

Upazila roundup

KISHOREGANJ
72 bodies brought to morgue in four months

From Our Correspondent
May 18: A total of 72 bodies were brought to the morgue of Kishoreganj Sadar Hospital for postmortem during the last four months.

Of the total 13 bodies were brought in January, twelve in February, 21 in March and 26 in April. During the period 12 bodies were sent by Pakundia police, ten bodies by Nandail police, two bodies by Tarail police, five bodies by Bajitpur police, six bodies by Kartimganj police, four bodies by Nikli police, four bodies by Kishoreganj police, one body by the Ina police, two bodies by Mitamoti police, four bodies by Bhatrab police, two bodies by Hossainpur police, three bodies by Katiadi police, two bodies by Kullarchar police, one body by Austagram police and 14 bodies by Bhatrab Railway Police of the district for autopsy.

NETRAKONA
Police Super exchanges views with newsmen

From Our Correspondent
May 18: A meeting was held at the conference room of Police Super Netronka with the local journalist recently. In the meeting Kazi Joynal Abedin (Beer Pratik), 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. Abdur Rahim (Dainik Sangram), Hafizur Rahman (Dainik Desh), M. A. Hannan (UNB) and Mahbubul Kibria Chowdhury, district correspondent of the Daily Star.

MADARIPUR
Mastans active

From Our Correspondent
May 18: The parents of girl students are anxious about the safety of their ward as the mastans in Madaripur town are quite active. The guardians alleged that the mastans disturb the school going students at different crossing of roads specially the Donavan Girls School and Madaripur Girls School.

MAGURA
Massive plan to vaccinate livestock

May 18: Sadar upazila livestock department has taken up a massive programme of vaccination for livestock and poultry birds in every union of the upazila, reports UNB. According to official sources, the department has already vaccinated 50,222 cattle and 8,92559 poultry birds during the last 10 months. Meanwhile, the department has inseminated 2,738 cattle and distributed 3,428 hens and cocks among the interested farmers. They have also imparted training to 517 people for poultry farming.

DAUDKANDI
Steps will be taken to stop Gomti erosion

May 18: The government will take all possible measures to stop the Gomti erosion, reports BSS. This was stated by the State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources, Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain who was visiting different erosion areas of river Gomti at Daudkandi in Comilla yesterday. Local Upazila Chairman Yusuf Zamil Babu and leader of Jubadal K.M.I Khalil were with the State Minister. Dr Mosharraf Hossain said that the government had deployed all its available resources to mitigate the sufferings of the affected people. He called upon the well-to-do section to come forward in aid of the distressed humanity.

COX'S BAZAR
2,527 tubewells repaired

May 18: About 2,527 tubewells have been repaired and more than 110 new ones installed so far in cyclone-hit coastal belt of the district, reports BSS.

According to Public Engineering officials here yesterday, about 7,618 tubewells were operative in the cyclone battered areas of the district before the catastrophe hit on April 29 night. About 5,692 tubewells were damaged in the cyclone in the district, the officials said adding engineers and technicians have been working round the clock to repair the damaged tubewells.

SIRAJGANJ
Fabricated news on PWD employee's death protested

May 18: Officers and employees of Public Works Department of the district at a meeting Thursday protested a "fabricated" news item on the death of a PWD employee, reports UNB. Speakers at the protest meeting said the news published in some national dailies intentionally involved the name of the Executive Engineer of the Department, damaging his honour and prestige. A vested quarter was trying to suppress the fact to extort benefit from the Executive Engineer, they alleged. They demanded fair investigation in the case and expressed sympathy to the bereaved family of late Abdus Sattar, whose body was found hanging from the ceiling of his residence on March 14.

Presided over by President of PWD Employees Union Barkat Ali, the meeting was addressed by leaders of the district unit of Engineers Institute and the PWD Diploma Engineers Association.

