

Upazila roundup

KISHOREGANJ

3 rly employees released on bail

From Our Correspondent
KISHOREGANJ, May 28 : Three Railway employees including the Station Master of Gachhata station were granted bail by the upazila Magistrate of Katiadi. Those who were released on bail are Station Master Ahmed Ayub Driver Kutubuddin Ahmed and Fireman M. M Das.

They were earlier taken into custody by Bhatrab Railway Police. It may be mentioned here that two passengers were killed on the spot and 25 others injured in a head on collision between a local passenger train and a project special train near the outer signal of Gachhata Railway Station on April 14.

NANDAIL

Tornado damages dwellings

From Our Correspondent
May 28 : About 75 per cent kutchha dwellings of three villages were damaged while a devastating tornado swept over Kalma Kanda upazila recently.

The most affected villages are Foot Para, Gokajoria and Chanpur Upazila Revenue Office and the staff quarters were also damaged by the tornado.

On the other hand a severe hailstorm caused colossal damages to the standing IRRI Boro crops of villages Dhonarama, Nopalara, Farida Kanda of Nandail and Chartala, Gopalaram and Majlisapur of Kendua upazila recently.

SATKHIRA

2000 tubewells out of order

May 28 : A large number of tubewells in different districts hit upazilas of the district has been lying inoperative causing acute scarcity of drinking water, reports UNB.

According to informed sources, of the total 12,634 tubewells, about 2,000 remained out of order. As a result the people are compelled to take water from ponds and canals.

Paucity of pure water has become acute specially in Shyamnagar, Kaliganj and Assanuni upazilas causing widespread outbreak of waterborne diseases.

Local people have urged the authorities to take immediate steps to resink the disordered tubewells and install new ones to insure smooth supply of drinking water.

SIRAJGANJ

Son kills mother

May 28 : A widow was killed by her son at Haidarpur village under Kamarband upazila on Sunday, police here said, reports UNB.

Rabeya Beoa (65) died on the spot when her son kicked on the victim's abdomen following a family feud.

A case was filed but the son who could not be identified remained absconding.

Statue recovered

Police recovered a joint statue of Radha-Krishna worth about Taka five lakh here yesterday, reports UNB.

Police recovered the statue while it was being carried in a rickshaw at Fazul Haq road, in front of Northern flour mill at 9 pm.

Acting on a tip, police stopped the rickshaw and recovered the rare statue made of touch-stone measuring 3 feet 6 inches in height and 18 inches in width. It was hidden in a sack.

Police seized the unlicensed rickshaw. Passengers along with the rickshaw-puller, however, managed to escape.

MANIKGANJ

River erosion leaves 800 families homeless

May 28 : Erosion by the rampaging rivers Padma and Jamuna left about 800 families homeless in three upazilas of the district during the last two days, reports UNB.

Sources said fresh areas in Vangama, Kotil, Kalayanpur, Lalampur, Borolia and Lalara villages of Daulatpur upazila were engulfed.

About 350 families were rendered homeless in Daulatpur upazila while nearly 400 families made shelterless in Hariampur upazila. Fifty

families were also made homeless in Shibulaya upazila. In addition, standing crops like paddy, ground nut and Lentil on about 1500 acres of land were lost into the rivers. One kilometer long embankment at Kalayanpur-Daulatpur area was breached at many points by the surging waters of the rivers.

COMILLA

TV relay station at Akhaura likely

May 28 : State Minister for Information Mohammad Nurul Huda said the government was actively considering to set up a TV relay station at Akhaura, reports BSS.

He was talking to journalists here yesterday and said the present government believes in freedom of the Press and welcomes any constructive suggestion.

The State Minister asked the journalists to be objective in reporting. He opined that criticisms that hamper socio-economic progress should be avoided.

Mr Huda recalled the contributions of the members of the fourth estate to democratic movement and said the journalists could contribute their mite to help democracy firmly establish.

Later the State Minister attended a function on Nazrul Jayanti, organised by Comilla Nazrul Parishad.

RAJSHAHI

Death condoled

From Our Correspondent
May 28 : 'Adhunik' Rajshahi University unit in a meeting expressed its deep condolence at the death of eminent eye specialist Dr. Ahmed Sharif.

