

Upazila roundup

NARSINGDI

Girl run over by train

From Our Correspondent
April 21: One Ruby (8) was run over by a train at Amirgonj Railway station recently.
According to the sources, while she was going to buy soybean oil, Mahanagar Probhati Express ran over her and she died on the spot.
A case was registered with Narsingdi Railway police.

PABNA

4 robbers arrested

From Our Correspondent
April 21: Bera thana police arrested four robbers from the char area of the river Jamuna recently.
Acting on a secret information, police raided the Alokdia area and recovered 90 bags of pulses and other goods which were taken by the robbers at gun-point.

KUSHITIA

Tk 33 lakh misappropriated

April 21: Misappropriation of Taka 33 lakh has been reported in the Kushtia Food Department involving several dishonest employees and some food dealers, reports UNB.
Officer in-charge of local supply department of Kumarkhali upazila was arrested on charge of misappropriation of foodgrains worth about Taka 4 lakh. In the second incident, misappropriation of foodgrains worth over Taka 22 lakh from Kushtia food godown has been detected.
The third case detected in this connection was misappropriation of foodgrains worth about Taka seven lakh in Kushtia and Jaqoti food godowns.
Three separate cases have been filed with the anti-corruption department.
Informed sources alleged that some local businessmen and food dealers were trying their best to influence the anti-corruption department to hush up the matter.
The District Controller of Food who filed cases of corruption has since been transferred far away to Khagrachhari.

MAGURA

Hartal observed against illegal toll collection

April 21: Businessmen and shopkeepers of the town observed a half-day hartal Saturday protesting illegal toll collection by the local hoodlums, reports UNB.
According to sources, the musclemen mostly drug addicted are extorting money from the traders every now and then causing much inconvenience to them. The traders also alleged that the terrorists warned them of dire consequences if they fail to comply with their demands.
The businessmen later brought out a procession parading the main streets of the town and demanded exemplary punishment to the musclemen. They also blamed the law enforcing agencies for their apathy to nab the known culprits.
Later they submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner demanding immediate action in this regard.
One arrested
Police arrested a local Commander of Muktiyoddha Sangsad Saturday for his alleged involvement in gambling and illegal extortion of money from the members of the public here.
According to the members of the Sangsad, Khan Ali Reza, district commander, allegedly misappropriated money from the Muktiyoddha fund earlier.
Police said local people lodged a number of complaints against Reza for his involvement with various crimes including extortion of illegal money from the public.
Police sent him to the court immediately after the arrest.

FENI

Tk 7.60 lakh sanctioned for 12 projects

April 21: Government has sanctioned Taka 7.60 lakh for implementation of 12 projects in Sonagazi and Sadar upazilas of the district during this financial year, reports UNB.
According to official sources, about Taka 5.41 lakh has been sanctioned to implement six projects in Sonagazi and Taka 2.19 lakh of six CARE and DANIDA projects in Sadar upazila.
The projects include development of sanitation, construction of roads, culverts, bridges and reconstruction of primary schools.
About 20 per cent work on the projects has already been completed and the rest is expected to be finished soon.
After completion of the projects about four lakh people of 23 unions of the two upazilas will get benefit.

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MAULVI BAZAR

Woman crushed under wheels

April 21: An old woman was crushed under the wheels of a speeding truck near Kanakpur area of the town, police said here on Friday, reports UNB.
The victim was identified as Saru Bibi (50) of village Kanakpur under Sadar upazila of the district.
According to witnesses, Saru Bibi was knocked down by the truck and killed on the spot while she was crossing a road.
The driver, however, managed to escape with the truck and a case was lodged in this connection.

MANIKGANJ

One killed, 8 injured in road mishaps

April 21: A boy was killed and 15 others were injured, 8 of them seriously, in two separate road accidents on Dhaka-Aricha highway Thursday, police said, reports UNB.
An unidentified boy was killed on the spot when a Dhaka bound truck dashed him near main bazar bridge in the early hours.
In another incident, 15 people were injured, eight of them seriously when an Aricha bound minibus from Dhaka plunged into a road side ditch near Tara bridge, eight kms off Sadar on the same day.
The seriously injured were rushed to the Sadar hospital where condition of one Ayub Ali (24) of Bara Bera of Pabna was stated to be critical. He was shifted to Dhaka Orthopaedic Hospital.
Two separate cases were filed in this connection.

