

Upazila roundup

HABIGANJ

Housewife commits suicide

From A Correspondent

April 30: One Siria Begum (28), mother of three children of village Tunakhani under Nabiganj upazila committed suicide by taking poison recently.

Family disputes is the cause of her suicide. Police source said, her body was sent to Habiganj Sadar Hospital for post mortem.

A case was lodged with Nabiganj P.S. in this connection.

A man was killed in a clash between rival groups at village Joypur under Madovpur upazila in the district of Habiganj recently.

The victim Md Atar Ali was identified. Police source said the clash ensued following land dispute.

Both groups used lethal weapons during the clash. As a result Atar Ali injured seriously and later he died.

The body was sent to Habiganj Hospital for post mortem.

A case was lodged with Madovpur P.S. in this regard.

NANDAIL

Chicken pox breaks out

From Our Correspondent

April 30: Chicken pox has broken out in seven villages under Bajitpur upazila in an alarming proportion. The worst affected villages are Balgawn, Meshati, Firojpur, Nurpur, Matjchar, Masimpur and Tegoria.

In absence of necessary initiative to combat the situation the disease is spreading rapidly to other villages, it is learnt.

Finding no modern medical facilities, the affected peoples are being treated with unreliable rural "kabiraji" system. It is gathered.

PATUAKHALI

Two primary schools will be constructed

April 30: The government has taken up a programme to construct two primary schools in the town during the current fiscal year, reports UNB.

According to official sources Taka 16 lakh has been sanctioned for construction of the two-storeyed school buildings. About 2000 students will get facilities for primary education on completion of the project.

Loan for woman artisans

In an attempt to promote cottage industries, Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) has taken up a programme to disburse loan among poor women artisans in the district.

Bank sources said the loan will be disbursed under an arrangement agreed between BSCIC and BKB on March 19.

Each unit of small cottage industry will be given a loan between Taka 5000 and 8000, the sources added.

BSCIC sources said the programme to help poor female artisans is now in operation in 45 upazilas of 43 districts across the country.

MADARIPUR

Fertilizer scarce

April 30: Acute scarcity of fertilizers has been adversely affecting Irri-Boro production in the district.

The paucity has been attributed to hoarding of fertilizers by a section of dishonest traders.

Besides, prices of TSP and Potash fertilizers have shot up by about 30 per cent compounding the misery of farmers.

Traders, however, said irregular and short supply of different kinds of fertilizers caused the price rise.

Posts of 25 teachers lying vacant

Over 23 posts of teachers have remained vacant in the Government Nazimuddin College here hampering curricular progress.

Of the vacant posts, 13 are of Associate Professors five Assistant Professors and 10 of Lecturers.

Besides, eight posts of fourth class employees also remained vacant for a long time.

FARIDPUR

Arms recovered

April 30: Faridpur police recently recovered a huge quantity of arms and ammunition including one arms manufacturing machine from different parts of the district, reports BSS.

According to Superintendent of Police, Faridpur, during last three weeks in vigorous raids to hunt the miscreants and arms at different places police recovered two country made sub-machine guns, six double-barrel guns, six pipe-guns and several rounds of live ammunition.

Police also recovered huge quantity of bomb-manufacturing materials.

On getting information from the arrested persons Officer-in-Charge of Faridpur Kotwali Thana recovered one pipe gun manufacturing machine from Tangal district during this time. Nineteen persons were arrested in these connections during the period. The arrested persons included notorious dacoits, miscreants and juvenile offenders, police said.

Police Super said they are still trying apprehend three more armed groups in the district.

COMILLA

BCS training course begins

April 30: Two months long BCS (fifth batch) public works special training course was inaugurated at Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) recently. Thirty two officers are attending the course. The course was inaugurated by additional Director General K.M. Tipu Sultan.

Mr Jashem Uddin and Mr Kamal Uddin are conducting the course while Mr Mir Kashem was working as the course coordinator.

