

Upazila roundup

NANDAIL
Property worth Tk 60 lakh gutted

From Our Correspondent
April 12: Properties worth about Taka 60 lakh were gutted in Zinari village under Hossainpur upazila recently.

It is learnt that the fire originated from the cowshed of Muntapaga at midnight and rendered 29 families homeless. At least 90 houses including valuables were burnt to ashes as the villagers could not control the fire.

It is gathered that 150 persons lost their belongings in the havoc.

In another incident three families rendered homeless at village Kanarampur under Nandail upazila which took place at the house of Jamir Uddin and engulfed neighbouring two houses of Hafiz Uddin and Safar Uddin. Losses in the incident were about Taka two lakh. It is learnt.

Stolen cattlehead recovered

Sixteen stolen cattlehead were recovered by Iswarganj police and four persons were arrested from Nauri Kuria Kanda village in this connection.

It is learnt that, acting on a secret information Iswarganj police headed by the O.C raided the village and detected an underground den where the cattlehead were kept hidden by the thieves.

Police found 16 cattleheads there and caught Hobi, Hazrat Ali, Nurul Amin and Abu Siddiq from the spot.

A case has been registered with Iswarganj police in this regard.

JHENIDAH

Lightning kills 2

From Our Correspondent

April 12: Two farm labourers Watur Rahman and Anwar Hossain of Mobarakganj Sugar Mills were killed by lightning on Tuesday morning and another person Ali Hossain was seriously injured. It is learnt that the ill-fated labourers were working in the agriculture farm of the mills during nor'wester on Tuesday morning. When the victims took shelter under the thatched house of a shallow tube well in the farm then the lightning struck them. The injured labourer was admitted to Kalganj upazila hospital where his condition was stated to be serious.

MYMENSINGH

Tk 94.47 cr agri-loan yet to be realised

April 12: Over Taka 94.47 crore agriculture loan disbursed earlier by different banks among the farmers of the district is yet to be realised, reports UNB.

Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Rupali, Sonali, Agrani, Janata, Uttara and Pubali banks disbursed the loans to boost agri production in the district.

Bank authorities said after repeated reminder the defaulting farmers failed to repay the loans adding that they are going to take action against the defaulters.

The farmers, on the other hand, said due to crop loss by natural calamities they failed to repay the loans in time. They also urged the authorities to extend time for the repayment and issuance of new loans to them to boost agri production.

MADARIPUR

25 injured in road mishap

From Our Correspondent
April 12: Twenty-five people were injured, ten of them seriously in a bus accident on Faridpur-Barisal highway a Mahiza Mour recently.

It is reported that a minibus when reached the place of occurrence suddenly lost control, dashed against a roadside tree and turned turtle on the road injuring the passengers.

The injured were admitted to Bhanga Hospital and Faridpur Hospital.

DINAJPUR

House set on fire by heroin addict

From Our Correspondent
April 12: One heroin addict Rubel (28), son of Abdul Kader of village Bangla Hill in Hakimpur upazila angrily set ablaze a kutcha house which resulted in horrible devastation on Saturday last.

According to the report, Rubel asked his mother for giving him some money because he wanted to purchase heroin. But his mother denied to give him any money for this purpose. Rubel became excited and set fire on a kutcha house in the village. Properties worth about Taka 20,000 were damaged in the fire. However, the local people and the fire brigade rushed to the spot and extinguished the fire within a short time.

Besides, Rubel managed to flee away. A case has been registered with Hakimpur PS in this regard.

RAJSHAHI

World Health Day observed

From Our Correspondent
April 12: The World Health Day was observed here in a befitting manner.

On the occasion, a seminar was held on 'should disaster strike - be prepared' at the Shishu Academy auditorium under the auspices of Health Education Center.

Rajshahi Divisional Commissioner Saldpur Rahman attended the function as chief guest while Abdul Jabbar Talukdar was in the chair. The function was addressed by Dr. Aminul Islam, Dr. Anwarul Islam and Dr. S.A.A. Bari.

The other programmes of the day included distribution of posters, leaflets, essay competition and children exhibition.

Office-bearers

From Our Correspondent

An eleven-member executive committee of Rajshahi Photographic Association was formed in a general meeting held at its office recently.

Kazi Mohammad Touhiduzzaman and Farid Akhter Porag were elected President and General Secretary respectively.

