

Upazila roundup

C'NAWABGANJ

Samabaya Samity rally

From A Correspondent
May 2: Sarjan Ansar and V.D.P. Bahumukhi Samabaya Samity under sadar upazila arranged a rally at their office campus recently.
The rally was presided over by Belayet Hossain, Chairman Gobarola Union Parishad. Mr. Nashiruddin Ahmed, Chairman, Nawabganj Upazila Parishad and Amir Hossain, district Adjutant, Ansar and V.D.P. Nawabganj were present in the rally as chief guest and special guest respectively.
A power tiller was handed over to the Secretary of the Samity in the rally by Amir Hossain, District Adjutant.

NARAYANGANJ

2 commit suicide

From Our Correspondent
May 2: Two persons allegedly committed suicide in Narayanganj in two separate incidents in the small hours of April 24.
Of them Mrs. Rukhsana Begum (25), second wife of Ahmed Ali of West Deshab, Narayanganj committed suicide by hanging himself in her own room. The death was reported to be a family feud.
In another incident Abul Kalam (22) of Chanpara area under Ruppaganj Upazila committed suicide by taking poison. Police could not find out the cause of the death till now.
The post mortem of the victims were done in Narayanganj General Hospital morgue.
Two separate unnatural death cases have been filed with concerned thanas in this regard.

SATKHIRA

Minor boy killed in road mishap

From A Correspondent
Satkhira, May 2: A minor boy was killed his mother received serious injuries in a road accident that occurred at Murarikati on Satkhira-Jessore road recently.
It is reported that, Anowara Khatun (25), wife of Atiar Rahman of village Murarikati under Kaparua upazila along with her son Ekramul Haq (4) was going to Kalaroa Bazar by a vanrickshaw and while reached the place of the occurrence a Jessore bound minibus from Satkhira knocked them down. The seriously injured mother and her son were admitted to Satkhira hospital where Ekramul died. The condition of the mother is stated serious.
A case has been lodged with Kalaroa PS.

MADARIPUR

47000 acres put under jute farming

From Our Correspondent
May 2: During the current season 47000 acres of land have been brought under jute cultivation, which is less than the previous year an official of Agricultural Extension Department, said.
The department said that out of total target, ordinary jute will be cultivated on 4999 acres while Tossa jute will be cultivated on 4200 acres land in the district.

FARIDPUR

Foreign liquor recovered

May 2: Narcotics Control Directorate personnel recovered a huge quantity of foreign liquor worth Taka one lakh from Faridpur town on April 26, reports BSS.
According to an official source, the Assistant Director of local office raided one shop near old Alimuzaman bridge of this town and recovered some bottles of liquored. Later on the Narcotics Control personnel raided the residence of the same shopowner and recovered huge quantity of foreign liquor. A case was registered in this connection and the shopowner was arrested.
Our Correspondent adds: Faridpur 'Shahitya Sanskritik Unnayan Sangstha' announced Alaul Shahitya award.
The winners of the award are: Poet Omar Ali for his poem 'Ferer Samaya,' Mr. Bashir-al-Helal for his work 'Bhasa Andoloner Itihas,' and Mamunur Rashid for his work 'Aubobshika.'
The prize will be distributed in the ensuing 'Shahitya Sammelon' to be held in the last part of the current year.

GAZIPUR

Irri-Boro production far short of target

May 2: Irri-Boro production will fall far short the target this year due to widespread pest attack, officials feared.
Of the 65,625 hectares of land, 35,260 hectares have already come under pest attack in Sadar, Tongi, Sripur, Kaliakair, Kaliganj and Kapasia upazilas of the district.
Farmers said paddy plants turned yellowish and spraying of the insecticides also proved ineffective.
They alleged that pesticides now available in local markets are mostly adulterated.
Affected farmers urged the authorities to take immediate steps to combat the menace.

BRAHMANBARIA

One electrocuted

May 2: A man was electrocuted when the cyclonic storm hit Kandipara in the pourashava area Monday, police said, reports UNB.
Witnesses said, Mohammad Hossain (25) died on the spot when he came in contact with a live electric wire lying on the road while going to his house at mid night.
The body was sent to Sadar hospital.

HABIGANJ

40 primary schools damaged

May 2: At least 40 primary schools in Sadar upazila of the district were damaged due to recent heavy downpour accompanied with thunder storm, reports UNB.
According to officials, there are 92 government primary schools in the Sadar upazila. The students of the damaged schools are reportedly attending their classes at the premises of UP office buildings of the upazila.
Guardians have urged the authorities to take immediate schemes to repair the damaged schools for smooth functioning of education.