PABNA

2 killed in road mishap

April 30: Two people were killed on the spot and 47 others injured when a night coach plunged into a roadside ditch near Namdiar village on Dhaka-Pabna highway on Sunday, police said, reports UNB.

The deceased were identified as Abdul Gafur (28) and Rahmat Ali (39).

The injured were rushed to the Pabna Sadar Hospital and Santhia health complex.

Witnesses said the ill-fated Dhaka bound bus (NO-Dhaka JA 1222) skidded off the road into the ditch after the driver lost control.

The driver and the helper of the vehicle, however, managed to escape.

A case was filed with local police.

SYLHET

Pahela Baishakh celebrated

April 30: Pahela Baishakh was celebrated here with great enthusiasm. Baishaki Melas have been arranged Dhupadighi maidan, Model High School and some mahallas. Rabindra Sangeet, Lalon Giti, Baul and Songs of Hasan Raza attracted a great number of audience including children in the functions which continued for three days. The day was hot and sultry. But at midnight a drizzle and hailstorm swept over the town and its suburb.

Some houses were slightly damaged by the hails that weighed over half a kg and measured bigger than cricket balls. Pandals of some Baishaki Melas were also pierced by the hails.

The Pahela Baishakh evening played a havoc in Sunamganj Sadar upazila where a storm left 30 people injured, five thousand affected and 300 houses destroyed causing a loss of Taka 20 lakh. More than 20 boats in the Surma river were sunk and the roofs of Sunamganj district Bar Hall, gov. Jubilee High School and an Ansar barrack were blown away. Electricity, telephone and water supply remained suspended for ten hours. The Deputy Commissioner accompanied by two MPs visited the affected places after the storm and arranged for rescue, shelter and treatment of the wounded.

Eid celebrated

Eid-ul-Fitr was celebrated here with due solemnity and religious fervour. The weather was pleasant following heavy hailstorm and rain at midnight before the morning.



Children enjoy bathing in Monday's rain at a place in Narayanganj.

— Star photo by Enamul Huq

Diarrhoea claims more lives

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Apr 30: Seven persons including two women died of diarrhoea and 50,000 have been attacked with the disease in different areas of Jamalpur district during the last two weeks.

Of the victims, three died in Jamalpur, one in Bakshiganj, one in Dewanganj and two in Madarganj upazilas.

A medical team from the health department has been working round the clock in the affected areas. Consumption of adulterated foodstuff and scarcity of pure drinking water are learnt to be the reason behind the outbreak of the disease.

Besides, 5000 more were attacked by Ophthalmia in the drought hit areas of the district. Official sources added that Jaundice also has broken out in the area.

The worst affected areas are Jamalpur town, Pathalia, Lagajora and char areas in Sadar upazila, Jalalpur, Maluneka, Mahmudpur, in Melandah upazila, Shaipur, Lamagapur, Salikapara and Jagannathganj in Sharishabari upazila, Baljuri, Jarkata, Kumarpura and Gopalpur in Madarganj upazila, Napartachar, Dugakhula, Degrechar in Islampur upazila.

Ram Rampur in Bakshiganj upazila, Falpur, Baltali, Bakamari and Baradah in Dewanganj upazila.

Chandpur

Our Chandpur Correspondent adds: Diarrhoea has

claimed 25 lives in Chandpur district and attacked 400 another in seven upazilas of the district. Situation in Fridganj upazila remained almost unchanged. The badly affected areas in the upazila are Rupsa, Khajuria, Lohagar, Chandra, Sokdi Pampur, Shekdi and Taggi.

According to the sources, a field hospital has been set up in Faridganj upazila, and total 58 medical teams have been working in the affected areas of different upazilas to check the further spread of the disease. Everyday at least 50 persons are hospitalized at Matlab ICDDR hospital. On the other hand, about 1000 tubewells are still lying out of order in different rural areas of the district for a long time, resulting in scarcity of pure drinking water in the rural areas.

Our Chuadanga Correspondent says: Diarrhoea has broken out in an epidemic form in Alamdanga upazila of the district. Malnutrition and eating of stale food are attributed to the outbreak of the disease which has attacked 405 persons within last two weeks of which four patients died.

