

Upazila roundup

**CHANDPUR**  
Steps will be taken to protect Chandpur town

May 10: Mr Majedul Hoque, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control has said that the government would take short and long term steps simultaneously to protect the Chandpur town from the erosion of the Meghna river, reports BSS.

He was addressing a public meeting at Chandpur city after visiting the Chandpur town protection embankment and the Meghna-Dhanogoda Irrigation Project on Wednesday.

The Minister said that the government also had taken up a long term scientific study project for protecting river-erosion of the country. Bangladesh River Research Institute would implement the project. He said that discussion for financing that project with the World Bank was going on.

State Minister for Information Md Nurul Huda was also present during his visit.

**MYMENSINGH**  
Nor'wester hits 5 UZs: 3 killed

May 10: Nor'wester lashed five upazilas of the district Monday night killing three and injuring about 200 others, reports BSS.

The storm which hit Phulpur, Gouripur, Gaffargaon, Bhaluka and Sadar upazilas lasted about an hour. Two persons of Kukurikanda village under Phulpur upazila and one woman of Ghatarkona village under Gouripur upazila were killed when their houses collapsed on them.

District administration said that a large number of trees were uprooted and innumerable kutcha houses damaged. Besides, crops were badly damaged in the affected area.

District administration sanctioned five metric tons wheat and Taka 10,000 as immediate relief for affected people.

Mr Shamsul Haque MP and Deputy Commissioner visited the affected area.

**KUSHIA**  
Celebration of Tagore's birthday postponed

May 10: Celebration of Tagore's 130th birthday has been postponed here in view of the unprecedented cyclone and tidal surge that hit the coastal belt recently, reports UNB.

The decision to this effect was taken at a meeting Monday with Deputy Commissioner in the chair. Political leaders and social workers attended the meeting.

**GAIBANDEHA**  
467 SSC examinees expelled

May 10: With 106 more SSC examinees expelled Tuesday for adopting unfair means at five centres here, the total number of the expelled stood at 467 since the beginning of the examination, reports UNB.

The examination began on May 2.

Centre sources said 44 students were expelled in Sadullapur, 13 in Sadar, 21 in Saghatia and two Sundarganj.

Five invigilators were also expelled from Sadullapur centre.

Another report from Netrokona said 130 examinees have so far been expelled from 12 centres of the district for copying during examination.

**SATKHIRA**  
BDR, smugglers exchange fire: one killed

May 10: A young man was killed and a BDR injured when a group of alleged smugglers and border guards exchanged heavy fire Wednesday night at Chakla village, three miles off Jhaudanga border with India, reports UNB.

The victim, suspected to be a smuggler, was identified as Shahidul Islam of Jhaudanga village of Sadar upazila.

BDR jawan Abdul Rahman who received bullet injury in the thigh was admitted to Sadar hospital.

On tips, Bangladesh Rifles raided Chakla village and seized a huge quantity of polyester clothes worth about Taka 2.23 lakh while being smuggled out of the country.

The clash began when smugglers numbering about 50 challenged the BDR personnel. Chakla and other border vil-

lages are the dens of smugglers, police said.

**BARISAL**  
Transplanted Aman farming plan

May 10: Transplanted aman will be cultivated in 50,000 acres of land in ten upazilas of Barisal district this year, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the production target has been fixed at 27,778 metric tons of rice.

Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) has taken up a programme to sell seeds, fertilizers and other necessary inputs to the farmers.

**FENI**  
Student leader killed in road accident

May 10: A student leader was killed when a truck carrying relief goods from Dhaka to Chittagong turned turtle on Feni by-pass road in Chagalnaya upazila yesterday, reports UNB.

Witnesses said that the victim Kazi Abu Sayeed Pintoo (25), Joint Secretary of the Jattiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), Demra unit died on the spot when a truck with relief goods for the cyclone-victims of Chittagong dashed against a tree and turned turtle at Daulatpur.

The driver of the truck, however, managed to escape leaving the vehicle on the spot.

Chagalnaya police later sent the relief goods to Chittagong in another vehicle.

Post mortem of the body was performed at Feni Sadar Hospital.

Feni police handed over the body to the leaders of JCD Demra thana unit this afternoon.

**HABIGANJ**  
Tomado kills 4

May 10: Four people were killed, scores of others injured and hundreds of houses damaged following tornado, flash floods and heavy rainfall throughout the district over the last week, locals said, reports UNB.

Standing crops on a vast tract of land were damaged in Lakhai, Bahubal, Baniachong, Madhabpur, Azmirigonj and Sadar upazilas tremendously affecting the standing crops and homesteads.

The deceased were identified as Abdul Ahad (20), of Barnai in Lakhai upazila. He was killed by the storm. Ilias (28) of Shibpur village of Lakhai and Abdus Sattar of Madhabpur were killed when lightning struck them. Abdul Hasim of Zarulla in Chunarghat was washed away by flood water.

