

Upazila roundup

KISHOREGANJ
Lightning kills 2
 From Our Correspondent
 May 16: Two persons including a Madrasa student were killed by lightning in the district on Saturday last. Nuruddin a student of Moishakanda Dakhl Madrasa in Mitamoni upazila while going to the paddy field was struck by lightning. He died instantaneously.
 In another incident one Alef Mia (18) of village Boyra in Karimganj upazila was hit by lightning while returning home from the paddy field.

Protest meeting
 The All-Party Student Unity brought out a procession on Monday in Kishoreganj town in protest against the cancellation of degree examination centre at Gurudayal Government College. The students later held a meeting in front of the office of the Deputy Commissioner which was addressed by Ajoy Kar Khokan, Azizur Rahman Roman, Shariful Islam and Shahinuddin Khan. After the meeting they handed over a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner.

RANGPUR
Plan to install 1460 hand-driven tubewells
 May 16: A scheme is underway to install 1460 hand-driven tubewells in five districts of greater Rangpur zone during the current fiscal year, reports UNB.
 Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) is executing the programme in Rangpur, Gaibandha, Nilphamari, Lalmonirhat and Kurigram districts.
 PHED will also repair 1532 choked up tubewells in the zone over the same period.
 In addition, 410 Tara pumps will be sunk in Rangpur, Gaibandha and Kurigram districts during the current financial year, official sources said.
 More than three lakh people of the zone will get safe water after the installation of the tubewells, it is learnt.

JOYPURHAT
Foundation laid
 From A Correspondent
 May 16: The foundation of Joypurhat police station building was laid by the D.I.G. of Rajshahi range, A.T.M. Munsurul Aziz recently.
 The Deputy Commissioner, Joypurhat Meer Sahabuddin was present on the occasion. Besides, the foundation of Panchibbi police station building was also laid by him that day.
 Mr. Aziz visited the office of the Assistant Police Super. Joypurhat.

MAULVI BAZAR
Hazardous effects of polythene bags
 From Our Correspondent
 May 16: Polythene bags dumped indiscriminately in drains are posing threat to health and sanitation of the town dwellers here.
 According to sources, these bags block easy flow of rain water. Filths and dirt are causing environmental pollution. A large number of factories are manufacturing polythene bags in the country.
 Local elite have called for creating awareness among the people about the hazardous effects of polythene.

MEHERPUR
Contraband seized
 May 16: Bangladesh Rifles and police in separate drives recovered contrabands and Indian cattleheads worth about Taka four lakh and arrested nine people including one Indian national from Sadar upazila last week, reports UNB.
 According to sources, police in a drive last Sunday arrested three people from Mita Stores in the town and recovered Indian spares and electric goods from them.
 On the same day, BDR recovered a sizeable quantity of motor parts from a Meherpur bound bus at Mujibnagar and arrested three people.
 Police also recovered 23 Indian buffaloes and five cattleheads from Anandabash here and arrested two people including an Indian national in this connection.
 In another drive police arrested a man from a house at Kamdebpur here and recovered Indian spices from his possession.

SYLHET
Bank manager, cashier held
 From Our Correspondent
 May 16: The manager and the cashier of Kanaighat branch of Sonali Bank were arrested by Kanaighat thana police recently on charge of defalcating Taka 15 lakh 40 thousand. The case was unearthed during an audit of the branch and a case was registered with the thana against manager Nurul Islam Nunu and cashier Manik Babu: They were produced in the upazila court. They have been granted town bail.

Tiger trapped
 A tiger that had been menacing the suburban Malnicherra Tea Estate has been trapped recently and kept in a cage there. Hundreds of people are visiting the tiger. It is striped but much smaller than Royal Bengal Tiger and is locally called 'Kho-pi Bagh'. The beast killed a dozen goats and poultry birds before being trapped by members of the Khasdibir Social Organisation.