The Amoebic dysentery also broke out in an epidemic form due to which 121 persons were affected of which five persons died. Stock position of orsoline and cholera saline is not satisfactory. There is a limited stock of 200 bags of cholera saline and 32,000

packets of orsoline.

Five medical teams have been working in the affected areas. The victims are mostly from poverty stricken group.

Saline scarce

UNB from Kushtia adds: Acute scarcity of oral and intravenous saline is prevailing in the markets here adding to the misery of the diarrhoea patients, sufferers said.

AKM Nizamul Haq, secretary, Bangladesh Chemists and Druggists Association, has called for urgent steps to increase the supply of oral and IV salines to meet the growing demand.

Meanwhile, drug store owners have been asked not to charge higher prices of oral and IV salines.

Patuakhali

A report from Patuakhali adds: Concerted effort by civil and Army medical teams and NGOs have considerably reduced mortality from diarrhoea in the southern districts of Barisal, Patuakhali, Barguna, Jhalakhati, Pirojpur and Bhola, local health officials claimed.

With the onset of monsoon and increased seaward flow of the rivers, the epidemic is expected to be contained soon, they said.

More than 120 medical teams are working in the affected unions of six districts, besides, a number of NGO's which have been taking both preventive and curative measures.

So far six upazilas in

Patuakhali, five in Barguna, two in Jhalakhati and an unspecified number of upazilas in the other three districts have been affected by the viral water-borne disease.

Local doctors said non-consumption of pure water from the nearest tubewell, defecation in open places and use of kutcha latrines which contaminate water and consumption of adulterated or rotten food have been mainly responsible for the spread of the disease in the rural areas.

Consumption of sub-standard and adulterated oral saline, reported to be on sale in the rural markets, has aggravated the situation, they said.

Incurtion of saline water from the sea into deep inland is said to have compounded the problem in the coastal areas where the situation will improve with the increase in the flow of water from the upland rivers.

Barisal

BSS from Barisal says: Barisal Development Society (BDS), a local non-governmental organisation has distributed 20,000 bags of oral saline, 5,000 bags of IV saline and 20,000 water purifying tablets among the people of diarrhoea affected areas in Barisal, Madaripur, Gopalganj and Patuakhali districts.

A Press release said 38 volunteers of the BDS have been working in the areas to help check the disease.

Reinstatement of workers demanded

From A Correspondent

BOGRA, Apr 30: Leaders of Bogra Cotton Mills Stramk League on Saturday last at Bogra called upon the authority concerned to resume full production and reinstate all the retrenched workers of the mill immediately.

Addressing a meeting arranged by C.B.A. at local Khokon Park the labour the mill authority leaders alleged that took several crores of Taka as loan from banks to improve the condition of the mill but it could neither resume the production nor reinstate the retrenched workers of the mill. They could not even clear up the workers' dues for which they (the workers) have been leading a subhuman life.

The leaders further alleged that the management was involved in conspiracy to close down the mill being failed to implement the bilateral agreement reached on May 8 last year. They called upon the government to set up a committee to look into the matter to overcome the prevailing deadlock.

Presided over by Abdus Sattar Hira the meeting was addressed by Fazlul Haque, A Latif, Shamsur Rahman Hira, A Goffar Junto and Sarwar Hossain.

5 jailed

Five accused persons in two separate dowry cases were convicted by the Upazila Magistrate Court of Kahlao (Bogra) on April 21 and 22 last.

Mr. Shaha Arun Kumar, Ist Class Magistrate, Kahlao Upazila found accused Fazlur Rahman and Salim Uddin of Pipra under Kahlao Upazila in

Bogra guilty and convicted each of them to suffer simple imprisonment of one year in a dowry case instituted against them by Rowshan Ara, wife of Fazlur Rahman. The convicted persons were demanding Taka 1,000, one radio set and one bicycle from Rowshan Ara.

