

## Upazila roundup

## KISHOREGANJ

## Beggars on rise

## From Our Correspondent

April 7: Beggars are on the rise in the town creating much inconveniences to the dwellers.

The beggars mostly floating people affected by the natural calamities are coming to the town in large number from rural areas with the hope of better earnings.

Town-dwellers complained that with their influx various infectious diseases have broken out in the town. These destitute people regularly respond to nature's call in open drains and road sides polluting the environment.

It is alleged that some women beggars have allegedly resorted to prostitution for their sustenance giving rise to anti-social activities in the town.

The district administration has been urged to take a scheme for their rehabilitation at the outskirts of the town and help save the dwellers from inconveniences.

## JAMALPUR

## Gambling rampant

## From Our Correspondent

April 7: Gambling is going on unabated in broad daylight at different places of Jamalpur town and other upazila headquarters violating the sanctity of holy Ramadan.

Gambling is rampant around Jamalpur railway station area and different hat and bazar areas of the district.

The gamblers indulge in anti-social activities in broad daylight and continue till late night in defiance at the law-enforcing agency.

Passersby and tender-age boys are allured to participate in gambling.

On the other hand, youths, students, rickshawpullers and day labourers have become easy victims of the menace.

## NARAYANGANJ

## Traffic Week observed

## From Our Correspondent

April 7: Traffic week was observed from March 25 to March 31 at Narayanganj.

During the week about 600 vehicles were checked and 156 cases instituted against 156 vehicles. During the week leaflets containing various traffic rules were also distributed among the pedestrians.

The members of the Sadar upazila scouts assisted the traffic police to make the week a complete success.

## MADARIPUR

## Civic amenities absent

## From Our Correspondent

April 7: Shibchar upazila of the district has been plagued with manifold problems due to lack of the civic amenities.

Most roads are narrow and uneven. Potholes have developed at many points posing threat to pedestrians and vehicular traffic.

Water remains stagnant on the roads after a slight rainfall causing much inconveniences to the travellers.

Roadside ditches, filled with filth and garbage, are not cleaned regularly. These have turned as the ideal breeding centres of mosquitoes.

The conservancy service in the town is also not satisfactory. Bad drainage system and kutcha latrines are posing health hazards.

## Poultry disease

Poultry diseases have been broken out in an epidemic form in different upazilas of the district causing heavy loss of poultry birds in the rural areas.

About 50 thousand birds have been lost during the last two months.

The diseases are spreading fast in different areas protective and curative measures have been taken by the livestock department.

## MYMENSINGH

## 25,093 acres put under vegetables scheme

## From A Correspondent

April 7: A total of 25,093 hectares land have been brought under vegetables under rubricrop cultivation in 12 districts including Mymensingh district in the current season.

According to an official source, 20,604 metric tons of different kinds of vegetables were estimated to be produced in 12 districts this year.

Of the total area, 5195 hectares have been cultivated in Mymensingh district, 864 hectares in Sherpur, 2138

hectares in Jamalpur, 4049 hectares in Tangail, 1174 hectares in Netrakona, 648 hectares in Kishoreganj, 1,055 hectares in Brahmanbaria, 729 hectares in Habiganj, 4838 hectares in Maulvi Bazar, 1812 hectares in Sunamganj, 567 hectares in Gazipur.

## Child rescued

Nandail police rescued one kidnapped three-year-old child Rubal and arrested one human trafficker from Rasulpur in Nandail upazila.

Police sources said, child Rubal was kidnapped from Chittagong on March 28 last.

Acting on a secret information Nandail police raided village Rasulpur and rescued the child and arrested the trafficker Jassimuddin.

Cases have been filed with Chittagong and Nandail police in this connection.

## SATHIRA

## Prize-giving ceremony

## From Our Correspondent

April 7: The annual sports and prize giving ceremony of Sathira Government Girls High School was held in the school premises recently. Mr. Katebur Rahman, Deputy Commissioner, Sathira was present as chief guest while Mrs. Nargis Rahman, President, Sathira Mahila Samity and Mrs. Ashrafunnessa were present as special guests. Mrs. Amena Begum, Headmistress of the school presided over the function.

In his speech Mr. Katebur Rahman said that the parents should provide proper education and training to their children so that they can get build themselves as worthy citizens. He stressed that the women should take part in the nation-building activities. He praised the discipline of Sathira Government Girls High School students.

## 1529 certificate cases filed

UNB adds: Bangladesh Krishi Bank has filed 1529 certificate cases against the defaulters of outstanding loan of Taka 3.64 crore, reports UNB.

According to official sources, of the total 216 cases have so far been settled and Taka 80.66 lakh realised. Still 1313 cases remained pending.

Meanwhile, government has declared exemption of loan up to Tk 5000 in a recent declaration.

## MAGURA

## One killed over land dispute

April 7: An elder brother was allegedly beaten to death by his younger one following a dispute over a plot of land, police said here today, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, the victim Altaf Hossain (55), son of Isahaque Ali Molla of village Jhama under Mohammapur upazila picked up a quarrel recently over possession of the land. At one stage his brother Nurul Haq hit him with bamboo stick. Altaf died on the spot.

