

Upazila roundup

KURIGRAM

Degree course in college demanded

Form Our Correspondent.
April 9 : The students, guardians and elite of Kurigram demanded introduction of degree course in Kurigram Majda Adarsha College.
It is the only private intermediate level college in the district headquarters established at the initiative of local people to impart co-education to students.
The college has all facilities including adequate classrooms and laboratories. The college has a rich library with sufficient number of books. It is situated in the heart of the town. Due to good academic condition and easy communication the college has been attracting a large number of students from neighbouring areas.

JAMALPUR

Obituary

Form Our Correspondent.
April 9 : Nayeem uddin Ahmed a member of erstwhile Pakistan provincial Assembly died at his village house at Surjanagar in Bakshiganj upazila recently.
He was a Union Parishad Chairman of Surjanagar for the last 45 years.
He was 85.
He left behind his wife, three sons, five daughters and a host of relatives to mourn his death.
He was buried of the family graveyard.

SHARIATPUR

BADC to sell 28000 kg Aus seeds

From A Correspondent.
April 9 : Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC) has taken up a programme to sell 28,000 kgs of Aus seeds to the farmers for the greater Faridpur district in the current financial year.
Official sources said, of the total 6510 kgs in Faridpur, 3560 kgs in Rajbari, 3590 kgs in Madaripur, 3150 kgs in Shariatpur, 3200 kgs in Gopalganj and 7990 kgs in zonal seeds store will be sold.

Bangladesh Krishi Bank and other commercial banks will disburse necessary loans among the farmers to make the Aus cultivation programme a success, it is learnt.

BRAHMANBARIA

Roads in bad shape

April 9 : Road communication between Nasirnagar upazila and the district headquarters remained disrupted causing untold suffering to the people, reports UNB.
According to sources, about 18 kilometers of Sarail-Nasirnagar highway was badly damaged due to recurrent floods over the last few years. About 2.6 kilometers road from Dharantighat to Kunda was completely damaged.

A bridge and a culvert on the road, damaged during the devastating flood in 1988 are yet to be repaired.

Besides, a part of the road about five kilometres of which is left unpaved remains under water during the rainy season.
Meanwhile, seven kilometres long kutcha road from Haripur union to Nasirnagar sadar union also remained disrupted as 60 per cent of the road had been washed away by erosion during the rainy season.

The 3.6 kilometres long Nasirnagar-Madhapur road is also in a deplorable condition creating problems to the people of six unions of the district.

Sugar lying unsold

About 194 tons of sugar dissolved in the government godowns here resulting in the loss of about Taka 50 lakh.
According to informed sources, most of the dealers did not collect their allotment as the market rate is much lower than the government rate. Only 56 tons were disbursed among the dealers so far.

As a result, a huge amount of sugar has been lying stockpiled in the godowns for the last one year.
The situation aggravated further by a glut of smuggled sugar which is being sold in the markets at a comparatively lower price.

GAIBANDHA

Student commits suicide

April 9 : A degree student allegedly committed suicide by jumping from a running train, police said here on Tuesday, reports UNB.
Witnesses said Saiful Alam Khaja (22) of Paschuu village in Sadar upazila, killed himself by jumping from running Dhaka bound Inter-City Teesta Express train recently.
The reason of his alleged suicide could not be known.
Meanwhile, Jamila Khatun (19), wife of Momin in Nizamkhatun village of Sundarganj upazila, allegedly hanged herself to death following a row over dowry.
Two cases of unnatural deaths have been filed with police.

PIROJPUR

3300 tons wheat for 58 projects

April 9 : The government has sanctioned 3,300 metric tons of wheat worth about Taka 1,84,80,000 for implementation of 58 projects in six upazilas of Pirojpur district under Food for Work Programme (FWP) in the current dry season, reports BSS.
According to an official source, the works of the projects include construction and reconstruction of embankments, roads and excavation of canals.
Of the total projects, 11 each will be implemented in Pirojpur Sadar and Nazirpur upazilas, nine in Bhandaria, four in Kaukhali, 10 in Mathbaria and 13 in Swarupkati upazilas. Work on these projects is going on in full swing and is expected to be completed by the end of May.

NOAKHALI

Best educational institution

April 9 : Lakshimpur Women College has been adjudged the best educational institution in the district, reports UNB.
The announcement was made during National Education Week-91 observed recently.
According to official sources, Assistant Professor of political science in the government college, Khalilur Rahman Chowdhury, has been nominated for the best teacher award.