The same Magistrate also found Ashraf Ali, Umus Ali and Majed Ali of Haralata under Kahlao in another dowry case filed by Farida Bibi, wife of Ashraf Ali and awarded them simple imprisonment of one year each. The accused persons were demanding Taka 5,000 from Farida Bibi as dowry.

4 arrested on charge of killing

KUSHTIA, Apr 30: Four people have been arrested on charge of killing a college student at Daulatpur upazila on the night of April 24, police sources said, reports UNB.

Saiful of village Farakpur in the upazila was beaten to death after confining him to a house in the same village.

The murderers then went to Daulatpur police station to lodge false case against the victim.

On suspicion, police arrested Md. Ali, the house owner and three others who later confessed their guilt.

The murder was committed as a result of long standing enmity, it is alleged.

The body of Saiful was sent to General Hospital here for autopsy.

15 killed in separate incidents in Mymensingh

From Our Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, Apr 30: Fifteen persons were killed in Mymensingh district during the last three weeks due to family feud, clash, land dispute, suicide, road accidents and lightning, according to the police.

Three persons committed suicide in Haluaghat and Muktagacha upazila recently who were identified as Husneyara Begum (13) of village Monikura, Muzzamel Haq (28) of village Khandakpara under Haluaghat upazila and Md. Thahar Ali (30) of village Birashi under Muktagacha.

Atul Karim Bakul (25) and Md. Nuruddin (40) of village Charkalbari under Sadar upazila were killed by lightning when they were returning home from Mymensingh town.

Two cow-lifters one Kadam Ali (40) and Abul Kasem (30) of village Gushapara under Trishal upazila were beaten to death by villagers Asmat Ali (40) of village Balipara under Trishal upazila, Liton (14) of village Arjunkhila under Phulpur upazila, Abdus Sattar (70) of village Biswaka under Gouripur upazila and Matiur Rahman (28) of Dhatpur under Bhaluka upazila were killed in separate land dispute clashes.

Kotwali police recovered two unidentified bodies from the bank of Brahmaputra river recently. Md. Dalwar Hossain (20) and Shaheed (8) were killed in two separate road accidents on Shambhuganj and Dhaka-Mymensingh road recently.

A large number of devotees and disciples of Pirsahib Qibla attended the inaugural function at village Akubpur.

A Waz Mahfil and Halka-i-Zikir was held in this connection. Presided over by Pirsahib of Akubpur, Hazrat Maoulana Abdul Khaleq. The Mahfil was addressed by Moullana Zalahuddin, Maoulana Abdul Qadir, Sugi-Ziliani and Moullana Nafis Ali.

A large number of devotees and disciples of Pirsahib Qibla attended the inaugural function.

Ejaradar exploit traders

Ejaradars (lessee) are exploiting people in different hats and bazars of Nandail upazila by collecting tolls at exorbitant rates.

It is alleged that in spite of government strict directive to follow the fixed rates of tolls in hats and bazars the unscrupulous ejaradars are realising heavy tolls at their own will from both buyers and sellers.

These malpractices are on the rise particularly in cow hats of various markets of the upazila where the ejaradars are collecting money from both buyers and sellers in the name of tolls which is quite illegal.

Teacher commits suicide

A teacher of non-government high school committed suicide by hanging himself at his own residence.

According to the sources, the victim Shahjahan Kabir, Assistant teacher of Solaimanpur High School under Maddah Nagar upazilas had been ailing from duodenal ulcer since long. He was helpless to manage the high cost of essential treatment to cure his disease.

At last to get rid of the dreadful pain of ulcer the ill-fated teacher met the unnatural death by hanging himself at his own residence.

Arms recovered in Jhenidah

JHENIDAH, Apr 30: Police Sunday recovered a country-made rifle and arrested a person in this connection from Basudebpur village in Harinakunda upazila.

Acting on a tip, police raided the house of Siddiqur Rahman and nabbed Lalmia of Ghoppari village.

Some other miscreants reportedly fled the spot before the arrival of the police.

A case was filed in this connection. Indian goods worth about Taka one lakh have been seized from the town after police intensified their anti-smuggling hunt here.

