

Upazila roundup

CHUADANGA

Baul conference concludes

From Our Correspondent

April 10 : A two-day long "Baul conference" concluded at village Bahalgachi under Sadar upazila of the district on March 27 last. About 500 Bauls from different areas of the country took part in the conference. Local poet M.M. Wahed Hossain presided over the opening session of the conference. Mr. Abdur Rahim Khan, SP, Chuadanga was present on the occasion as the chief guest.

A large number of district and upazila level officials, social and political workers of the district were also present in the conference. M. Ibrahim, Solaiman Hoque Jarder and the chief guest Abdur Rahim Khan spoke on the occasion a discussion meeting on Lalan and Baul geeti was held. Besides, songs of lake Khodabax Sai, a prominent Baul poet of Chandanga district were also presented in the conference by the artists like Hedayet Ali, Abdur Rahman, Azimuddin, Tajel, Khiziruddin and Anamullah.

World Health Day

World Health Day was observed here in a befitting manner. In connection with the observance of the day a programme was chalked out here earlier which included health procession, baby and child health show, discussions meeting and prize giving ceremony.

The discussion meeting was held at the "Seba room" of the office chamber of the Civil Surgeon, Chandanga. Mr. Tajul Islam, Deputy Commissioner of Chandanga was present at the discussion meeting as the chief guest.

NARAIL

2 arrested for terrorism

From Our Correspondent

April 10 : Narail police arrested one Tariqul Islam Apu (23) locally known as a gang leader of dacoits and his follower Nabir Hossain (22) of Bahirgram village under Sadar Upazila on charge of a series of dacoities and terrorism recently.

According to police, a number of dacoities were committed at different villages terrorising peace-loving people for the last two weeks.

Acting on a secret information, a group of police headed by Inspector Moslem Ali raided house of Tariqul Islam at Rajarhat at Jessore but he fled away to Chowgacha and he was arrested at Keshabpur bus stand on March 29 and the police arrested Nabir Hossain from his house on March 30.

BARISAL

Diarrhoea situation still alarming

From Our Correspondent

April 10 : Diarrhoea situation in five southern districts of Barisal Patuakhali, Bhola, Peropur and Borguna is still alarming.

According to the official sources, death toll in Barisal is three, Bhola 11, Peropur eight, Patuakhali 31 and Baruna 28, while the number of affected persons in these districts is more than 4,000. Worst affected district is Baruna where 39 medical teams are still working.

According to the sources, though doctors are working in the affected areas, due to shortage of saline drinking water patients are being deprived of necessary treatment.

NILPHAMARI

Three burnt to death

From Our Correspondent

April 10 : Three people were burnt alive and properties worth about Tk three crore were gutted in 25 separate fire incidents in six upazilas over the last month, police here said, reports UNB.

According to sources, the deceased were members of a same family. They were sleeping when the fire burnt them in Jaldhaga upazila.

The victims were Jobeda Khatun, Rokmana Begum and Jemba, the daughters and son of Zohed Ali of the upazila.

The total fire incidents as recorded by the officials are : Three in Sadar, five in Damar, two in Dima, six in Jaldhaga, five in Kishoreganj and four in Syedpur upazilas.

In most cases, the fire originated from oven and burning lamps, officials said.

JHENIDAH

Bus dacoity

From Our Correspondent

April 10 : Goods and cash money worth Taka 10,000 were looted and one person was injured in a bus dacoity at Goalpara under Jhenidah Sadar upazila Sunday night.

Police sources said a Jhenidah bound bus when reached the spot on Jhenidah-Magura road the dacoits numbering about 10 to 12 in disguise of passengers looted the goods at daggers point from the passengers and decamped with the booty. One Sohrabuddin (35), instructor of Faridpur Krishi College was injured at the time of the incident.

A case has been filed with the Jhenidah police station.

DINAJPUR

6 dacoits held

From Our Correspondent

April 10 : Six alleged dacoits were arrested by Nawabganj police during the last one week. Twenty years RI awarded dacoit Habibar Rahman of village Mirjapur in Mahmudpur Union Parishad was escaped from Nawabganj court three months ago. Acting on secret information, the police managed to arrest him from a paddy field of his Mirjapur village home on Sunday last.

Five other alleged dacoits namely Nur Haque alias Tabra (42) of village Patrichand, Sayad Ali (36) of village Gikakthal, Amjad (28), Akbar (30) and Khair (36) all of village Mahmudpur were arrested during the week.

Cases have been registered with Nawabganj PS and further investigation is proceeding.

BHOLA

Woes of phone subscribers

From Our Correspondent

April 10 : The telephone subscribers of Bhola district town have been suffering for a long time. They have to undergo much trouble to contact Dhaka and other distant places over telephone.