SIRAJGANJ

Businessman manhandled

April 21: A group of youths manhandled a businessman and his son at Station Road here yesterday, reports UNB.
Witnesses said Sultan Talukdar, Vice President of Sirajganj Businessmen's Association, and his son Masud Talukdar were mercilessly beaten in his shop at 11 am.
They alleged that a group of youths belonging to BNP took a shirt from the shop on April 16 and picked up quarrel with the shopkeeper over its price. The youths came yesterday and beat Talukdar and his son.
Local MP Moraduzzaman (BNP) intervened and assured the Businessmen's Association, which was planning a strike, of a peaceful settlement.
In another incident a gang of miscreants Friday night tried to molest one Anwara Khatun (21), a worker of Alhaj Weaving Factory in Belkuchi upazila of the district.
The gang abducted Anwara from the local bus stand at 9 pm soon after her arrival from his village home in Singra upazila of Natore district, police said.
Local people rescued her when she raised hue and cry.
Anwara, now in police custody, lodged a case against Julmat, Hannan and Sajjad of Mukundughati village of the upazila.

MEHERPUR

Dacoity committed

From Our Correspondent
April 21: A daring dacoity was committed at dead of night recently in the house of Moktar Hossain at the outskirts of the town.
It is reported that a gang of dacoits numbering about ten entered the house of Moktar Hossain by breaking open the door.
The dacoits created a panic in the area by exploding hand bombs. They also entered the house of one Siddiqur Rahman, a close door neighbour of Moktar Hossain. The dacoits beat up him.

Sharp fall in farm products badly hits growers

From Our Correspondent

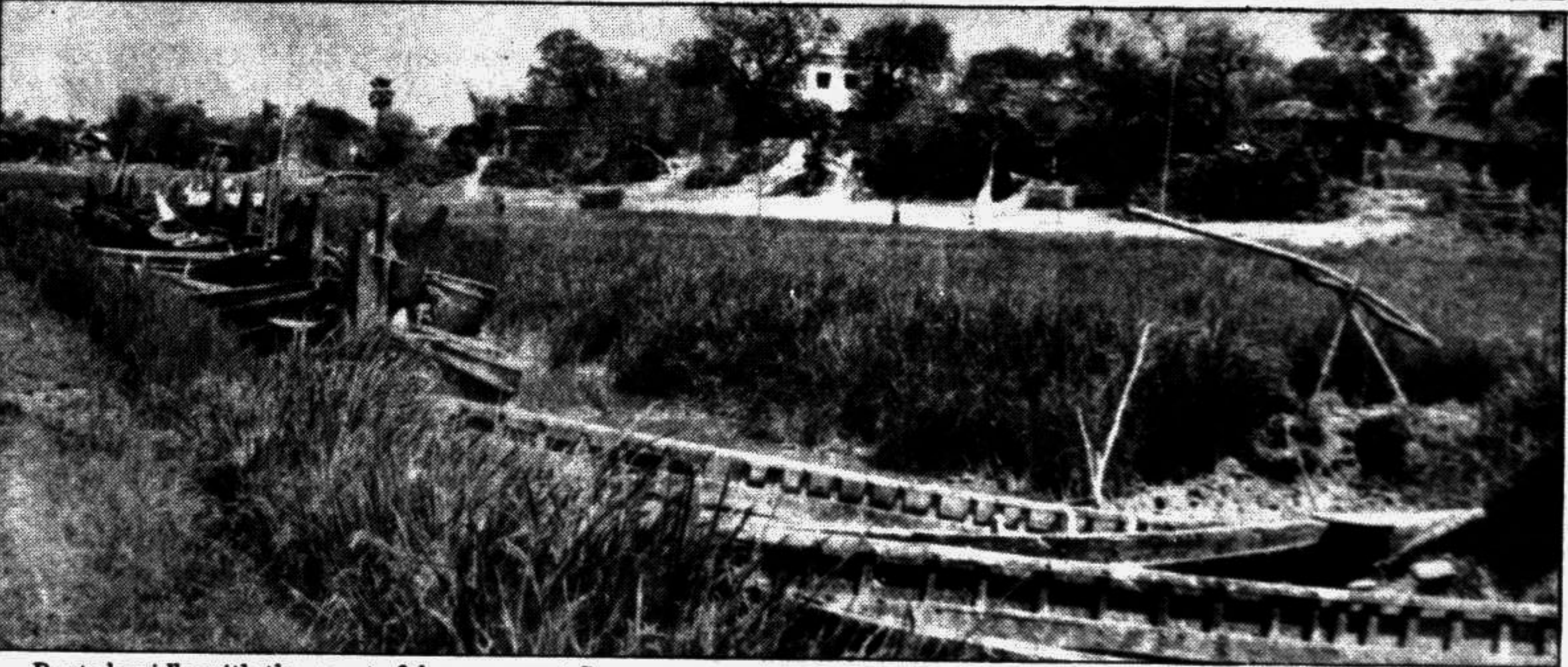
JAMALPUR, Apr 21: Majority of the farmers in the district are facing acute economic hardship and can hardly buy agricultural inputs for cultivation of crops. The peasants are forced to sell irri-Boro crops to the local money lenders in advance at Taka 100 to Taka 120 per maund to maintain their livelihood.

