

## Upazila roundup

### MANIKGANJ

#### Bamboo price up

April 24 : Price-hike and short supply of bamboo and cane have caused unemployment to a large number of handicraftsmen in different areas of Manikganj district, reports BSS.

The main raw materials of cottage industry bamboo and cane are now being sold at an exorbitant price in different haats and bazars. A medium-size bamboo is now being sold at Taka 70 to 80. Due to scarcity price of cane has gone up to a great extent in the local markets.

Poor people are the worst sufferers due to price-hike of bamboo are used in making Kutcha houses.

Production of bamboo and cane is stated to have been decreased due to lack of proper attention of growers.

### SYLHET

#### Minor girl killed in road mishap

From Our Correspondent

April 24 : A mini-bus from Chatak killed an eight-year-old girl and then hit several rickshaws while fleeing the scene of accident. Indra Begum (8), daughter of a rickshawpuller Chand Mia of Naukandi village of Chhatak upazila, went with her mother to collect firewood and at one time came near the road at Hasnabad when the bus hit her from the back. She died on the spot and the driver sped away towards Govindaganj where it badly mauled several rickshaws before veering for its destination at Sylhet. Chhatak thana has registered a case in this regard.

#### Electric wires stolen

Theft of electric wires from cross country power lines in Sylhet and Sunamganj districts has recently assumed a menacing dimension, throwing upazila dwellers in darkness.

In the latest case, some 6,300 feet of power line wire in Jamalganj upazila of Sunamganj have been stolen away from seven posts between Bahadurpur and Jalalabad villages on April 16. On April 4, electric wires from several other poles in Joynagar area of Sunamganj sadar upazila were also removed. The local UP Chairman, however, submitted a report on the theft to the concerned authority with names of suspects. In Sylhet sadar upazila some 1200 feet of wire have been stolen on April 4 in Kandiarchar village of Moglabazar Union. Some days back another 1000 feet wire had been stolen from Gopalganj of the same Union.

It is suspected that some corrupt linemen are behind the incidents.

### MEHERPUR

#### One assassinated

From A Correspondent

April 24 : Hossain Ali (30), son of Solaiman Hossain, ex-UP Chairman of Pirojpur under Meherpur sadar UZ of the district, was assassinated by some assailants at dead of night recently.

It is stated that the deceased was returning home after offering Tarabi prayer at Kalaidanga mosque and was brutally killed at a field between villages of Kalaidanga and Gaherpur.

Meherpur police visited the place of occurrence and a case has been registered with the P.S. in this connection.

The body was sent to Meherpur morgue for post-mortem.

### JAMALPUR

#### Baishakhi Mela

From Our Correspondent

April 24 : A seven-day long Baishakhi Mela was inaugurated here by Jalal Ahmed, Deputy Commissioner, Jamalpur at Kachari Maidan on April 20.

In this connection a meeting was held at the mela ground. The meeting was addressed by Pura Chairman Shakhautul Moni, Prof Ikramuddin and journalist Mosharraf Hossain.

One hundred organisations given stall in the mela.

### BRAHMANBARIA

#### Hot spell makes life miserable

April 24 : The dwellers of the town are experiencing perplexing times as severe hot spell in the day and cold wave at night have been persisting throughout the district and adjoining areas for the last few weeks, reports UNB.

According to sources, the children and the aged are worst sufferers of the freak of nature.

The school going children and the employed women are facing tough times as they have to commute through sultry and humid weather.

### RAJSHAHI

#### Relief shower

April 24 : The people heaved a sigh of relief as scorched Rajshahi was drenched with a welcome shower yesterday, reports UNB.

Rains came accompanied by squalls of nor'wester that swept the city and adjoining areas, after last few days of extreme hot and sultry weather.

During the current hot spell sweeping over the country, the temperature in Rajshahi climbed the day's highest 39 degree celsius on Saturday, after recording top mercury mark for the last few days.

### BOGRA

#### One killed during thunder storm

April 24 : One unidentified youth was killed on the Nawabbari road near Circuit House here during a thunder-storm which lashed over the town Tuesday night, reports UNB.