Bhola being a district headquarters, needs good telephone link with the capital city and other places of the country. In spite of repeated attempt to contact Dhaka telephone subscribers fail to get it. Local journalists face troubles in sundry important news to different national dailies and news agencies.

It is alleged that, Dhaka-Bhola telephone line remain airtight but the operators of Dhaka telephone exchange does not respond to the Bhola telephone exchange call in time.

Suffering telephone subscribers of Bhola urged the concerned authorities to take necessary measures for good service of Bhola-Dhaka telephone line and trunkcalls.

BARISAL

Ancient stone statue recovered

From Our Correspondent

April 10 : An ancient stone statue representing the Hindu god Shiva has been recovered from Dhamsar village under Wazirpur Upazila of Barisal district recently, reports BSS.

The 10-mound statue found deep under earth below the homestead of one Akter Khan is stated by archaeologists to be of several hundred years old.

The image is now at the disposal of Mr. Abdur Razzak Talukdar, Chairman of Wazirpur Upazila.

NARSINGDI

Four killed in road mishap

From Our Correspondent

April 10 : Four persons were killed and five injured in two separate incidents on Dhaka-Sylhet highway Friday last.

A truck loaded with banana skidded off the road into roadside ditch. As a result three persons were killed five injured. The dead were Abdur Malek (35), Monir Hossain (25) and Almas Mia (32). They are all inhabitants of Chor Ojilab village. The injured were admitted to Narsingdi Sadar Hospital.

In another incident an unidentified young boy was run over by a bus at Docondi. No case was registered with police.

One commits suicide

One Shamsunnahar (24) of village Chor Ojilab under Belabo upazila committed suicide by taking poison recently.

According to the source, family feud is the main cause of the suicide.



Prospective fish buyers converge on a wholesale fish market on the bank of the Sitalakhya near Narayanganj early in the morning. —Star photo

Indian cloth flood market

Weaving industry faces closure

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Apr 10: The weaving industry of Chuadanga district faces closure as the smuggled Indian clothes flooded the local markets.

According to the reports, heavy stock of forget, benarasi, printed cotton sarees and shirting cloth are available in abundance throughout the markets of Chandanga district.

Indian industrialists are gaining about 70 per cent profit from local cloth markets.

On the other hand, compli-

cated procedures in sanctioning loans stand on the way of development of Chuadanga weaving industry. Before independence there were 8000 weavers and 70 to 75 per cent demand of cloth of this district was used to be fulfilled by local production but now the number of weavers has decreased to 5000, it is learnt.

The illegal entry of Indian sarees are given preference by a section of dishonest officers of local administration who help the smugglers for their

personal benefit, it is alleged.

Chuadanga

A Correspondent from Chuadanga adds: The markets, hats and bazars of Chuadanga district have been flooded with smuggled Indian clothes like cotton printed and benarasi sarees and other shirtings.

The weaving factories are on the wane due to widespread smugglings of Indian clothes.

It is reported that 70 per cent cloth markets of the district have been occupied by

Indian cloths.

It is further learnt that Indian cloth mill owners manufacture lowcost, thin undurable sarees specially for Bangladesh markets. People are attracted to purchase these Indian sarees because they are sold at comparatively cheaper rates and as such the industrialists are plundering huge money from Bangladesh.

Even after vigorous operations by BDR personnel regularly, the smugglings have not been curbed totally.

A section of women also sell Indian sarees moving house to attract housewives thereby earning good profit by deceiving them.

Storm lashes Faridpur village, 10 injured

FARIDPUR, Apr 10: At least 10 persons were injured and about 50 houses razed to the ground Monday night when a storm swept over the village Norkona of Madhukhali upazila of the district.

Madhukhali Upazila Chairman Mahmudunnabi told UNB that the storm which lasted only a few minutes, also caused heavy damages to the standing wheat and irri crop of some hundred acres.

He said about 40 families are living under open sky and awaiting immediate relief including food, clothing and house building materials.

The storm also caused widespread damages to standing irri and wheat at Charbhadrashan, Nagarkanda and Bhanga upazila.

2 killed by lightning in Sherpur

SHERPUR, Apr 10: Two persons were killed and four others seriously injured by lightning in Nakhla upazila of the district yesterday, reports UNB.

Khalilur Rahman (24) of Panch Kahani and Hajera Khatun (12) of Kejakata village were killed on the spot when struck by lightning while working in the field this morning.

Students clash in Kushtia : 3 injured

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, April 10: Three persons were injured in a clash between two groups of students in Daulatpur College of Kushtia recently.

It is learnt that a gang of 40 of 50 students from other area entered the college with arms and attacked the local students with cocktail. They also snapped the telephone lines of the college.

The incident took a serious turn when the local students chased them.

