

Upazila roundup

SATKHIRA

Dacoity at lawyer's house

May 20: A daring dacoity was committed in the residence of the district Bar Association president in the town Friday night, police sources said here yesterday, reports UNB.

The dacoits broke open the door of the house of Dildar Rahman and decamped with valuables including a SBBL gun and gold ornaments worth about Taka 80,000, police said. A case has been lodged in this connection.

MANIKGANJ

3 killed

May 20: Lightning killed two people and another was electrocuted in the district in the last two days, police said, reports UNB.

Relatives said Tamsar Ali (42), of Dubulia in Shibbalaya upazila and Shefalt (12), of Dotara village in Ghor upazila had been thunder struck during heavy rain on Friday.

In another incident, wahed Ali (27) of Bhawalikandi, Shibbalaya was working in a paddy field when he came in contact with a live electric pole. He died on way to the upazila health complex.

BRAHMANBARIA

Minor girl gang raped

May 20: A minor girl was gang raped by some miscreants at Fulbaria village in Sadar upazila, family sources said here yesterday, reports UNB.

The victim Fultara (10), daughter of a day labourer Abdul Majid Mia while collecting snails from nearby beel for her ducks, a gang of miscreants forcibly took her to a paddy field and violated her one after another.

Later she was rescued by the villagers and rushed to the Akhaura upazila health complex where her condition was stated to be critical.

Another report adds: Jahanara Begum (24) mother of two children of Raotala village in Kasba upazila was throttled to death on May 12 by her husband for dowry, police said.

Family sources said Jahanara was being tortured physically by her husband Younus Mia for a long time to realise dowry money of Taka 2,000 only.

On the fateful day, Younus Mia asked his wife to bring the money from her poor peasant father. On her refusal he got furious and throttled her to death.

A case was lodged in this connection. The killer husband remained absconding.

FENI

Father, son killed by lightning

May 20: Father and son were killed by lightning Sunday at Char Luxmigonj village in Sonagaj upazila of the district, police here said, reports UNB.

Witnesses said, Asadullah (45), a labourer of Adamji Jute Mills, along with his son Atzullah (14) were on their way home from a local market when the lightning struck them. They died on the spot.

In another incident in Jarkasarda village in Sadar upazila, three cattleheads were also killed by thunder-bolt on the same day.

Indian medicines seized

Police here seized Indian medicines worth about Taka 15,000 and arrested five women in this connection on Monday, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip, police raided a house at Belonia of the town and recovered the smuggled Indian medicines.

The seized medicines include Livergin 40 pieces, Phenidyle 70 pieces, Grippe water 65 pieces and Benadryl 110 pieces.

The arrested Amena Khatun, Maya, Parveen Akhter, Katuni and Shahana Khatun, all from Bawkuma village in Porshooram upazila of the district were taken to custody.

KISHOREGANJ

Train derails

From Our Correspondent May 20: Train communication remained suspended for about 12 hours between Bhairab-Mymensingh rail-lines on Saturday. The engine of the Bhairab bound 242-down passenger train derailed near the Bhairab rail station at about 9-30 a.m. following which train communication were suspended.

On getting information relief train from Akhaura reached the spot and cleared

the line at 9 p.m. and train communication resumed on the line. Due to the train accident hundreds of passengers were stranded at different rail station and their sufferings knew no bounds. The railway authority suspended five trains on this line.

CHUADANGA

Storm damages dwellings

From Our correspondent

May 20: A large number of kutcha houses were damaged, huge branches of trees were broken down, electricity supply was totally disrupted and over 100 local telephone sets were dead when a severe cyclonic storm swept over Chuadanga town and its adjoining areas Saturday evening.

The actual damage caused by the storm could not be ascertained. No loss of life was reported.

NETRAKONA

Flood situation remains unchanged

May 20: Flood situation in four upazilas under Netrakona district remained unchanged during the last two days, reports BSS.

The major rivers of the district Sumeswari, Kongso, Dano and Mogra, however, did not cross their respective danger marks at any point during the period, Netrakona District Control Room source told BSS correspondent Sunday.

Widespread rainfall during the last few days caused disruption of normal life in the district.

Under post cyclone and tidal surge relief and rehabilitation programme of the government Netrakona district police Saturday sent a truck-load of relief materials for the affected areas.

Police sources said the relief materials included rice, wheat, pulse and clothes.

