

## Upazila roundup

### JHENIDAH

#### Student killed in road accident

**From Our Correspondent**

April 19: One primary student was killed in a road accident at Hamdoha bus stand on Jhenidah-Jessore road on Sunday afternoon.

Police source said the victim Shawkat (8), a student of Class V and son of Javed Ali of village Bashirhat of Sreepur Upazila of Magura district while walking on the road side a Kushtia bound bus ran over him and he died on the spot.

Kushtia police arrested the driver and seized the bus. A case was filed with Jhenidah police station in this connection.

### GOURIPUR

#### 5 dacoits nabbed

**From A Correspondent**

April 19: Isharganj police arrested five notorious dacoits from Isharganj Upazila Sadar recently.

The arrested persons are Jahangir, Ohiduzzaman (Babu) Zillur Rahman, Nuruddin and Shymal Roy.

It case has been registered with Isharganj police in this connection.

### MAULVI BAZAR

#### Bar Assoc executives

April 19: Advocate Abdul Mutalib and Advocate Md Abdul Khalik were elected President and Secretary of the district Bar association respectively, reports UNB.

The annual general election was held recently at the Bar Association Auditorium amid much enthusiasm.

**Boy killed by lightning**

A boy was struck to death by lightning at Seektia village in Kulaura upazila here, relatives said.

Witnesses said the victim, Aharis Ali (16), son of Md Usman Ali was killed on the spot while he was returning home from school in rain recently.

He was a student of class X of Ali Amjad High School of the upazila.

### RANGPUR

#### 40 injured in road mishap

April 19: At least 40 passengers were injured, five of them seriously in a road mishap at Borodarga, 20 off from the town recently, police here said, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the incident occurred when the Dhaka bound coach "Khalek Enterprise" (Dhaka Metro 7452) hit a road side tree after the driver lost its control.

The seriously injured including the helper of the bus were rushed to Rangpur Medical College Hospital while the rest were released after first aid.

### KUSHTIA

#### One shot dead while watching TV

April 19: One Mahabubul Haq alias Bulu Biswas (55) was allegedly shot dead Tuesday night by miscreants at his village home, Ambaria under Mirpur upazila, reports BSS.

Bulu Biswas was watching television programme when he was fired upon. The body was brought to Kushtia General Hospital for postmortem.

The Superintendent of Police visited the place of occurrence. None has yet been arrested in this connection.

### MANIKGANJ

#### Dacoits loot valuables

April 19: Dacoits looted valuables worth over taka one lakh including cash Tk. 40,000 from a house at Banajuri of Ghior upazila and decamped with booties injuring three people seriously, police said here today, reports UNB.

Witnesses said armed dacoits numbering 10 to 12 raided the house of Biswanath Saha (40) last week and beat the inmates indiscriminately while they tried to resist them.

The injured house owner and two neighbours Kalidas and Ramala were admitted to Sadar Hospital in a critical condition.

A case was filed in this connection.

### NANDAIL

#### Minor girl commits suicide

April 19: A 13-year-old girl

committed suicide at Halua ghat upazila recently.

It is learnt that Hosni Ara Begum (13) of village Monikura committed suicide by taking poison. The cause of her suicide could not be gathered.

### BARISAL

#### Textile mill faces closure

**From Our Correspondent**

April 19: The Barisal Textile Mills Ltd. is now on the verge of closure.

It may be mentioned here that this government owned textile mills is yet to count any profit from its inception. The mill was established with an expenditure of 12 crore Taka during last regime but now it is running with a burden of Taka 18 crore debt in different sectors.

The target of production of thread was ten thousand pounds normally but now production has been lowered to 7 thousand pounds per day. Besides, a huge quantity of thread remained unsold in the mills godown.

### MYMENSINGH

#### Workshop on primary education

**From A Correspondent**

April 19: A week-long national workshop on present problem of primary education in the country was inaugurated at NAPE auditorium here recently. The workshop was organised by National Academy for Primary Education (NAPE).

Prof. Md. Nazmul Haq, Chairman, Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Board, Jessore, inaugurated the workshop as chief guest. While Dr. Shakina Begum was the Chairmen of the inaugural session.