Contraband including Indian sarees, lungi, clothes, jute seeds, pesticides and cosmetics were seized from a number of vehicles.

Earlier, anti-smuggling committees were set up under the supervision of the Deputy Commissioner of the district.

Plea to bring Bhairab under NWD system

From Our Correspondent KISHOREGANJ, April 30: The busy Bhairab town is seriously in need of nation-wide direct dialing system.

According to the sources, the underground cable network was completed more than two years ago and the channel for direct dialing system was also allotted but the system is yet to be commissioned.

Due to the absence of direct dialing system with the capital and other big cities of the country the local merchants are facing setbacks in their business and trading.

To get a trunk call line through the local telephone exchange people often has to spend whole day. The local journalists complained they cannot send despatches to Dhaka dailies in time in absence of NWD system and frequent disruption in telephone connections.

500 shoals emerge in Jamuna

Sirajganj-Jagannathganj rly ferry service disrupted

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Apr 30: Railway ferry service on Sirajganj-Jagannathganj and launch services in Sirajganj-Bhuapur routes disrupted due to heavy siltation and emergence of innumerable shoals in the river Jamuna. More than 500 big shoals have emerged in the said channels due to heavy siltation making ferry and launch movement impossible over three months.

As a result, railway passengers have to cross the river at their own cost and risk in the country boat.

At least 15 dacoits have been counted on the route in the last three months.

On the otherhand, due to emergence of a big char on the Bhuapur ferryghat, it has been shifted to Nalsapara char, three miter down to Bhuapur ghat. But the bus passengers

are compiled to get down from the bus at Bhuapur ghat and cross three miles on foot or by country boat. It requires more than an hour than the normal time to cross the river to Sirajganj town due to this management.

3 killed

UNB adds: Three people were killed by lightning Tuesday night during a storm that lashed seven upazilas of the district.

The deaths occurred in Pangashi and Bahuli villages, according to reports reaching here, but identities of the victims could not be known immediately.

Some 2,000 kutcha houses were badly damaged by the norwester which swept over the district at a velocity of 80 kilometre. Power supply was

snapped in many places as electric poles were damaged by the storm.

The affected upazilas are Ullapara, Raiganj, Kamarkanda, Tarash, Shahjadpur and Chowhali.

At least 146 development schemes are underway in nine upazilas of the district this year under food for works programme.

At total of 11,716 metric tons of wheat worth about Taka seven crore have been sanctioned for the schemes which include construction and reconstruction of roads, flood protection embankment and digging of canal.

Sources said the projects will be implemented in Sadar, Raiganj, Ullapara, Shahjadpur, Kamarkanda and Belkuchi upazilas.

Kidnapping leads to clashes: 2 killed

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, Apr 30: Police arrested a kidnapper Amjad (28) and recovered the kidnapped girl Sultanara (15) from Dinajpur town after a massive hunt.

Sultanara on April 21 at around 10 pm while returning home in Shadyapushkarni from Shyampur railway station along with her parents by a rickshaw was kidnapped on the way by Amjad and his associates. The incident led to fatal armed clashes between neighbouring two unions Gopalpur and Shadyapushkarni which left two persons dead and 30 in-

jured. The kidnapped girl was the resident of Shadyapushkarni Union under Rangpur Sadar upazila while kidnapper was an inhabitant of Gopalpur Union under Badarganj upazila. Mass looting and arsons were committed in Gopalpur Union.

At least 50 houses of the union were looted damaging standing crops. Besides, four houses were set ablaze by hooligans of Shadyapushkarni Union. Most of the villagers of Gopalpur Union left their houses and took shelter at

safer distant places. Temporary police camp was established at Gopalpur and 30 persons have been arrested so far.

In fear of further attacks villagers of Gopalpur did not yet return back to houses. On the otherhand, male people of Shadyapushkarni in fear of arrest fled away leaving behind only female members and children in houses. Tense situation is prevailing around these two warring unions steps taken by district administration so far to restore normalcy