The district police had also donated their one day's salary to the Prime Ministers' relief fund.

PABNA

Transport strike continues

From Our Correspondent

May 20: An indefinite strike by Pabna Motor Sramik Samity has been continuing since Thursday last following a clash over toll collection.

The incident was started in a clash generating from the collection of toll by the Bangladesh Inter District Truck Sramik Union and Pabna Motor Sramik Samity.

A group of hooligans attacked Pabna Motor Sramik Samity Paksey office and seized the valuables. Protesting this situation Pabna Motor Sramik Samity went on an indefinite strike and as a result no bus, minibus or truck is running to and from Pabna district.

NANDAIL

Relief body formed

From Our Correspondent

May 20: A relief committee has been formed at Jarail upazila to help the cyclone hit people of the coastal belt with Upazila Chairman Israt Jahan Babul in the chair.

The members of the committee include Upazila Parishad members officials and elite of the locality.

The committee has launched a drive to collect clothes, baby dress, rice, chira, breads and other foodstuff and cash money for immediate supply to the cyclone hit areas through the proper channel.

The committee also appealed to the people to come forward with helping hands to mitigate the sufferings of the distressed people.

COMILLA

10 dacoits nabbed

May 20: Ten dacoits were arrested Wednesday on charges of a number of street dacoities in different routes of the district, police here said, reports UNB.

According to sources, the dacoities were committed on Comilla-Burichang-Brahmanbaria routes on different occasion during last three months.

The arrested are Abul Kasem, Abul Hossain, Abdur Rahim, Zahirul Islam, Bachuu Mia, Quddus Mia, Azad Mia, Abdus Salam and two inter-district dacoits Mominul Islam Momin and Shih Sanikr Shaha.



Flood affected people have taken shelter on an embankment at Maulvi Bazar

— Star photo

Health complex in disarray : patients suffer

From Our Correspondent

JAMPALPUR, May 20: Patients of Melandah Health Complex are deprived of proper treatment due to mismanagement and negligence of the doctors and other staff members.

The doctors are seldom found available in the hospital. Even in emergency cases they show reluctance to attend the patients. They remain busy in private practices, it is alleged. Due to inadequate supply of medicines a large number of patients coming from far flung areas go back disappointed.

Life-saving drugs like antibiotics and penicillin even ordinary medicines which are needed for outdoor patients are not available in the hospi-

tal. As a result, poor patients are compelled to purchase medicines from outside which is beyond their purchasing capacity. Patients also suffer much for want of pure drinking water in the hospital.

Patients complained that they are rarely served improved diet. A section of dishonest supplier supply low quality food and most of the patients are reluctant to consume it.

According to the reports, some corrupt employees including Residential Medical Officer (RMO) allegedly pilfer medicines from hospital stores and sell them in open market. Only eight doctors available in the hospital can hardly pro-

vide treatment to hundreds of patients everyday. Besides, due to inadequate number of beds it is impossible to cope with the increasing rush of patients. Many a patients are accommodated on the floor and verandah of the hospital.

On the other hand arrangement of beds is not systematic. An unconscious patient is oxygenated in sitting position. The patients are generally carried by jeep, taxi and rickshaw as there is no ambulance. Blood bank and x-ray machine are also not available in the hospital. As such neither surgical operation nor correct diagnosis is possible resulting in inconvenience of poor patients who cannot afford to go

to Mymensingh or Dhaka for the better treatment. Non-availability of saline in the hospital is a regular feature.

Posts of specialists lying vacant

Moreover, four sanctioned posts of specialists have been lying vacant since long. Ten posts of field workers have also fallen vacant hampering the activities of health care and population control section.

In absence of isolation ward, the patients with infectious diseases are accommodated in general ward which provides a helping hand in spread of diarrhoea, diphtheria, tetanus and venereal dis-

eases. On the other hand, visitors enter the indoor wards unchecked. There is no timetable for the visitors. Due to non-availability of oxygen cylinders patients are often pushed to tragic death.

Supply of mosquito curtains, bed-sheets, pillow covers are too inadequate to meet the requirements of the patients.

The premises of the hospital remains always dirty.

All Party Students Unity of Melandah upazila unit brought out a procession recently against Residential Medical Officer (RMO) and demanded his transfer.

Notes from Nandail

From Our Correspondent

NANDAIL, May 20: Nandail based journalists of various dailies and weeklies including local leaders of different Journalists' Associations urged the UNO, Nandail to take early step to stop gambling and other anti-social activities in the upazila.