FENI

Two trucks with Indian timber seized

April 9 : Bangladesh Rifles seized two truck loads of Indian timbers worth about Taka 10 lakh and arrested four people in this connection from Modhugram border areas under Chhagalniya upazila of the district, reports UNB.
Acting on a secret information, BDR challenged the truck drivers while entering into Bangladesh territory and caught them red-handed with the contraband.
The arrested are Yousuf Ali of village East Modhugram, Md. Ilias Hossain of village Khachipur and truck drivers, Ataur Rahman and Ruhul Amin.
The recovered timbers were handed over to the local customs department.

MAGURA

Tk 16.56 lakh sanctioned for 4 pry schools

April 9 : Facilities Department has sanctioned Taka 16.56 lakh for construction of four government primary schools in two upazilas of the district during the current fiscal year, reports UNB.
According to official sources, Taka 8.28 lakh will be spent for construction of two schools at sadar while Taka 8.28 lakh for two others at Mohammadpur upazila under Annual Development Programme.

MAJDEE COURT

95 schemes under WFP taken up

April 9 : At least 95 schemes have been taken up against an allocation of about 6,704 metric tons of wheat under Food for Works Programme in the district, reports UNB.
According to official sources, CARE, an NGO, will also help implement 43 schemes under this programme.

Drinking water scarce : Stomach ailments rise

Over 2700 tubewells out of order in 3 districts

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, Apr 9: About 1000 tubewells remain out of order in the district for a long time.
As a result scarcity of pure drinking water is prevailing in the rural areas. Many tubewells have either been rendered inoperative or choked up. Most tubewells went out of order due to poor maintenance and shortage of spare parts. The villagers alleged that plastic pipes used in many tubewells often choke up within a short time of installation. There are about 17 thousand tubewells in seven upazilas of Chandpur districts.
Public Health Engineering

Department has undertaken a scheme to resink only 450 tubewells in different areas.
Meanwhile gastro-intestinal diseases like cholera, diarrhoea, dysentery and jaundice have broken out in many parts of the district due to paucity of pure drinking water.

Jamalpur

Our Jamalpur Correspondent adds : Over 500 tubewells have been lying out of order for the last few months in seven upazilas of Jamalpur district.
As a result, acute scarcity of pure drinking water has been prevailing in the rural areas

causing immense sufferings to thousands of people. The number of tubewells in Sadar upazila is quite inadequate to meet the requirement.

Jamalpur district is comprised of 66 unions including one Pourashava two towns. The total population is about 16 lakh.

According to local Public Health Engineering Department sources, other total 105 tubewells in Sadar upazila, 51 in Bakshiganj, 82 in Dewanganj, 39 in Islampur, 69 in Melancholy, 48 in Mandarganj and 117 in Sarishabari upazilas, 31 in Jamalpur Pourashava

have been lying out of order for a long time.

According to a survey, one third of total tubewells throughout the district have been lying out of order. Mechanical trouble and stealing of spare parts were the reasons of the disorder, it is learnt.

The villagers told this correspondent that the existing tubewells are quite insufficient to meet the requirement of pure drinking water of respective areas. As a result is same areas people are using water from ponds, canals and rivers for their consumption.

It is also learnt that at least 30 persons have died so far and many others are suffering from various stomach diseases in the upazilas.

Meanwhile, the people of Jamalpur Pourashava have been facing paucity of pure drinking water due to the absence of adequate number of tubewells. There are 280 tubewells for providing drinking water to approximately one lakh residents of the pourashava. The people procure water from the river and wells in different areas to meet the requirement.

Brahmanbaria

UNB from Brahmanbaria adds : A total of 1260 tubewells out of 15,696 have been lying out of order throughout seven upazilas of the district causing scarcity of drinking water in the respective areas.
Informed sources said plastic pipes of the tubewells out of order after a few months of installation. Moreover, shortage and stealing of spares have aggravated the situation.
Meanwhile, out of 600 tubewells in poura area at least 100 went out of order causing scarcity of drinking water.



KUSHTIA: A sizeable portion of the mighty Gorai has turned into a charland following unilateral withdrawal of water by India at Farakka. Now automobiles and push carts ply freely under the Gorai bridge instead of riverine transport. — Star photo

Adulterated food items flood Bhola markets

From Our Correspondent

BHOLA, Apr 9 : Adulterated edible oil is being sold in open markets of seven upazilas of Bhola district since long.

Besides, palm oil meant for manufacturing soap is being mixed with the mustard oil and sold to the people openly. Some organised gangs are learnt to be engaged in this malpractice and are supplying adulterated items like edible oil, ghee and coconut oil, soybean oil etc. to the whole sellers freely. Even after knowing the facts numerous businessmen are purchasing these adulterated materials and selling the same to innocent customers on large scale at cheaper rates only to make huge profits.

On the other hand the poor consumers are being attracted by the cheaper rates and buying these items without hesitation.
The adulterated edible oil coming from Dhaka and other places has flooded all the markets of the district. As a result, the genuine traders are facing a tough competition in marketing their pure goods at higher rates.
According to the physicians, many people are being attacked with various diseases due to consumption of such adulterated items, specially

skin diseases have increased to a great extent. But the Health Department remains indifferent.