PABNA
Aman procurement target not achieved

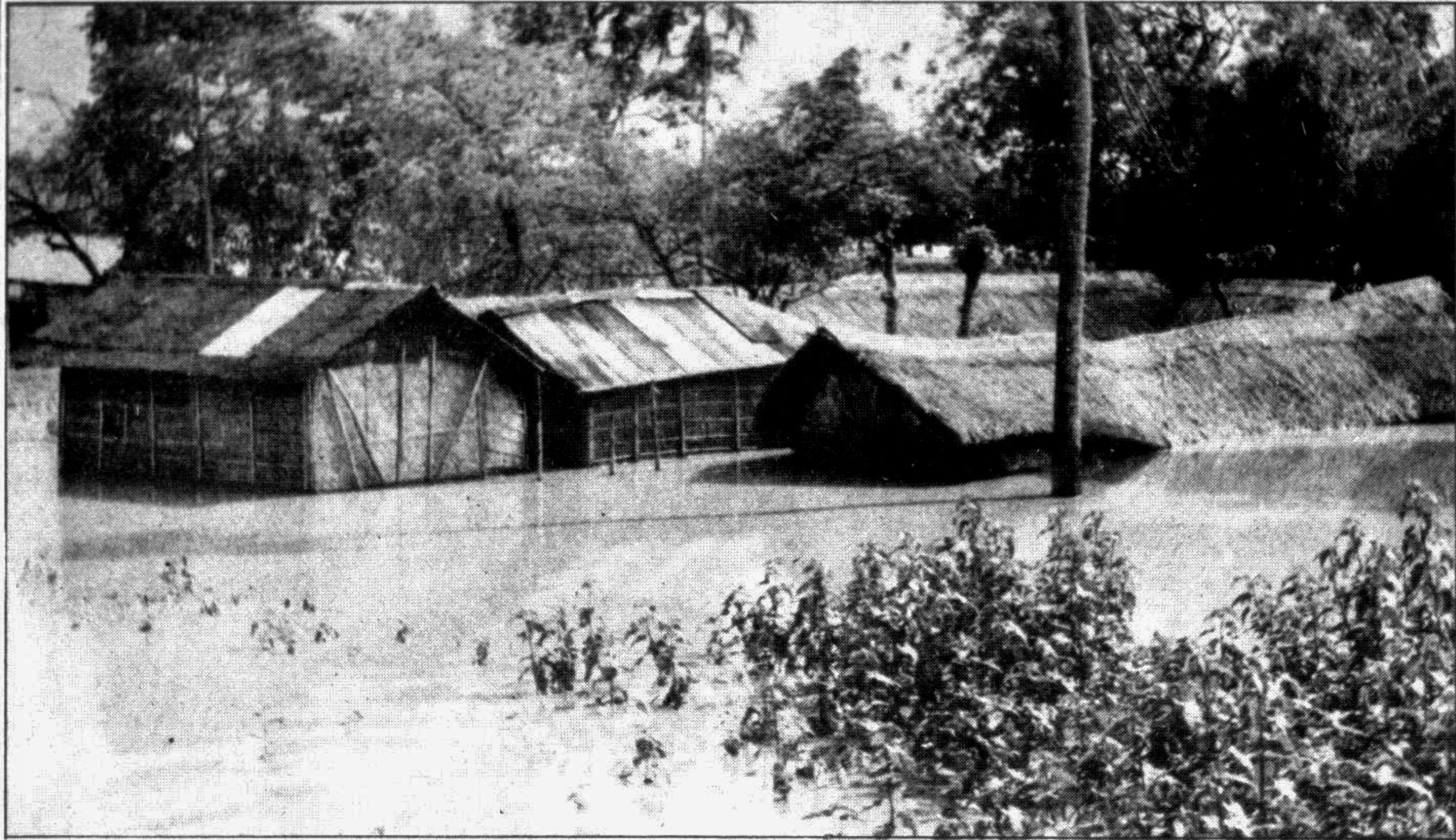
From Our Correspondent
May 18: The procurement target of Aman paddy was not fulfilled in eight districts including three regions of Pabna, Rajshahi and Bogra. In these regions only 31683 metric tons Aman paddy was purchased instead of the target of one lakh and 56 thousand metric tons. Highest 8948 metric tons paddy were purchased at Bogra district and lowest five metric tons paddy were purchased at Rajshahi district.

JAMALPUR
86 SSC examinees expelled

From Our Correspondent
May 18: At least 86 candidates and three invigilators were expelled for adopting unfair means on the last five days of Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations here under Dhaka Board. Of the expelled examinees, 14 were from Jamalpur, 33 from Islampur, 7 from Mehandi, 11 from Madariganj, 7 from Dewanganj, 6 from Sarishabari and 8 from Bakshiganj examination centres. The three invigilators were expelled from Islampur and Jamalpur examination centres. An outsider was arrested by police for supplying copies from Jamalpur examination hall. The outsider has been taken under police custody.