The journalists also drew the attention of the relevant authorities to the prevailing gambling fair at Chakmati Un-leser Musuli union of the upazila.

The journalists expressed their surprise as to how the law enforcing authorities could allow such unsocial activities at the upazila in spite of the recent unprecedented cyclone in the coastal belt.

The protesters include Musharraf Hussain Akhand, President, Bangladesh Journalists' Association, Nandail branch and Nandail based correspondent of the Daily Star, Prof. Abu Taher President Bangladesh Sangbadik Sangstha Nandail branch, Saiful Islam Bhuiyan, President Nandail Press Club, Enamul Haq Babul, Secretary, Nandail Press Club, A. B. Siddique Khasroo, Secretary Bangladesh Sangbadik Samity, Nandail branch, Hafizur Rahman Chandan (Dainik Desh), Yousuf Akhand (Dainik Insaaf), Motiul Hasan (Dainik Sangram), Jilur Rahman (Inquillab)

On the other hand leading Ulema Imams and other religious leaders of Nandail protested the gambling fair in the name of Krishi Prodorshoni at Chakmati.

1200 dwellings damaged

About 1200 dwelling houses of 15 villages including schools and Madrasahs were totally damaged in a devastating nor'wester which swept over Trisul upazila recently.

The worst affected areas are Kazir Shimla, Pardhanikhola, Dewanla Bari, Dhalatan, Kazir Bazar, Kanthari, Bali Para, Darilla, Kakchor, Birampur, Shakua Haritampur, Noapara, Mothbari, Kanhor and Bolor.

10 educational institutions in the storm-hit area were also damaged.

Trees and banana gardens were uprooted and standing crops also were damaged in the area causing serious havoc to the peasants.

Losses caused by the devastation were estimated to be over one crore Taka.

Rly Jatiya Sramik Party meet

A meeting under the auspices of Mymensingh Railway Jatiya Sramik Party was held at the party office to discuss the post cyclone situation of the coastal belt recently with party leader Mijanur Rahman Mijan in the chair.

The participants pledged to dedicate their efforts to extend help to the ill-fated victims of the devastated areas.

The speakers urged the government to establish a free atmosphere in the country for all to the opportunity of facing the havoc by setting ex-president H. M. Ershad free.

The meeting was addressed by party Secretary Bajur Rahman Siddiqi and Jatiya Party leaders Abul Khair and Mahub Alam Bhuiyan.

The meeting concluded through a mlad mahfil and special munajat seeking place for the departed souls of those who lost their lives in the disaster.

Smuggled goods worth Tk 2.98cr seized

CHAPANAWABGANJ, May 20: The law enforcing agencies seized huge quantity of smuggled goods worth about Taka 2.98 crore during the last four months from different places of the district, reports BSS.

An official source said the goods include cloths, sugar, onion, cattle, spare parts and bicycles.

Cases have been against some alleged smugglers.

Jhenidah

A report from Jhenidah adds: The Customs and Excise Department personnel and other law enforcing agencies recovered a huge quantity of smuggled goods from some vehicles on Jhenidah-Magura highway.

According to an official source, the seized goods were valued at about Taka three lakh. The goods included Indian cloths, sugar and spare parts.

Police also seized 12 Indian cows worth about Taka 1.4 lakh. The Bangladesh Rifles personnel recovered 24 Indian cattle worth about Taka three lakh from village Haldipara of Mandartola union under Moheshpur upazila.

Relief sent for cyclone victims

From Our Correspondent

BARISAL, May 20: Barisal Zonal Relief-Co-ordination Committee has received eight truck-load of different relief goods from the President's Relief Fund on May 11 for distribution among the cyclone-hit people of Barisal zone, reports BSS.

According to the staff officer of Zonal Relief Co-ordination Committee Mr Zalal Ahmed, the relief goods included mainly sarees and lungies. The goods will be distributed in Barisal, Bhola, Patuakhali and Barguna districts.

Besides, the committee has received relief materials worth about Taka 23.34,950 from different voluntary organisations of Khulna and Rajshahi divisions for distribution among the cyclone-hit people.

The materials included 63,754 pieces of new sarees, 7066 pieces of old sarees, 21.80 metric tons of rice, 6.20 metric tons of molasses, 7.20 metric tons of flour, four metric tons potato, and 200 kilograms of pulses and 48.30 metric tons of chira.

