kith and kins residing at various far flung areas have to wait for hours.
But on the other hand if a man pay (as bribe) Taka 70, he gets the line quickly.
Two subordinates of PCO (public call office) named Sanwar and Anwar allegedly collect this money from the said numbers and is shared by the officials and employees of the said offices according to status.
It is also alleged that there are some telephones with monthly contacts and no bill is raised even if a man talks for hours together.

Notes from Rajshahi

From Our Correspondent
RAJSHAH, May 15: Sugar production in North Bengal sugar Mill has surpassed all previous records this year, mill sources said.
According to sources of the mill, over 20,000 metric tons of sugar were produced crushing over 2,3000 metric tons of sugar cane in 162 days exceeding the target earlier fixed at 18,490 metric tons. Besides, the mill has earned Taka 14 lakh by selling 5 thousand metric tons byproduct to the Pakshi Paper Mill.
But availability of smuggled Indian sugar at cheaper prices have discouraged the dealers to lift the local product causing financial loss the the mills, sources added.
Rickshawpuller killed
An unknown rickshawpuller was killed and eight others were injured when a speedy bus knocked them down at Rajshahi bus terminal recently.
The illfated rickshawpuller died on the spot while the injured persons were admitted to the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital. The driver managed to escape.
Following the accident, the angry mob damaged twenty buses at the bus terminal and at least fifty persons were injured when clash ensued between bus workers and rickshawpullers. Police rushed to the spot and fired twenty rounds tear shell to bring the situation under control. Police also arrested five persons in this connection.
A case has been lodged with Boalia police in this connection.
UP chairman suspended
The government has suspended Amzad Hossain, Chairman of Jugipara Union Parishad of Bagmara upazila of the district for alleged misuse of power, misappropriation of wheat and corruption, official sources said.
Monsur Rahman, member of the same Union Parishad has taken office as acting Chairman, sources added.
Forewell
A hearty fare-well was given to Saidur Rahman, Divisional Commissioner and Mayor of the Rajshahi City Corporation by the officers and employees of the Corporation on the eve of his departure from Rajshahi, to Election Commission, Dhaka.
In this connection, a discussion meeting was arranged at the Corporation building with Mr. Anwar Ali in the chair. Among others Bashiruddin and M. A. Azad took part in the discussion.
Saidur Rahman in his speech urged the officers and employers to work with devotion for development of Rajshahi city.
Office-bearers
A 10-member executive committee of Diploma Engineers Samity of WDB-PDB unit of Rajshahi branch was formed in a general meeting held at its office recently. Sajjadur Rahman and Abdul Quddus Sarker were elected President and General Secretary, respectively.
Other elected office-bearers include Vice-President Mozammel Hoque, Joint-Secy. Zulfikar Ali and Organizing Secy. Mozammel Hossain.
36 die of diarrhoea in Chandpur
CHANDPUR, May 15: At least 36 people died of diarrhoea and 1100 others were attacked by the water borne virus in three upazilas during the last one month, official sources said, reports UNB.
Of the victims, four are in Sadar, four in Hajiganj and three in Hatmchar upazilas.
About 56 medical teams are working in the affected upazilas to contain the menace. A temporary medical centre has also been set up at Goalbar Bazar in Faridganj upazila.
Relief sent
BHERAMARA, May 15: A loaded truck with relief materials for cyclone affected victims of coastal belts from Upazila Parishad Bheramara was sent to Barisal through DC Kushtia Tuesday evening, reports BSS.
The relief materials included 20 maunds of rice, 25 maunds of ata, 30 maunds of chira, three maunds of gur and three thousand pieces of old clothes. The goods were received from Bheramara Station Bazar and Boro Bazar market from Businessmen's Association, Rongshonu Sporting Club of Bheramara and different social welfare organisations.
Chapainawabganj district relief committee headed by the Deputy Commissioner collected relief materials through various agencies for the affected people of the coastal districts.