Witnesses said, he died on the spot when a tree fell on him during the storm.

Met-office sources said, the storm swept over the town at the speed of 64-70 miles per hour at about 8-45 pm and lasted for an hour.

Sources said, electric supply of the town was snapped for a couple of hours, boro crops around the town were damaged and some trees uprooted during the storm.



Construction of a concrete bridge started long ago over this canal at Keraniganj. But work remains suspended for fund shortage. People are thus compelled to undertake such hazardous crossing over this age-old broken wooden bridge.

— Star photo

## Diarrhoea takes serious turn in districts

From Our Correspondent

BARISAL, Apr 24 : Diarrhoea claimed 61 lives affecting more than three thousand during the last five days in six southern districts of Barisal, Patuakhali, Bhola, Pirojpur, Jhalakati, and Barguna.

According to official sources, death figures during the last five days in these districts are Barisal 31, Bhola 19, Patuakhali 4, Pirojpur 1, Jhalakati 3, and Barguna 3.

It is learnt that still the overall situation is alarming.

The affected figures are increasing.

Necessary medicines like saline and drinking water are scarce in almost all diarrhoea affected areas of the districts.

Twenty-one field hospitals have been opened in Bhola. Only in Mehendiganj upazila under Barisal district death figures rose to 21 during the last five days.

#### Bagerhat

Our Bagerhat Correspondent adds: Diarrhoea that broke out in almost an epidemic form in Morrelganj and Sharankhola upazilas of Bagerhat district more than a month ago has not yet subsided. On the other hand, the disease has spread to the rest seven upazilas of the district.

According to the official reports, the disease claimed a toll of 9 human lives (2 in Morrelganj, 2 in Bagerhat Sadar, 2 in Chitalmari, 2 in Sharankhola and 1 in Rampal upazila) and attacked more than 800 persons in the district during the period from March 1 to April 8.

But when contacted a spokesman of Bagerhat Civil Surgeon Office confirmed the death of only five (5) persons (2 in Morrelganj, 2 in Bagerhat Sadar and 1 in Rampal upazila) and 701 attacked with the disease during the same period. The upazila wise figure of attacked persons are 252 in

Morrelganj, 230 in Sharankhola, 41 in Rampal, 52 in Kachua, 47 in Bagerhat Sadar, 36 in Chitalmari, 25 in Fakirhat, 12 in Mollahat and 06 in Mongla.

However, measures have already been taken by the Public Health Department to combat the disease. It is learnt that some 81 medical teams are working in the affected areas of the district.

When contacted the Civil Surgeon of Bagerhat told this correspondent that acute scarcity of drinking water is the main reason behind the outbreak of the disease.

#### Jhalakati

Our Jhalakati Correspondent adds: Diarrhoea has broken out in an epidemic form in Jhalakati district.

The Jhalakati Sadar and Nalchiti upazilas are worst affected by the outbreak of diarrhoea. Some patients reportedly died in Jhalakati hospital. No bed in the hospital is vacant. Lack of adequate supply of saline and medicine is hampering the treatment of the patients. The district administration has ordered all hotels and restaurants closed.

#### Bogra

UNB from Bogra adds: Diarrhoea claimed 10 more lives and affected over 2000 others in 11 upazilas of the district during the last week, hospital sources here said.

With the fresh ones, the death toll rose to 35. Sadar, Shibganj, Kahaloo, Adamdighi and Gabtali are among the worst-affected upazilas.

Another report from Magura says that the least 12 people died of diarrhoea and more than 1000 others were attacked by the water borne virus during the last fortnight in three upazilas of the district.

The deceased were identified as Afzal Munshi (30), Gofur Molla (70), Rabia Khatun

(28), Hamida (5) of Sadar upazila, Mahub (10), Arzina (8), Rony (2) of Salikha upazila and Shazu Bibi (40), Shima (8), Mozno (5), Nazmul Hossain (1) of Mohammadpur upazila.

Local doctors attributed paucity of drinking water and persisting hot spell to the outbreak of the disease.

Official sources said at least 37 medical teams are working in the affected areas to ward off the menace.