Illegal lottery

A group of touts are engaged in earning lakhs of Taka by selling lottery tickets in the name of helping schools, colleges and clubs.

Such acts are going on in full-swing in the villages of Faridpur, Krishan Nagar, Hat Boalia, Islampur and Alamdanga upazila.

Persons connected with such committees are misappropriating the money.

Married 10 times at 20

A young boy of 20 years married 10 times.

It is learnt that Azad (20), son of Abdur Motaleb of Loknathpur under Damurhuda upazila married first time at the age of 14 years taking three to four thousand Taka from his father-in-law. After wards he drove his wife to her father's house and married again. In this way at the age of 20 years he married 10 times. Presently he has no wife. So he is searching for a new bride.

Mosquito menace makes life miserable

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, Apr 10: Mosquito menace has made life miserable at Cox's Bazar municipal area and other parts of the district.

People are using mosquito nets even at day time in order to keep themselves away from mosquito bites. The poor inhabitants are the worst victims who cannot afford to purchase mosquito nets or coils. As a result they are suffering from malaria and other infectious diseases.

Besides, students appearing at different examinations are



MAULVI BAZAR: The prize-giving ceremony of 'Medha Prakash' Maulvi Bazar was held recently. From right Nurul Hossain Khan, Secretary, Internal Resources Division, A.H.M. Abdullah, Member, Board of Governors, Jatindra Prasad Tanchanga, Deputy Commissioner and Chairman and Syed Mohsin Ali, Chairman, Maulvi Bazar pourashava are seen in the picture. —Star photo

Crops on 17000 acres submerged in Maulvi Bazar, Sunamganj

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, April 10: Boro crops on 17,000 acres of land in Maulvi Bazar and Sunamganj districts have been submerged due to heavy downpour for the last few days and the onrush of water from adjoining Indian Hills. One person is reported to be drowned in Kalni river in Sulla upazila.

A stretch of 100 feet flood embankment at Alamsid of Zakiganj have been washed away. In Sulla upazila, water level of the Darain river is overflowing its bank submerging Boro crops on 7000 acres in Sonarhaor, Patkorhoar, Darishao, Patharhaor through Beramona and Tengar khal. The Kushiya is also overflowing in between Markuli and Sulla.

Drain river embankment may collapse at any moment submerging crops on another

5000 acres. Villagers are working round the clock to raise the height of the bund.

In Zakiganj no crop damage has so far been reported. There are also eight other vulnerable points on dyke. If the river further rises it may inundate 10,000 acres crop-land. In Maulvi Bazar although the Monu is flowing below danger level, heavy rainfall has already submerged over 10,000 acres of Boro land in Kawayadighar haor and other haors. In Kulsura about 1000 acres Boro field have gone under water. In Biswanath upazila of Sylhet Sadar 30,000 acres of Boro land at Chauldhoi haor are threatened by Makunda river.

Two persons were drowned at mouth of Dhoramohona Khal in Sulla upazila of Sunamganj when their boat capsized due to tornado and rush of water on April 3. Another tornado on

March 30 last completely damaged over one hundred houses and partially damaged 150 more houses in Sulla upazila.

Meanwhile, crops on 500 acres of land have been submerged due to breaches on the Bheramohona dyke on April 3. Water from rising Kushiya is also overflowing the circular bund of Sulla-Markul.

Bunds yet to be repaired

According to another report, crops on 1.67 lac hectares of land in Sunamganj district stand seriously threatened due to non-completion of repair and construction of bunds in 12 haors of the district. The Water Development Board (WDB) took up schemes to repair 48.42 kilometres of damaged bund against 2.191 metric tons of wheat and

construct another 25.42 km of new bunds at a cost of Taka two and a half crores. Though the work on the projects was scheduled to be started from January this year, there was delay resulting in incompleteness of the work.

According to an official source, 40 per cent work still remains to be done. The rate at which the rivers are rising in the district, if continues, will engulf all the crops within the next 15 days.

Last year, too, crops worth 1.20 crore Taka were totally destroyed by flood waters due to delay in completion of repair and construction of bunds in Sunamganj. Irregularities and corruption were alleged for the delay at that time, the most common allegation being: willful late starting so water could remove the evidence of the amount of work done.

Political scene

40 injured in BNP factional clash

From Our Correspondent

NETRAKONA, Apr 10 : A six-hour hartal was observed at Purbadhala from 10 am to 3 pm on Tuesday at Purbadhala upazila under Netrakona district following a clash between two rival groups of Purbadhala upazila BNP which occurred on Monday. The hartal was called by the businessmen, workers and political parties of Purbadhala upazila. It may be mentioned here that on Monday the annual conference of Jatiatabadi Chhatra Dal, Purbadhala unit was continuing. A clash took place between two rival groups one led by Mustak Ahmed, Upazila Chairman, Purbadhala and the another Mohammad Ali, leader of district BNP.