NOAKHALI
Diarrhoea death toll rises to 116

May 18: With the death of eight more people over the last week, the diarrhoea death toll rose to 116 in the district, reports UNB. According to informed sources, the waterborne disease has spread alarmingly in the district. The worst affected areas are Sadar, Begumganj, Chatkhil, Companiganj and Hatya upazilas. In Hatya upazila the disease has taken an epidemic form immediate after the devastating cyclone and tidal surge that hit the island severely. District Civil Surgeon told the UNB that 91 medical teams have been working in all the upazilas of the district. More teams are being despatched to combat the spread of the disease. Necessary ORS saline packets and water purifying tablets have already been supplied to the affected areas, officials said. But it has been alleged that in some places the teams are not active in field level which is necessary to combat the spread of the disease.



Submerged dwellings at Maulvi Bazar following unprecedented flood. —Star photo

Destructive effects of Farakka

Seventeen rivers about to dry up

BAGERHAT, May 18: About 17 rivers and 100 haors in ten south-western districts of the country are on the brink of being desert due to the destructive effects of Farakka. The rivers are Garai, Madhumati, Baleswar, Haringhata, Kumar, Rupsa, Bhatrab, Chitra, Kaliganga, Panguchi, Betrabati, Kapadakkha, Begoti and Muktiwari. The districts through which the rivers flow are Bagerhat, Khulna, Satkhira, Narail, Jessore, Magura, Jhenidah, Chuadanga, Kusthia and Meherpur. The worst affected districts are Jessore, Narail, Jhenidah, Magura, Kusthia, Chuadanga and Meherpur.

The rivers which flow through these districts have lost their depth due to silt. As a result, they cannot hold much water in the rainy season and over-flow their banks causing flood. Thus thousands of acres of crop fields go under water every year. On the other hand, the silted rivers dry up in the winter. Consequently, they fail to afford irrigation facilities to those who live on both sides of these rivers. These rivers will become desert in due course of time threatening the existence of the people of the zone. According to an official estimate, there are about 17 lakh acres of cultivable land in the greater Jessore district. Out of these, about 1,50,000 acres of land of the district have been brought under irrigation. The remaining lands should be brought under irrigation zone. But it is very difficult to bring all the lands under irrigation for want of water.

The shallow tubewells of the region are not working properly due to fall in the sub-surface water level. The rivers and haors lying in these districts have lost their water levels. Only Bagerhat, Khulna and Satkhira have some rivers that can be used as surface water resources for irrigation. But water of these rivers are full of salinity. Due to non availability of the sweet water saline water is causing damage to the crops of those localities. It may be mentioned here that Khulna Newsprint Mills require a huge quantity of sweet water every day. But the water of the river Rupsa is now unfit for the consumption of the mill as it is full of salinity. The sweet water is now brought from the river Chitra in the district of Narail for the mill. All kinds of trees of Sundarbans have been affected by the saline water as the flow of sweet water in the rivers of Sundarbans has fallen as a result of Farakka. In addition to these many 'Chars' have developed in the rivers like the Garai, Madhumati, Baleswar, Haringhata, Panguchi etc. creating acute problem in normal navigation. Sundarbans uplift plan not implemented. Seven projects involving Taka two crore for the development of Sundarbans could not be implemented during the last three years, due to fund shortage.

It is learnt from a reliable source that the Forest Department undertook seven projects in the financial year of 1987-88 for the overall development of Sundarbans and the projects were sent to the concerned Ministry for approval. But for want of fund, the projects were not approved by the Ministry. The projects are rehabilitation of Sundarban preservation of the wild animals of Sundarbans and recreational facilities, collection of wood from the forest and the sale of the same, plantation of Gewa on the banks of the rivers and the Bay, reorganisation of the administrative framework of the forest and removal and collection of cyclone damaged trees of the Sundarbans. One person was killed and 26 others were injured, eight of them serious, when a Bagerhat bound passenger bus (No. Khulna Ba-1092) turned turtle on Rupsa-Bagerhat Highway in front of Bagerhat Circuit House, two kilometres away from here recently.

