

Upazila roundup

NANDAIL
Husband injured by wife

From Our Correspondent
April 2: Husband was seriously injured by his agitated wife following a quarrel between the couple at village Kashinagar under Nandail Upazila recently.
It is learnt that Aziz of village Kashinagar while scolding his wife for her negligence, as he said, in her domestic duties suddenly was attacked by his agitated wife with a lethal weapon and received serious injuries.
Neighbours rushed to the spot and found the victim senseless and took him to the physician for treatment at Kaliganj bazar.

NETRAKONA
Untoward incident at thana hajjat

From Our Correspondent
April 2: Tension is prevailing in Netrakona town following an untoward incident that occurred at Netrakona thana hajjat recently.
According to the report, Netrakona thana police arrested one Halima Khatun a beautiful young woman from village Chakpara in the town area for interrogation.
Police interrogated here for five days unlawfully and raped her forcibly every night, it is alleged.
When it was leaked out in the town, police produced her before the Upazila court with a false case. However, the magistrate rejected her bail petition and sent her to jail custody and took Halima for medical examination.

In the above circumstances Bangladesh Manobadthikhar Sangstha, local unit and some people of the locality brought the matter to the Deputy Commissioner, Netrakona. An inquiry body headed by Mr. Jahangir Alam, 1st Class Magistrate and Kazi Foyjul Hossain, ASP Netrakona Circle has been formed. The matter is however under investigation. When contacted, the inquiry body and DC, Netrakona over telephone confirmed the incident.

Hailstorm
A BSS report adds: Severe hailstorm hit the district town and its adjoining areas including Amtola, Chalitsha, Deopur and Madanpur Sunday evening.
According to preliminary reports, the hailstorm disrupted the normal life in the town. It damaged standing irri-boro crops, wheat vegetables and the other seasonal crops on a vast tract of lands.

JHENIDAH
Three housewives commit suicide
From Our Correspondent
April 2: Three Housewives committed suicide in a week at Moheshpur Upazila of Jhenidah district.
In the first incident Mosammat Tofa Khatun (32), wife of Amjad Hossain of village Zaili committed suicide by taking pesticides. Torturing by her husband was the reason behind her suicide, family sources said. She left behind four children.
In another incident Shahida Khatun (18), wife of Monirul Islam committed suicide by taking poison. Torturing by mother-in-law was the main cause of her suicide, it is alleged. The incident was brought to the notice of Bangladesh Human Rights Enforcement Society.
In the last incident Meri Khatun (19), daughter of Israel, a day labourer of village Nashti and wife of Pintu of village Barnishapur committed suicide by hanging herself at her father's residence.
Torturing by husband due to inability to pay dowry by her poor father was the reason behind her suicide, it is learnt. Separate cases have been filed with respective police stations.

Property worth Tk 60 lakh gutted
From A Correspondent
April 2: At least 90 kutcha and tin shed houses 500 mounds of paddy, 50 goats and other valuables of Munta pagla's home were gutted in a fire at village Zinari in Hossainpur Upazila recently.
The loss in the fire was unofficially estimated at Taka 60 lakh. Witnesses said the fire originated from a cow shed

and soon spread to nearby houses. Local people tried to extinguish the fire but failed to completely extinguish the flame. No firemen came to the spot due to communication #PP.

NARAYANGANJ
One killed in road mishap

From Our Correspondent
April 2: Sanowara Begum (35), a housewife was killed and five others were injured, when a speeding truck and a baby-taxi collided head on at Kanchpur area at Narayanganj-Demra road recently.
According to police, the victim was killed on the spot as the truck hit the Kanchpur bound baby-taxi which was carrying six passengers.
Two persons were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital in a critical condition and three others were released after first aid at Narayanganj Hospital.
Police seized the vehicles but the driver fled. The post-mortem of the victim was done in the Narayanganj General Hospital morgue.

PABNA
Basanti Puja observed

From Our Correspondent
April 2: "Basanti Puja" a three day long spring religious festival of the Hindu community was observed at Pabna recently.
On this occasion, devotees gathered at the temple "Joy Kali Mandir" from March 23 to 25 to lay floral wreath at the foot of their goddess.

BHOLA
Indiscriminate felling of date trees

From Our Correspondent
April 2: Dates of the trees are being chopped down indiscriminately to feed brickfields affecting production of molasses in the district.
According to the sources, poverty has forced many of the villagers to sell their trees to brickfield owners.
Date juice is extracted during the winter season and molasses produced from juice of date trees are widely used in preparing local delicacies.
Meanwhile, environmentalists have expressed concern at the felling of the trees which is affecting the ecological balance in the district.

