

**Upazila roundup**

**PATUAKHALI**

**37 projects to protect land from salinity**

May 27 : Thirty-seven projects are underway to protect land from salinity and flash flood in four upazilas of the district, reports UNB.

Water Development Board is executing the projects at a cost of Taka 11 crore at Galachipa, Kalapara, Mirjaganj and Sadar upazilas.

The schemes include construction of sluice gates, closures, embankments and cross dams.

On completion, about 18,000 acres of land will be saved from salinity and flash flood, officials predicted.

**CHUADANGA**

**35 hurt in road mishap**

May 27 : Thirty-five people were injured in a road accident near Sadar upazila on Jhenidah-Magura road Sunday, police here said, reports UNB.

Witnesses said, the incident occurred when a Dhaka night coach (Dhaka Metro-4136) from Darshana fell into a road-side ditch.

The driver lost control of the steering while trying to overtake another bus, witnesses added.

Seven seriously injured were admitted to Sadar hospital while others were released after first aid.

**BRAHMANBARIA**

**25 injured in bus-truck collision**

May 27 : At least 25 people were injured when a bus and truck collided head on near Biallshshahar village on Brahmanbaria-Comilla highway Sunday, reports UNB.

Witnesses said a Brahmanbaria bound truck (Dhaka-Ta-294) rammed into the Comilla bound coach (Dhaka-Ja-3599) from opposite direction.

Two seriously injured were admitted to Sadar hospital while others were released after first aid.

Police seized both the vehicles while the drivers managed to escape.

**SIRAJGANJ**

**Lalpatha Editor released on bail**

May 27 : The editor, publisher and printer of Weekly Lalpatha here were released on bail Saturday, reports UNB.

Editor Rafiqul Islam Kala, Publisher Selina Khatun, Printer Abdul Mutaleb, were taken into custody for publishing a news item on alleged unrest of the locals over the selection of Saiful Islam Shishir as general secretary of the district Red Crescent Society.

Saiful Islam Shishir filed a defamation suit against the weekly.

**TANGAIL**

**Tornado lashes 3 villages**

May 27 : A tornado lashed three villages of Gopulpur upazila yesterday injuring 45 people, damaging houses, uprooting trees and destroying crops in the field.

Local officials said the tornado, which tore through the villages of Langoljora, Khanapara and Mirzapur, also damaged schools and shops.

Of the injured 10 people have been admitted to Gopulpur Health Complex. The rest were given first aid, the officials said.

**BRAHMANBARIA**

**4 dacoits arrested**

May 27 : Four dacoits were arrested from Malibhatta village while preparing to commit a dacoity on Dhaka-Sylhet highway, police said here today.

Acting on a tip, police rounded up Selim, Dewan Ali, Mazdur Rahman and Junaid Hossain last week. They were also wanted by police in connection with several dacoity cases for a long time.

In a separate raid police also nabbed another notorious dacoit Siraj Mia from his home in Kantali village last Tuesday.

**RAJSHAHI**

**Prize-giving ceremony**

From Our Correspondent

May 27 : The prize-giving ceremony of annual indoor games competition of the Rajshahi Government Women's College was held at the college auditorium on Tuesday last.

Sabera Akhter clinched the championship while Roksana Begum and Mahfuza Khanam became joint runner-ups in the week-long competition.

Professor Md. Sadek Ali, Principal of the college was the chief guest in the concluding ceremony and gave away prizes among the winners.

Prof. Sadek in his speech said that study is indispensable to expand the horizon of knowledge and for this sound mind and sound body is needed. So the necessity of games and sports to build a sound body is a must, he added.

**Training course**

A week-long insurance training course began May 22 at Rajshahi sponsored by Bangladesh Insurance Academy.

A total of 25 development officers of Jiban Bima Corporation have taken part in this course.

S. I. Chaudhury, Deputy General Manager of Jiban Bima Corporation inaugurated the training course.

**PABNA**

**Arms recovered**

May 27 : A sizeable quantity of arms and ammunition were recovered from 16 northern districts of the country during the last four months, police here said, reports UNB.