The relief materials also included biscuits, medicines, matches, water-pots, soaps, sugar, and utensils. Distribution of relief goods are going on in full swing, the source added.

Our Chuadanga Correspondent adds: Relief materials worth Taka 2,75,000 have been sent to the cyclone

affected areas.

People of Chuadanga through the local administration are sending relief materials to the affected areas which include 25 packets of biscuits, dal one bag and 84 kgs. chira 15 bags, 619 pieces of old garments, 213 pieces of new clothes, one bag of atta, 32 kgs of rice, one tin gur, 46 dozens of match boxes and 26 bags of potatoes.

Kishoreganj

Our Kishoreganj Correspondent says: The district police administration sent a truck-load of relief goods to the office of Inspector General of Police for distribution among the cyclone-hit people in the southern district on Wednesday. The relief goods include 29 bags of rice, 28 bags of atta, seven bags of pulse, four bags of chira, one bag of gur and 1222 pieces of clothes.

Illegal key books

Note books are being sold unabated in the town despite government ban.

Publication and selling of note books upto Class Eight have been banned for discouraging students to depend on prepared answers.

But book traders are allegedly publishing and selling sub-standard note-books under fictitious names of authors. These books contain factual mistakes and misinformation.

Kurigram town threatened with erosion

From Our Correspondent

KURIGRAM, May 20: Kurigram town has again been threatened with Dharia erosion despite spending of crores of Taka on the town protection embankment for years together.

The site of the town had to be shifted several times to save it from erosion involving a large amount of money besides huge expenditure on the protection scheme.

It may be mentioned here that the town has a very strategic position as it is surrounded by Assam in the East and Coochbihar and Jalpaiguri in West Bengal.

In the past, the people of this district had submitted a number of appeals to the previous governments pressing the urgency of permanent town protection measures to save this district headquarters from further onslaughts of the river but to no effect. Though small protective measures were taken once or twice but all those proved to be futile.

A scheme was also drawn by the then EPWAPDA namely "Kurigram Town Protection Scheme" for undertaking permanent protective measures and the work too was started in 1971, but it was suspended after some work was done.

People feel, if permanent town protective measures are not taken up right now the situation will go out of control and government will have to spend crores of Taka to build a headquarters again.

Nor'wester lashes Kishoreganj: 2 killed

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, May 20: Two persons were killed and five others injured in a nor'wester in Austagram upazila under Kishoreganj district recently. Five injured persons are under treatment in Austagram upazila health complex, reports BSS.

All the seven unions of Austagram upazila were affected by the on-rush of flood water and standing IRRI-Boro crops on ten thousand acres of land were damaged. Flood waters are inundating new areas every day. Even harvested paddy and Rabi crops including ground nut are being washed away by the flood water.

Storms are sweeping the area almost everyday. Rains, thunders and lightning are common phenomena.

The badly affected unions are Abdullapur, Adampur, Kalma, Kastul and Bangalpara. Over five lakh people were affected there.

Our Correspondent adds: A

Kidnapping on rise in C'Nawabganj

From Our Correspondent

C'NAWABGANJ, May 20: Incidents of kidnapping are on the rise in Chapalnawabganj town.

Sagan son of Debu and a student of class four of Model Primary School was abducted

on pistol point on April 22: He was taken to Rajshahi in jeep and train. He returned back home in an unconscious state.

Another student Samin of class six, son of Bazul Rahman, cashier of Pubali Bank was abducted on April 30. An unknown man asked the boy to go with him along with his clothes, money and ornaments. Samin took his father's 100 taka and his clothes and went along with him in a jeep. He was taken to Rajshahi, Padma's char where he took away

Samir's 100 taka and asked him to wait. Samin with the help of two men returned back in an abnormal condition.

According to he reports, seven other boys were kidnapped from Nawabganj town in the same manner. They were Sahriyar (5), son of Advocate Gulam Kabir, Nazim (15), Manik (14), son of Nurul Islam, Sanjoy (13), son of Doctor Raghupati and Nasiruddin (14), son of Advocate Altaf Hossain.

It is believed that the kidnapers are active to black mail the rich fathers. Some guardians have stopped their children going to school.

The guardians have urged the concerned authorities to take immediate steps to stop the kidnappings.

