

Upazila roundup

RANGPUR

BDR-BSF flag meeting held

From Our Correspondent

May 25: A flag meeting between border security officials of India, Bangladesh was held on Thursday at Banga Sonahat border near boundary pillar No 1008 under Bhurungamari upazila to discuss the rising smuggling and deteriorating law and order situation.

BDR Sector Commander of Rangpur Lt. Col. Bazur Rahman represented Bangladesh side while DIG, (BSF) Gauhati district represented Indian side.

Officials of both countries agreed to chalk out some steps to route out crimes and maintain law and order situation in borders.

PABNA

Classes in Edward College resume May 28

From Our Correspondent

May 25: The classes of Pabna Government Edward University College will resume from May 28 instead of June 3. The classes of the University College remained suspended due to ongoing degree pass and honours examinations 1990 under Rajshahi University. The authorities decided to resume the classes earlier.

The election of the College Students Union for the session 1990-91 will be held on June 20 next. All the students of the university college are advised to attend the classes accordingly.

GAIBANDHA

Prices of essentials up

May 25: Consumers are hard hit as prices of essentials have shot up abnormally in the district following incessant rain and onrush of flood water over the last week, reports UNB.

According to sources, prices of rice are being sold between Taka 435 and 445 per maund as against 360 to 370 while potato is selling at Taka 6 per kg as against taka 2 to 3.

Local people alleged that the unscrupulous businessmen are engaged in creating artificial scarcity of essentials to earn maximum profit.

Meanwhile, prices of beef, mutton, pulses, onion, dry chilly and powdered milk have gone beyond the purchasing capacity of the common consumers in the district.

Standing crops on vast areas of land have been damaged by the onrush of flood water. Rise of water level in the river Ghagot has been threatening the crops of beet areas.

FARIDPUR

Erosion by Padma

May 25: A vast area of land in Sadarpur upazila has been eroded in the river Padma and Ariakhan during the last one week, reports UNB.

According to local MP Mosharruf Hossain, about 40 per cent of Panchkhal market, the biggest market of the upazila with 25 shops, a primary school and a food godown have already been devoured by Padma.

About 400 acres of land with standing crops of IRR1 and Boro in Dearnarkebaria, Char Nasrur, Dheukhali and Akoter Char unions have been eroded by the river Ariakhan and Padma during the period.

Local people have urged the authorities to take steps to check erosion without further delay.

MAULVI BAZAR

13 schools damaged

May 25: At least 15 primary schools in the district have been damaged by recent norwester and onrush of flood waters, official sources said, reports UNB.

The education of several thousand students in the district is being hampered as no initiative has yet been taken to rebuild the damaged schools.

It may be mentioned that a large number of dwelling houses and educational institutions was damaged in six upazilas of the district during the recent storms and onrush of flood waters.

The affected people urged the authorities to take immediate steps to help rehabilitate them by providing necessary house building grants. They also demanded immediate reconstruction of damaged educational institutions.

Dacoity committed

Four people were injured and valuables worth about Taka two lakh were looted by the dacoits from a house at Chaitraghat village in Kamalganj upazila, police said here on Friday.

Witnesses said a gang of dacoits numbering 10 to 12 raided the house of Abdur Rahman of the village and decamped with belongings including gold ornaments and cash recently.

The dacoits also beat up four inmates mercilessly when they raised hue and cry. The injured were rushed to the local hospital.

A case has been filed in this connection.

JAMALPUR

Vaccination Week begins

From Our Correspondent

May 25: The national vaccination week was formally inaugurated by Jalal Ahmed, Deputy Commissioner, Jamalpur here on May 18.

A big rally was held at the local stadium in the morning.

A week long health and family planning exhibition was also inaugurated at the Civil Surgeon's office hall room in the evening in this connection.

Death condoled

A meeting condoling the death of Akhtaruzzaman Babla, a founder Secretary General of Jamalpur district unit, Jatiyatadabi Chhatra Dal (JCD) was held recently at the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) office at Skal bazar in Jamalpur town chaired by Advocate Abdul Khaleque. It was addressed by Serajul Haque MP, Khandkar Ilias, Ashraf Ahmed, Shahidul Haque Khan Dulal, Lukman Ahmed Lutan and others.

Akhtaruzzaman Babla was the convener of Jatiyatadabi Sanskritik Dal, Jamalpur district unit. He died in Mymensingh Medical College Hospital after surgical treatment.