According to sources, the recovered arms include: 151 pipe guns, 15 cut rifles, 10 SBBL guns, over 1000 hand grenades, about 2000 hand bombs and about 1500 rounds of different ammunition.

Police also arrested 157 people for various charges and filed 168 cases with respective police stations.

**Chhatra Union**

Our Pabna Correspondent adds: The annual conference of Bangladesh Chhatra Union, Pabna district branch was held at Pabna Press Club auditorium on May 17.

Manjurul Islam Mukul, Vice-President of Chhatra Union Central Committee was present as chief guest.

At the concluding ceremony, a 33-member new committee was formed with Anjan Roy and Rafiqul Islam as President and Secretary respectively.

**CHANDPUR**

**Divine blessings to save Puran Bazar sought**

May 27 : About 10,000 traders arranged a week-long Milad Mahfil, Khatmey Quran, Khatmey Shefa and other prayers seeking divine blessings for saving the Puran Bazar area from the fury of the mighty river Megna, reports UNB.

Puran Bazar, a 200-year-old bustling trade centre in the town, is on the verge of being lost into the river as erosion of the Megna took a serious turn over the last week.

About 200 local Ulemas (Islamic scholars) attended the function, sources said.

About 1.25 lakh 'tabiz' were thrown into the river in and around the Bazar which started on May 17.

A water expert who sought anonymity said, without dredging the river bed, the town protection scheme will surely fail through.

**JHALAKATI**

**PHE to instal 326 tubewells**

May 27 : In an attempt to facilitate irrigation and drinking water supply, Public Health Engineering Department here has taken up a programme to instal 326 tubewells in four upazilas of the district during the current fiscal.

Of the total, 299 are deep tubewells and the rest 27 shallow, officials said.

According to breakdown, 114 tubewells will be installed in Naichiti, 93 in Sadar, 62 in Rajapur and 57 in Kathalia upazilas.

Meanwhile, 180 tubewells have already been sunk while the rest are expected to be installed soon.



Vast tract of land of Rajanagar Upazila in Maulvi Bazar was inundated following breaches at the Monu dam. Photo shows submerged houses at village Rabta under Panchagaon Union. —Star photo

**Five drown in flood water**

**Thousands marooned in Jamalpur**

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, May 27 : At least five persons were drowned, in flood waters so far and thousands of people have become marooned in the district. One Delwar Hossain was killed by lightning during the storm.

According to Mr Suruj Tarabdar, Chairman of Madarganj upazila, a large number of people have taken shelter at nearby 'tillas' and passing their days under open sky.

He added that 12 hats, upazila offices, schools, madrasahs and crops of one lakh acres of land have gone under water in the district. The Brahmaputra flood control embankment in Dewanganj upazila has been washed away by onrush of hilly waters from across the borders, 3000 houses totally and 5,500

houses were partially damaged and two lakh people have been affected while about 25,000 marooned people are waiting for rescue.

Road communication has been cut off from the district headquarters to Madarganj and Bakshiganj upazilas.

The flood affected people are facing acute scarcity of drinking water as almost all the tubewells have gone under water. Meanwhile, outbreak of diarrhoea has been reported from different areas. Heavy downpour since last one week has made the situation serious in Madarganj.

He further added that relief operations were far less than the requirement of nearly 50,000 marooned people.

He also demanded of the government to start relief and

rescue operations in the affected areas in Madarganj.

According to the Jamalpur control room, about 5,00,000 people of four upazilas have been marooned by the flood waters.

The flood hit areas are Madarganj, Dewanganj, Islampur and Sharishabari upazilas and worst hit villages are Shuknagori, Talpara, Polisha, Golabari, Junal, Singdha, Jungla, Katlabari, Neihintapa, Mathbanga in Madarganj upazila, Horindara, Chargobindah, Nowarpura Goalirchar in Islampur, Charrampur, Shapadhari, Bahadurabad, Shanandabari in Dewanganj, Dikna, Shaikshadi in Sharishabari upazila.

**Property gutted**

Property worth Taka 12

lakh were burnt to ashes and 33 families lost their belongings in two separate fire incidents in Melandah upazila of the district.