The inaugural session was addressed by Mr. Athar Hossain, Mr. Abdus Salam Akan, coordinator of the workshop. About 90 participants were attended the workshop.

### KISHOREGANJ

#### Housewife commits suicide

**From Our Correspondent**

April 19: A young housewife of village Patoabhangra under Pakundia upazila of the district committed suicide recently by hanging herself from a tree, police sources here said. Family sources said the victim Halama Khatun (28), wife of Md Alimuddin of the same village picked up a quarrel with wife of her husband's elder brother on the fateful day. At one stage she became agitated and went out of the house and committed suicide.

The body was sent to the Kishoreganj Sadar Hospital morgue for postmortem police investigation is on.

An UD case has been registered with Pakundia police in this connection.

### MADARIPUR

#### Hats, bazars in bad shape

**From Our Correspondent**

April 19: At least 55 hats and bazars in Rajtor, Kalkini, Shibchar and parts of Sadar upazila in Madaripur district are in bad shape for a long time in the absence of proper maintenance, shortage of space, indiscriminate construction of sheds, bad drainage system. Acute scarcity of pure water prevails in all these hats and bazars.

Faulty drainage system in all the four upazilas causes waterlogging even after a moderate shower. During monsoon most of the hats and bazars remain under ankle-deep water.

### KUSHTIA

#### Two burnt to death by rival group

April 19: Two people were roasted alive Tuesday night by a rival group in village Soalgari under Sadar upazila of the district over an old enmity, police said, reports UNB.

According to villagers the victims Ruhul Amin (32) and Ator Ali (34) were guarding their watermelon field on the fateful day. At dead of night when they were asleep at the temporary shelter, the rival group set ablaze the shelter.

Relatives of the victims suspected that the miscreants killed them first and later set the shelter on fire.

The charred bodies were sent to Kushtia General Hospital for autopsy.

A case has been filed and police took two people to custody for interrogation.



Village boys collecting ears of barley from the thrown away sheaves at Savar.

—Star photo

## Problems grip maternity centres

# Expectant mothers, children do not get proper treatment

**From Our Correspondent**

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Apr 19: Expectant mothers and children are being denied of proper medicare here as almost all the maternity and child welfare centres have been plagued with manifold problems.

Chapainawabganj Maternity and Child Welfare Centre and other maternity clinics run under government or private initiative in the town have lost their essence to render services to the children and expectant mothers. Severe administrative lapses and shortage of medical appliances have disarrayed test centres and clinics.

Sufferers complain that expectant mothers travelling from remote areas of the district go back disappointed due to shortage of beds and medicines in the only such

centre established in the sixties under government patronisation.

Besides, inadequate staff worsens the condition of the admitted patients. Relatives of the patients alleged that at times a day passes but medical attendants are rarely seen. Patients are also seen lying on floor of the centre due to shortage of accommodation.

Moreover, in absence of boundary wall the compound of the centre has turned into a grazing field.

It is also alleged that the doctors are taking fees from the patients in duty hour.

#### Two more heroin addicts die

Two more heroin addicts died in March in Chapainawabganj Pourashava area. The vic-

tims are Sukuruddin of Pathan Para and Sitarom of Gouripara. From a survey conducted locally, at least 21 heroin addicts died during the last two years in Pourashava area and more than 50 others are fighting hard for life.

Local doctors, however, asserted that another 30 heroin addicts died in different remote areas of other four upazilas under Chapainawabganj district during the same period. No official record of these deaths however could be procured immediately.

The practice of heroin taking in the district started only five years back following inflow of heroin from some neighbouring countries. The menace has by now become epidemic in the town. The total number of heroin addicts in the district rose to about 5000 during

the last five years.

A survey regarding the heroin menace reveals that a heroin addict may expire within a few weeks if proper preventive measure including necessary antidote are not taken in time.

According to the survey, heroin being a very costly item, an addict sinks into tremendous hardship and resorts to theft, dacoity and other anti-social activities. No steps have yet been taken in the district for proper treatment and rehabilitation of the heroin addicts.

When asked about the steps taken to prevent the addicts from heroin taking a police officer said that they could only take a heroin addict in jail for three months under detention or fine a few amount.