Organised by the local unit of BNP the meeting was also attended by a large number of leader's and activists of Jubo Dal and JCD.

The meeting prayed for the salvation of the departed soul and expressed sympathy with the members of the bereaved family.

KUSHIA

Islamic Varsity VC's removal demanded

From A Correspondent

May 25: A vigorous movement by the teachers and students of Islamic University for removal of its Vice-Chancellor on charge of alleged misbehaviour, misappropriation of money, whimsical transfer of staff and other acts has reached its peak. Teachers and staff members have formed an association in a meeting held with Dr. Md. Moniruzzaman in the chair.

The association styled 'Islamic University Teachers Association' is to resist undemocratic acts of the Vice-Chancellor. Thirty-six teachers present during formation of the association vowed to continue their movement for restoration of democratic atmosphere on the campus.

Meanwhile, students gheraoed the Vice-Chancellor's office cum residence recently in order to compel him to resign.

A programme in support of realisation of their 5-point demand has been taken by the Chhatra Dal to facilitate removal of Vice-Chancellor.

Islamic Chhatra Shibir has also launched similar movement for removal of the V.C. The Teachers Association has also expressed its solidarity with their programme.

MYMENSINGH

Diarrhoea claims 8 lives

From Our Correspondent

May 25: Diarrhoea claimed eight lives and attacked 1000 others in 12 upazilas of the district over the last fortnight, reports UNB.

The victims were identified as Mujibur Rahman (23) of Chandabam, Noorjahan (6) and Kalpana (10) of Bhatnagar and Rafiqul Islam (33) of Tanbag in Bhaluka upazila and Abdur Rahman (40), Hashi Akhtar (20), an unidentified woman (50) and Yasmin (5) of village Katza in Gollarganj upazila.

Official sources said about 136 medical teams are now working in the affected areas. Local people, however, alleged that official field workers were indifferent to the growing menace of the disease.



A survivor busy rebuilding cyclone-ravaged house at a village in Kutubdia. — Star photo

35 forged foreign demand drafts detected

From A Correspondent

SATHKHIRA, May 25: Thirty five Demand Drafts (DD) issued by a foreign Bank and sent to Bangladesh were detected to be forged.

It is learnt that a DD of Taka 42,000 in the name of Abdul Jabbar vide DD No-0741477 dated 2-2-91 was deposited with Sonali Bank, Sathkhira. The DD was then sent Agrani Bank, Sathkhira vide A/C No-372-6-3 for collection.

The Agrani Bank authority after proper scrutiny detected it to be forged one and refused the DD.

It is further learnt that 35 such DDs of Taka seven lakhs from the same country were also deposited with Sonali and Agrani banks, Sathkhira and these DDs were also not encashed.

Manager of Agrani Bank, Sathkhira said that all the DDs

were sent to Agrani Bank Foreign Exchange Branch, Dhaka for proper verification but no action has yet been taken by higher authorities.

The owner's of the DDs urged the authorities concerned to take immediate steps to solve their problems.

Betel leaf growers have been facing problems due to price hike of necessary inputs in the district.

According to the growers due to sudden rise in the prices of bamboo, straw, coir and oil cake they are unable to purchase the inputs as these are beyond their purchasing capacity.

A large number of families connected with betel leaf cultivation of Tala, Kalaroa, Assassuni, Kaliganj and Debhata upazilas of the district

are now switching over to their occupation.

Each grower has to invest Taka 3000 to cultivate 30 lines of betel leaf.

Because of these problems they are unable to carry on round the year cultivation.

Body recovered

Body of a school teacher Rahmatullah was recovered from a banana garden of village Ghona under Sadar upazila on May 15.

It is reported that the victim of village Uagachha under Sathkhira town went to his native village Ghona on May 14 where a gang of miscreants murdered him at night. His body was found lying in the banana garden.

Police on information rushed to the spot and recovered the body. The body

was sent to Sathkhira hospital for autopsy.

A case has been lodged with Sathkhira police. The cause of the killing is yet to be ascertained.

Salinity hampers production

Salinity has alarmingly increased in four upazilas of the district over the last few years.

According to the farmers, paddy and vegetables production is being affected by saline water.

According to Local Agriculture Department, due to salinity in the areas IRR1-boro yield has also been hampered this year. The intensity of saline water in coastal belts has adversely affected various crop production.