An inundated area of Maulvibazar town. —Star photo by Enamul Huq

Notes from Nandail
 From Our Correspondent
 NANDAIL, May 16: A devastating nor-wester that swept over Rajgate and Gangail Union of eastern Nandail caused colossal damage to the dwelling houses, educational institutions and mosques of the areas. It is learnt.
 The worst affected areas are Nandail Road, Gora, Gotshpur and Faridakanda.
 The tin roof of semi-pucca house of Nandail Road High School and another tin shed of the institution were blown away in the disaster.
 On the other hand numerous kutcha dwelling houses of Gora and Gotshpur villages were badly damaged rendering the villagers homeless. The household valuables and essentials also were totally destroyed in the havoc.
 A report reached here from Rajgate Union says the nor-wester accompanied with severe hailstorm left 90 per cent IRRI-Boro crops and jute plants totally damaged at villages Faridakanda, Notapara and Rosulpur while the tin shed of Jamtala Jam-1 Mosque was blown away in the disaster.
 Meanwhile BNP leader and MP from Mymensingh-9 Anwarul Hossain Khan Chowdhury visited the storm hit Nandail Road High School and assured necessary steps to provide the high school and the affected people with help.
Incessant rain
 Incessant rain over the last 12 days caused colossal damage to the harvested IRRI-Boro crops of Nandail, Tarail Kendua and Iswarganj upazilas.
 Besides, the low lying tracts of land under the aforesaid upazilas are being engulfed with onrush of water threatening the standing IRRI-Boro crops which are yet to be harvested.
 One the other hand, the prices of rice have recorded a sharp rise in different markets of the rain affected areas.
Mourning Day observed
 National Mourning Day was observed at Nandail in memory of those who lost their lives in the recent worst disaster that hit the coastal belt of the country.
 National flag flew at half mast atop all public and private buildings as a mark of respect to the departed souls.
 Special munajat, Quran Tilawat and Zikir Mahfils were held in different mosques of the upazila in this regard seeking peace for the departed souls.

Drinking water still scarce in cyclone hit areas

From Aroop Talukdar
 BARISAL, May 16: Drinking water is still scarce in the cyclone hit coastal areas. Thousands of affected people by now are being provided with relief materials from various sources but shortage of pure drinking water made their lives miserable.
 Meanwhile, 235 tubewells have been allocated on emergency basis for the affected areas including for lung islands of Bhola district. The allocation has been made as follows: For Monpara 57, Charnijam 5, Char Kukrimukri 2, Char Patila 2, Char Motahar 1, Char Jahajmatia 1, Char Fakira 2, Kachapia 1, Haziganj Embankment 2, Osmaniganj Embankment 1, Kashi Khal embankment 1, Char Madraj 7, Char Jahiruddin 2, Tajumuddin embankment 2, and Daulatkhan 7, and the rest tubewells of the total were allocated for Bhola Sadar upazila and Borhanuddin upazila earlier.
 But according to a recent decision, this allocation has been reallocated further for Charfasson upazila.
 It is learnt that of the total, almost 60 per cent tubewells have already been sunk in their respective areas. According to Public Health Engineering Department (PHE) it is also learnt that the rest tubewells will immediately be sunk in the affected areas to supply pure drinking water to the distressed people.
 According to Civil Surgeon of Bhola, 75 medical teams are working to provide medicare to the cyclone hit people of these areas. Besides, army medical teams are also working in the affected areas. It is mentioned here that except the army medical teams the other 75 medical team-members have no necessary medicines to give to the patients. Meanwhile, three medical teams have already been withdrawn.
 According to Civil Surgeon of Bhola, within last two weeks diarrhoea situation has not improved. Meanwhile, diarrhoea claimed five lives affecting more than 1200.
 Meanwhile, the Directorate of Public Health and Engineering (PHE) has so far made 50,000 tubewells decontaminated and repaired more than six thousand tubewells in order to ensure pure drinking water round the clock and sanitation in the cyclone hit coastal belt of the country.
 Besides, 166 new tubewells have been installed out of special allotment and the annual development works are also progressing and 32 truckload of tubewell spare parts have already been sent to the affected areas, according to PHE sources.
Fishermen hit-hard
 A primary survey report of Fisheries Department revealed that thousands of fishermen who were living in the far-flung islands of the vast coastal have been seriously affected. Many of them lost their lives. The survivors lost fishing boats, nets and necessary equipment for fishing. These fishermen particularly were living on fishing in the deep sea.
 It is to be mentioned here that now-a-days supply of various fishes are decreasing in the markets all over the country. Exports of fishes have also been decreased alarmingly.
 According to a report, more than three thousand engine-propelled fishing boats including modern equipment, about ten thousand general fishing boats. With sails atop and more than two hundred fishing trawlers engaged in fishing along the coastline of the Bay have been missing due to cyclone and deadly tidal surge.
 The situation also deteriorated further due to the deaths of thousands of active fishermen of these areas.
 The wholesale fish markets of Cox's Bazar, Chittagong, Charfasson of Bhola, Barisal, Patuakhali, Kalapara and Patharghata of Borguna are remaining almost standstill.
Export hampered
 Besides, export chains of fishes of various qualities have already been damaged due to sudden halt to fish procurement by BFDC and some other fish exporting concerns.
 On the other hand, it is necessary to take care of the ill-fated fishermen who are still living losing their fishing boats, nets and necessary equipment. They should immediately be provided with necessary easy term financial loans and rehabilitation.