It is learnt that at least 25 people were killed due to the natural calamities during the last month.

**COMILLA**  
Standing crops submerged

May 10: Standing crops on vast acres of land were submerged Tuesday after waters from Gumati river leaked through an embankment at Trish in Muradnagar upazila, reports UNB.

Breaches on the dyke were created when on rush of rain-water from hilly areas of Tripura increased the water level of the river, according to sources.

The Gumti was flowing six metres above the danger level on the day.

Boro crop on about 3,000 acres of land and Aus on about 10,000 acres went under water due to incessant rain here for the last few days.

Locals feared unless the breaches repaired, the rampaging river may inundate fresh areas.

**PABNA**  
Riverine transportation affected

May 10: Riverine transportation between Nagarbari and Aricha has been adversely affected by emergence of shoals in the rivers Padma and Jumuna, reports UNB.

Fall of water level in the rivers caused the emergence of the shoals in the waterways. As a result the ferry ghats at Nagarbari had to be shifted to about three kilometres south.

At least five towers of the east-west inter-connector now stand on chars where there is no water. Although all the towers were erected in the deep water only seven years back.

Besides, irrigation has been hampered by paucity of surface water from the rivers.

Farmers fear that continuation of the situation for another month would lead to fall in irri-boro production.



Marooned people anxiously waiting for succour to be dropped from helicopter at Hatiya island in Chittagong.

— Star photo

Lack of coordination hampers distribution

Relief yet to reach remote areas

From Our Correspondent

BARISAL, May 10: Thousands of distressed people saved from the recent cyclone are now waiting for the relief materials for their survival.

According to reliable sources, 20,000 to 30,000 people have arrived from the newly visible island which is said to be not included in any government document or even in Atlas. The island is two to three kilometres wide and four to five kilometres long located at 30 miles off the deep sea from the mainland has been washed out leaving behind these 30,000 people.

According to the sources, relief materials are being distributed specially in the mainland areas and the worst affected people of far-flung islands are being deprived of the relief materials. They are still living on the relief materials dropped and sent by army copters earlier.

Moreover, the distribution of the relief materials are being hampered due to lack of

co-ordination. Besides, transportation through water-ways is being delayed due to shortage of transport and unfavourable conditions climate. Reconstruction work on the other hand is being hampered due to non-availability of necessary materials which is an urgent need of the distressed people. Hundreds of betel leaf growers of Daulatkhani and Char Fashion upazilas of Bhola are now affected as their betel leaf producing 'baraj' have been destroyed in the recent cyclone. The farmers need immediate government loan to reset 'baraj' for their survival.

About 125 miles long embankment damaged in the tidal surge requires reconstruction before rainy season as to save the crops from flash flood.

BSS from Agri Varsity adds: Bangladesh Agricultural University Relief and Rehabilitation Committee has formed a relief fund with contribution of one day's salary by all teachers, officers and employees of BAU, amounting to

Taka 2.81 lakh, donation of a portion of budgetcut through programme-curtailment by the committee and nine hall students' unions of the university and donation of a portion of students stipends at the rate of Taka 10 each.

The committee further decided to take immediate and necessary steps in respect of proper distribution of relief fund and relief materials.

It was further resolved in the meeting to form and send a team of agricultural specialists in order to develop a programme of agricultural rehabilitation in the cyclone-affected areas.

Presided over by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. M. Asadur Rahman, the meeting was attended by members of the committee, representatives from BAU teachers' council, and officers and employees.

UNB from Kushtia adds: All party relief committee has been formed here to provide succour to the victims of cyclone and tidal surge in the

coastal districts of the country. The committee was formed Friday with Advocate Shamsul Alam Duda, President of BKSAL district unit as convener.

Other members of the committee are Abdur Rashid Chowdhury, Secretary Kushtia Zila Press Club, Abdul Wahed, Kazi Raisul Huq Masuk, Fuad Hossain, Wakil Mujahid, Shamsul Huda, Advocate Ghulam Mohiuddin, Mohammad Hossain Mohan, Md Khaliquzzaman and Dr Syed Fazle Rab.

The committee has collected a substantial quantity of dry food and clothes from local people which are being distributed among the cyclone-victims.

**Cox's Bazar**

Our Cox's Bazar correspondent Abdul Monayem Kahn reports that, the distressed people of the coastal areas under Cox's Bazar district are passing their days in agony even after

10 days of the disaster. They need food, shelter, clothing and drinking water. A large number of cyclone affected people are going towards town area of Cox's Bazar to get shelter. They are coming from Kutubdia, Moheskhal, Matar Bari and Dalghata.

Kutubdia upazila is still under water. Matar Bari and Dalghata unions under Maheshkhal upazila are worst affected by the tidal surge.

Almost all the thatched houses in area have been washed away or badly damaged. Those who survived the onslaught saved themselves taking shelter on the embankments.