RANGPUR

Constable injured

May 2: A traffic constable, grievously injured in a road mishap, succumbed at Rangpur Medical College hospital Monday night, police said, reports UNB.
According to witnesses, Monirul Islam (40), was hit by a Rangpur bound truck on Ragpur-Bogra highway near Cadet College in the town the same morning. He was rushed to the hospital in a critical condition.
Police seized the truck but the driver escaped.
The body was sent to his home district Natore and buried at Bagatpara village.

MAULVI BAZAR

Best school, college

May 2: Sreemangol Victoria High School and Kamalganj College have been adjudged as the best school and college for their excellent performances over the last academic year.
Official sources said Alhaj Mohorram Ali, headmaster of the school in Sreemangol upazila and Rosomoy Mohanta, principal of the college in Kamalganj upazila have been named as best teachers for the year 1990.

TV programmes disturbed

Dhaka Television programmes are regularly disturbed by images and black line on TV screen, watchers here complained.
Sylhet station relay the Dhaka programmes for the viewers of the district.
Viewers allege that strong signals from nearby Indian TV station also meddle in the reception.

BARISAL

Training course concludes

BARISAL, May 2: A 5-day long training course on "efficiency and artistic skills" for the teachers of Barisal Development Society (BDS) concluded here in the BDS premises on Saturday, reports BSS.
A total of 40 teachers from 40 public education centres of 8 sub-centres of BDS took part in this training course.
Mr. Linus Adhir Das, the Executive Director of BDS, gave away the certificates among the participants in the course.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia visiting Kalatali village in Cox's Bazar devastated by cyclone on Wednesday.

—PID photo

More housing facilities needed

Landlords demand higher rent: tenants suffer

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, May 2: House rent has increased manifold at the busy river Port town of Bhairab 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 hike.
At present a single unit of residential quarters is being let out at a monthly rent of Taka 1500. In many cases the house owners realise advance rent from the tenants. As a result many tenants especially the fixed income group find it difficult to manage their accommodation here.
Following the 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 houses.

The crisis of accommodation both for residential and commercial purposes and rent hike have been attributed to non-availability of land at reasonable rates 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.

Footpaths occupied

Mushroom growth of stalls of various items including foodstuffs has been causing a lot of sufferings to the residents of Bhairab town over the last few years.

Hundreds of stalls are being set up daily by the both sides of the roads of the town leaving narrow passage for the movement of the pedestrians and rickshaws.

The roads and lanes of this commercial centre are not at all spacious to adjust the movement of the increasing number of people coming here daily for business purposes from the far-flung areas of the country. Apart from this, the

rickshaws, handcarts and rickshawvans are in constant movement from dawn to midnight despite the bad condition of the roads.

Besides, the genuine traders of the town in most cases keeps lots of empty drums on the roadside space causing hindrance to the movement of pedestrians and rickshaws.

Some of the most busy roads, such as Thana Road, Bat-tala Road, Mistipatty, Muripatty, Rice Mahal etc are in a pitiable condition due to grabbing of roadside space by the hawkers.

The unrestrained growth of stalls on the unsuspicious roads of the town has endangered the townlife at Bhairab Pourashava over.

Vegetables perish in absence of storage facilities

From A Correspondent

SATKHIRA, May 2: A huge quantity of vegetables is getting rotten for want of adequate cold storage facilities in the northern part of the district, causing heavy loss to the vegetable growers. There are three cold storages in Satkhira district of which one has gone out of order since long. The remaining two are not sufficient to meet the demand of the farmers. The vegetables like potatoes, brinjals, pumpkin etc decay and get rotten due to shortage of preserving facilities.
However, vegetables pro-

duction has increased in the district during the last few years but accordingly storage facilities are not extended resulting in damage of huge quantity of vegetables. Farmers alleged that they are compelled to sell their produce below the production cost. As a result middle men are taking advantage and earning windfall profit by selling these vegetables at three to four times higher rates in the capital city.

They added that the Agriculture Department can save the farmers by constructing cold storages in the district and help the farmers in getting fair price of their produce.

Adulterated foodstuffs

Selling of adulterated and exposed foodstuffs has become rampant in different markets of Satkhira district causing serious health hazard to the people.

According to the reports, due to scarcity of pure foodstuffs like edible oil, milk, ghee, coconut oil and tea in different markets of the district and urban and rural areas,

Chuadanga surplus food producing area

CHUADANGA, May 2: Chuadanga district has achieved production target and already become surplus food producing area, officials told the Agriculture, Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Minister, reports UNB.

Maj. Gen (Rtd) M. Majid-ul-Haque was reviewing the progress of agriculture rehabilitation and irrigation extension services at a meeting with concerned Khulna divisional and Chuadanga district-level senior officials in the Deputy Commissioner's conference room here on Monday.