## Hailstorm damages crops

**Form Our Correspondent**

RAJSHAHI, Apr 19: A severe hailstorm swept over Charchat Upazila of Rajshahi district recently and caused heavy damage to standing crops and dwelling houses.

At least one hundred houses including four primary schools were razed to the ground.

The storm which lasted about 20 minutes was accompanied by hails causing damage to standing IRRI, Boro crops and vegetables on 200 acres.

The affected villages are Chalk Krishnapur, Nimpura, Kalohati and Beladayera under Charchat upazila.

### MSS results

The Rajshahi University authority announced the result of final MSS (Sociology) and MSS (Economics) Examinations of 1987 held in 1991 under the university.

In Sociology a total of 167 students appeared at the examination of whom 165 came out successful. The percentage of pass is 98.80. Of the successful candidates one secured First Class, 32 secured Upper Second Class, 124 secured Second Class and rest of Third Class.

315 students out of the total of 326 appeared at the final MSS Economics Examination came out successful.

## Heavy siltation in Padma hampers irrigation, navigation

**From A Correspondent**

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Apr 19: The rivers Padma, Mohananda and Purnavoba flowing through the district are being alarmingly silted up posing threat to irrigation, pisciculture and navigation.

The situation is aggravating gradually due to abnormal fall of water levels with the onset of dry season.

In many places the depth of water has gone down to three to five feet seriously affecting plying of boats and launches. Traders complain that they have been forced to carry goods by road as transportation

through round about riverine routes costs more.

Meanwhile, irrigation on croplands in rural areas has almost come to a standstill as many pumps used for lifting river waters have become inoperative. As a result, at least 20,000 acres of land are being deprived of irrigation facilities in the district.

A 14-members team of BIWTC was constituted in 1984 to investigate into the navigability of the rivers. The team duly submitted its report to the concerned authority. The team identified some places of Mohananda river for

dredging but no action is said to have been taken yet in this regard.

Meanwhile, transshipment of food grains from Barendra areas here and famous mango of Chapainawabganj to different parts of the country is facing setback due to lack of sound communication system.

According to sources, due to communication problems surplus food produced in Barendra areas and mango produced in Shibganj and Chapainawabganj are being depleted locally depriving the farmers of fair prices.

## 30 unnatural deaths in 20 days

SIRAJGANJ, Apr 19: At least 30 unnatural deaths were reported in the district during the last 20 days, police and hospital sources said, reports UNB.

Causes behind the deaths were accidents, diarrhoea, suicide, strangulation, electrocution and drowning.

The deceased include Susanta Kumar (15) of Ullapara drowned, Rani (6), Asma (5), Maleka (26) died of diarrhoea in Rajganj upazila, unidentified body found in Kazipur upazila, Bablu (11) killed in road mishap in Belkuchi upazila, lightning killed Ramjan Ali (28), Mukul (15), Halmi (26), Askar (27), Hasina (30), Saiful (32), Shahana (7) and Amena (30) in Shahajadpur, Sadar and Ullapara upazilas. Saiful Islam and Kunjalal (15), were beaten to death, Kanchan Bibi (22), Dukhi Khatun (18), Anwar Hossain (18 months) and Lokman Hossain were strangled to death.

Separate cases were lodged in this connection.

## Farmers groan under debt burden

MAULVI BAZAR, Apr 19: Hundreds of farmers in the district have been passing their days in extreme agony due to their growing indebtedness to the local banks, reports UNB.

Natural calamities coupled with low prices of agricultural products made the farmers unable to repay the loans they have taken earlier from different banks, farmers said.

Meanwhile, several commercial banks including Bangladesh Krishi Bank issued notices to the farmers to repay their loans within the specified period.

Being perplexed by the notices the farmers are compelled to sell their lands and other belongings at throw away prices to repay the loans.

The farmers of the district have urged the authorities to extend time for the repayment of outstanding arrears and sanction new loans to boost agri production.

## Ejaradars exploiting rural people

**From Our Correspondent**

THAKURGAON, Apr 19: Rural hats and bazars of Thakurgaon district are plagued with problems. A section of ejaradars (lessee) is exploiting rural people in buying and selling of various commodities in hats and bazars.