It is reported that the bus was over crowded. It was coming from Mongla Sea Port to Bagerhat with its full speed and when it reached the place of occurrence, the driver lost its control. As a result, the bus knocked down a passenger rickshaw and turned turtle on the road. Consequently, one Nawab Ali (60) the rickshaw passenger was killed on the spot and 26 bus passengers were injured. They were immediately admitted to Bagerhat Sadar Hospital where the condition of five are still precarious. Four others were also admitted into the hospital. But they were released after first aid. A case was registered with Bagerhat P.S. in this connection. Police seized the bus but the driver managed to escape. One killed. A case was registered with Bagerhat P.S. in this connection. Police seized the bus but the driver managed to escape.

Tele-link facilities absent in Chandpur

From Our Correspondent
CHANDPUR, May 18: The district trade and commerce with capital and other parts of the country have suffered a setback due to lack of tele-link facilities at Chandpur district for a long time. Most of the lines remain inoperative for days together. Local journalists cannot send despatches to Dhaka dailies in time because of frequent disruption in both telephone and telex connections. Besides, subscribers complained of frequent cross connections and other disturbances in telephone sets. Trunk calls are seldom attended to the public from local telephone office. On the other hand, the NWD introduced in 1988 is now functioning with only four channels which cannot cope with the call load. There are two systems of telephone numbers at Chandpur. Four group telephone numbers are disrupted off and on. So far diarrhoea claims 38 lives at Chandpur district. According to Civil Surgeon office sources, about 1100 people were attacked by diarrhoea in all seven upazilas of the district. Every day at least twenty diarrhoea patients are admitted in different hospitals. Fifty-eight medical teams headed by a doctor are working in the affected areas. Most of the patients are admitted at Matlab ICDDR hospital. A field hospital has been opened at Faridganj upazila for the treatment of diarrhoea. Faridganj upazila is the worst affected area.

152 educational institutions damaged

BARISAL, May 18: A total of 152 educational institutions were damaged by the recent cyclone and tidal bore in nine upazilas of Barisal district, reports BSS. The source said 67 educational institutions were damaged in Barisal Sadar upazila, 42 in Mehendiganj, 15 in Muladi, 18 in Hizia, 14 in Bagerganj, five in Banaripara, three in Babugonj and two in Gournadi upazilas. 9 lakh domestic animals lost. Over nine lakh domestic animals were killed by cyclone and tidal bore in coastal districts, official sources said. About 6.42 lakh houses were destroyed completely and 5.52 lakh houses partially in the region.

Two chargesheeted for wheat misappropriation

From Our Correspondent
BAGERHAT, May 18: District Anti-Corruption Bureau of Bagerhat submitted chargesheet to the court against Mr Akbar Hossain, former Chairman of Rampal Union Parishad and Zamat Ali, Project Implementation Officer (PIO) of Rampal Upazila Parishad on the charge of misappropriation of 206 maunds of wheat allotted for repairing a road under World Food Programme recently. According to the chargesheet, former Chairman Akbar Hossain took delivery of 649 maunds of wheat from the government godowns on different dates for the repair of a road from Bhaga to Majanbari in his union under the World Food Programme. But the UP Chairman with the collaboration of Zamat Ali, PIO spent only 1,442 maunds of wheat for the project and misappropriated the rest wheat of 206 maunds worth take 44,739.74 as per government rate. In this connection a case was lodged with Rampal PS by the District Anti-Corruption Bureau who investigated the matter and chargesheeted to the court against them. Husband jailed. Md. Rajab Ali, Upazila Magistrate of Kachua in the district of Bagerhat, in a judgement delivered recently, convicted one Strajul Islam of village Shabatkathi under Kachua upazila and sentenced him to suffer simple imprisonment for 2 years and to pay a fine of Taka 100 in default to suffer imprisonment for one month more on the charge of torturing his wife for dowry. The prosecution story is that Shamsunnahar, daughter of a poor widow of village Tangrakhal under the same upazila was married with accused Strajul Islam a few years ago. But only after a few days of the marriage he created pressure on Shamsunnahar to bring money from his mother as dowry. The husband tortured his wife and sent her to her widowed mother. The widow sold her all belongings and sent the money to her son-in-law. One day the accused asked his wife to bring money from her mother. When she disclosed the inability of her mother, the husband beat her mercilessly. As a result, one of her legs got fractured and she was sent back to her mother by the husband. The matter was, however, settled by a village salish. The husband took his wife back. But only after a few days of the salish the greedy husband snatched away her minor child and drove her out of his house. Shamsunnahar filed a case with the court against her husband. The magistrate after examining the witnesses and the evidences found accused Strajul Islam guilty and awarded him the aforesaid punishment.



