

Upazila roundup

RANGPUR

Nor'wester victims need help

April 4 : District administration so far distributed about eight metric tons of rice and Taka 20,000 in cash among the nor'wester affected people that hit the two upazilas here Sunday, reports UNB.

About 5,000 establishments including schools, madrasahs, mosques and houses were razed to the ground and a number of people received injuries when the nor'wester lashed the Gangachara and Kawania upazilas.

According to sources in the district administration, standing crops on about 2000 acres have been damaged by the cyclonic storm. A large number of cattlehead were also killed.

At least 2000 families have been rendered homeless. The injured were released after first aid, hospital sources said. Affected people have urged the authorities to provide them with necessary grants and funds for their early rehabilitation.

COMILLA

217 cataract patients operated upon

April 4 : At least 217 cataract patients were operated and another 2850 ophthalmic patients were treated in three eye camps organised by the Rotary Club here, reports UNB.

The camps were held in Kamalla High School in Muradnagar, Sharpati Government Primary School at Chawdhagram and Shilmuri High School at Barura upazilas of district recently.

The operations were performed by ophthalmologist of BNSB, Chandina branch with the assistance of IPAC.

Spectacles and medicines were also distributed among the patients free of cost.

State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources Dr. Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain visited the tornado-hit areas of Comilla on Tuesday to see for himself the condition of the affected people there, reports BSS.

The State Minister urged the non-government organisations to come forward with helping hands to strengthen the governments efforts to aid the affected people. He directed the district administration to distribute relief materials properly.

Mr. Monurul Hasan MP, Mr. Alam Khan MP, district BNP Secretary Mr. Farooq Jahangir and district Jubodal President Mr. Alamgir Khan Khandaker accompanied the State Minister.

DINAJPUR

Tk 13.20 lakh allocated for 13 projects

April 4 : An amount of Taka 13.20 lakh has been allocated for 13 development schemes in Panchagarh Sadar upazila during the current fiscal year.

Out of the total amount, Taka 8,25,000 has been allocated for nine schemes in communication sector and Taka 4,95,000 has been allocated for four schemes in house-building sector.

Sonali Bank branch at Jotnanda Hat has distributed an amount of Taka 3.30 lakh for Aman paddy cultivation in Kaharol upazila during the current season. The amount was distributed among 47 cultivators of the upazila.

It may be mentioned here that, an amount of Taka 1.53 lakh has been realised by the bank from a loanes of the upazila during the current year. An amount of Taka 24.62 lakh is lying outstanding in the upazila.

2 brothers killed in Kishoreganj clash

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, April 4 : Two brothers were killed in a clash between two groups of neighbours at village Saytuta in Karinganj upazila yesterday.

The clash ensued over the demarcation of the two houses. Ramdao, spears and daggers were used in the clash.

The deceased are Ashimuddin (40) and Haichanuddin (30). Samiruddin (36) a UP member and another brother of the victims who sustained injuries had been admitted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital. The bodies were sent to the morgue for postmortem. None

PABNA

One killed

From Our Correspondent

April 4 : One Razzak (25) of Thanapur of Kushtia district was killed in a clash between two rival groups on April 2.

It is learnt that the victim was beaten mercilessly with the hockey sticks.

He was taken to the Kushtia General Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

SHERPUR

World Health Day observed

From Our Correspondent

April 4 : The World Health Day was observed here with much enthusiasm.

A discussion meeting and a seminar was held at the Conference Room of the Deputy Commissioner recently which was presided over by Mr. A.K.M. Kamaluddin, Deputy Commissioner of the district.

Dr. Shahadat Hossain and Mr. Lutfur Rahman, Chairman of Sherpur Pouroshava on behalf of Doctors Association and political leaders spoke at the meeting.

Mr. A. K. M. Kamaluddin urged the people to give up smoking. He said smoking is not only harmful to the smokers but for all the people.

Later on, a procession was brought out which paraded the town streets chanting slogans against smoking and other anti-social activities.

SATKHIRA

Divorce cases on rise

From A Correspondent

April 4 : The number of divorce cases and marriage of minor girls is gradually increasing in seven upazilas of the district. Similarly polygamy cases are also increasing. As a result moral values of divorcees are being eroded and crimes are increasing.

BHOLA

Butchers slaughter sick animals

From Our Correspondent

April 4 : Unauthorised and scattered slaughtering of animals in unhygienic condition different upazila towns of Bhola district is posing a serious threat to the public health.

Cattle, rams and buffaloes are indiscriminately slaughtered in Bhola town, Daulatkhan upazila town, Lalmoan, Borhanuddin, and Charfassion upazila town in unhygienic condition.