The unit President Shakil Meraj and GS Ayub Ali in a condolence message said the country has lost on eye specialist and social worker in the death of Dr. Sharif. They expressed sympathy with the members of the bereaved family.

KUSHTIA

One killed by lightning

From A Correspondent
May 28 : One person was killed and two others were injured by lightning, recently. The person killed was identified as Zayed Ali (37) a farmer of village Takimara in Sadar upazila. Of the injured one was identified as Malek of the same village but the name of other injured could not be known who is undergoing treatment in Kushtia General Hospital. Two bullocks belonging to Zayed Ali were also killed by lightning.

MAULVI BAZAR

Relief Coordinator visits affected areas

MAULVI BAZAR, May 28: Relief co-ordinator of Maulvi Bazar and fahigonj districts Abdul Matin Chowdhury MP yesterday visited several unions under Komoigonj upazila, reports BSS.

During his visit to Patonujar, Rahimpur and Madhabpur, Mr Chowdhury distributed relief materials among the flood affected people. While visiting relief camps he called for strengthening the services of medical teams.

CHANDPUR

Rotarians urged to serve suffering humanity

From Our Correspondent
May 28 : Charter presentation ceremony of Central Rotary Club of Chandpur was held at Rotary Bhavan recently.

Dr. Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, Additional Secretary, was the chief guest while Sheik Habibur Rahman, President, Chandpur Central Rotary Club presided over the meeting. The meeting was addressed by Mostafa Zaman Abbasi, Governor, district 328, Jalaluddin Ahmed, governor elect 1992, Abdul Kashem, DC Chandpur, Abdul Masum SP, Chandpur, MA Masud Bhuiyan, Dr. Nurur Rahman, Kamruzzaman Chowdhury and Principal Matur Rahman.

Dr. Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir urged the Rotarians to serve the suffering humanity specially at the time of natural disaster.



Farmers harvesting wheat at a village in Comilla.

—Star photo

Shrimp projects lose Taka 480 crore

Intensive plan to rehabilitate fisheries sector

TEKNAF (Cox's Bazar), May 28 : "We ruined but want to rise again. Life has to flow and so we look forward to future with hope", said Syed Ziaul Haq, whose shrimp project has been totally destroyed by the last cyclone and tidal surge.

Mr. Haq's project on the bank of the river Narul, bordering Burma, was built up over the years at a cost of more than Taka two crore.

Talking to a visiting BSS special correspondent, Pulin Bihari Sharma, another shrimp culturist hit by cyclone, said the project which till the other day was my golden hopes and aspirations, stands totally devastated today.

Dyal Chandra Rajbangshi, President of Bangladesh Fishermen's Federation said, "We can see ray of hope for a new life as the government has assured us about the reconstruction of our shrimp projects, a vital sector of the national economy."

When asked, the Minister of State for Fisheries and Livestock, Forest and Environment, Abdullah-Al Noman, told BSS, the Ministry had already proposed a Taka-200 crore loan for rebuilding the shattered shrimp projects of the country.

Most of the other shrimp projects under International Development Agency (IDA), Asian Development Bank (ADB) and private sector on more than 32,000 hectares of land in and around Chakaria, Mohekhali, Kutubdia and other offshore belts of Cox's Bazar district had been severely affected by the cyclone and tidal surge.

The calamity washed away shrimp beds, prawn hatchery, embankments and infrastructures of projects causing a total loss of not less than Taka 300 crore, according to an esti-

mate by the officials of Cox's Bazar district.

The shrimp growers and exporters, however, said, the loss would be over Taka 480 crore including Taka 300 crore in the culture sector and Taka 180 crore in the terms of damage to infrastructures.

Explaining various measures being taken by the government to rehabilitate the damaged shrimp projects, Abdullah-Al Noman said, efforts were under way to reconstruct the embankments, which was a primary task to revitalise the projects.

Mr. Noman said, in Cox's Bazar district alone the government was considering to reconstruct 1500 kilometers of damaged private embankment, including those of shrimp beds under test relief work, with an involvement of 65,000 tones of wheat. The government has already provided 3000 tones of wheat to

start the construction of the embankments of the shrimp projects. More wheat is in the pipelines he added.