In one incident the devastating fire originated from the house of one Kaki Miah of west Gosharpara village and engulfed the adjacent areas. Nineteen tinshed houses along with valuables worth about Taka seven lakh, four goats and two cows were burnt in Melandah upazila on April 25.

In another incident the fire originated from the cowshed of one Rajabuddin of village Gosharpara and gutted property worth about Taka five lakh. Besides, three cattlehead and poultry birds were roasted alive. Melandah Upazila Chairman Abdul Hai Bacchu visited the spot.

**Launch journey hazardous**

From Our Correspondent

MADARIPUR, May 27 : Journey by launch to and from Madaripur has become hazardous.

Though launch fare has been increased considerably passengers are not provided with comfortable services.

Passengers are charged very high compared to the IWTC vessels. Overloading is a regular feature resulting in the frequent accidents. There is no supply of drinking water to the deck passengers while upper class passengers are provided with water from open earthen jars.

On the other hand drivers make journey dangerous by not following signals.

UNB adds : Hats and bazars in rural areas of the district are plagued with manifold problems.

Besides, unplanned growth of shops and hawkers corners, the places are mostly narrow, insanitary and inconvenient for dealings.

Heaps of garbages are dumped in roadsides causing bulk breeding of mosquitoes. Market roads become muddy after a slight rainfall causing

**One shot dead in Pabna**

PABNA, May 27 : A young man was shot dead and 11 others received bullet injuries in a brief gun-battle between rival groups at Dogachi village under sadar upazila yesterday, police said, reports UNB.

The deceased was identified as Nurul Alam Nure (25) of the village. He died on the spot.

Of the injured, seven were rushed to Sadar Hospital with grievous wounds. They are Yaqub (28), Hamid Khan (28), Yusuf Sardar (30), Moizuddin (21), Tofazzal (25), Sabhan (20) and Abu Taleb (27) of the same village.

Witnesses said the gun-battle erupted when a rival group led by Yaqub Ali tried to fish in Jamuna Kool, a tributary of river Jamuna.

During the fishing, another group led by Bachhu arrived at the spot to resist them. At one stage both the groups got embroiled in a gun-battle, killing Nurul Alam on the spot.

The group led by Bachhu claimed that they took lease of the Jamuna Kool from Fisheries Department but Yaqub led group challenged it.