Informed sources said the meat of the sick animals are distributed in different markets.

BARGUNA

Tk 42 cr rural electrification programme

April 4 : Work on rural electrification programme at a cost of Taka 42 crore is going on in full swing in Barguna and Patuakhali districts, reports BSS.

According to an official source, Patuakhali Sadar, Bauphal and Mirjaganj upazilas of Patuakhali and Barguna Sadar, Amtali and Betagi upazilas of Barguna have been brought under the programme.

A total of 1,200 kilometers of transmission line and six sub-station will be constructed in six upazilas.

The programme jointly financed by the World Bank and the Bangladesh Government will be completed by 1995-96.

The source said with the implementation of the programme 700 cottage industries and 20,000 dwelling houses will get electric connections.

Withdrawal of Ganges water at Farakka

Northern region faces desertification

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, April 4 : The unilateral withdrawal of Ganges water at Farakka is creating untold sufferings to different sectors and a vast area of the northern part of the country is facing desertification.

The Padma, once a full floating river has now developed large shoals and sandy chars have covered all the areas.

Farakka Barrage, constructed by the Indian government at the upstream of Padma for the navigability of the river port Calcutta. Water is withdrawn from Padma through the "Bhagrathi" in all seasons. As a result shoals are created on all the branches and vast land of sand can be seen every where. Six poles of Harding Bridge are now standing on the sand.

As water is very scarce in the river the climatic conditions has been changed and the day has become hot and nights become cold, in northern and southern regions of the country.

Depth of river is also decreasing day by day and due to

creation of shoals, flood has become frequent during monsoon.

Power production has also declined to a large extent at Bheramara Power Station hampering small and cottage industries of the area. North Bengal Paper Mills is also facing water crisis for a long time.

Ferry service

Ferry services at Paksey-Bheramara route were facing closure previously due to abnormal fall in water level but has resumed again after dredging recently. With the advent of dry season it is now again facing closure. A huge sum of money has been spent for dredging and shifting of ghat from one place to another as the water level is continuously decreasing.

Besides, 5000 fishermen are rendered jobless and irrigation systems are being hampered seriously.

According to the survey reports, Depth of the river at Harding Bridge point was seven metres and the rate of flow of water was 2500 cubic



PABNA : Ferry service at Paksey-Bheramara facing closure. Dredging continues to keep the ferry service on.

— Star photo.

meters per second last month. The depth and flow of water was satisfactory even in dry season before the construction of Farakka Barrage but after its commissioning in 1973 water flow and depth is falling alarmingly.

According to the Water Development Board, the depth of the river at this point was

30.72 feet in May 1947 and it was 29.45 feet in May 1972 and now it has decreased to 7.79 feet in April 1990 and 7.11 in November, 1990.

According to the experts, if withdrawal of water at Farakka continues at the same rate the whole area may turn into a vast desert in near future.

Notes from Pabna

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, April 4 : Diarrhoea has claimed four lives at Chalmohor upazila in a week.

Moslemuddin (50) of the village Bangla-gram of Dibigram union under Chalmohor upazila died of diarrhoea and Alauddin, Ashraf, and Johera Khatun of the same family were seriously attacked with the disease.

Three persons died of diarrhoea at the boarder village a Chanda of Chalmohor upazila and Baratgram upazila. They were Darbesh Mollah (70), Nazrul Islam son of Bahar Uddin and Jaher Fakir (5). Impure drinking water in the cause of the outbreak of the disease.

Arms recovered

Pabna police recovered one revolver, one bayonet and eight round of ammunition from Kishmat Pratappur recently.

Acting on a secret information a group of police headed by Emdadul Haque, Officer in Charge, Pabna thana the area and arrested Helal (22) of Kishmat Pratappur and Arif (20) of Kuthi para.

Youngman killed

A youngman was killed at Ishwardi upazila in a clash generating from catching fish recently.

Saidur Rahman (22), son of Shamsur Ali of the village Kharedhair was attacked by his rival group Majbar (23), son of Mansur Ali of the same village. Saidur was seriously wounded and transferred to the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital on March 28 and he died there on March 31.

A case was registered with Ishwardi thana in this connection.

Tractor helper dies

A tractor helper Abu (30) of Jessore died when the vehicle turned turtle on Sunday last. The tractor turned turtle at Mirjapur area of Dapunia Union under Pabna district.



Firewood extracted from the Sundarbans carried by a barge is being unloaded near Amin Bazar bridge for use in brickfield in the area.

— Star photo.