The Minister said country's agriculture sector had the brightest future to shine, if all available input and technology were properly utilised.

The Minister enquired about production of jute, aus and boro paddy, cotton, sugarcane and other seasonal crops in the region as well as in the district.

He specially enquired about the progress of completion of work on the GK project and functioning of deep tubewells.

The Minister was apprised by concerned officials that Chuadanga district had not only achieved the production target but already become the surplus food production area.

They, however, suggested necessary steps to simplify the procedures of getting agricultural loans and ensuring adequate supply of fertilizers at retail price at the farm level.

Later, General Haque addressed a students' rally arranged at Chuadanga

Bright prospect for kakrol farming

From Our Correspondent

MEHERPUR, May 2: Rigid gourd (Kakrol) cultivation has been hampered to a great extent in Meherpur, Chuadanga, Kushtia and Jhenidah districts due to lack of incentive to the growers.

Kakrol is available in the market in monsoon and winter season and is sold at Taka 20 to 25 per kg. It is known to be enriched with vitamin 'C' and also an antidote to skin and ophthalmic diseases.

The growers previously used to cultivate kakrol in the fields and kitchen gardens to meet their daily need and supplement vegetables.

The soil of these districts is also suitable for its cultivation. According to the Assistant Director, Agricultural Extension Department, growers of these districts lack incentive to grow more vegetables like rigid gourd. Besides, the growers can earn good profit on extensive cultivation of the vegetable.

This vegetable is known to be preferred mostly by urban people than the villagers.

Integrated Village Development Project (IVDP) and the Bangladesh Boys Scouts distributed 50 sets of latrines to the people of Mayamari, to minimise the sufferings of urban and rural people who were passing their days in polluted environment. There are thousands of kutcha latrines in the district since long.

The distribution ceremony was inaugurated by Mr Mohammad Mamtazur Rahman, Deputy Commissioner, Meherpur which was presided over by Mr Shamsul Haq Bhuiyan, UNO Meherpur.

The scouts Secretary, Commissioner and other scout leaders were also present on the occasion.

Mother, daughter murdered

Lilima (20) and her minor daughter Rozina (6) were murdered in the village of Gabindapur under Alamdanga upazila of the district recently. Lilima who had a pregnancy of six months and her daughter were strangled to death.

On the day of the incident Rashidul Islam, husband of Lilima went to his neighbour's house to bring a hurricane (lantern) at about 12 pm and on returning did not receive

any response from his wife on repeated calls, in the darkness of the night he found the body of his wife hanging with a bamboo cross bar of his thatched house and the body of his daughter Rozina on a cot. His neighbours rushed to his home when he raised alarm. The cause of the incident could not be ascertained. The corpses have been buried without post-mortem.

Road needs renovation

Five kilometre long road from Gangni upazila headquarter to Dhankhola Bazar needs immediate renovation to minimise the sufferings of the pedestrians and vehicular traffic.

According to the sources, the Zilla Parishad has not taken up any construction or renovation work during the last 20 years and now it has become almost impossible to the vehicles to play and also the pedestrians suffer much. The situation aggravates during monsoon. The local people urged the concerned authorities to renovate the road immediately to mitigate the sufferings of the people.

The lone survivor

FENI, May 2: One day-labourer who lost his wife and all the five children in Monday's cyclone was rescued near the WAPDA dam here today, reports UNB.

Abdul Mannan of village Charnagiar of Sandwip along with his family members fought for life during the monstrous calamity taking shelter on a floating 'Chowki' (bedstead).

In Sandwip, about 6000 people were killed by the cyclone. He lost them in the tidal surge and caught a banana-stem and reached Feni this afternoon after a 40-mile journey through the Feni river.

Mannan, the survivor of his family, turned imbalanced and was admitted to the Chhaganaiyati Hospital. "About 500 families of my village met the same fate", he said.

Ration goods sell in blackmarket

From A Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, May 2: Commodities allotted as 'Palli Ration' are sold in blackmarket in Sirajganj district.

It is learnt that during the regime of deposed President HM Ershad, 'Palli Rationing' system was introduced in the country and the MPs of 1988 parliament were empowered to appoint the dealers. Accordingly, in Sirajganj district the members of 1988 parliament appointed Ration dealers somewhere allegedly taking bribe. Since their appointment, the Palli Ration dealers sold foodgrains in blackmarkets. The ration cards are not supplied to the holders rather the dealers only record the items in it and sell all in black market keeping the papers clean.

A country-wide investigation into Palli Rationing to stop misuse of foodgrains have been suggested.