**Wife murdered by husband**

From Our Correspondent

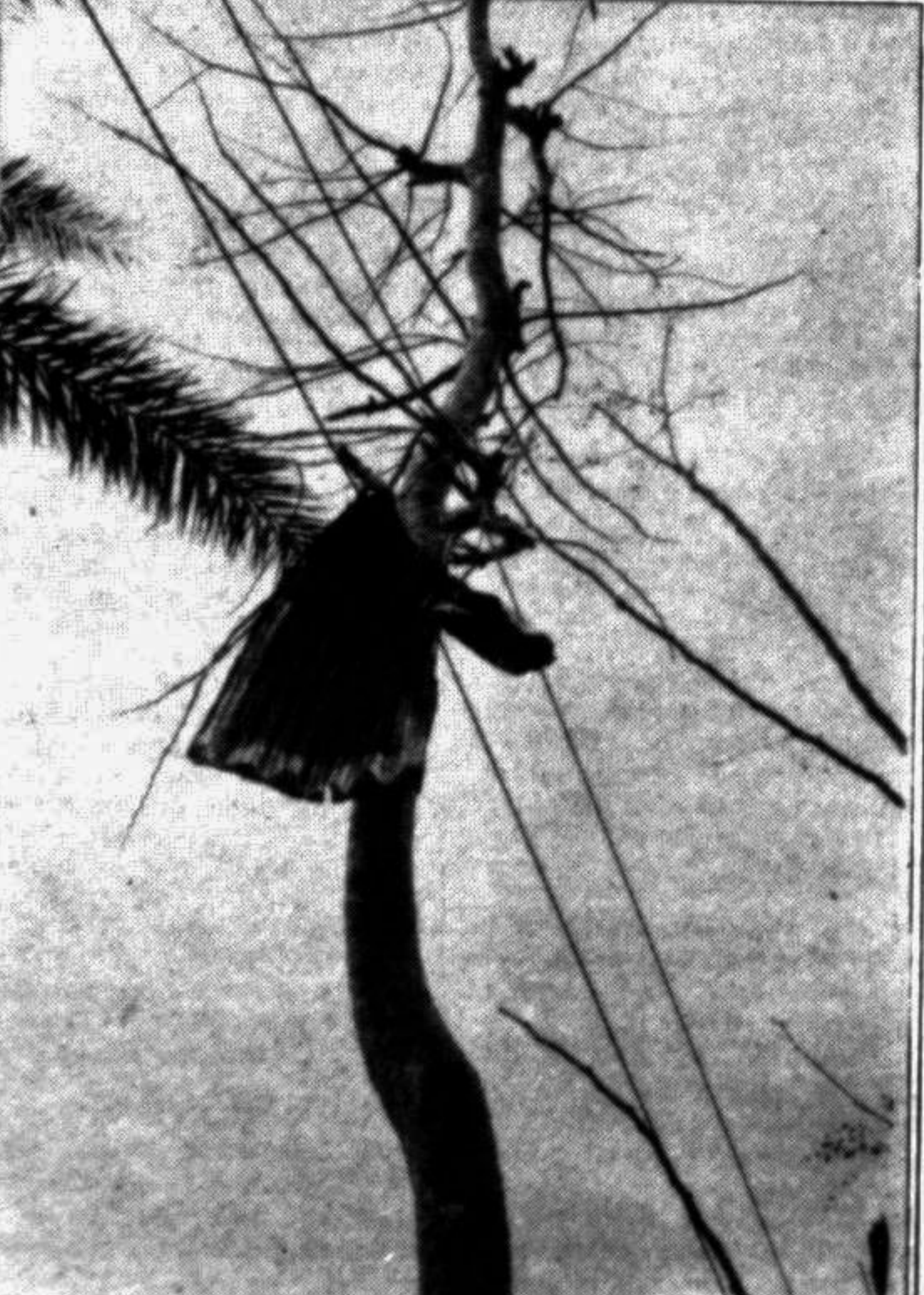
MEHERPUR, May 27 : Nayanara (19) was brutally killed by her husband recently.

It is stated that Shahidul Islam, son of Abded Ali of Goshwami Durgapur under Kusthia district married Nayanara, daughter of Rahman of Majhila of the district five months ago.

It is reported that Shahidul, the cruel husband used to torture her physically after marriage. He also exerted pressure on the victim to leave for her father's house but she could not abhor her husband despite cruelty.

Shahidul, slain her by a sharp weapon at dead of night when she was fast asleep. Shahidul and his mother left the house after the gruesome murder.

The body was sent to Kusthia morgue for postmortem. A case has been registered with Kusthia police station in this connection.



BARISAL : A twisted CI sheet hanging on a tree with damaged electric wires following the recent tornado that swept over Agailjhara. —Star photo

**Political scene**

**Call to eliminate corruption**

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, May 27 : Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperative Minister, Abdus Salam Talukder yesterday called upon the people to help fight against corruption which has eaten into the vital of the nation. The Minister was addressing a reception meeting organised by the district unit of BNP at local Public Hall.

He said, the people had always played a constructive role during national crisis. The meeting presided over by local MP Serajul Haque was addressed by Rahima Kharidaker MP, Advocate Abdul Khaleque, Mojibur Rahman, Alamgir Hossain and Ilias Mortaza. Mr. Salam said that BNP came to power through a hard struggle and it has to struggle more for restoring peace and order in the society.

**B'baria**

Our Brahmanbaria Correspondent adds: Chhatra Motry, Brahmanbaria unit held a meeting at its local office recently with its VP Al Mamun Sarkar in the chair while Abdun Nur attended it as the chief guest.

The meeting was addressed by Kazi Zahidul Islam. A 23 member new committee was formed with Mahfuz Mustafa as president.

**Faridpur**

Our Faridpur Correspondent says: Nurul Hassan Abed, President of Chhatra League (JSD) and M. Basu Deb Babu a leader of Chhatra Motry joined the Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal recently.

