

Upazila roundup

PABNA

Teenage girl commits suicide

From Our Correspondent

April 5: One school girl Sohega Khatun (10), daughter of Julmat Sardar of the village Faradpur under Pabna Sadar upazila committed suicide recently.

She committed suicide by taking poison, to get rid of the stomach pain, her family sources said.

SATKHIRA

Draft animal shortage hampers cultivation

From A Correspondent

April 5: Cultivation has been adversely affected owing to acute shortage of bullocks and decline in mineral constituents of the soil in the Satkhira district.

According to sources, about 30 per cent land remained fallow during this season as many farmers have no bullocks to till their land. Most farmers have been cultivating their land on share basis.

Besides, prices of bullocks have shot up in the markets. A pair of bullocks is being sold between Taka 10,000 and 15,000 which is beyond the purchasing capacity of the poor cultivators.

The situation has further aggravated due to indiscriminate slaughter of cows.

Moreover, agronomist opined that shortage of necessary mineral like Sulphur and Zinc has reduced fertility of land in seven Upazillas of the district.

The cause of mineral deficiency was attributed to unrestricted use of Chemical fertilizer by the ignorant farmers.

ferred in mosques and temples for the continued peace, solidarity, integrity and prosperity of the country.

The main function was held at Bagerhat stadium where rallies and march past were held by Ansars, VDPs, Boys Scouts, rovers, Girls Guides and members of different children's organisations.

Mr. M. A. Mannan, Deputy Commissioner of Bagerhat took the salute at the march past.

The other highlights of the day's programme were discussion meeting on the significance of the Day, cultural function, supply of improved diets to the prisoners, patients and orphans, documentary film show and illumination.

NETRAKONA

Railway station reopens

From Our Correspondent

April 5: The Minister for Communication Col (Retd) OI Ahmed said that the government is determined to establish society free from anarchy and corruption. He was addressing a reopening ceremony of Chaltisha Nagar Railway Station here which was closed during the Ershad regime.

Presided over by Mr Abdul Karim, MP the ceremony was also addressed by Mr Nurul Momen Khan, Secretary, Railway Division, Mr Lutfuzzaman Babar, MP and Abu Abbas MP. The Minister called upon the people to materialise the ideals of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman.

BARISAL

Rickshaw purchasing programme

April 5: Islami Bank of Barisal branch has given a cheque of Taka 50,000 to the members of 'Al-Farak Society' under a rickshaw purchasing programme for the poor rickshawpullers of the district.

Maulana Basfir Ullah Athari, Manager of the bank, handed over the cheque on behalf of the bank.

Some Islamic books were also distributed in this connection.

TANGAIL

BMA executives

April 5: Annual general meeting and election of Tangail branch of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) was held at its office here recently, reports BSS.

A 21-member executive committee with Dr. Mazharul Islam as President and Dr. Md. Feroz Khan as General Secretary have been elected for the year 1991-92.

Dr. M. A. Mazed, President of the BMA attended the annual general meeting as the chief guest. The meeting was presided over by Dr. H. R. Khan.

KUSHTIA

Youngman killed

April 5: One Abdur Razzak (22) son of Askar Ali of 10, Titumir Sarak of Thanapara Kushtia town was attacked by some unknown persons at about 11 p.m. Tuesday while he was coming back to his house from Amlapara, reports BSS.

He was taken to Kushtia General Hospital with severe injury where he died late at night.

Postmortem was done Wednesday. A case has been registered with Kushtia police station in this connection.

It may be mentioned that the victim was released from detention from Kushtia jail a few days back.

BHOLA

Malpractice in coal weighing

April 5: The brick manufacturers of the district have been incurring losses due to malpractices in weighing coal, reports UNB.

According to sources, the local coal sale centres are not using any scale to weigh coal. Instead they resort to traditional methods of stacks.

Each stack of eight metric tons actually weighs six metric tons, consumers alleged.