100 transformers out of order in N. dists

From Our Correspondent
 THAKURGAON, May 16: About 100 transformers of various capacities of the Bangladesh Power Development Board have so far been burnt in different places in the northern districts of greater Dinajpur and Rangpur, it is reliably learnt.
 The transformers were either totally or partially damaged. The major causes of the burning out of these transformers are stated to be overloading and irregular maintenance, according to a source.
 It is learnt that unauthorised power connection exercised beyond the usual load has caused the electric lines have caused overloading and over burdening of the transformers. The overload of the power from a particular transformer also shortens its life.
 A reliable source said that about 30 wheat crushing and husking mills and hundreds of dwelling houses including small trading shops have taken unauthorised connections, in different parts of the northern districts.
 Meanwhile, irregular and erratic power supply in Thakurgaon, Panchagarh, Dinajpur, Rangpur, Nilphamari, Lalmonirhat and Bogra districts have been causing great inconveniences to the people for a long time and hampering the industrial production.
 Power failure in Thakurgaon district is a regular feature.
46 transformers stolen
 A gang of electricians are being engaged in stealing electric transformers in Dinajpur, it is learnt.
 According to a report, 46 transformers valued worth about Taka 8 lakh of Dinajpur Pally Biddu Samity have been stolen during the last 24 months.
 It is alleged, some influential persons of the town, are connected with the will organised gang in stealing the transformers from the remote village areas.
Potato growers at stake
 COMILLA, May 16: Potato growers in the district are selling their produce at throw away prices in absence of storage facilities, reports UNB.
 According to sources, capacity of the existing 20 cold storages here can not meet the demand.
 Market sources said per maund potato is being sold between Taka 80 and 120 which is much less than the production cost.
 This year 42,000 acres of land have been brought under potato farming and the total yield has been estimated at 2.75 lakh tons, officials said.

Death anniversary

FARIDPUR, May 16: The 10th death anniversary of Khan Bahadur Muhammad Ismail was observed here with due solemnity, reports UNB.
 Organised by the Khan Bahadur Muhammad Ismail Smriti Sangsad, a discussion meeting was held Wednesday at the local Islamic Foundation auditorium with Advocate Sarwarjan Mia in the chair.
 Paying glowing tributes to Khan Bahadur, a veteran leader of the Muslim society, the speakers dwelt at length on his life and activities and called for following his ideals. They also urged the young community to serve the society selflessly to improve the lot of the commonman.
 The meeting was also addressed by Brig (Retd) Moshudaula, Prof. Sheikh Abdus Samad, Prof. A N M Abdus Sobhan, Advocate Syed Mossaraf Hossain and Munshi Harun.