Foodgrains worth Tk 33 lakh embezzled

From A Correspondent
KUSHTIA, May 15: Misappropriation of Taka 33 lakh in Kushtia Food Department by several dishonest employees with the active cooperation of dishonest food dealers has come to light.
Officer-in-charge of local supply depot of Kumarkhali Upazila was arrested after filing case against him by District Controller of Food on charge of misappropriating food-grain amounting to Taka four lakh. His bail prayer was rejected several times.
For revealing second incident of misappropriation of food grains worth Taka 22 lakh from Kushtia food godown continuous threat over telephone was being received by the District Controller of Food Mr Mattar Rahman Mridha who filed second case against the persons involved in the bungling. The persons involved in this case were active in transferring the District Controller of Food from Kushtia to Khagrachari as a punishment for not cooperating with dishonest dealers, it was learnt.
Sources said dishonest dealers spent over Taka 50 thousand for the transfer order.
The third case filed by the District Controller of Food with Anti-Corruption Department is in connection with misappropriation of foodgrains worth Taka 6,70,810.00 in Kushtia and Jagoti food godown. The persons connected in this case are Bankim Chandra Sutrathar (at present working in Khulna) and former Officer-in Charge of local supply depot of Jagoti and afterwards worked as O. C. L. S. D. Kushtia food godown Mr. Moazzem Kabir.
Informed sources said that several big businessmen are involved in these cases and they were trying their best to influence the Anti-Corruption officer and other high officials to nip the case in the bud and get rid of charges which might come on them during investigation.
The people of Kushtia feel that this big ring of corruption should be seriously dealt with and persons involved in these cases must be punished.
When contacted, District Controller of Food said that the Minister in charge of Food has taken up the case personally and has gone deep into the matter and his transfer order is being cancelled. He also said that this dishonest ring is giving him continuous threat on his life.
Dacoit
Daulatpur police have arrested a notorious dacoit Mohor from Philipnagar village recently. This Mohor was a terror in the area and has a number of cases against him in the thana, it was learnt officially.
Suicide
Lifton (20) a college student of 2nd year Bheramara College committed suicide by taking poison on May 8. Reason of his suicide was the non-acceptance of his wife by his parents. He married without the consent of his parents. His body was sent to Kushtia General Hospital for autopsy.
Tuberculosis
UNB adds: Tuberculosis, a contagious disease, has showed an alarming rise in the district, according to hospital sources.
Doctors said at least 10 patients with double or more positive plus with no chance of recovery are detected every year.
But TB is almost perfectly curable if it is detected at the early stage, they added.
The villagers who are mostly illiterate lack awareness about its contagious nature and deprived of necessary medical facilities due to poverty.
Moreover, the lone TB hospital situated in middle of the town is plagued with various problems due to absence of X-Ray machine, necessary medicines, ambulance and medical apparatus, informed sources said.
Elite of the district urged the authorities to equip the hospital with modern apparatus and ensure smooth supply of emergency medicines. They also urged to take orientation and motivation programmes to create awareness among the people to help check the spread of the disease.
Local doctors who carried out an extensive survey on the heroin addicts said, the menace started five years back and the number of the addicts so far stood at about 2500.
The doctors said the situation assumed an alarming proportion in the town as youngsters in large numbers began taking drugs.
Doctors and guardians have urged the authorities to take immediate steps in this respect.



CHITTAGONG: Railway track at Selimpur-Halishahar line was badly damaged by the cyclone of April 29. —Star photo

Nasiruddin takes over as Ctg City Corpn Mayor

CHITTAGONG, May 15: Mir Nasiruddin on Sunday took over charge as Mayor of Chittagong City Corporation (CCC), reports BSS.
Speaking at a meeting of CCC officers and employees at the corporation auditorium, he called upon them to work with dedication and honesty to build up the city as a modern one.
He also sought the cooperation of the citizens in this regard.
Mir Nasiruddin said that a white paper on past activities of CCC would be published in a week's time. He said that efforts would be made to turn CCC into a development oriented and corruption free organisation.
Mr Nasiruddin also met the local journalists at the Chittagong Press Club.
Later, he inaugurated cleanliness campaign at Chakabazar and Jamal Khan areas.