Primary schools face problems

About 300 government and non-government primary schools in seven upazilas of Bhola district are facing acute shortage of accommodation, furniture, educational appliances as well as inadequate number of teachers.
Due to insufficient seating arrangement, students are compelled to sit either on

mats or bricks. About 50 per cent students of non-government schools have not yet received the required number of books distributed free of cost under the universal primary education.

Moreover, repair work is being ignored in almost all the schools. Many of the schools damaged by the cyclone and other natural calamities are still left unrepaired. Pure drinking water and good toilets are absent. Tubewells are lying out of order since long. People of the area urged the concerned authorities to take immediate steps.

Tk 3.74 cr uplift schemes in Sherpur

From Our Correspondent

SHERPUR, April 9 : Sherpur district Local Government and Engineering Bureau has taken up a Taka 3.74 crore development programme with the financial aid of Asian Development Bank during the current year.
The projects include earth work of 24 kilometre long kutcha road in five upazilas of the district at a cost of Taka 37,36980 lakhs, construction of 25 culverts for Taka 1,039,66,00, two bridges for Taka 55,8930, and five groups of road construction in all five

upazilas of the district.
Brick pavement work will also be done on Jhinaighatti-Dhansal road at cost of Taka 22,50,000, Nalitabari-Nayabil road at a cost of Taka 54,00,000, Shreebordi-Jhagrachar road at Taka 21,90,000 and Sherpur-Nalitabari road at a cost of Taka 38,95,000.
Construction of 24.5 metres long R.C.C bridge over Dudakhali on Nalitabari-Sherpur road and 45.7 metres long bridge over Subarna Khali river on Nakla-Nalitabari road will also be constructed.

Ration goods sell at blackmarket

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Apr 9: A huge quantity of 'palli' ration rice are being allegedly black-marketed freely in seven upazilas of Jamalpur district.

According to the sources there are about 150 dealers engaged in palli rationing who are learnt to be directly involved in blackmarketing palli rice and also have close connivance with some local rice traders.

It is further learnt that all Upazila District Food officials are involved in this malpractice, it is alleged. This rice is said to be available in open markets both in towns and rural areas.

It is alleged that the ration shops remain closed most of the times and opened only on fixed days. Even shop keepers arrange sale without the knowledge of people and close the same after half an hour satisfying a few card holders.

There are about 45,000 card holders who throng the shops with their ration cards on the fixed days but go home disappointed because the shop is closed after half an hour. About 800 metric tons of rice are sanctioned every fortnight for palli rationing system but over 500 metric tons of rice were said to be blackmarketed by the dealers in cooperation with dishonest food officers.

When contacted Mr. Jalal Ahmed Deputy Commissioner, Jamalpur told this correspondent that appropriate measures had been taken to check the malpractice. But the food Controller has expressed his ignorance about the matter.

Political scene

BNP leader stabbed in Rangpur

RANGPUR, Apr 9 : Miscrants stabbed a local leader of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) here on Sunday, police said, reports UNB.
The victim, Alhaj Rahimuddin Varsha, contested February 27 parliamentary polls from Rangpur-4 constituency.

Witnesses said a group of armed miscrants, covering their mouths with black cloth, stopped his Pajero jeep at Nasnabell on Rangpur-Haragacha road, five miles off the town by placing a barricade.

Rahimuddin, also a BNP executive member, received knife injuries in his hand when he refused to come out of the car as per the demands of the assailants. The President of the Chamber and Commerce of the district was accompanying him during that time.

He left the scene with his friend driving the jeep fast to avoid further assault, witnesses added.

A case was filed with kotwali police and senior police officials later visited the spot. None has so far been arrested in this connection.

In a press statement, Rangpur Chamber of Commerce and Industry condemned the attack and demanded arrest of

the culprits immediately.

Netrakona

Our Netrakona Correspondent writes : Netrakona district Jatiya Party held a public meeting at Chottabazar area on April 7. The meeting demanded immediate withdrawal of all cases against Ershad.

The meeting was addressed by Advocate Liaquat Hossain, Principal Serajul Islam, Abdul Mannan and Moazzem Hossain while former Zila Parishad Chairman Mr Ashrafuddin Khan MP was in the chair. In his presidential address Ashrafuddin Khan said the people of Bangladesh wants presidential form of government. After the meeting a big procession was brought out which paraded the main roads of the chanting slogans for immediate release of former President Ershad.

Brahmanbaria

A Correspondent from Brahmanbaria adds : Jamaat-e-Islami, Brahmanbaria unit brought out a procession on Friday last in the district town headed by Rostom Ali, the district Secretary of Jamaat-e-Islami.