Other elected office-bearers include Vice-President Razibul Alam, Treasurer Anwarul Alam and Exhibition Secretary K.M.G. Faruk.

RANGPUR

Lions urged to help suffering masses

From Our Correspondent

April 12: The members of the Lions Club, Rangpur accorded a reception to its Governor of Lion District 315-A, Lion Mr. Tauhidur Rahman recently.

The function was presided over by Lion Moniruzzaman and addressed by Molla Anwarul Haque, ADC(Rev), Lion Dipok Kumar Saha, Lion Dr. Abdus Sattar, Lionness Dr. Magfiera Munir, Lion Regional Chairman (Head Quarter), Lion Anwarul Haque.

Speaking on the occasion, Lion District Governor called upon the members of Lions Club to render relentless services to the helpless masses.

PABNA

Lightning kills 3

April 12: Lightning Wednesday struck to death three people including a union parishad member at Harishapur village of Sadar upazila, police here said, reports UNB.

The victims were identified as Taleb (38), Zahruddin (29), Khorshed (21).

Witnesses said they were working in a paddy field while thunderstorm struck killing them on the spot. Kashem (30), a co-villager, who was also working with them sustained grievous injury.

He was admitted to the Pubna General Hospital.

SATKHIRA

Dacoits loot valuables

April 12: Armed dacoits raided a house and looted goods and valuables worth about Taka one lakh in a village of Ashashuni upazila of the district early hours of Tuesday, reports UNB.

Police said that the dacoits about 18 in number attacked the house of Abdul Hamid of village Hazrakhal of the upazila at about 1 am last night.

The dacoits decamped with goods and gold-silver ornaments worth about Taka one lakh at gun point. When resisted by the local people, they opened fire seriously injuring Mokammel Hoque (30).

Mokammel was admitted to the Satkhira Sadar Hospital with multiple injuries.

In another incident at village Parampur of the same upazila, a gang of 10-12 armed dacoits broke open the door of Anwarul Islam of the village at about 12 Sunday night and decamped with valuables worth about Taka one lakh.

Two separate cases were filed with the police.



Most 'khalas' and 'beels' have dried up now and the income of the boatmen declined considerably. Here boatmen waiting for passengers at a village market in Comilla district. — Star photo

Irregular power supply in N-dists

Industries incur Taka 90cr loss in three months

From Our Correspondent

DINAJPUR, Apr 12: The total life in 16 northern districts has been paralysed by the continued power crisis. Many mills and factories have already been closed down. The irrigation to the standing Aus cultivation has been hampered.

As per available information, the situation will worsen further in the coming days.

The industries and factories of 16 northern districts have sustained a loss of Taka 90 crore due to power failure for the last three months, it is learnt.

Almost all big and small husking and flower mills at 31 towns in 16 northern districts

on the verge of closure due to failure of electricity. As a result, the price of rice and ata is on gradual increase.

The biggest industrial town of the region is Bogra which is the worst sufferer. Here the necessity of electricity is 14 megawatts, whereas the supply is only two megawatts. At Dinajpur, the supply is also two megawatt in place of 3 megawatts.

At Rangpur the supply is three megawatts whereas the demand is 10 megawatts. At Pabna the supply is three megawatts instead of nine megawatts. And at Rajshahi the supply of electricity is four

megawatts in place of 12 megawatts.

The total demand of the electricity in 16 districts is 53 to 55 megawatts. But the authorities concerned can supply 14 to 16 megawatts which is also irregular.

The Privates Industries Owners' Samity of the northern zone incurred a loss of Taka 90 crore due to irregular power supply.

The Power Development Board authority in an advertisement published in some national daily newspapers recently, hoped that the crisis may be overcome by July next.

Till the grid come into operation the Saidpur and Thakurgaon diesel power station (DPS) are the only sources for the worst effected eight districts of Dinajpur and Rangpur zones. The three units of the Saidpur DPS are now generating hardly six megawatts of electricity and the three units of Thakurgaon DPS generate three megawatts. Though the authority of Thakurgaon DPS claimed the keeping one megawatt for local consumption the rest two megawatts are given for distribution to other areas and the grid authority at Dinajpur but grid authority denied the truth of the claim.

Fund constraints

Cocoon shortage hampers output in silk factories

From Our Correspondent

THAKURGAON, Apr 12: Fund constraints of Sericulture Board, hinders production of saplings for mulberry cultivation in Thakurgaon.