Those who are capable to wait for the harvesting of crops do not usually get fair price for their produce. Taking full advantage of the prevailing situation the local money lenders are doing brisk business by granting loans at high interest

against the security of the crops in fields.
A large number of landless people who do not find employment as agricultural labourers has been passing their days half fed and unfed. Often they sell their utensils and domestic animals. The price of bulls has recorded a sharp fall and about half of the farmers in Jamalpur have already sold their draft animals. The day labourers are virtually out of employment.
The sugarcane growers are short of working capital. Many of them do not receive regular payment for the canes sup-

plied to the mills. Canes are drying up in the fields in the absence of harvesting.
Of the total number of farmers in the district, about 25 per cent are engaged in cultivation of sweet potatoes in char areas. Poor production and lower price of the item have caused serious setback to the growers of sweet potatoes. The item is now selling at Taka 50 to Taka 60 per maund depending on quality. The growers are forced to sell sweet potatoes much below the production cost in the absence of buyers.
Previously fish was available in abundance in ponds, canals

and beels and rivers in the district. But most of the places have become silted resulting in the scarcity of fish. This has thrown thousands of fishermen out of their profession.
In order to ease the economic hardship of the villagers the district administration has sanctioned a huge quantity of wheat and rice against the projects under Food for Works Programme. The price of land has also registered a fall in the absence of purchasers. The money lenders have seized the opportunity and grabbing the land of the poor villagers at cheaper rate.



Boats lay idle with the onset of dry season at Savar area.

—Star photo

10,000 tons stockpiled in godown

Darsana sugar mills may incur Taka 25 crore loss

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, Apr 21: About 10 thousand metric tons of sugar are now lying unstocked at the godown of Darsana Sugar Mills for want of purchasers. When contacted over telephone, the General Manager of the mills told this correspondent that if the said stock of sugar remained unstocked for one to one and a half month, the entire sugar might be dissolved. As a result the mills might incur a loss of Taka 22 to 25 crores.
The Indian sugar now has flooded the entire district and is being sold in the markets at a comparatively lower price.
Besides, the demand of sugar by the public have also been decreased abnormally due to the lower price of molasses. Molasses is now being sold at the local market at the rate of Taka 10 to 12 per kg.

Aus cultivation in four upazilas of Chuadanga district during the current season.
According to an official source, of the total land, 2,470 hectares will be brought under high-yielding variety and the rest 33,610 hectares will be brought under local variety.
The source further said, of the total land 8200 hectares will be brought under cultivation in Chuadanga Sadar upazila, 13,850 hectares in Alamdanga upazila, 8190 hectares in Damurhuda upazila and 5,840 hectares in Jibannagar upazila.
The production target in terms of rice has been fixed in the district at 36,630 metric tons. BADC will supply seeds, fertilizer and insecticides among the farmers at a fair price for successful cultivation of Aus paddy in the district during the current season.

Aus farming plan
A total of 36,080 hectares of land will be brought under

injured when two groups of youngmen with deadly weapons attacked the members of Friends Ideal Club of Masterpara in a cultural function recently.
It is learnt that the incident occurred between two rival groups of Courtpara and Furatopara of the town. Shiton, a student leader of Chhatra Maitree and Marnun of Puratanpara were seriously injured in the combat.
Sugar mills union leader dead
Mozahid Hussain, President, Darsana Sugar Mills Sramik Union died at the mills hospital recently. Mozahid who was found unconscious on the road near Purapara village on Chuadanga-Darsana Road, 5 miles off here was taken to Darsana Sugar Mills Hospital by a group of people. Marks of injuries were found on the right side of his head and he was bleeding profusely. He died at

the hospital. Damurhuda thana police rushed to the spot. Mr Mozahid came to Chuadanga from Darsana by a motor cycle for personal work. It is learnt.
Bus dacoity
Passengers of a Chuadanga bound Meherpur bus were robbed of several hundred Taka when at Bhalaiapur five miles off here on Chuadanga-Meherpur road recently. It is learnt that the bus left Meherpur along with passengers and while reached Bhalaiapur the dacoits numbering three travelling in the bus in disguise of passengers halted the bus and brought out their pistol and daggers and snatched away cash money from the passengers and the conductor of the bus.
The dacoits fled away safely. The dacoits also assaulted some of the passengers, according to eyewitnesses. Chuadanga thana police confirmed the news.