The District unit of BNP

and JCD organised a meeting to welcome the new entrants. A freshers reception was held by Bangladesh Chhatra League at Rajendra University College recently.

Earlier a rally headed by President of Chhatra League Liaqat Hossain was held. S. M. Nurunnabi, member of Bangladesh AL central committee was the chief guest while out going President Mukkaram Miah Babu presided over the meeting.

**Bagerhat**

Our Bagerhat Correspondent says: The executive body of Bagerhat District unit of BNP was dissolved recently. A 36-member adhoc committee of the BNP Bagerhat district has been formed headed by Barrister A. T. Manwar Uddin. Prominent members of the adhoc committee are Foreign Minister Mr. A. S. M. Mostafizur Rahman, MP Mrs. Sayeda Nargis Ali, Advocate Mozaffar Hossain and freedom fighter Shamsul Alam Talukdar.

**Pabna**

Our Pabna Correspondent adds : State Minister of Establishment Osman Gani Khan said that all of us should help the administration for its better decision. He was addressing a workers' conference of BNP at Ishardi Upazila held in Sugarcane Research and Training Institute auditorium recently.

Presided over by Anwarul Islam Tuku Sarder the meeting was addressed by the Sirajul Islam Sarder MP of Pabna-4.

**Drivers violate traffic rules**

KUSTHIA, May 27 : Overloading of buses and minibuses on various routes here has been going on with impunity causing inconvenience to the passenger, it is alleged, reports UNB.

**Notes from Bagerhat**

From Our Correspondent

BAGERHAT, May 27 : A daring dacoity was committed in the residence of Mollahat Upazila Sub-registrar or the district on May 17.

It is learnt that at the night of occurrence a gang of armed dacoits raided the residence of the Sub-registrar and looted cash, gold ornaments and other valuables worth about Taka 75,000. The wife of the Sub-registrar was stabbed by the dacoits when she tried to resist them.

In this connection a case was registered with Mollahat P.S. Police arrested the night guard of the Sub-registrar's residence in connection with the dacoity. Police investigation is going on.

Another dacoity was committed in the Mongla Girls High School at Mongla Port town in the district on May 10.

It is reported that the dacoits wearing masks raided the school at mid night and entered its office room by breaking open the windows after tying the hands and legs of the night guard of the school. Then they looted cash Taka 11,700, a tape recorder and some other valuables of the school.

**College sports held**

The 73rd annual athletic sports meet of Bagerhat Government P. C. College was held in its play ground recently amidst much enthusiasm.

Prof. Md. Serajul Islam, Principal, Daulatpur Government B. L. University College (Khulna) inaugurated the sports meet as special guest and distributed prizes among the best competitors while Mr. Mujibur Rahman Principal of Bagerhat Government P. C. College presided over the function.

This year previous record in high jump (girls) was bettered by Salma Arju who won the laurels of individual championship while Sushanta Debnath became runners-up securing 15 points. Among the girls, Rashida Begum became the runners-up securing 15 points.

Events such as hurdle race, balance for girls, musical chair, pillow fighting were very attractive. Some 35 boys and 17 girls participated in the annual sports meet.

**Body of new born baby recovered**

Police of Bagerhat P. S. recovered body of a newly born baby from Hartinkhana under Bagerhat Poura area recently.

Acting on a secret information, the police raided the area and recovered the body.

A case was registered with the local P. S. Investigation is going on.

**World Health Day observed in Rajshahi**

RAJSHAHI, May 27 : The World Health Day was observed here today with due importance and enthusiasm, report BSS.

In observance of the day various programs were taken by the district administration, health department and city corporation jointly, reports BSS.

The programmes included : Essay and painting competition of students on the slogan of the day, "be ready for difficult times" children health exhibition and seminar.

The main functions of the day were held at Rajshahi Shishu Academy premises. Highlighting the significance of the day the speakers of the seminar underscored the need for imbuing the people specially the rural illiterates about the health care.

They said that people should be encouraged to be ready for surmounting all kinds of difficulties so that problems like natural calamity could easily be faced by them.

Among others, Divisional Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, Deputy Director of Health, Civil Surgeon and Principal of Rajshahi Medical College took part in the seminar.