Besides, coal is sold at Taka 3000 per metric ton instead of Taka 2500, the procurement price.

Brick manufacturers have been forced to increase prices of bricks following price hikes of coal affecting construction.



With the advent of summer rural markets are flooded with various seasonal fruits. Here melons popularly known as 'Bangri' are stacked in a shop at Eklashpur Bazar in Noakhali. — Star photo

Jamuna now dead : 500 shoals emerge

Sirajganj—Jagannathganj rly ferry service disrupted

SIRAJGANJ, April 5: Railway ferry services in Sirajganj-Jagannathganj route remained disrupted for long as the mighty river Jamuna has now lost flow and become almost 'dead,' reports UNB.

More than 500 big shoals have emerged in the channel due to heavy siltation and an alarming low flow from the Ganges, making ferry movement totally impossible over the last three months.

"You can just walk through the river," railway sources here said.

The number of passengers in the important east-west railway line connecting Rajshahi region with capital Dhaka, port city Chittagong and other eastern and southern parts of the country has drastically dropped, the sources said.

Because, the travellers have to cross the river at their own risk and cost in country boats both during day and night journeys.

At least 15 dacoities have been committed on the route in the last three months, robbing the passengers of their all, official sources admitted.

Passengers alleged repeated appeal to the authorities for remedy had gone in vain.

Concerned officials said passengers would undergo serious sufferings during pre and post-Eid rush, if immediate steps are not taken to press the ferry vessel into service.

Officials at Paksey told visiting UNB correspondent that the meagre flow of Ganges (Padma) had caused serious water problems in the river's vast basin stretched over the north and northwestern districts.

Farmers in these areas including Kushtia, Bheramara, Iswardi, Lalpur, Rajshahi, Bagha, Charghat said they were helpless in a serious irrigation crisis at this crucial stage of standing high yielding variety (HYV) of paddy.

The irrigated rice has become the main annual food crop in these areas.

The Padma, once popularly called 'kirtinasha' for its devastating surges, now looks like a desert with a vast expanse of sand spilling in the burning sun of Chaitra.

Only a narrow stream now exists near the Hardinge Bridge due to continued dredging for averting total closure of Bheramara-Paksey ferry crossing.

The water level is falling by about seven centimetre a day, officials said, due to unilateral control of the Ganges flow at the Farakka barrage and heavy withdrawal by pums at this peak of the dry season.

Housewife beaten to death

JHENIDAH, Apr 5: A mother of five children was allegedly beaten to death by her brother-in-law at Kalamankhal under Jhenidah Sadar upazilas here Tuesday, reports UNB.

Family sources said the incident occurred when the victim Hindal Begum (32) wife of Bisharath picked up a quarrel with her mother-in-law on collecting cowdung.

At one stage of their quarrel, Jahidul the brother-in-law of Hindal Begum, struck her head with a lethal weapon causing her instantaneous death.

The body was sent to Sadar hospital for autopsy. A case has been filed with local police.

3 injured in road mishap

GABANDHA, Apr 5: Three people were injured in two separate road accidents in Gobindaganj upazila of the district over the last two days, reports UNB.

Two minor brothers Nazrul (10) and Rathan (8) were injured seriously when a speeding truck knocked them down from behind at Bagda on Gobindaganj-Fulbari highway on Thursday. They were waiting on the road to see an elephant of the Rangpur Medical College Hospital.

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Water Development Board sources said water level at Paksey-Hardinge Bridge was 4.70 metre in February and three metre in March. In the corresponding period last year, it was 7.11 metre at the same point.

The North Bengal Paper Mills at Paksey may have to be closed due to lack of water which is pumped into it from the nearby Padma.

The Mill Manager told UNB the authorities in the meantime had invested Taka 62 lakh since last August till February for dredging the channel that brings water from the river into the mill. The mill requires 1100 tons of water daily.

In the wake of water scarcity, the mill authorities are thinking about sinking deep tubewells (DTWs) as an alternative. But it's a too big project for the management to afford as, he said, it would cost an estimated Tk 2.5 crore.