Supporters of Mohammed Ali suddenly attacked the house of Mustak, it is alleged. Mustak opened five rounds of fire. Lethal weapons, bricks and bamboo were used in the clash.

About three thousand supporters from two groups fought for about three hours. As a result, Purbadhala Sadar

turned in to a battle field. Forty people were injured. Thirteen seriously injured persons were admitted to the local health complex.

Police also opened nine rounds of fire to disperse the warring factions. Additional SP, Sheikh Mojibur Rahman and ADC (dev) Bimol Kumar, Netrakona rushed to the spot immediately. When contacted over telephone they told that the situation was under control.

By-election

UNEI from Faridpur adds : By-election to the post of Faridpur Sadar Upazila Parishad Chairman will be held on May 10, an official announcement said here Monday.

Last date for submission of nomination papers has been fixed on April 27.

The post was declared vacant following resignation of Chairman, Chowdhury Akmal Ibne Yusuf who contested the Jatiya Sangsad hustings and elected MP from Faridpur-4 constituency with BNP ticket.

8 killed in separate incidents

NILPHAMARI, Apr 10 : Four truck labourers were killed on the spot and 13 others injured, eight of them seriously, in a road mishap on Nilphamari-Jaldhaga road Sunday night, police said, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, the accident occurred when the tobacco-loaned truck overturned and fell into a wayside ditch after the driver lost control of the steering near Chandharhat point.

The deceased were identified as Kabir Rahman (32), Rostam Ali (25), Abdus Samad (28) and Habibur Rahman (26). The bodies were sent to local health centre for autopsy.

Among the injured, eight were admitted to Sadar hospital while the rest were released after first aid.

Police seized the truck but the driver, however, managed to escape.

A case was filed in this connection.

Habiganj

At least four people were

killed in separate incidents in different parts of the district during the last fortnight, police and hospital sources said.

Rowshan (65) of Borguna village, who was allegedly stabbed by miscreants, succumbed at Habiganj Sadar Hospital on March 31. He was attacked while returning home, local people said.

In another incident, Bhar Mia (21), attacked by wild bear, also succumbed at the same hospital recently.

Taher (7), a boy of Imamdari village was allegedly beaten to death by his house tutor. Later the body was thrown into a ditch to hush up the murder. The reason behind the incident could not be known.

Besides, Sonu Mia (21), of Rampur village under Sadar upazila was allegedly poisoned to death by his mother. The cause behind the murder could not be ascertained.

Separate cases were filed.

Pests damage crops on 50,000 acres in Jamalpur

From Our Correspondent

Irri-Boro crops on about 50,000 acres of land have been attacked by pests in Sadar, Bakshiganj, Dewanganj, Islampur, Melandah, Madariganj, and Sharshabari upazilas in Jamalpur district.

According to the reliable sources pests locally known as

"Pamri Poka" "Mazra Poka" and "Lada Poka" and a kind of brown grasshopper have already attacked 50,000 acres of paddy field in various parts of the district. Subsequent to the attack of pests the green paddy plants turned yellow and reduced to straw.

Telegram services irregular in Jamalpur

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Apr 10 : Telegram services are being hampered seriously for want of staff in respective telegram offices in Melandah and Islampur upazilas of the district.

People are resorted to harassment sending wrong messages by Melandah telegraph office. The employees in the office are ignorant of the correct rates for press telegrams. As a result they charge high rates from the local newsmen. In Islampur telegraph office a person dealing with telegrams charge high on his own will for press telegrams.

Besides, telegrams delivered from Jamalpur do not reach their respective places in time because of mismanagement. However, the Islampur telegraph office said that it is not their fault but telegrams are not despatched properly by Dhaka and Chittagong offices in time.

The Agricultural extension Department is learnt to have taken prompt steps to eradicate pests attack, but due to serious shortage of insecticides and spraying machines they are unable to control the menace. The Agricultural Extension Department however, supplied hand sprayers to the farmers.

Smuggled Indian sugar may cause cancer

GAIBANDHA, Apr 10 : Smuggled Indian sugar has flooded the markets adversely affecting local production, reports UNB.

According to sources, Indian sugar is selling at Taka 28 per Kg while the price of the local product stands between 32 and 34 per Kg.

As a result, dealers and stockists are losing interest in lifting sugar against their quotas causing glut of local sugar.

Sugar worth about Taka 35 crore is lying unsold in Rangpur Sugar Mills godown at Mahimaganj of the district.



Army Medical personnel rendering medical assistance to the tornado victims at the Comilla area. —Photo: ISPR