There are 20 sub-centres under the Board in Thakurgaon, Panchagarh and Dinajpur district. Cultivators and regular rearers, number-

ing 650 under Thakurgaon zone produce 850 to 1000 kg of silk from 5000 to 6000 kahan of cocoon per annum.

Mulberry farmers of the northern districts use to sell their cocoon to Thakurgaon Silk Factory and Rajshahi Silk Factory. But this year, Thakurgaon Silk Factory, due

to shortage of fund could not pay the cocoon bill to the cultivators, after expiry of four months, it is alleged.

Reeling works in Rajshahi Silk Factory is also hindering due to inadequate supply of cocoon, it is learnt. It may be mentioned that to minimise the sufferings of the rearers and to extend mulberry cultivation, different NGOs particularly the RDRS (Rangpur Dinajpur Rural Service), began to purchase the unsold cocoons from the cultivators at the rate of Taka 147 per kahan. The RDRS took intensive mulberry cultivation scheme at Pirganj, Ransankal, Haripur, Balladangi, Thakurgaon Sadar, Setabganj, Kaharole, Birganj, Ratnai, Barman Vita, Balla and Atwari under greater Dinajpur.

Seventy-five have not people of Ransankal and 103 people of Pirganj under Pirganj unit of RDRS had been given training to plant mulberry. They produced 35 kgs of silk valued Taka 44 thousand, last year.

According to a source, Sericulture Board did not prepare to grow saplings for September plantation, due to shortage of fund.

On the other hand, various NGOs produced mulberry saplings in an area of 639 bigha. About 9128 bighas of land may be taken under mulberry cultivation through out the country.

RDRS produced saplings in 39 bighas of land to cultivate 571 bighas under Thakurgaon zone, it is learnt.

17 smugglers arrested

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Apr 12: Seventeen smugglers have been arrested and smuggled goods worth Taka 77 lakh seized by the Bangladesh Rifles men working in the border outposts within the jurisdiction of 20 Battalions last month.

The goods being smuggled into Bangladesh included Indian sarees, sugar, cow medicine, spices, and cosmetics worth about Taka 72.64 lakh. The materials seized before crossing from Bangladesh into India are valued out Taka 4.56 lakh these include soybean oil and polyester cloth.



THAKURGAON: Smuggled sugar seized by Pirganj police.

Political scene

Three injured in Shibir-APSU clash

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Apr 12: A clash between Islamic University Chhatra Shibir and local Sarbo Dolio Chhatra Oikya (APSU) took place recently.

It is learnt that the clash took place when the procession of Chhatra Shibir was crossing the district B. S. D. office.

In chasing and counter chasing 3 persons were injured and admitted to Kushtia General Hospital.

One of the injured person is Chhatra League worker and the other two are Shibir workers.

Gift for Hasina

One Abul Kashem Mirdha, a renowned Awami League worker, of Teghoria under Mirpur upazila gifted Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina 15 decimal of land by registered deed on March 23 last.

Receiving the land Sheikh Hasina said that the land would be used for the local Awami League unit. It is remarkable that at that time Sheikh Hasina visited Teghoria for the election campaign of Kushtia-2 constituency.

Jamaat leader killed

UNB from Pabna adds: A local Jamaat-e-Islami leader was run over by a speeding truck killing him on the spot at Ataikula bazar on Pabna-Nagarbari highway Thursday.

According to witnesses, the incident occurred while the victim Md. Abdul Gafur (32), Secretary of Santia upazila Jamaat-e-Islami and teacher of Sarogrami Dakhel Madrasha was returning home from the local market.

The killer truck fled from the scene.

A case was filed with Santia police station in this connection.

Ershad Mukti Parishad

To intensify the movement demanding immediate uncon-

ditional release of deposed President Ershad and other detained Jatiya Party leaders "Ershad Mukti Parishad" has been formed at Phulpur upazila recently.

The parishad consisting of 101 members is headed by Mr. Hafiz Uddin, Abdul Baqi Khan Saleh and Shah Shahid Sarwar as Chairman and Advisors respectively.

Later, the members of the committee led by its convener Mr Noor Mohammad brought out a procession chanting various slogans demanding immediate release of deposed President Ershad and other detained Jatiya Party leaders.