Relief materials being loaded into a helicopter at Chittagong. —Star Photo by Nurul Alam

Notes from Kusthia

From A Correspondent
KUSHTIA, May 18: A general meeting of the Officers Welfare Association of Sonal Bank, Kusthia was held here recently with Abdul Kadim, senior Principal Officer in the chair. The meeting was attended by DGM Mohiuddin Ahmed as chief guest while AGM of Chuadanga and Meherpur attended as special guest. The meeting adopted a condolence resolution for the cyclone victims and expressed solidarity with the affected people. A donation of Taka 1000 from the association's fund was offered to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. The meeting unanimously constituted a 19-member new committee with Abdul Quddus, Manager, Kusthia Main Branch and Md Badruz-zaman, Manager, Daulatpur Branch as President and General Secretary respectively.

Indian cow
Forty Indian cows have been seized at Kumarkhal recently. It was gathered that these cows were purchased from Chuadanga district by cow businessmen of Dhaka. The price of these cows has been estimated at Taka one lakh sixty thousand. A case has been registered at Kumarkhal police station in this connection.

Arms recovered
Abu Bakar Siddique, Superintendent of Police, Kusthia sought cooperation of the local people to bring the law and order situation under control. He was giving a picture of police activities from January to May 10 after quelling the outburst of the people of Haripur against the people of Thanapara and Kuthipara and armed clash between them a few days back. He said that police had recovered two 303 rifles, four country made rifles, one non-prohibitive bore rifle, one DBBL gun, 8 pipe guns, two shutter guns, four country made guns, two pistols, two revolvers, two Indian made shutter guns, 294 rounds of 303 ammunitions, 57 non-prohibitive bore ammunitions, 162 rounds of SLR ammunition, three ammunitions of Chinese L.M.G., 10 twelve bore shot gun ammunitions and 14 sharpen weapons including sword and dagger. 17 cases have been filed in the respective police stations and 25 persons have been arrested in these connection.

One injured by gun shot
Hazrat Mahaladar (60) of village Bhurkapara under Daulatpur upazila was seriously wounded when a group of gunmen shot at him through the window of his house recently, it was learnt. At the time of incident he was sleeping. The cause of the attack was the village enmity. It may be mentioned that the victim was arrested on charge of murder and was released on bail a few days back. The victim has been admitted to Kusthia General Hospital in a serious condition.

Bank dacoity
BSS adds: Dacoity was committed on Sunday night in Agrani Bank, Patikabari Branch under Kusthia Sadar upazila. A gang of dacoits with deadly weapons broke open the door of the bank and fastened the night guard and took away Taka 26,000 and one gun. Police Superintendent visited the place of occurrence but none has been arrested.

One killed in road mishap
UNB says: A man succumbed to his injuries and six others injured in a road accident Wednesday when a Kusthia bound truck from Pakshey dashed a road side tree on Kusthia-Iswardi road, 10 miles off the town, police said. Abdul Latif (35) who was on board the truck received grievous injuries and breathed his last on way to hospital. Latif, son of Rahimuddin hailed from Haragacha, Rangpur. Injured Abdul Halim (35), Lal Mohon (20), Zahidul Alt (35), Mahfuz (35), Nurul (32) and Rashid (32) were rushed to the hospital.

Tk 85 lakh uplift scheme in Tangail
TANGAIL, May 18: Tangail Pourashava has taken up several schemes to repair and reconstruct roads and drainage system at a cost of Taka eighty five lakh in the current fiscal year, reports BSS. An official source said that 20 projects including construction, repairing of roads and drains will be implemented under its annual development programme. One Sakhawat Hossain (24) a fertilizer salesman was killed by dacoits on Tuesday night in his house at village Matsha under Sadar upazila.

Jamaat demands more relief in Noakhali

Noakhali, May 18: Jamaat-e-Islami district unit demanded immediate supply of more relief materials to the cyclone stricken people of the district and speedy reconstruction of houses for their early rehabilitation, reports UNB. Local Jamaat leaders at a press conference held here recently alleged that the relief materials so far despatched by the government are quite inadequate and reconstruction works of dwelling houses and repair of roads, sinking of deep tubewells are yet to begin in the district. They also demanded forming of an All Party Relief Committee at all levels and despatching of more medicines to the affected areas without further delay.