The government has sanctioned 507 metric tons of wheat under VGD scheme during the current financial year. Three hundred eighty-four metric tons of wheat have been distributed during the last nine months among 1352 destitute families.

Sylhet Chamber donation for cyclone victims

The Sylhet Chamber of Commerce and Industry Thursday decided to donate Taka 1,00,101 from its own fund to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund for the cyclone affected people of southern Bangladesh, reports BSS.

The Chamber took the decision at an emergency meeting of its executive committee at Sylhet Thursday. The Chamber also formed a five-member relief committee and called upon all businessmen to donate relief materials and money for the helpless people of the storm hit districts, a Chamber press release said.

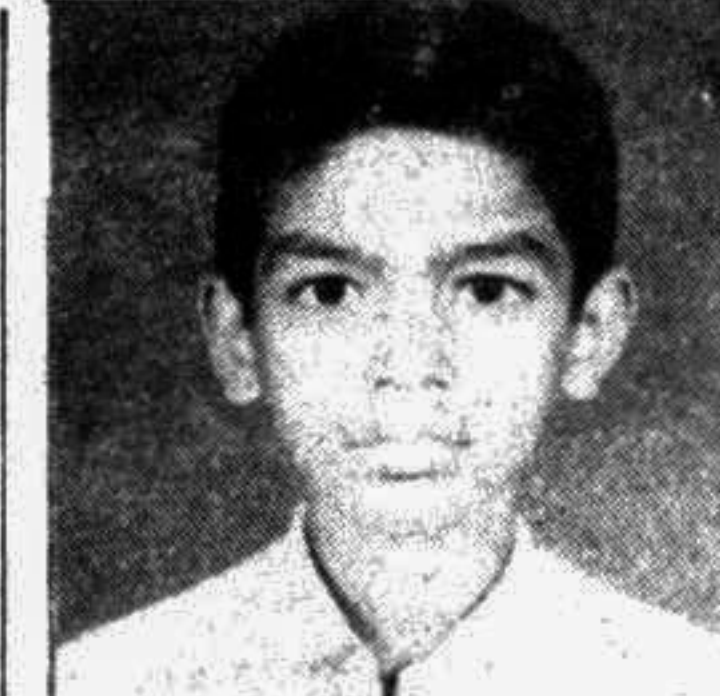
The Chamber members in the emergency meeting with its President M. A. Mamun in the chair also urged the government to strengthen its relief and rescue activities in the affected areas.

The Chamber expressed its deep shock at the loss of lives and damage to property by the severe cyclonic storm and expressed sympathy with the members of the bereaved families. It also prayed for the peace of the departed souls.



KUSHTIA: A view of a cultural function organised by Udichi Shilpi Gosthi, Kushtia branch, in observance of Pahela Baishakh at Public Library auditorium recently.

—Star photo



Academic feat

Sharif Mohammad Wasimuddin Callins has got primary scholarship in talent pool. He is a student of Faridpur Zilla School. Wasim is the youngest son of Sharif Muhammad Amiruddin, Assistant Professor of physics Government Rajendra College, Faridpur.

Fund shortage hits Madrasha edn

From Our Correspondent

MADARIPUR, May 2: Ahmadiya Madrasha, an old institution in Madaripur district is beset with manifold problems hampering education of students.

The institution founded by the Pir of Pakhira, Madaripur, started functioning in 1953 as Dakhl Madrasha and it was elevated to Kamel (title) in 1963.

The Madrasha building built over 8.86 acres of land at village Pakhira was devoured by the river Ariakhan in 1986 and the Madrasha was shifted to village Kukrail a south-east-

ern outskirts of Madaripur town and was housed in small building.

For want of funds, the Madrasha could not be developed and expanded to cater to the requirement of 500 students in 18 classes.

Twenty-two teachers are required to ensure proper holding of classes, but only 16 are work at present.

Tuition fee is realised from the students. The salary of the teachers and staff members are met up with government grant and donation from local people.

In absence of a hostel students reside in rented houses or messes in the town. As such academic pursuit of the students is hampered.

There is acute shortage of furniture in the Madrasha. The number of books of the library which were washed away by erosion and floods over the years have not yet been replenished for want of funds. As a result, students of higher classes are deprived of benefit of reference books.

Built on low-lying land the Madrasha goes under water with the advent monsoon every year causing of much trouble to the students and teachers.

The Madrasha is yet to be electrified and boundary wall is required to stop entrance of cattle and burglars.

The students have not yet been provided with a science laboratory for which practical classes are not being held. Sports appliances have not yet been supplied.

The one km semi-pucca passage known as Kukrail road leading towards the Madrasha is in a deplorable state. The narrow road damaged by floods was not reconstructed. So students have to face immense difficulties in rainy season.