Brickfield owners use highway clay in Narail

From Our Correspondent

NARAIL, Apr 21: A section of the brickfield owners has found it convenient to use from the vast tracts of Lohagara-Narail highway for making bricks. The road belonging to the Roads and Highways (R and H) Department has thus suffered heavy damage due to reckless extraction of earth by the field owners.
The brickfield owners, it is alleged, in connivance with some unscrupulous staff members of the R and H are using clay from the government highway for a long time. The local people have complained to the concerned authorities but to no effect.

Bhola
Our Bhola Correspondent adds: A large number of plot of land in Bhola town belonging to Roads and Highways Department has been illegally occupied by a section of unscrupulous businessmen.



This is how earth has been removed from a road at Narail for use in brickfield by the unscrupulous owners.

—Star photo

50,000 children deprived of pry education

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Apr 20: More than 50,000 children of Sirajganj district are deprived of primary education and the sector faces setback due to manifold problems including shortage of furniture and accommodation.
It is learnt that there are 879 government primary schools and 121 non-government primary schools in the district. Only 191 non-gov-

ernment primary schools have been registered. A total of 3,79,559 students read in the government and 20,913 students read in the non-government primary schools. On an average about 368 students are reading in each primary school. But actual picture is different. In some schools mainly at district and upazila head quarters heavy rush of students are felt. Whereas

worst schools in remote villages run only in papers. Even it is alleged that the government primary schools of remote villages including charlands sit only once a week and the teachers take salaries through special arrangement with departmental officials.
Moreover, the government in co-operation with the UNICEF supply books free of

cost. But the books are sold in open market, it is further alleged.
When I visited some government primary schools, it was gathered that the schools of the headquarters could not accommodate the students for heavy rush while a large number of schools in remote areas were found closed. Such irregularity in primary education should be stopped to keep the sector active.

Lightning kills one
One Abdul Karim (50) was killed and four others were injured by lightning at village Bhurungamari in Bhurungamari upazila of the district recently.

Meagre storage facility

Potato growers at stake in Chandpur

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, Apr 21: A large quantity of potato has been going waste in seven upazilas of Chandpur district due to lack of storage facility. Potatoes in heaps have been kept under the open sky in front of many cold storages in the district for days.
A large quantity of potato is being damaged in different upazilas.
Agriculture office sources said a bumper potato production has been achieved in the district this year.
According to growers, the cold storage authorities are not receiving any potato because of space shortage. In apprehension of massive damage they

are selling out their hard earned produce at nominal price after incurring heavy loss.
Potato is now selling in the district at Taka 80 per maund which is much below the production cost. There are some cold storages at Chandpur and Matlab upazilas in the district which can accommodate space for about two lakh maunds of potatoes. Whereas potato production in the district is over four lakh maunds.
The growers have urged the government to widen cold storage facilities to save their products from massive damage and loss.

Notes from Comilla

From Our Correspondent

COMILLA, Apr 21: A private hospital styled "Comilla Medical Centre" was inaugurated here recently. Mr Syed Margule Murshed, Director General of Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) was the chief guest and Dr Shamsul Huq Civil Surgeon, Comilla was the special guest in the inaugural function while the Chairman of the Centre Dr Abdullah Mohammed Taher was in the chair.
In his welcome speech the Managing Director of the Centre Dr Mujibur Rahman said that all kinds of modern equipment and facilities would be available in this centre. Dr Shamsul Alam and Maulana Mustafizur Rahman also attended the function.

Relief work
Al Amin Parishad, a social welfare organization has started relief and rehabilitation work in the tornado affected areas in Comilla.

An adviser of the parishad has given Taka 500 for each family who became homeless.
The officers and staff of Comilla Income Tax office donated their one day's salary to the tornado affected people.
They distributed 180 kg of rice and 25 kg of dal among the people of Satara.

Office-bearers
An executive committee Comilla Motor Sramik Union was formed in an election held recently for 1991-92.
Mr Sadan Dey (Babu) and Mr Moklesur Rahman were elected President and Secretary respectively of the union.