MAJDEE COURT
Independence Day celebrated

From Our Correspondent
April 2: The Independence and National Day was observed here with due enthusiasm, reports UNB.
Different educational institutions and socio-cultural organisations took part in the march past and rally of the Independence Day held at the Shaheed Bhudhijibi Stadium. Members of scout and girls guide also participated in the march past.
Deputy Commissioner M A Khan took the salute.
The Day's programme included discussion meetings, special prayers, musical soiree and an exhibition football match at the stadium. A souvenir was also released to mark the day.
Later an iftar party was arranged on the occasion.

SIRAJGANJ
UZ chairman locks up offices of some officials

From Our Correspondent
April 2: Raiganj Upazila Chairman on Monday locked up some government offices under his disposal accusing the officials of "malpractices and irregularity," reports UNB.
In presence of hundreds of local people, chairman ABM Abdus Sattar locked the offices of Upazila Education Officer, Social Welfare Officer and Relief and Rehabilitation Officer.
The offices were put under lock and key at 10 a.m. the scheduled office time outside Dhaka, when the officers didn't yet turn up.
The UZ Chairman is said to be a local Jamaat-e-Islami leader, who brought charges of malpractices and absenteeism against the officials.
When contacted, ADC Abdul Malek told UNB correspondent over telephone that he was not aware of the incident, but he said the Chairman "has no right to do it."



Roofs of houses in Champknagar village of Comilla were blown away in Sunday's tornado. —Star photo

Fund constraints
10 medical assistants' training schools closed

From Our Correspondent
BARISAL, Apr 2: Ten medical assistants training schools out of 18 in the country have already been closed earlier due to shortage of necessary fund and negligence of the concerned authority. The other eight schools are also running with many problems mainly due to shortage of fund.
These schools were opened with the financial assistance of the Netherlands Government in Faridpur, Bogra, Noakhali, Comilla, Tangail, Kushtia, Bagerhat, Sirajganj, Maulavi bazar, Munshiganj, Pirojpur, Magura, Kurigram, Rangamati, Thakurgaon and Chapainawabganj in the year 1980.
In 1985 out of these 18 schools 10 were closed as the contract with the Netherlands government was neither extended nor renewed.
After closure of 10 schools the remaining eight schools are running in the districts of Faridpur, Bagerhat, Kushtia, Sirajganj, Tangail, Comilla, Noakhali and Bogra.
It is learnt that from 1980 to 1985 more than five thousand students were trained up completing paramedical course from these schools. Later on they were absorbed in rural health centres, different hospitals under Health Ministry including health and family welfare centres in union level as medical assistants.
The people expect the concerned authority to take steps for smooth running of these schools.
Lowcost latrines
Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) has undertaken a programme to supply more than 45,000 lowcost sanitary latrines to the people of 11 southern districts under Barisal circle under Rural Health Development Programme during the current financial year.
Districts covered by this programme are: Barisal, Jhalakathi, Patuakhali, Bogura, Bhola, Pirojpur, Faridpur, Madaripur, Rajbari, Gopalganj, and Saraiapur.
According to an official source, the PHED has been constructing these lowcost sanitary latrines every year with the financial assistance of UNICEF. This latrines are being sold at a price of Taka 250 each.
Of the total, 7,600 latrines will be sold in Barisal district, 3,200 in Jhalakathi, 5,100 in Pirojpur, 4,800 in Patuakhali, 3,500 in Bogura, 3,700 in Bhola, 4,800 in Faridpur, 2,650 in Madaripur, 3,900 in Saraiapur and 3,350 in Gopalganj.
Meanwhile, 7,128 pieces of the latrines have so far been manufactured in the Public Engineering Department (PHE) offices of the districts and upazilas.
Besides, 2,197 latrines have already been sold out to the people.