The farmers are most worried of their crops.

The diarrhoea situation has deteriorated in Shyamnagar upazila of the district.

According to the informed sources, diarrhoea again claimed two lives and attacked hundreds of others. Meanwhile, diarrhoea situation in Debhata and Tala upazila of the district has improved to some extent.

2 commit suicide

Two persons committed suicide by taking poison in Sadar upazila on May 16.

Nurul Islam (28) of village Shimulbaria and Lily Begum (21) of Allapur took poison and died on the spot. Their bodies were sent to Sathkhira hospital for autopsy. Two separate cases were lodged with Sathkhira police station.

Japanese engineer, 7 others killed in lightnings

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, May 25: At least eight persons including one minor boy were killed and five others injured by lightning and norwester which hit different parts of the district during the last three weeks.

On May 12 an engineer from Japan, Takio Kushaka (45), was killed by a thunderbolt in Jamuna Fertilizer Factory at Tarakandi under Sarishabari upazila. In this incident two others were also injured. All the persons were killed on the spot.

On May 14, one minor boy was killed and another person injured by a thunderbolt at Brahmaputra river near Jamalpur town. On the same day one businessman was killed by thunderbolt in Laherikandah bazar.

On May 17, Sherina Khatun, a student of class VI of village Gamuria in Jamalpur Sadar upazila was killed by thunderbolt, while she was returning home from field with a goat.

On May 15, Bachhu Sarker (10) of village Nayapara and Mohammad Ali (43) of village Gamuria in Dewanganj upazila were killed by thunderbolt when they were returning home from railway station.

Generous help for cyclone victims

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, May 25: Various political, socio-cultural and political organisations have geared up activities to collect relief goods for the victims of cyclone and tidal-bore that hit the coastal belts of Bangladesh on April 29 last.

The organisers are collecting money, old and new clothes and rice from door to door. Huge quantities of relief goods have been handed over to the District Administration for the cyclone victims. Besides, many organisations distributed relief goods directly by their workers to the affected areas.

Faridpur Lions Club donated Taka one lakh and other relief goods. The District Administration sent 8345 kgs of chira and 2431 kgs of gur.

Faridpur 'Baishakhi Natya Gosthi' staged a drama entitled, 'Iblish' at local Kabi Jasimuddin Hall to raise fund for helping the cyclone affected people.

Crimes galore in Kishoreganj

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, May 25: A daring armed dacoity was committed in Paravanga village under Kishoreganj Sadar upazila recently.

A gang of dacoits numbering about 25 armed with deadly weapons raided the house of Gamiruddin, Safiuddin, Fayazuddin, Bakul, Ayajuddin and Abdus Salam. The dacoits beat the members of the houses and looted cash, gold ornaments and valuables worth about taka 20,000 at gun point.

On hearing hue and cry of the inmates, villagers surrounded the dacoits. The dacoits then opened two rounds of blank fires to scare the villagers.

A case has been registered with the Kishoreganj police in this connection. None was arrested, police said.

Mr. Lutfur Rahman, SP visited the spot. Criminal activities like robbery, hijacking, theft are on rise in recent days due to inadequate vigilance of law enforcing agencies, local people alleged.

UNB adds: In another incident, a gang of dacoits in the guise of policemen stormed the house of Abdul Gani of Shehara village in Kendua upazila on the same day and looted valuables worth about Tk 50,000, police said.

The dacoits equipped with firearms knocked the door of the house and tied up all inmates and beat them mercilessly.

The dacoits while fleeing were gheraoed by the villagers. The dacoits then opened blank fire to scare the villagers and managed to escape.

A case was lodged in this connection with Kendua police station.

Another report said that a gang of armed dacoits was forced to flee by the resistance of a house owner leaving behind a country made pipe gun.

Shahabuddin, a primary school teacher on May 18 took the risk of his life and caught hold a dacoit when about eight of them equipped with firearms forcibly entered his residence in the town. The other dacoits opened fire but the alarm drew the neighbours around and the dacoits had to flee empty handed.

Later the gun was handed over to the police. A man was taken into police custody for interrogation.

One gets life-term for murder

From Our Correspondent

BRAHMANBARIA, May 25: The District and Sessions Judge, Mrs. Nazmun Ara Sultana sentenced Probr Kumar Bishwas to suffer life imprisonment and fined Taka 5000 in default to suffer imprisonment for six months more for murdering Subas Chandra of Nabnagar village.