Drainage system
Absence of proper drainage system causing untold sufferings to the residents of Comilla town. During the rainy season water remains stagnant on the roads. Some of the areas especially Darugabari, Ujirdeger Par, Chartha, Chawk Bazar, Stadium Market road remain under water causing immense suffering and also health hazards to the inhabitants of the town.

VTI beset with problems

MAULAVI BAZAR, Apr 20: The local vocational training institute has been smarting under multifarious problems, reports UNB.
The VTI is facing shortage of teachers, inadequate supply of raw materials, paucity of pure water and lack of necessary equipment.
The situation has worsened further due to bad condition of electric supply and lack of recreational facilities causing untold sufferings to the students.
Hostels of the VTI is also in a bad shape due to shortage of furniture and deplorable condition of toilets. Most of the equipment of VTI went out to order and the number of library books is quite insufficient to meet the requirements of the students.
Another report said dewlairs have been adversely affected by mushroom growth of welding shops on road sides and open places in the town.
Welding workshops of various types have sprung up in central road, hospital road, Sylhet road, Sreemangal road and Shamsheernagar road areas posing threat to be health of the residents.
It is alleged that sparks of welding works seriously affect the eye-sight of the passerby.

2 killed
Two people were killed and 10 others injured in clashes between Sarbahara activists and villagers at Khaserhat under Kalkini upazila recently.

Witnesses said the clashes ensued when the villagers chased the Sarbahara men who numbered 20-25 and entered the village for committing crimes in the areas.
Being chased, the activists of the outlawed Sarbahara Party, opened fire killing a villager.
An activist caught red handed by the agitated people was beaten to death. Eyes of another miscreant, was gouged out by angry villagers, who was later admitted to Goshairhat upazila health complex.

Pahela Baishakh celebrated

From Our Correspondent
MADARIPUR, Apr 21: Pahela Baishakh, the Bengali New Year's day was celebrated at Madaripur town with traditional gaiety and fervour.
The highlights of the day's programme were Milad Mahfils and Puza, opening of halkhata, serving of sweets to all invitees by all commercial shops and business establishments of the town, holding of Baishakh Mela.
A grand Baishakh Mela was held at the premises of the local Razzak Howlader School ground to welcome the new Bengali year.

Diarrhoea claims 69 in one month in Bhola

BHOLA, Apr 21: Four people died of diarrhoea yesterday raising the total deaths in the district to 69 during the last one month, officials said, reports UNB.
The district diarrhoea control centre estimated 24,440 people were attacked by the water borne disease that broke out in the southern region of the country.
Unofficial estimate however, puts the death figure at 150 and more than four thousand attacked by the disease.
More than 600 patients admitted crowding to the verandah of the 60-bed hospital at the district headquarters. Tofael Ahmed MP described the situation as "grave in the absence of necessary medicines". He told reporters on return yesterday from the worst affected upazilas of Bhola, Daulatkhan and Borhanuddin that the situation may worsen in the absence of adequate medicare.
Meanwhile, officials said 22 mobile hospitals had been working round the clock to combat the disease.
Besides government measures, non-government organizations have been engaged in the task. More than 200 people of Jatiya Bandhujan Parishad and Swedish Free Mission are looking after the affected people in rural areas.
According to them the situation has been worsening with rising heat and drought and contamination of water in ponds and tanks.

Patuakhali
Our Patuakhali Correspondent adds: Diarrhoea has claimed 28 lives so far in Patuakhali district. Every year during summer, when there is paucity of pure drinking water people especially in this riverine area drink water from nearby canals and rivers. Consequently, they become easy victim to diarrhoea, cholera and other water-borne diseases.
No precautionary steps are taken by health administration to prevent the spread of this disease.

Farmers' training course ends

From Our Correspondent
CHAPAI NAWABGANJ, Apr 21: A day-long farmers' training course on socio-economic development and self-reliance was held at Shibganj upazila Parishad auditorium under Chapai Nawabganj district recently.
Presided over by the Deputy Commissioner, the inaugural function was attended by Deputy Director, Agriculture Extension as chief guest and Upazila Parishad Chairman, Shibganj as special guest. A total of 45 cultivators of Pukuria ideal village took part in the course.

2 injured
Two Bangladeshis named Gajju (20) and Saifull Islam (22) of bordering village Daulatbari under Shibganj upazila were injured by Indian milkmen recently when they were catching fish in Bilbhatia.