Nandail farmers groan under debt burden

From Our Correspondent

NANDAIL, April 4 : Outstanding loan of shallow tubewell borrowers has turned into a staggering figure with interest and penalties which left them in frustration.

It is learnt that the BADC in Nandail upazila allocated shallow tubewells on credit but these tubewells became inoperative due to mechanical troubles immediately after

their installation. Besides most of the disordered machines could not be repaired due to lack of spare parts.

On the other hand due to serious water fall in the underground water level the schemes were totally stopped in different areas. As a result, illfated loanes could not repay their loans as they could not get expected output in their schemes and they were compelled to sold out their lands, cattlehead and other valuables to maintain the costs related to the shallow tubewells.

Besides, constant natural calamities like droughts, pest attacks and recurrent floods caused serious havoc to the loanes for which they could not repay their loan in time.

In the meantime, the bank has filed certificate cases against the defaulters and warrants of wrest are being issued against the respective persons

from the court.

The loanes, however, appealed to concerned authorities to exempt interest and penalties imposed upon the outstanding loans to save them from ruination.

Law college faces problems

PABNA, Apr 4 : The law college here has been smarting under multifarious problems due to scarcity of classrooms, furniture and drinking water, reports UNB.

According to sources, the college building has become dilapidated and there are only two classrooms to accommodate 300 students.

Besides, due to absence of staff room, the teachers are seen sitting in the corridor. Girls are also seen strolling here and there because of the absence of common room.

Orphans find a home

From A Correspondent

DINAJPUR, April 4 : The orphans of Dinajpur are not really that much orphans. They have at least a home, a sweet home to take refuge. It is the Lions Children's Home in Dinajpur.

This home was set up in 1979 on a plot of 35 decimal of land near the Fulbari bus stand in the town. In the beginning, the home had only 30 girl child inmates. From then on, only the girl children are eligible in the home.

The executive body of the Shishu Niketan selects the children between the age of six and seven years. The Niketan supplies them with food and clothes, gives them education and at the same time train them up in different technical trades. After all the hard realities of life is that it is easier to find a job if you have technical know-how rather than traditional education.

With the touch of love from the Niketan officials, the children soon find a new meaning to their uncertain life. A new

self-respect grows within them. They try to be self-reliant. Presently, the number of children in the Niketan is 50. The Niketan has also helped the grown ups to select their life partners. It has arranged the marriage of 18 inmates after they grew up. It presented them things like sewing machine, embroidery machine and rickshaws on their wedding. The presentations are unromantic, but when one thinks of the help these presents will do much in their conjugal life, one must admits the wise decision.

With the donations from the members of Lions Club 315, Dinajpur and other eminent persons of the locality, the club constructed a tin-shed for lodging of the children at the cost of Taka 4.5 lakh. A Canadian organisation is donating money for upbringing of six children. Previously, the organisation used to donate money for 30 children.

In Dinajpur, there are some other homes for the orphans

Dinajpur Social Welfare Department runs a children's home for the boy children in Rajbari. But there is only one home for the girl children in Thakurgaon for the greater Dinajpur region. The number of destitute girl children have increased sharply due to increasing number of broken families. This has put tremendous pressure on the Lions Children Home.

Recently, steps have been taken to build second and third floor of the Shishu Niketan. A child health centre will also be set up. Blue prints have been made to build a two storied dormitory in place of the old dilapidated building. The whole project will need about 24.5 lakh Taka. The medicare centre will need another 1.3 lakh Taka.

Lions club, Dinajpur branch in its cabinet meeting has decided that it would seek financial help from Lions Club International Foundation (LCIF) of USA.

Diarrhoea claims 63 in 4 districts

From Our Correspondent

BARISAL, April 4 : Diarrhoea has claimed 63 lives and more than 3,500 were affected in the districts of Barisal, Patuakhali, Bhola and Barguna.

According to the official sources, 31 medical teams are working in temporary medical treatment centres.

According to the sources, out of total 22 persons died in Barguna, 28 in Patuakhali, five in Pirojpur, eight in Bhola dis-

trict. While 2,000 were attacked in Barguna, 500 in Patuakhali, 400 in Pirojpur, 700 in Bhola and 37 in Barisal districts.

Meanwhile, stool of diarrhoeal persons were sent to Diarrhoea Research Centre at Dhaka. The affected persons were admitted to different hospitals for treatment.

Drinking water and medical facilities are meagre in all the upazila hospitals of these districts.