Housewife kidnapped in Magura

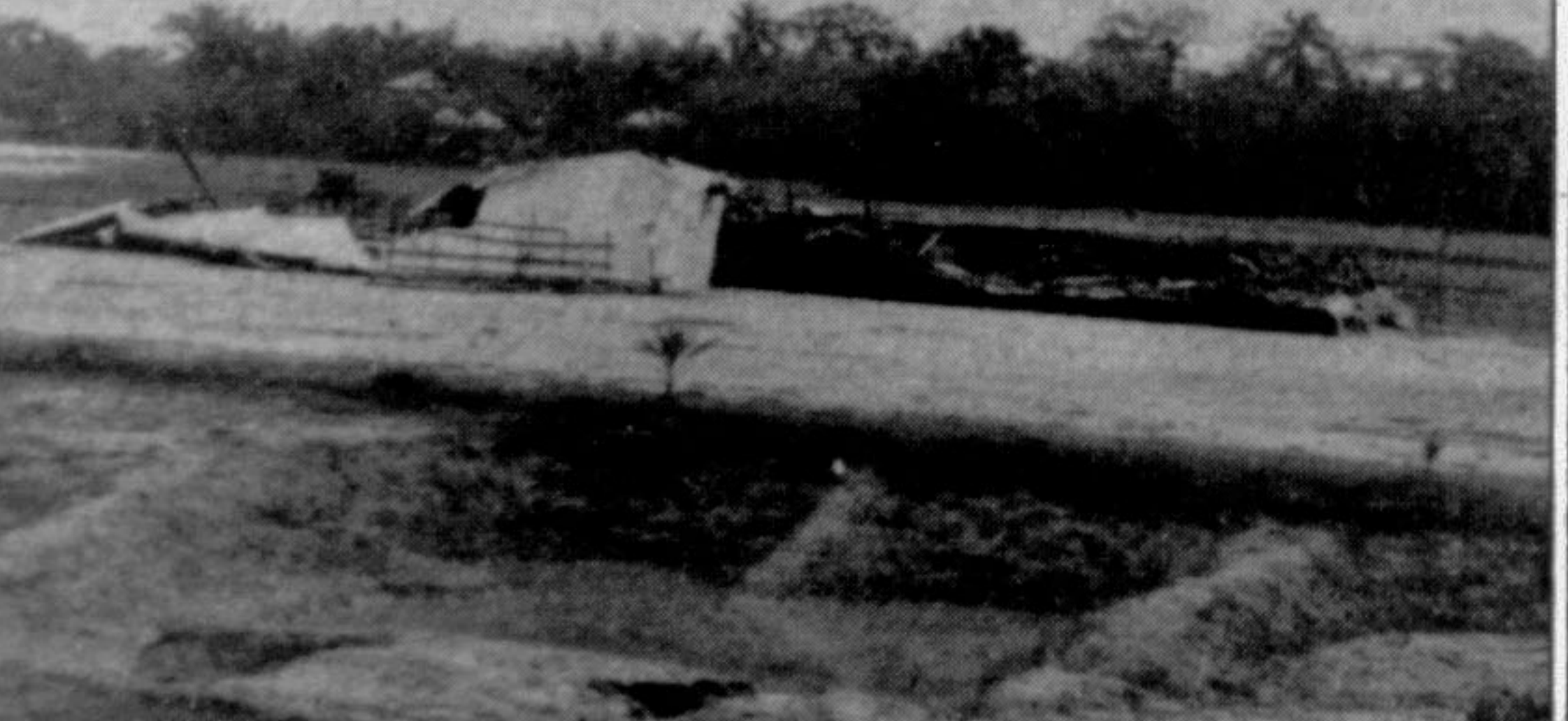
From Our Correspondent

MAGURA, May 20: One Rina Begum (20) wife of Abdul Gaffar of village 'Darimajura' was kidnapped recently.

A case has been lodged with the Magura thana and two persons have been arrested in this connection.

10 injured

At least 10 persons were injured in a clash between two groups of people of Ghoplanga village under Magura Sadar upazila. Recently of the total injured, three were admitted to Magura Sadar Hospital namely Abuds Salam Mollah (45), and Moktar Hossain (50) both of Chamtpur and Abu Hanif (40) of Srekundi. A case has been registered with the Magura thana.



BARISAL: A primary school ravaged by the unprecedented cyclone on April 29.

— Star photo