20 killed in separate incidents in Mymensingh

From A Correspondent
MYMENSINGH, April 2: Twenty persons were killed in Mymensingh district during the last two weeks due to family feud, clash road accidents, lightning and suicide, police sources said.
Of them seven persons were killed in road accidents.
Two brothers Sheikh Ali (45) and Shaheed Ali (35) of village Shataha under Iswarganj upazila were killed by lightning recently when they were returning home from local bazar.
Two unidentified dacoits were beaten to death by the villagers of Purbadhala upazila while they were trying to flee away after committing a dacoity, police said.
One Abdul Jalil (25) of village Pohanghagra under Sadar upazila was killed in a clash between two rival groups over irrigation dispute. Kotwali police recovered one dead body in Sadar upazila identified as Abdus Sattar (30).
Four persons including three women committed suicide in Muktagacha and Gouripur upazila recently. The deceased were identified as Julekha Begum (24), Shilpi (18), Mirzan Begum (24), in Muktagacha and one unidentified youngman (25) in Gouripur upazila.
One Mohammad Ali (35) of village Langulia in Muktagacha was beaten to death due to family feud recently.
One eight-year-old girl Hamida Khatun of village Khalisha Kuri in Hahughat upazila was killed when a kutcha house collapse recently.
Separate cases have been filed with police in this connection.

Problems engulf Pabna Pourashava

From Our Correspondent
PABNA, April 2: People of Pabna Pourashava lack minimum civic amenities due to which the residents of the area are gripped in with multiple problems.
There is no proper drainage system. As a result drains always remain logged with dirt. Besides, the waste materials and water is thrown in the Isamoti river which runs through the middle of the town.
The pipe lines of drinking water covers only a few miles of the pourashava and people in other areas are deprived of this facility.
The roads are so narrow and bad that vehicles cannot ply smoothly resulting in frequent traffic jams and road accidents.
Moreover, both the sides of the main road are occupied by the mini-shopkeepers which creates additional problems to the pedestrians.
The pourashava area is not electrified completely and the electric lines provided are not at all sufficient. Most electric poles are without bulbs. As a result large areas of the town plunge into darkness after sundown giving rise to anti-social activities.
On the other hand acute shortage of the public toilets and urinals pose numerous problems to the town dwellers. So the people respond to the nature's call on the roadsides polluting the atmosphere of the town. Recreational facilities are also totally absent in the area.
Despite all these problems the pourashava authorities appear to be indifferent to public sufferings.
One killed
One person was killed and 20 others were injured in a bus accident that occurred on Pabna-Monoharpur highway near Tabna recently.
According to the eyewitnesses, the driver lost control over the vehicle and the bus hit the roadside tree killing one person and injuring 20 others.
The injured were rushed to the local upazila health complex.

Political scene

JP leader arrested in Pabna

From Our Correspondent
PABNA, April 2: Shaikh Hossain Kabir, Organising Secretary of Pabna district Jatiya Party was arrested by Pabna police under Special Powers Act recently.
He was sent to jail. No specific and criminal case was lodged against the victim. A big procession organised by Pabna district Jatiya Party paraded all the main roads of Pabna Town protesting the arrest of Shaikh Hossain Kabir.
State Minister for Establishment Osman Gani Khan said that the present government was committed to establish a corruption-free administration desired by the people.
He was addressing a meeting of the district level officials at the Conference Hall of the Deputy Commissioner on Sunday.
Mr. Ghani said that the programme of all the development projects should be taken at the district level and he urged the officials to discharge their duties with sincerity, honesty and dedication in their respective fields to implement the development programmes undertaken by the present government.
He underscored the need for improving law and order situation to establish a peaceful society.
Mr. Ghani also attended a meeting of the Pabna Lawyers Association.
Controller of Food gheraoed
Our Jamalpur Correspondent writes: Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, Jamalpur Unit recently brought out a procession and gheraoed the office of District Controller of Food demanding price control of essential commodities.
Prices of rice have alarmingly shot up in different parts of the district.
Later JCD leaders submitted a memorandum to the District Controller of Food and DC.

Steps to eradicate mosquitoes demanded

From Our Correspondent
BAGERHAT, April 2: Mosquito menace has made life of the people of the district town and its adjoining areas miserable.
The people in general and the SSC and HSC examinees in particular are the easy prey to the mosquitoes and most of them have to work after the dusk. Even people cannot escape the attack of mosquitoes after using coils.
It is gathered that after coil burning, mosquitoes become rather more offensive and people have to take shelter inside mosquito curtains.
The uncleaned drains, roadside ditches with stagnant water and derelict ponds are the hot-beds of the mosquito breeding. The derelict ponds in almost all the cases have been covered with water-hyacinths where the mosquitoes breed in large number. The kutcha and semi-pucca service latrines have also become the breeding grounds of mosquitoes.
The ever deteriorating situation in the health sector is attributed mainly to the absence of any spraying facility in the town while authority concerned continues to remain unconcerned about it.
Meanwhile, Morrelganj police arrested two persons in connection with a launch dacoity committed near Sanyasi Bazar in February last.
It is learnt that acting on a secret information the police raided village Baduriala under Morrelganj Upazila in the district and arrested on Faruk Shaikh and one Mosharrar Shaikh. They were wanted by the police for long in connection with a number of criminal cases. Specific cases were also registered earlier with the police against them.