#### Savar

A report from Savar adds: Diarrhoea that broke out in an alarming proportion in three upazilas of the Dhaka district claimed four lives and attacked scores of others on Monday.

The affected upazilas are Savar, Dhamrai and Saturia. The deceased were identified as Shaheed (6) of Tetulia village (Savar), Morjina (5) of Dhantara and another unidentified child of Amta village (Dhamrai) and Latif (7) of Tilligram (Saturia).

Local doctors attributed the persisting hot spell and acute paucity of drinking water to the outbreak of the disease. Sufferers urged the authorities to take immediate steps to combat the spread of the disease.

#### Terre Des Hommes

Our Staff Correspondent says: Terre Des Hommes' an international NGO of the Netherland based in Bangladesh has taken extensive measures to control diarrhoeal epidemic in Patuakhali district, a Press release said.

The NGO arranged emergency satellite clinics which are equipped with dextrose saline, cholera saline, oral saline and anti-biotics.

With teams of skilled health workers led by a medical doctor these clinics are functioning at Bashbaria and Bahrampur Unions of Dashedina upazila and Despara and Kalatya Unions of Bauphal upazila in Patuakhali district.

## 1000 gallons rly diesel being pilfered daily

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Apr 24 : About 1000 gallons of diesel are pilfered daily from railway engines and ferry steamer engines from railway department at different points in Jamalpur district.

An organised gang of miscreants in connivance with

'Kakrol' farming prospect bright

From Our Correspondent

BARISAL, Apr 24 : Ridged gourd (Kakrol) has been scientifically cultivated for the first time in greater Barisal district during the current season.

The vegetable has been cultivated in Sadar upazila of Jhalakati and Madhbaria and Indurkani upazilas in Barisal districts, according to sources.

Trainer of Technical Resource Team, Syed Mustafizur Rahman told UNB that farmers evinced keen interest in the modern method of cultivation of ridged gourd locally known as kakrol.

### Notes from Kushtia

From A Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Apr 24 : In the name of Baishakhi Mela obscene "Jattra", "Housic" and "Gambling" have been going on in Kushtia Husing estate area to the much detriment of law and order situation and persecution of study of the students who are preparing themselves for the ensuing degree and SSC examination to be held in the next month.

Incidents of stabbing have also been reported from the area. Law enforcing agencies and district administration are playing the role of silent spectators for reasons best known to them. It may be mentioned that before Ramzan such an exhibition was held at Barkhaha two miles off Kushtia town and during the exhibition law and order situation of Kushtia deteriorated an incidents of murder, theft, highway dacoity were committed in and around Kushtia town.

Resentment over holding of such Baishakhi Mela among the peace loving people of the town have been reported and they have urged the authorities concerned to stop such nuisance immediately in the grater interest of peace loving people particularly the student community.

#### Woes of farmers

Hundreds of farmers in the district have been passing their days in extreme agony due to their growing indebtedness to the local banks.

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 time.

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

#### Diarrhoea

Diarrhoea and intestinal diseases like dysentery have broken out in four upazilas of the district, according to official sources.

About two hundred persons mostly children have already been affected by the disease. The Civil Surgeon told this correspondent that about 20 to 25 patients are being admitted to Kushtia General Hospital and Daulatpur, Bheramara and Mirpur health complexes daily and are being treated.

Meanwhile, one medical team for every union of these four upazilas have been formed and have started their work from April 18 to combat the disease, the Civil Surgeon added.

Training course on journalism

DINAJPUR, Apr 24 : A four-day training course on journalism began here at the CDA Institute here Friday, reports UNB.

Jointly organised by Dainik Uttar Bangla and CDA, the course aims at improving skills and professional competence of the mufassal newsmen.

Twenty-five journalists representing different dailies and periodicals of the district took part in the training course.

## Low quality seeds Jute output target may not be achieved

BRAHMANBARIA, Apr 24 : Jute production target will not be achieved this year in Nabnagar upazila due to inadequate supply and low quality seeds, farmers here complained, reports UNB.

Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) supplied 3,000 kgs of seeds which is below the requirement. The quality of the seeds is also allegedly poor. The required amount of seeds is about 20,000 kgs.