The body was sent to morgue for postmortem. A case has been filed in this connection and Nurul Haq remained absconding since the incident.

## Housewife commits suicide

Meanwhile, a housewife of village Nizanduali under Sadar upazila of the district allegedly committed suicide by taking poison, police said today.

Relatives said the victim Selina Begum (22), daughter of Nasar Uddin and mother of two children allegedly committed suicide last week following a family feud.

Her body was sent to morgue for autopsy and a case has been registered with the local police in this connection.

## PABNA

## Housewife commits suicide

## From Our Correspondent

April 7: A housewife Mrs. Aklima Khatun (22), wife of Abdul Gaffar of the village Sardar Para under Bhangura Upazila committed suicide recently.

She committed suicide under running train. Cause of her suicide was not known.

## One killed in road mishap

Azmal Hossain (19) of Lalpur upazila was run over by a truck at Anankhola on Pabna-Ishwardi road on April 1. A case was registered with Ishwardi thana in this connection.



Santal women transplanting wheat seedlings in their field at Birganj in Dinajpur district. — Star photo by Mohsin

## Examination of 144 HSC students cancelled

## One arrested with false marksheets, other documents

## From Our Correspondent

COMILLA, April 7: Comilla police arrested a young boy Atiqur Rahman who is a dweller of Changine village under Sadar upazila in Comilla with a large number of blank registration cards and mark-sheets of various boards, admission forms and transfer certificates of various colleges, 14 stamps, and huge papers of 174 candidates who have been preparing for the HSC examination.

On April 3, police saw a rickshaw passenger who was moving in front of Board of Secondary Education, Comilla. On suspicion they followed him, challenged at Tomsom Bridge.

Police recovered a bag with 260 blank registration cards, 148 transfer certificates of Chowara College, Lalmai College, Meher College, Amir Hossain College and Aziz Guha College and 15 blank admit cards of HSC Examination and some other documents. When enquired, they boy said that

his uncle Abdur Rashid sent him to the board with this bag and he knows nothing more. He also said that he has passed the SSC Examination from Choudhagan under Comilla Board in 1987.

Police is investigating into the matter and a case has been filed in this connection.

Meanwhile, Comilla Board authority cancelled HSC Examinations of 144 students who appeared in the examination in 1990 of Chalan College of Nangalkot upazila under the board.

It is learnt that the students took double registration from the same board fraudulently. First they appeared in the HSC Examination in 1989 from Lalmai College but failed.

They took registration again by Chalan College as a regular student which was unlawful.

According to the sources, they can participate in the HSC Examination of 1991 if the first registration is proved to be valid.

## Sands from Indian hills cover 40,000 acres Boro land

## From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, April 7: Sand carried by the onrush of waters from the Indian hills remain in boro lands under Thahirpur upazila of Sunamganj district. About 40 thousand acres of boro land have become uncultivable during the last decade and during each monsoon this process of desertification increases unabated.

The Water Development Board (WDB) prepared some schemes in 1984 to contain the menace. They included construction of regulators on three streams from the Indian hills. But the approval of the schemes is still awaited from the high-ups. These plans

were short term solution and a long term one needs Indo-Bangladesh Joint River Commission action.

A sit-in strike from 10 am to 1 pm was observed by the lawyers of Sylhet High Court Bar to press home demand for the restoration of High Court Bench in Sylhet and other five places of the country outside Dhaka. After the strike at court point, speakers strongly condemned the action of the Acting President and urged upon the popular government to restore the benches.

They contended that establishment of High Courts out-

side Dhaka brought relief to poorer section of litigant public.

## Sufferings of potato growers

Potato growers in greater Sylhet are suffering heavy losses for lack of storage facilities. They are obliged to sell their products at 50 per cent. Below the cost of production lest they should rot.

The cold storages are unable to provide any space to most of the growers and hence a group of middlemen are dictating their own prices. These middlemen seem to

have earlier arrangement with cold storage, says a Srimangal farmer who has been making frantic search for storing at least a few bags of seed potato for the next season.

If the storage facilities continue to be absent, much of this year's potato will go waste and farmers may not go for it next year, apprehends agri-experts here. They suggested a survey by the appropriate authorities for setting up more cold storages in the area before the next season. Another step, they suggest, is setting up of de-hydration plants, and then storing them in gunny bags with polythene lining.

## 3 killed, 1000 attacked with liver cirrhosis

## From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, April 7: Three persons died and more than 1000 have been attacked by "cirrhosis of liver" in various parts of Jamalpur district including Dewanganj, Islampur and Melanda upazilas.

The disease in an epidemic form is taking a serious turn creating panic among the people.

According to the eye witnesses, the disease comprises several uncommon symptoms due to which the physicians are unable to diagnose correctly for effective treatment.

As the victims are mostly from extremely poorer sections have no means to approach to modernised hospitals.

According to the local doctors, under-nourishment, adulterated food, unhealthy

surroundings are the main cause of the outbreak of the disease.

## Jute farmers face setback

Jute cultivation faced a setback in Jamalpur district during the current season due to the scarcity of jute seeds and cash capital. The total achievement so far was only one third of the fixed target.