KURIGRAM: Loanee farmers of Kurigram district parading the town streets demanding exemption of interest on agricultural loan. —Star photo

Erosion threatens Bhairab town

From Our Correspondent
KISHOREGANJ, Apr 1: Erosion by the river Meghna has taken a serious turn at Khatpatty of Bhairab river port town causing a great concern among the businessmen of the area.
The river devoured about 400 feet at Khatpatty on March 11. Two mills one mosque, many fruit-bearing trees and over 400 business premises are being threatened by the erosion of the river.
Meanwhile, 50 houses, many business premises, rice and saw mills, godown, school, madrasa and many fruit bearing trees have already been washed away by the erosion of the river while about 500 acres of cultivable land were grabbed by the river during the last five years.
Besides, the 132 K.V. overhead electric tower at ferryghat attached to Khatpatty is facing threat of erosion. It is also learnt that the river port town has been facing the serious threat from time to time since 1986 due to nonimplementation of Bhairab town protection scheme fully.

Load shedding hampers industrial output

From our Correspondent
CHUADANGA, Apr 2: Load shedding has become a regular feature at Chuadanga. Hardly a day passes without power failure.
The load-shedding which has been continuing for the last two years has put the consumers particularly the small industrialists to great trouble.
The students particularly the ensuing S.S.C candidates, patients in hospitals and public in general are worst sufferers.
The frequent load-shedding and power failures have also put a burden on the small mills and factories because the employers have to pay wages to the employees whether those make any production or not.

Notes from Comilla

From Our Correspondent
COMILLA, Apr 2: A day-long national training course on 'Goochha Gram project (cluster village)' was held at Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development here recently. Representatives from various Ministry, research institutions, district and upazila administration, NGOs, reporters from some newspapers cooperative societies participated in the workshop.
The Director General of Radio and T.V. Dr. Sadat Hossain inaugurated the workshop while the Director General of BARD Syed Margul Murshed was in the chair.
Mr. Abdul Quddus, Director (Admin) BARD explained the situation of "Goochha Gram" in his welcome speech. MR. Makbul Ahmed Chowdhury, Director of the workshop also took part in the discussion. The Deputy Director General of BARD Mr. Tipu Sultan presided over the working session.

Arms recovered
Kotwali police recovered two piteguns, some sharp weapons, and a toy pistol from Matnamati and Sunjangan areas. The raids were conducted recently headed by Officer-in-Charge of Kotwali thana Mr. Rabiul Huq and Inspector Mr. Haradan Chandra. Two persons Ershadul Huq (19) and Sabir (23) have been arrested.

Mobile court
A mobile court led by Begum Mahbubun Nahar 1st Class Magistrate of Comilla realised Taka 21 thousand 4 hundred as fine from 36 transports in Paduar Bazar highway near main town recently.

Price rise
The price of rice has marked a sharp rise in all markets of Comilla district causing sufferings to the middle class people.
The price of rice has increased by Taka 2 to 3 per kg during the last week. When visited some markets people attributed artificial crisis to the main cause of price rise during Ramzan.

A house wife Mrs Luckey Siddique said that a kg of rice which was sold last week between Taka 11-12.30 now sells at Taka 13 to 15. Another sources said there is no indication of coming down price before the ensuing Boro harvesting.

It may be noted here the Department of Food started selling of rice in open market of the town at a price of Taka 10.30 per kg.

Tk 10,000 donated
Islami Bank Bangladesh Ltd. donated Taka ten thousand to Monoharjon Darul Uhum Keramatia Madrasa in Laksham from the 'Sadka' fund of the bank.

On the occasion a public meeting was held in Laksham. Master Ruhul Amin, Abul Khair, Dewan Mahbub-e-Subhan Khokon, lauded the initiative of the bank.

One killed in road accident
MAULAVI BAZAR, Apr 2: An old man was killed on the spot when a speeding truck knocked him down at Sherpur village on Dhaka-Sylhet highway, police said here today, reports UNB.

The victim, Ramzan Ullah (65) of village Sundeekula under Balaganj upazila was crossing the road recently while the truck dashed him from behind.