Human trafficker jailed in Bagerhat

From Our Correspondent

BAGERHAT, Apr 4 : Mr. Abdus Sattar Mia, Additional District Magistrate, Bagerhat, in a judgment delivered recently, convicted one Aroj Ali of village Bisanpur under Bemarta Union Parishad in Bagerhat Sadar upazila and sentenced him to suffer rigorous imprisonment for 18 years and to pay a fine of Tk. 10,000 in default to suffer RI more for three years on the charge of trafficking women and children from Bangladesh to Pakistan.

The prosecution case, in brief, is that on November 23, 1989 the present Chairman of Bemarta Union accidentally met five persons at Chetali of his union. They were the inhabitants of Barbaria under Chitalmari upazila in the district of Bagerhat. They told the Chairman that accused Aroj Ali had allured them promising well paid job in Pakistan.

On the same day the Chairman and those five persons met another batch of 12 persons (all of them women and children) on Bagerhat-Pirojpur Highway near at Fatepur bridge, five kilometres away from Bagerhat. They were going to Bagerhat by a van rickshaw. According to them, they were the inhabitants of Mehendiganj upazila in the district of Barisal. They were going to the house of accused Aroj Ali who had realised Tk. 3,000 from each of them promising job in Pakistan.

The Chairman went to the house of Aroj Ali at village Bisanpur where he met two more persons from whom Aroj Ali realised Taka 12,000 promising job. But at that time Aroj Ali was found absent from his house.

In this connection a case was registered with Bagerhat P.S. against Aroj Ali by the Chairman.

In the case it was mentioned that he was engaged in human trafficking for a long time. The police investigated the matter and submitted a chargesheet to the court against Aroj Ali.

The ADM after examining the witnesses and evidences found accused Aroj Ali guilty U/S 366 (A), 370 and 372 of BPC and awarded him the aforesaid punishment.

3 killed in Dinajpur

From Our Correspondent

DINAJPUR, April 4 : Three persons were killed in different areas of the district on Saturday last.

One Lal Miah (59) of Minnagar Mahalla in Dinajpur town was killed under the wheels of a running truck near Political Institute at about 11 a.m.

Anwar Hossain (25) a student of Phulbari College was killed when his motorcycle was hit by a truck rear Jamtali. His corider Obaidur Rahman was seriously injured and was admitted to the Dinajpur General Hospital.

An unidentified man aged about 35 years. He was killed by some unknown miscreants

in Chirirbandar upazila on the same day. The body was recovered from a ditch in the village Mandalpara. A knife was also found near the body. The body was sent to the morgue for autopsy.

Cases have been registered with concerned thanas in these regards.

50 injured

Atleast 50 passengers were injured 12 of them seriously in a minibus accident on Friday last on Pirganj-Ranisankail highway.

According to the report, a minibus of Eni Paribahan was proceeding towards Pirganj. Near Paligaon, the driver of the minibus lost its control. As a result the bus turned turtle and fell in to a road-side ditch. Twelve seriously injured passengers including seven women were admitted in Pirganj health complex. However, the driver and helper of the bus managed to escape. A case has been registered with Pirganj PS in this regard.

Ration goods sell in blackmarkets

NARAIL, Apr 4 : Rice and wheat sanctioned under palli Rationing System are being sold in blackmarkets in three upazilas of the district, local people alleged, report UNB.

Some dealers of Sadar, Lohagara and Kalia upazilas in collusion with some dishonest food officials are allegedly involved in the misappropriation of foodgrains.

The government has fixed the price of rice at Taka 7.34 per kg for sale in the ration shops. But one kg of ration rice is being sold between Taka 10 and Tk 11 in open markets.

Construction of Kutcha houses and repair of old ones here has been adversely affected by shortage of bamboo in the district.

According to sources, bamboo production plummeted due to absence of proper maintenance and plantation of cutters.

In addition, farmers are uprooting clusters and selling them as firewood in the markets affecting production. Meanwhile, price hikes of bamboo has hit the bamboo-based cottage industry in the district. At present a standard-size bamboo is being sold between Taka 70 and Taka 80.

Youngman killed by miscreants

MAGURA, Apr 4 : Miscreants killed a youngman at village Jashomontapur in Mohammadpur upazila and looted his belongings, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, a group of armed dacoits numbering four to five attacked the victim Mekhal (33) at sundown recently while he was returning from a village market. The dacoits decamped with valuables after stabbing him grievously.

Passers-by recovered the victim from near a road and sent him to upazila health complex. He was later transferred to Magura Sadar Hospital where he succumbed.

Police investigation is on but none has so far been arrested.



Jim Macdonald a specialist from Canadian Executive Agency accompanied by Dy. Director, Crop Diversification Programme inspecting a soybean demonstration plot in Narsingdi recently.