According to the Agricultural Extension Department sources, only 10,000 acres of land was brought under jute cultivation in the district during the current season against the target to bring about 30,000 acres of land under cultivation.

The cultivators are frustrated because of the uncertainty of jute prices every year.

## Pests damage crops in Chandpur

## From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, April 7: 'Pamry Poka' is causing heavy damage to irri-boro crops on about 16 thousand acres of land under Chandpur irrigation project.

The affected areas are Shekdi, Shokdi Rampur, Lohagar, Lupgi, Charbasantha, Haimchar, Algidurgapur, Bagadi and Durgadi.

According to the farmers, the leaves of the paddy plants are being eaten up by these pests and if proper measures are not taken to combat the pest attack, the production might fall considerably.

On the other hand, due to price hike of insecticides farmers are unable to spray their field to eradicate the pests.

Meanwhile, adulterated insecticides have proved to be ineffective in killing the pests.

It is strongly felt that if positive measures are not taken to curb the pest menace the situation may go out of control. Some farmers demanded aerial spray in the affected areas.

## Erosion by Meghna

UNB adds: Erosion by the river Meghna has taken a serious turn with the eating up of fresh areas at several places of Puran Bazar of the town here. The rampaging river devoured fish parcel ghat and

## BPC clarification

Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) in a clarification to a news item published in our issue on April 1 under the headline 'diesel scarcity hampers irrigation' says:

On the date of publication of the news item the stock position of diesel in main installations of the Oil Marketing Companies and in different oil depots of the country was 1,05,466 (One lakh five thousand four hundred sixty six) tons. This stock is sufficient to meet country's demand for irrigation works during dry season even for more than one month. Therefore, the question of admission of 'Shortage' by BPC officials does not arise.

Contrary to what has been published Baghabari Oil Depot is kept topped-up with diesel to cater irrigation and agricultural needs in the northern districts and surrounding areas.

It may further be added here for the information of all concerned that BPC constituted four control cells in Chittagong, Dhaka, Bogra and Khulna to monitor and ensure availability of POL products particularly diesel and lube oil during current dry season in the irrigation areas. The officials working in the control cells together with the field staff of Oil Marketing Companies are constantly watching the local demand, supply of POL products and selling price of diesel and lube oil at farmer's level.

other business establishments during the last two days.

'Ganra Nitya Nanda Akhra' a 130-year-old worship house for Hindus was also lost into the river.

Besides, boulders dumped last year went under water aggravating the situation.

Concrete blocks supposed to be placed by Water Development Board on both sides of the bazar, were not done in time to save the areas, it is alleged.

## Notes from Sylhet

## From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Apr 7: One Bangladeshi was wounded when Indian BSF entered Alinagar border of Bangladesh territory in Kulaura upazila of Maulvi Bazar district and opened fire on the labourers working on the Monu river dyke. As a result, Ibrahim Ali, a project Chairman was seriously wounded.

They, however, withdrew behind the frontier when BDR on receipt of the incursion rushed to the spot. Both sides exchanged fire which continued for two hours. A flag meeting was held on the following day at no-man's land in Alinagar border.

According to a message, on April 2 a group of Bangladeshi labourers started cutting earth for repairing the damages of Monu dyke well within Bangladesh territory between pillar nos 1846-57 S and 1847-19 S at about noon when some members of Indian BSF intruded into Bangladesh territory and tried to resist work by opening fire. The project Chairman Ibrahim Ali was wounded. Both sides have reinforced their strength there. High BDR officials from Sylhet and Srimangal are visiting the place. A flag meeting was arranged, but its outcome is yet to be known.

## Tornado damages houses

A tornado that lashed Nabiganj upazila of Habiganj district and Sadar Upazila of Maulvi Bazar district left one dead and over 150 houses damaged on April 1, according to a delayed report received here. Twenty houses were collapsed and a child was killed by the falling of roof. Reports of more injuries in the area were also received. Forty houses in Maulvi Bazar, 30 in Sherpur and Afrozganj, 30 in Hamarkona and Daudpur, 15 in Bagarai village, five in Mokimpur and one school premises were razed to the ground.

Meanwhile, due to heavy rain about 5000 acres of boro land with its paddy have been submerged in three hours of Maulvi Bazar. The affected haors are Hail haor, Hakaluki haor and Kauwadighi.

## Goats and poultry travel with passengers in buses

## From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Apr 7: Journey by bus in greater Kushtia district is extremely hazardous. Most of the time buses do not run on schedule.

At every stoppage a driver stays for longer time to get more passengers and when the bus becomes overloaded the driver rushes for the final destination. In the process accidents take place due to reckless driving.

There are allegations that the drivers ply their vehicles

without driving licence. Many of them have no proper training. The condition of the buses is also too bad. Many of these buses develop engine trouble on route and the passengers remain stranded for hours.

The passengers buses also carry huge volume of cargoes along with the passengers. Baskets full of ducks and chickens and goats are freely carried regularly much to the inconvenience of the passengers.



JAMALPUR: Demonstration by labourers in front of Melandah Upazila Parishad office against misappropriation of wheat. — Star photo