The water crisis, mainly blamed on siltation and the absence of any agreement between India and Bangladesh for the last three years for release of due share of water through Farakka, has also seriously hit the Ganges-Kobadak (GK) Project, the largest irrigation project in Asia, stretching over four districts.

Official sources said the total area of irrigated farm land under the GK project has squeezed by about 40 per cent due to shortage of water supply.

Project officials informed that 5,400 cusec water used to be supplied daily to the 3.5 lakh irrigated field in 11 upazilas of Kushtia, Magura, Jhenidah and Chuadanga districts. Only 60 per cent water is now being managed with great difficulties, irrigating 2.1 lakh acres of land.

They said four dredgers had been engaged for dredging the Padma to continue the project at a cost of Taka one crore.

The officials cautioned that the project might have to be closed in future, if water level decreases at the current rate.

Informed sources said the Indian authorities manipulate 102 out of 114 gates of Farakka barrage diverting water to feed a large hydro-electric project at Darjeeling, besides irrigation and navigation purposes.

According to official sources, 146.51 metric tons were sanctioned for Gagra, 92.41 MTs for Char Nilowkhia, 38.49 MTs for Bayra, 56.00 MTs for Khakhdhor, 145.80 MTs for Borochar, 58.22 MTs for Akua, 38.21 MTs for Austadhar, 41.72 for Kushtia and 76.10 MTs for Char Isardia unions.

According to official sources, the projects include development of irrigation system, construction and reconstruction of roads, culverts, bridges and hat-bazars, renovation of educational institutions, implementation of health and family planning programmes.

About 30 per cent work on the projects has already been completed and the rest is expected to be finished soon.

After completion of the projects, about three lakh people of the upazila will get benefit.

Before realising anything violent whirlwind has blown away then only shelter a hut on a piece of land allotted to them by district revenue administration to sustain their lives and livelihood. A few months ago they got these cottages donated to them being landless

By the order of the then government to fulfil the dream of cluster village. But at the whim of nature they were made homeless again.

One infant and an old woman was seriously injured as pillars collapsed on them. They were admitted to local hospital. A relief team headed by U.N.O., Galachipa Mr. Shushil Sarkar distributed rice, wheat, kerosene and potatoes among the affected people. A.D.M. and A.D.C. (Rev) of Patuakhali rushed to the spot immediately and asked all the machineries of the district administration to meet the challenge in a body.

PATUAKHALI, Apr 5: A cyclonic storm completely destroyed 28 houses out of a total 35 at the cluster village Tikhana Dari Baher Char of Galachipa upazila under Patuakhali district recently and left hundreds of people homeless.

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Political scene

60 injured as JCD, BCL clash at Manikganj

MANIKGANJ, Apr 5: At least 60 people including students were injured and 20 houses were partly damaged following a series of clashes between JCD and Chhatra League (Baksal) activists during last three days in the town, police here said, says UNB.

Of the injured, two were admitted to the Dhaka Orthopaedic Hospital and Manikganj Sadar hospital in a critical condition.

Witnesses said the clash ensued when a Chhatra League worker, Babu joined JCD on Monday.

Two seriously injured victims were identified as Bazlur Rahman (28), health officer of Horirampur Health Complex and Motiur Rahman (38), a leader of Dhaka Minibus workers union.

Sherpur

Separate cases were filed with local police.

Sherpur Correspondent adds: Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Dal district unit and its student, Wing Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal arranged a discussion meeting held at the district unit office of BNP in Sherpur recently.

The discussion meeting was presided over by district unit acting President Mr. Abdur Razzak. The meeting was addressed by Secretary General of district unit, Advocate Saiful Islam Kalam, and Chhatra Dal leader, Mr. Abdul Awal Choudhury.

The speakers wished a long life and good health of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia

and success of her government.

Later on, a victory procession was brought out which paraded different streets of town.