Soft-term loan's

Mr. Noman said, his Ministry would suggest soft-term loans for the shrimp culturists—both the growers and the exporters. He said, the small growers should be sanctioned immediate loan. "If we could start production within one month, we could recover Taka 200 crore against the loss of Taka 300 crore even during the current harvest. Out of the Taka 1000 crore target of this year's shrimp export, Cox's Bazar's share was fixed at Taka 600 crore.

Mr. Noman said, intensive programmes will be taken up for rehabilitation of the fisheries sector and the small scale fishing families who have no other alternative than fish-

ing for livelihood. He said, more than 250,000 people belonging to 36,000 families were dependent on fishing.

Mr. Noman said, from the experiences of the cyclone-hit people, it was obvious that the traditional earth embankments would no more be dependable.

"We are now considering to construct specially built 30-foot high embankments employing modern technology on the coastal belts so that they could withstand such calamities.

"Twenty million people of the country live in the cyclone-prone region and we just cannot let these lives at the mercy of the nature", he said adding adequate infrastructures in the form of embankment's and cyclone shelters would be constructed to save the lives and properties in case of such calamities in future.

4 killed in road mishap

From Our Correspondent

BAGERHAT, May 28 :

Road accidents are on the increase on Rupsa (Khulna)-Bagerhat Highway. Four persons were killed and 26 others injured in four separate road accidents in the district during the last one week, according to reports received here.

On May 16, one Adiluddin (60), an old passer-by was killed when he was run over by a speeding motor cycle on Rupsa-Bagerhat Road at Sreeghat, 10 kilometres away from here. The speeding motor cycle (Khulna Metro A-010036) coming from Khulna to Bagerhat knocked him down from his behind. As a result, he was fatally injured. He was immediately admitted to Bagerhat Sadar Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries after a few hours.

A case was registered with Bagerhat P. S. in this connection. Police arrested one Babul, the motor cyclist and seized the cycle.

Golapti (65), a passer-by was killed on the spot recently when she was crushed under the wheels of a bus bound for Bagerhat on the same road at Korori under Bagerhat Sadar Upazila.

One Nawab Ali (60), a rickshaw passenger was killed on the spot and 26 bus passengers were injured.

40 students face uncertain future

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, May 28 : Forty students of Edward University College under Rajshahi University are faced with an uncertain future as they do not know whether they will be able or not to appear in the honours examination this year.

The examination will commence from June 5 but 40 students of Political Science, Accounting and Chemistry Departments have still not received their registration from the University. This type of incident happened in 1986-87 session when students of Botany and English failed to appear in the examination.

It may be noted that in 1985-86 Rajshahi University allowed Honours course at Pabna-Edward University College in seven subjects and appointed four teachers for the purpose.

Housewife commits suicide

Asma Khatun (22) wife of Abdul Karim of village Paikpara under Aithoria upazila committed suicide by consuming poison on May 18. The cause of suicide was not yet known.

An unnatural death case was filed with Pabna thana. Leaders of Bangladesh Awami League, Faridpur upazila

committee, Pabna demanded exemption of agricultural loan upto Taka 10,000 in storm and hailstorm affected areas under Faridpur upazila.

They were addressing a workers conference, held at Faridpur College premises recently.

Waziuddin Khan, President of Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan Sramik Federation was the chief guest and Dr. Sahadat Ali, presided over the meeting. The meeting was addressed by Advocate Amjad Hossain, Rajaul Rahim Lal, Saiful Haq Chhunu, and Golam Hossain Golap the chairman of Faridpur upazila.

Fake NGO

From Our Correspondent
JAMALPUR, May 28 : One Non-Government Organisation (NGO) left its Islampur upazila office after misappropriating Taka 2.7 lakh from the members.

It is learnt that one fake NGO titled 'Socio-Cultural Development Sangtha' opened its office at Islampur upazila Headquarters. Taking Taka 30 per head as admission fee they formed a samity with 344 members and assured the members of implementing various projects. The local officer of the organisation was paid salary for a few months.