Pabna

Our Pabna Correspondent adds: Nazrul Hossain Shahin and Khondaker Golam Mustafa were elected Vice-President and General Secretary of Aminuddin Amin (law) College Students Union for the year 1990-91.

A fair and peaceful election organised was held on April 4 and 15 student leaders including 3-members, were elected. The other members of the committee are Mr. Belal Hossain, Pro-Vice President, Khondaker Mustafizur Rahman-Assistant General Secretary, Mr. Prakash Joytee Kundu-Organising Secretary, Mr. Ochimuddin-Game Secretary, Khondaker Oliur Rahman-Common-room Secretary, Mirza Md. Kamal-Record Room Secretary, Mr. Abdul Haque Khan-Treasurer, Mr. Idris Ali-Cultural Secretary, Abdul Jabber Shaikh-Religious Secretary, and Mrs. Hasina Banu-Female Secretary.

The elected members were Mr. Ainal Islam, Mrs. Sukla Rani Sanyal, and Mr. Saiful Islam.

Besides, a 5-member advisory board was also selected.

Notes from Kurigram

From Our Correspondent

KURIGRAM, Apr 12: A young and pretty girl became a victim of sexual lust and fighting for life in the hospital bed.

Maleka Begum (12), daughter of Esahaqu Ali of village Majhpara under Rajarhat upazila of Kurigram district was raped by Zaherul (22), son of Bokter Ali of village Charialdanga of the same upazila recently.

It is learnt that the ill-fated girl was abducted from her house by Zaherul in cooperation with some others and she was taken to the house of Zaherul and raped repeatedly. She was kept confined in the house.

Rajarhat police later recovered Maleka from the house and sent her to Kurigram hospital for treatment.

Protest rally

A big protest rally was held at Rajarhat High School campus in protest against the killing of Ramesh Chandra Sarker (35), teacher of the high school in broad daylight by Chakirpasha under Rajarhat upazila recently.

The rally was addressed, by Emdad Ali, Abul Kalam Azad, Arif, Alam and Humayun. The speakers at the rally demanded exemplary punishment to the culprit.

After the rally a procession was brought out and the processionists paraded the main streets of Rajarhat and chanted slogans against the killing of school teacher.

It is learnt that Khaleque, the killer surrendered to the police after the incident and told that he killed Ramesh as there was an illicit connection with his wife with Ramesh.

7 houses gutted

Seven houses including all household articles were burnt to ashes following a devastating fire that broke out recently at village Hinjulgope in Hattia union of Ullipur upazila of the district.

It is learnt that, the fire originating from the kitchen of one Ajauddin of the village and soon engulfed the surrounding area which gutted seven houses belonging to Pajjar Ali, Gabber Ali, Akbar Ali, Kasimuddin, Taslimuddin, Fazul Haque and Azghar Ali. Total loss was estimated at about Taka 2,00,000.

Eight families including the family of Ajauddin were rendered shelterless due to this fire incident. They are passing hard days, it is learnt.

Ullipur fire fighters went to the spot and extinguished the fire after a hard struggle for hours together.



Jannate Romma Tithi (left) and Jannatul Ferdous Mithi (right).

2 sisters win National Child Award

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, Apr 12: Miss Jannatul Ferdous Mithi stood first in Hamd-Nath competition and won gold medal while Jannate Romman Tithi stood 2nd in patriotic song and third in Hamd-Nath competitions and won silver medals at National Child Award competition held in February last at Bangladesh Shishu Academy, Dhaka.

It may be noted that Jannate Romman Tithi last year won gold medal in Hamd-Nath and silver medal in Nazrul song in 1989 at National Child Award competitions held at Bangladesh Shishu Academy.

Both prize winners are sisters and students of Rangpur Salema Girls High School.

They are daughters of Shah Anisuzzaman Advocate, Editor of local weekly 'Rangs Provat' and Mrs Roksna Begum.

Storm renders 1,000 homeless in Satkhira

SHATKHIRA, Apr 12: A severe storm that lashed the district on Thursday afternoon rendered over one thousand people homeless and uprooted many trees, reports UNB.

The nor'wester with a speed of 70-90 km per hour damaged many kutcha and tin-shed houses and mosques in the affected areas.

About 60 per cent standing crops of IRRI and boro and 50 per cent of Betel leaf fields were damaged in the 20-minute storm.

A good number of cattle-head were reportedly killed and a number of boats used for collecting honey in Sundarbans were also damaged.