Jatiya Party zila unit arranged an ifter party and discussion meeting at Sherpur Bakrasha School compound recently.

The discussion meeting was presided over by district unit President, Abdul Wadud. Joint Secretary (zila unit) Shajahan Ali Chahat, Organizing Secretary, Mr. Zaynal Abedin, zila unit member, A. T. M. Jahangir Hossain and the convener of Bangladesh Sangrami Chhatra Dal (zila convening committee) Mr. Shafulul Islam Mizu spoke in the discussion meeting.

After the ifter a procession was brought out from which paraded town streets chanting slogans for immediate release of former President H. M. Ershad.

Madaripur

Local unit of Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) brought out a procession and paraded different roads of the town recently.

The processionists urged the government to expedite the trial of former President Ershad.

A meeting was held at Shantinagar square in the town. The meeting was presided over by JCD district President Jahander Ali Jahan and addressed by local government Nazimuddin College VP Md. Kayum Miah, GS Md. Murad Hasan and Kishor Kumar Mandal.

Crimes galore in Narail

From Our Correspondent

NARAIL, Apr 5: Law and order situation throughout Narail has been deteriorated recently.

It is alleged that one Shanahan (17) daughter of Abdur Rouf of Balarampur village under Sadar upazila was mercilessly slaughtered to death after raping successively in the midnight on March 10 in the bamboo cluster behind her house.

In this connection a case was filed with Narail police. None was arrested upto reporting.

On March 12 in the midnight a daring dacoity was committed in two jewellery shops owned by Bipoy Mallick and Golok Mallick and in cloth stores of Amrita Lal and Sukumar Paramanaya at Mulla Bazar under Sadar upazila and the dacoits decamped with gold ornaments and valuables worth Taka 50,000. The same night the dacoits looted away gold ornaments and cash worth Taka 37,350 from the house of one Subodh Kumar Biswas at Mushuri village near Mulla Bazar.

A case was registered with Narail police.

The police arrested one Mojon Shaikh (30), of Ujirpur village under Narail Pourashava in this connection.

One Sujoy of Shaltarvita village of Mutia Bazar received serious injuries and died in a bomb blast while dacoity was being committed in the said gold shops in December last and four persons were arrested on charge of the dacoity.

Mr. Ali Hossain, Deputy Commissioner, Narail, visited the places of occurrences and he called upon the law enforcing agencies to be serious to bring under control the law and order situation.

Irrigation hampered

2000 tubewells out of order in Thakurgaon

From Our Correspondent

THAKURGAON: About 2000 shallow tubewells in Thakurgaon sadar, Pirganj, Balidangi, Haripur and Rantsankail upazilas under Thakurgaon district have gone out of order.

Under different special credit programmes and own programme, branches of loan giving agencies had sold about 6000 shallow tubewells (STWs) and low lift pumps here among the farmers on credit, during the last few years.

There was an agreement between the STWs drilling contractors and the borrowers. As per agreement the contractor would supply spare parts at the time of delivering the STWs and give post sale service. But they not do the job rather drew servicing bills from the bank officials, debiting the loan accounts of the borrowers.

At present, out of 380 deep tubewells in Thakurgaon, most of the DTWs are inoperative because of handing over problem. As early last year, these

DTWs were sold out to the Grameen Bank. But in the face of strong resistance by the farmers, the Grameen Bank could not take possession over the DTWs. As a result, about 6000 STWs have been sold by the traders to different upazilas of the district.

On the other hand, the low lift pumps which had been supplied, a few years back on credit are also out of order due to non-availability of spare parts.

10 farmers injured in clash

SHERPUR, Apr 5: At least 10 people were injured, six of them seriously in a clash between two rival groups of farmers at Gunapara in Sri-bordi upazila Wednesday over a land dispute, reports UNB.

The seriously injured Rusul Mahmud (60), Samad (50), Nurul Islam (40), Sagar Ali (55) and Anwar Ali (55) were admitted to the Sadar Hospital.