According to sources, about 7000 acres of land were brought under jute cultivation for the current season in the upazila.

Besides, prices of good quality seeds are so high in markets that poor farmers can hardly afford.

The farmers have urged the authorities to supply high quality jute seeds at cheaper

prices immediately to avert shortfall in jute production.

Irri-boro production target in the district is likely to suffer a set back due to widespread pest attack, farmers feared.

About 1500 acres of standing irri-boro crops have been damaged following pest attack in seven upazilas.

They said paddy plants on vast areas in Nabnagar, Sarail, Nasirnagar, Kasba, Bancharampur, Akhaura and Sadar upazilas are withering away after the attack by "pamri" pest.

Pesticides available in the markets also proved to be ineffective, they alleged.

Meanwhile, Agriculture Extension Department here has supplied 190 spray machines among the farmers to combat the menace.

But farmers opine that this will not be enough to ward off the rising menace.

## House rent increases in Kishoreganj

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Apr 24 : House rent has increased manifold at Kishoreganj town due to acute shortage of accommodation over the last few years.

The middle class people as well as the small traders are being affected badly because of house rent rise.

At present a single unit of residential quarter is being let out at a monthly rent of Taka 1200. In many cases the house-owners realise advance rent from the tenants. As a result, many tenants, especially the fixed income groups find it difficult to manage their accommodation here.

Due to accommodation crisis, a large number of professionals, both in private and public organisations, are to live in this town leaving behind their families at village homes. Consequently their children are being deprived of proper care and educational facilities.

The employees in most cases have either to arrange accommodation in messes or in private house.

The crisis of accommodation both for residential and commercial purposes and rent increase have been attributed to non-availability of land at a reasonable rate and lack of investment and government initiatives for house building at this commercial town.

The rich people of this place are rather reluctant to

construct the residential houses because of heavy financial involvement and high rate of interest in HBFC loan.

The increase in the number of rickshaws has been causing a lot of sufferings to the residents of Bhairab river port town over the last one year. At least 5000 rickshaws are now plying on the narrow 16 miles metalled roads within 5.07 square miles area of the pourashava.

The roads specially in the main commercial areas of the town remain all along blocked by rickshaws causing hindrance to the movement of pedestrians. The people while moving on the roads of the main town have to remain stranded from place to place due to rickshaw van. The school going children are the worst sufferers.

A part from this, the rickshaws from the outlying unions of Bhairab pourashava make entry into the town aggravating the situation.

Can the other hand, quite a large number of rickshaws both of Bhairab pourashava and outlying unions reportedly ply within the pourashava without obtaining any licence from the concerned authorities.

The busy commercial Bhairab town has become a place of rickshaws much to the annoyance and suffering of the people.

## Vigorous anti-smuggling drive launched

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, Apr 24 : Vigorous anti-smuggling drive has been launched throughout Chuadanga district to stop smuggling. In this connection the law enforcing agencies of the district have jointly urged upon all concerned to co-operate with them in stopping smuggling. A meeting of the local traders was held here recently at the conference room of the Deputy Commissioner of Chuadanga where the local district administration exchanged views with the traders in stopping smuggling.

The traders assured to extended all out support and co-operation for stopping smuggling. On the otherhand, police and BDR personnel along the border areas of the district has also been increased to a great extent for stamping out smuggling. Besides, searching of buses and trucks has also been geared up for seizing smuggled goods. It may be mentioned here that for the last few days the whole district has become the paradise of the smugglers.

The goods seized include 110 bags of pulse, 400 pieces of Indian sarees, 10 kgs of jute seeds, two kgs of ganja and spare parts.

The truck is now under police custody and the driver of the truck has been arrested. A case has been registered with Bheramara police in this connection.

C'nawabganj Zila Parishad building opens

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Apr 24 : The new two-storied building of Nawabganj Zila Parishad built at a cost of Taka 30 lakh was inaugurated here recently, reports BSS.

The Deputy Commissioner, Nawabganj, Mr Ashraf Ali was the chief guest at the inaugural function held on April 13. The function was attended by district level officers and elite of the town.

Before construction of the new building the Zila Parishad office was functioning in District Council bungalow.