According to the reports, Subas Chandra, the Manager of Puthi Ghar Library was murdered on October 18, 1989 at Nabnagar upazila New Market when the victim was asleep in his library. Probr Kumar separated Subas's head from the body with a sharp weapon.

Nabnagar police investigated the case and submitted the chargesheet. The judge delivered the said punishment for the murderer.

Electrocuted

Md Mufazzal Hossain (30), Ward Boy of Akhawara Health Complex was electrocuted recently. The body was sent to his village Chhapalia under Chandpur upazila.

Notes from Dinajpur

From Our Correspondent

DINAJPUR, May 25: In absence of adequate number of cold storages potatoes were damaged annually in 16 northern districts under Rajshahi Division.

According to a report, nearly 1.50 crore maunds of potatoes are grown on two lakh acres of land in Rajshahi Division annually. The districts are Rajshahi, Chapainawabganj, Natore, Naogaon, Sirajganj, Pabna, Joipurhat, Bogra, Gaibandha, Kurigram, Nilphamari, Rangpur, Lalmonirhat, Panchagarh, Thakurgaon and Dinajpur. The average yield is 65 maunds per acre, experts sources told this correspondent.

The exciting 17 cold storages in Rajshahi Division are inadequate for storing up even two lakh maunds of potatoes.

The major portion of the remaining quantity thus is damaged during every summer. Lack of storage facilities also compel the growers to sell their products below production cost especially during off season.

Transport facilities and bad communication system make the potato growers suffer heavy losses as transportation of surplus to other districts such as Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Mymensingh and Narayanganj is quite impossible under the circumstances. Moreover, the district headquarters of Panchagarh, Lalmonirhat and Joipurhat do not have cold storage facility for storing up potatoes. The only cold storage of Dinajpur town at Pulhat was damaged long ago. It is yet to be repaired.

Baby food prices up

Price of all brands of baby food has risen sharply in the markets of Dinajpur district.

Market sources said, a tin of 2 kg Anchor is being sold at Taka 270, a tin of 2 kg Red Cow at Taka 266, Dano Taka 270, Viva 1 kg 100 to 120 and Cereale and My Boy of 400 gm at Taka 110.

Dishonest traders are making windfall profit by creating artificial scarcity of the milk for the babies. Meanwhile, prices of essential commodities recorded a rise adversely affecting the low income group of people.

Human traffickers held

The Bangladesh Rifles rescued three women and arrested three traffickers on Tuesday last from Baniapara village under Birol upazila of the district of Dinajpur.

Acting on 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 Straj Khan, Abdus Salam and Alamgir Hossain and the names of the rescued women are Salma Akhtar, Rokeya Akhtar and Nargis Akhtar Begum.

A case has been registered with Birol PS in this regard.

Heroin recovered

RAJSHAHI, May 25: Bangladesh Rifles men of 20 battalion in Rajshahi recovered 800 gram of heroin worth about Taka 80 lakh from Godagari border of the district recently.

On a secret information, BDR men led by Habildar Alauddin managed to arrest one Shafuliq with heroin from Godagari Railbazar. According to confessional statement of Shafuliq, he has engaged with heroin smuggling for several years. He would get Taka 200/- per 100 gram heroin from his gang leader for carrying it from Lalga of India to Godagari of Rajshahi.

Railway police recovered a beheaded body from a bridge near Yasinpur Railway station under Natore district recently.

Relief operation continues in Kutubdia

From Our Correspondent

KUTUBDIA, May 25: State Minister for Labour and Manpower Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mia said, relief and rehabilitation work in Kutubdia was going on in full-swing and successfully.

Rafiqul Islam was briefing Madam Quayle about the latest situation of Kutubdia yesterday. Madam Quayle visited some medical and relief centres there and took part in reconstruction work of a house while Barrister Islam accompanied her.

On Wednesday, the Minister in charge of supervision and coordination of relief work in Kutubdia, visited Barakop, Kayarbil, and Kutubdia upazila headquarters to inspect the relief and rescue operation there.

He also saw the reconstruction work including sinking of tubewells and watering of ponds.



Sgt 1st Class Faruque Ahmed (extreme left) discusses a Medical Mission with Bangladesh officials. Ahmed served as liaison between American and Bangladeshi military officials during Operation Sea Angel. (JTF photo by JOCS James Jones, USN).