Tolls are being collected at exorbitant rate by some unscrupulous ejaradars in most hats and bazars of the district.

It is learnt that such pictures are more or less common in other rural hats and bazars as well. The ejaradars collect tolls both from the buyers and sellers at their own which causing immense sufferings to the people.

Scarcity of drinking water is another serious problem that causes a lot of sufferings to hat goers. In a survey it is

found that no arrangement was made for supply of pure drinking water in big hats like Nashibganj, Jabarhat, Nekkard, Kalomegh, Goreya and Raut-Nagar. But hand driver tubewells are only the means for pure drinking water most of which always remain out of order.

A fielded Mithabishi-90, shallow tubewell of Lutfar Rahman of Botpaligaon under Pirganj upazila of the district was stolen recently at dead of night, it is learnt.

According to report, the STW machine was borrowed from the local branch of Bangladesh Krishi Bank for irrigation a few years back.

A case has been lodged with the Pirganj police.

Mosquito menace assumed on alarming proportion causing untold sufferings to the town dwellers of Thakurgaon and Pirganj Pourashava under the district.

The mosquitoes bite even in day time and the poor people who have no means to purchase mosquito nets, pass sleepless nights.

It has become impossible to work smoothly because of the biting of these tiny insects. Normal work in the office, business establishments, schools, colleges and hospitals is being hampered.

The pourashava authorities, remain indifferent to the public demand for launching anti-mosquito drive.

The ponds with luxuriant growth of water hyacinths, kutcha drains, marshy places, service latrines, waterlogging around the tubewells, jungles, and garbage stockpiled in roadside areas are acting as ideal breeding centres of mosquitoes.

Silted drains with stagnant waters in the towns are not renovated and as such breeding of mosquitoes continued in an alarming proportion.

Thakurgaon and Pirganj pourashavas lack proper drainage system.

## World Health Day observed

**From Our Correspondent**

CHANDPUR, Apr 19: The World Health Day was observed here with much enthusiasm.

In observance of the day various programmes were taken up by the district administration, health department and other organisations jointly. The programmes include essay competition, cleanliness campaign, health and family planning exhibition, seminar and distribution of prizes.

In this connection a baby show was held at Chandpur Press Club.

Seminar and prize-giving ceremony were held at Rotary Bhaban. The seminar was presided over by Dr. Md. Abdur Rashid, Civil Surgeon Abdul Kashem, Deputy Commissioner, Chandpur attended the seminar as chief guest.

The seminar was addressed by Abdur Razzak, senior health education officer, Abdul Karim Patwari and Dr. Shahnewas. The Deputy Commissioner distributed prizes among the winners.

### Jamalpur

Our Jamalpur Correspondent adds: The World Health Day was observed in Jamalpur in a befitting manner.

District Health Department, Upazila Parishad and Voluntary Health and Family Planning Services Project, mother's and children health care centre chalked out an elaborate programme on the occasion.

A seminar on "let us talk about health" and a health education procession were arranged in this connection.

Baby show was held at Jamalpur Public Library auditorium.

## Illegal catching of fish fry rampant

**From Our Correspondent**

BHOLA, April 19: Catching of fish fry is going on unabated all over seven upazilas of Bhola district shattering the prospect of fish production.

Mainly current nets are being used for this purpose and nets are selling openly in the district town and upazila hats and bazars at a cheap rate despite government ban.

A huge quantity of these fish fry are marketed everyday in hats and bazars of Bhola district. These fry are not more than four inches in length. During my visit to Dal Chars of the district I saw a huge quantity of fish fry are on sale.

According to experts, fish scarcity would intensify again in near future due to this rampant catching of fry. The law enforcing agency is yet to take positive measures against ille-

gal catching of fish fry. It may be mentioned that, the government has strictly prohibited catching of fish fry below nine inches in size.

### Bus terminal inaugurated

The newly constructed inter-district modern bus terminal at Bhola was inaugurated by the Deputy Commissioner of Bhola recently.

An amount of Taka one crore 26 lakh was spent for conservation of the bus-terminal at Bhola.

Having parking capacity for 120 motor-buses, VIP cars at a time, the bus terminal is equipped with ticket counters, toilet facilities and waiting rooms for both male and female passengers.