The processionist demanded to stop the blackmarketing, hoarding and illegal works for keeping the sanctity of Ramzan.

Notes from Barisal

BARISAL, April 9 : A total of 2,443 primary school students have got scholarships in talent pool and general grade of primary scholarship examinations of 1990 from 16 districts of Khulna division, reports BSS.

An official source said, 29,908 students of these districts appeared in the examinations held in December, 1990 and 471 students have got scholarships in talent pool and 1,932 in general grade.

Of the total 244 scholarships were given in Barisal district, 85 in Jhalakati, 140 in Bhola, 160 in Patuakhali, 106 in Barguna, 240 in Khulna, 204 in Bagerhat, 200 in Satkhira, 228 in Jessore, 180 in Jhenidah, 96 in Magura, 102 in Narail, 170 in Kushtia, 90 in Chuadanga and 50 in Meherpur districts.

In all 3,051 students appeared in the examinations from Barisal district, 891 from Jhalakati, 1,927 from Pirojpur, 1,499 from Bhola, 1,754 from Patuakhali, 969 from Barguna, 3,197 from Khulna, 2,121 from Bagerhat, 2,416 from Satkhira, 3,113 from Jessore, 2,092 from Jhenidah, 1,671 from Magura, 1,118 from Narail, 2,516 from Kushtia, 875 from Chuadanga and 698 from Meherpur, the source added.

Baby food prices up

UNB adds : Prices of all kinds of baby food have gone up abnormally in the district during last few weeks adversely affecting the children.

Market sources say, a two kg tin of DANO is now being sold at Taka 254 as against Taka 245 a few days before. A two kg tin of Red Cow and Anchor are being sold at Taka 255 and 250 respectively as against Taka 244 and 241.

Two kg tins of Frisiana, Nespray and Mixme are being sold at Taka 258, 252 and 248 respectively. These products were being sold by at least Taka 10 less two weeks back.

Besides, one pound tin of Cerelec is being sold at Taka 120 as against Taka 105. Horlicks is selling at Taka 82 as against Taka 75 few days back. My Boy, a pound tin, is selling between Taka 110 and 115 as against Taka 100.

Local people have demanded strong action against unscrupulous traders, who are said to be manipulating the market in connivance with dishonest officials to push up the prices.

Stomach ailment

Stomach ailment has showed a rising trend reportedly due to widespread adulteration of foodstuff.

Market sources say spurious edibles like ghee, coconut and soyabean oil, milk, butter, sugar and salt are sold freely with impunity in the town and adjoining areas.

Doctors say patients with gastro enteritis and stomach pain are pouring in increasing numbers in their chambers.

They have ascribed the cause to consumption of adulterated foodstuff and drinking of impure water.

Besides, selling of unwholesome and junk food in open places have aggravated the situation.
Food inspectors of the Pourashava, are indifferent to violation of municipal regulations, it has been alleged.



Woes of a freedom fighter

From Our Correspondent

KURIGRAM, Shamsul Haq Mondol (US) a freedom fighter now begs from door to door for his survival.

Just after the Liberation war, many people changed their fates but Samsul Haque Mondol has done into a beggar. During the last 20 years which elapsed after the emergence of Bangladesh nothing has been given to this poor helpless freedom fighter except one bundle of CI sheet once. Confronted with poverty he has been residing with his six-member family in a worn-out house at village Kachi-char in Ghogadaha union of Kurigram Sadar Upazila.

It is learnt that Samsul Haque had worked as a brave warrior in 1965 Indo-pak war. When the liberation war began, he joined the liberation war and fought against the Pak-Army in Bhurungamari in Sector No-6.

After the liberation war, he started his new life but at every step he fell down. Later on he started begging for survival.

World Health Day observed

From Our Correspondent

JHALAKATI, April 9 : World Health Day was observed in a befitting manner by the District Administration.

The programme was inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner, Mr. Golam Maola at Local Civil Surgeon Office. Many health service men and public representatives were present at a seminar which included discussions and highlights of the day. A baby exhibition was also held and prizes were distributed among the best growing babies.

Storm damages 20 houses in Maulvi Bazar

From Our Correspondent

MAULVI BAZAR, April 9 : A cyclonic storm swept over Rajnagar, Kamalganj and Sadar upazilas of Maulvi Bazar district last week damaging approximately 200 kutcha houses and standing crops.

Dhaishar, Balishahra and Roysree villages of Sadar upazila and Maulvibazar, Debitpur of Kamalganj upazila were the most affected areas where 200 kutcha house were blown away. Irr. Boro and rabi crops were also damaged.



BRAHMANBARIA: Procession by Jamaat-e-Islami to maintain sanctity of Ramzan in the town recently. — Star photo