350 tubewells inoperative in Chuadanga

From Our Correspondent
 CHUADANGA, May 16: At least 350 tubewells have been lying inoperative for the last few months in four upazilas of the district including two pourashavas.
 According to local Public Health Engineering Department, the total number of tubewells in operation is 6166 of which 1308 in Chuadanga Sadar upazila, 2159 in Alamdanga upazila, 1671 in Damurhuda and 1028 in Jibnagar upazila.
 Acute scarcity of pure drinking water has been prevailing in the rural areas causing immense sufferings to the thousands of people as a large number of tubewells went out of order. The number of tubewells in two pourashava areas of the district is quite inadequate to meet the requirements.
 Of the total disordered tubewells, 57 are in Chuadanga Sadar, 80 in Alamdanga, 195 in Damurhuda and 18 in Jibnagar upazila.
 The government has taken up a programme to resink 96 disordered tubewells during the current financial year of which 27 have already been resunk and the rest 69 would be resunk shortly, it is expected. To cope up with the requirements the people are using water from ponds, canals and rivers.
Law order discussed
 The Law and Order situation of Chuadanga district was reviewed at a meeting held at the conference room of the Deputy Commissioner of Chuadanga recently.
 The meeting was presided over by Tajul Islam, Deputy Commissioner and Chairman of the committee. Discussions were held on 18 issues which included crime position, recent dacoity at Damurhuda and Darsana, seizure of illegal arms, illegal toll collections, selling of sugarcane, eradication of illegal warehouse, checking of smuggling, illegal lottery games, local hospital situation, illegal possession on roads and highways, anti-social activities in village areas, theft in railways and teasing of girl students.