Notes from Madaripur

From Our Correspondent

MADARIPUR, May 27 : Number of drug addicts has increased in the town as local medicine shops have been selling different types of liquor and sedatives freely in the district.

Eye witnesses said that majority of the addicts are youths, who visit these stores after every sundown and purchase sedatives, injections and liquor at any rates.

It is alleged that these shopkeepers are making huge profits by selling these drugs and other intoxicating materials.

Dwellers complain that these drug addicts often indulge in anti-social activities vitiating the social life.

Woes of potters

Hundreds of potter families have been facing various problems due to lack of requisite fund and scarcity of raw materials. Growing tendency to use the aluminium utensils instead of earthen ones has rendered many a potters unemployed.

According to the sources, potter families reside in groups in different areas of the district. Presently they are despair of their profession as they have no working capital. They are unable to ensure any loan from the banks. They cannot even afford to buy raw materials as prices are beyond their purchasing capacity.

According to the potters, there are some industrial concerns and commercial banks to look after the potter industry but no major step or initiative has yet been taken by any of these bodies. As a result, potters have been discouraged with their profession and many of them have been looking for alternative means for their livelihood.

FP activities not satisfactory

The family planning drive is not satisfactory in Madaripur district due to alleged malpractice in the organisation.

With a view to providing family planning facilities to the people some clinics have been set up in different upazilas of the district but irregularity and negligence of the staff to their duties have hampered the plan.

Relief

Huge quantities of relief materials have been collected and sent to the cyclone affected people by the various socio-cultural organisations of Madaripur district.

Substandard medicines

Preparation of substandard medicines by some homeopathic doctors without licences has been going on unchecked since long.

According to the sources, the medicines are being manufactured in an unhygienic manner in the laboratory causing health hazards to the suffering patients. The prepared medicines include syrup, ointment, and other powders.

Local elites urged the concerned authorities to take immediate action against such manufacturers.

Diarrhoea claims 8 lives in Mymensingh

From A Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, May 28 : Diarrhoea has claimed eight lives and attacked 1000 others in 12 Upazilas of Mymensingh district within two weeks.

Of the victims, five died in Bhaluka upazila and other three died in Gafforgong upazilas. The victims were Mozibur Rahman (23), of village Chandaban, Noorjahan (6), Kalpana (10) of village Battajon and Rafiqul Islam (33) of village Tangab in Bhaluka. Abdur Rahman (40), Hashi Akter (20), Ambia (50), Yeasmin (5) of village Kaiza in Gafforgong upazila.

Civil surgeon of Mymensingh said 136 medical teams have been working round the clock in the 12 upazila.

Relief sent from Jamalpur

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, May 28 : Different socio-cultural and professional organisations and many institutions have been engaged in collecting relief materials and cash Taka to be deposited with District Relief and Rehabilitation Fund and Prime Minister's Relief Fund for the survivors of the cyclone affected areas.

President of Jamalpur, Advocates Bar donated Taka 1,000, Advocate Nazrul Islam Dulu Taka 5,000 and 60 pieces of sarces and lungies. Convener of Nurundie Relief Committee, S. M. Nurul Islam Taka 8,565 and 35 pieces of old clothes. President of Jamalpur Ladies Club Taka 4,825 and 251 pieces of old clothes. Jattiya Party leader Mr. Jamil Haq Taka 1,000, Nan-

dian and Ranagacha students Taka 10,000 and 141 pieces of old clothes, Rangtarun Ganga chira, sweet potato, lamps and some old clothes. Nabunghur Child Organisation — 500 pieces of old clothes, Nandia Bazar Businessman's Association Taka 21,000, Islampur Upazila Officers Club 333 pieces of old clothes, 60 kgs of chira, molasses, sarces, lungies, old garments, flour, biscuits and utensils and cash money donated by generous people. District Magistrate also went the affected to co-ordinate the distribution programme. Deputy Commissioner earlier held a meeting with the people of all sections of the society and sought help and succour for the cyclone affected people.



Monks and volunteers of Ramkrishna Mission distributing relief materials among the cyclone affected people of Banskhal.

—Star photo