Diarrhoea situation under control : Yusuf

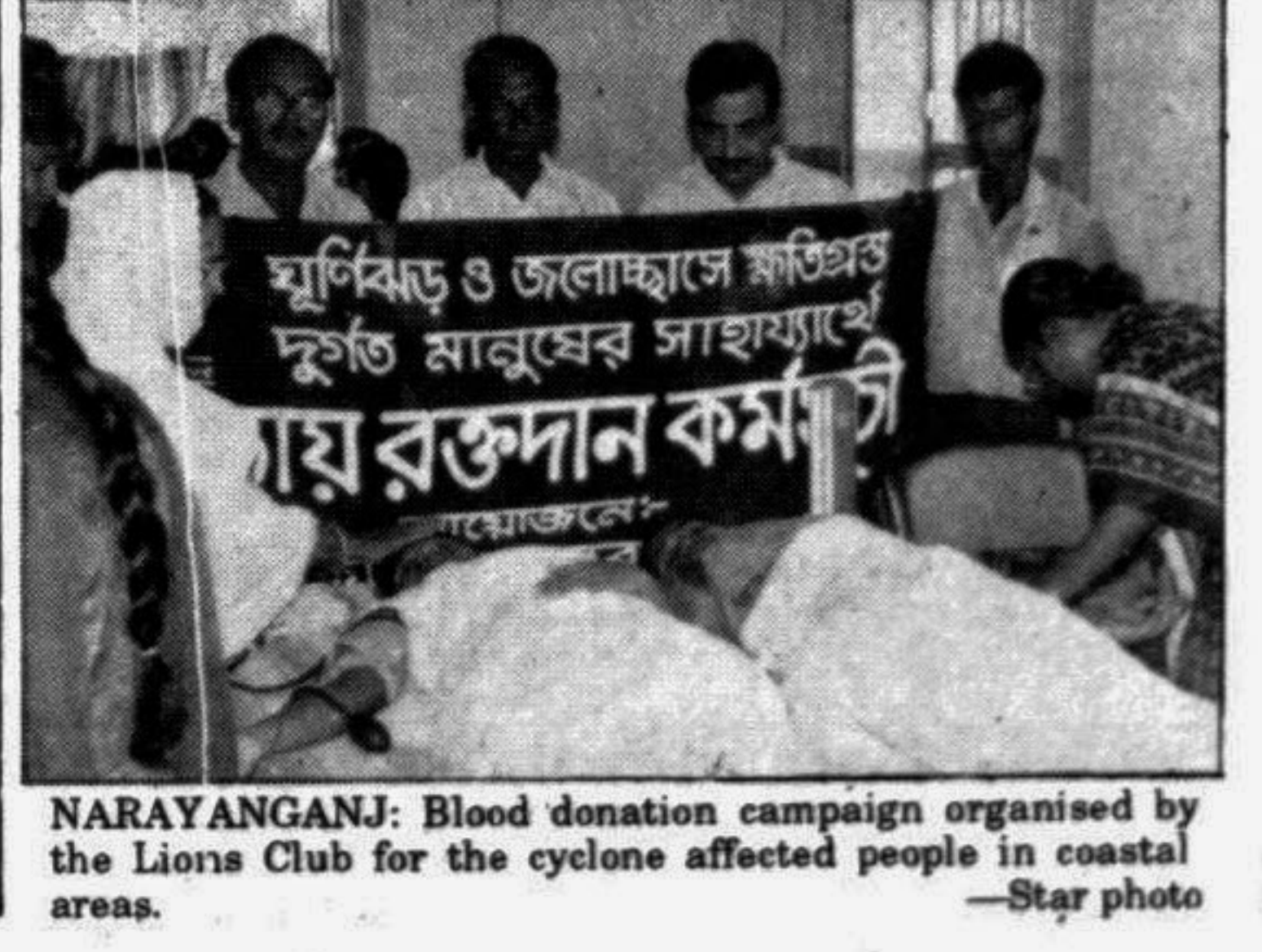
COX'S BAZAR, May 16: Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf here yesterday said that the diarrhoea situation in the cyclone affected areas was now under control, reports BSS.
 The Minister said that adequate number of physicians with sufficient quantity of medicine were making ceaseless efforts to control diarrhoea in those areas.
 The Minister said this while addressing the district administration officials.
 The Health Minister said that Government had undertaken a number of important steps for rehabilitation of the cyclone and tidal surge victims.
 Mr Chowdhury said that efforts were being made to rehabilitate the affected fishermen of Cox's Bazar.
 He asked local officials to carry out the relief operations properly.
 State Minister for Forest, Fisheries and Livestock Mr Abdullah Al Noman and Zonal Relief Coordinator were also present.
 The Health Minister visited Cox's Bazar to see various health care measure taken by the concerned authority for the cyclone and tidal surge victims of the district.
 The Minister had a meeting with the officials at the district control room. Director General of Social Welfare Department M. Omar Faruk apprised the Minister of various relief of the district including Kutubdia, Chakaria and Moheshkhali.
 The Health Minister was accompanied by Mokammel Huq, Relief and Rehabilitation Coordinator, Chittagong and some senior health officials.

Sharp rise in prices of essentials

MAULVI BAZAR, May 16: Consumers here been adversely affected by price hikes of rice and other essential commodities in the district, reports UNB.
 According to sources, rice is now being sold at Taka 15 per kg against Taka 12 two weeks back.
 Traders attributed the price rise to short supply.
 Meanwhile, prices of fish, mutton, baby food, onion, ginger, different varieties of lentil and vegetables have shot up causing economic hardship to the low-income groups.

Fake firms deceive unemployed youths

From Our Correspondent
 MYMENSINGH, May 16: Fake companies have collected several lakhs of Taka from unemployed persons promising them jobs in Mymensingh district recently.
 It is learnt that fake companies 'Agro-Fisheries' and 'Shapla Samaj Kalyan Sangstha' opened many offices in upazilas of Netrokona and Mymensingh districts and collected lakhs of Taka as security deposit from the intending job seekers and left the places.
 It is further reported that Agro-Fisheries opened a gorgeous office in the banner of Head Office at Dengu Bepariroad of Mymensingh town and recruited literate young men of the district and sent them to far-flung areas of different upazilas and engaged them in producing fish and fish food. These recruited men did not get their salaries.
 The fake offices of these companies are now under lock in the district.



NARAYANGANJ: Blood donation campaign organised by the Lions Club for the cyclone affected people in coastal areas. —Star photo