The survivors are still struggling and now it is against hunger and thirst. But their struggle for existence seems harder since help and succour are yet to reach the coastal belt of Cox's Bazar where thousands fell victim to the worst natural calamity.

Notes from Sylhet

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, May 10: The BDR personnel seized smuggled goods worth Taka four lakh, according to sources.

A special patrol party of 36 battalion after raiding Zakiganj, Dobagbazar and Chaglibazar in Sylhet borders has seized 6000 kgs of Indian sugar, huge quantity of onions, salt, jira, and dry pepper.

They also seized bicycle spare parts worth about Taka 55,000 from Atgram area of Zakiganj upazila.

Meanwhile, Indian sarees, lungis, chadar and cosmetics worth Taka 50,000 was also recovered from Assampara of Chunarughat.

It is further learnt that, a large quantity of rice, and spices along with cattleheads and sarees are smuggled into Bangladesh. Electronic goods, soyabean oil, fish, photo films, wrist watches and second hand clothes are smuggled out of Bangladesh.

Interruption in TV programmes

Frequent interruption in BTW programmes in Sylhet is creating frustration among the TV watchers.

According to the local engineer concerned, the interruption is due to faults in microwave, T & T link and sunspot activities. Besides, the microwave equipment are not replaced with new ones since last eight years which are also responsible for repeated transmission failures. Sunspot activities are expected to be subsided within few days and other causes are likely to persist for few more days.

Two killed

Two passengers were killed and 30 injured when two coasters collided recently.

One of the victim was identified as Kabir of Mullahpur village under Beanibazar upazila while the other could not be identified.

A case has been registered with Beanibazar thana.

2 commit suicide

Two persons committed suicide recently.

Naimullah (24) of Gajahat village in Bishwanath upazila committed suicide by hanging himself who was said to be suffering from frustration since his return from Dubai four or five months back.

Beni Malakar (30) of Karmadha village in Fenchuganj upazila took poison who later died in upazila hospital.

Both the cases have been registered with the concerned thanas.

May Day observed

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, May 10: The historic May Day was observed in the district town and other upazila headquarter's recently. The speakers stressed the need for maintaining unity of the workers and urged the authorities to protect the legitimate right at the working class.

Different labour organisations, political parties and socio-cultural bodies held separate meetings and rallies to highlight the importance of the day and voice the demands of the workers in the new democratic set-up.

A big workers' meeting was held in the inter-district bus terminal at Jamalpur. The meeting was organised by SKOP, Jamalpur district unit. The meeting was presided over by Faisur Rahman and addressed by Khademul Haque, Mokadim Hossain and Hormuz Ali.

Serajul Haque MP attended it as the chief guest.

One killed, fifty hurt in Sirajganj nor'wester

SIRAJGANJ, Mar 10: A nor'wester lashed three upazilas of the district Wednesday night killing one and injuring 50 others, reports UNB.

The storm at a speed of 150 km hit Raiganj, Kamarkhand and Sadar upazilas and lasted for one and half hours. It destroyed property worth of over Tk 50 lakh.

A 10-year-old boy was killed when his house collapsed in Simla village under Sadar upazila of the district. His parents who were with him were injured.

Upazila and district administration sources said over 100 villages were affected in the storm and telecommunication with the affected upazilas remained disrupted till today.

They said about 70 per cent trees were uprooted, over 4,000 kutcha houses damaged, thousand tin shaded huts blown apart and over 100 electric poles destroyed.

Crops were damaged severely in Kazipur upazila where the storm was accompanied by hail.

Medical College for Faridpur assured

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, May 10: Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yousuf, Minister of Health and Family Planning and Kabir Hossain, State Minister of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives (LGRD) were accorded a reception at Faridpur on Saturday last. Thousands of people received the ministers at Kamar Khali ghat.

The Faridpur Pourashava, Sadar General Hospital, Upazila Parishad, Faridpur district BNP and Faridpur Press Club also held reception in their honour.

State Minister Kabir Hossain, said in his speech in Faridpur High School Maidan that the movement against the autocratic rule of HM Ershad ended after nine years and the people regained their rights. He also said deposed President HM Ershad and his followers should be punished for their misdeeds.

Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yousuf said in his speech that a Medical College and 200-bed hospital would be established at Faridpur very soon. He also assured that a Homeopathic

College and Hospital will also be set up at Faridpur.

He also assured of giving an ambulance in the Sadar Hospital during his visit there.

Health Minister and State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives visited the Faridpur Press Club in the evening and praised newsmen for their courageous role in projecting national problems.

In reply to a question of the journalists the Health Minister said that setting up of a hospital in Nagarkanda upazila is under consideration.

Scout commissioner

Mr LB Gamble, Australian International Scout Commissioner and his wife Mrs. Gamble visited Kamarpur village of Faridpur recently.

Under the Bangladesh-Australian Child and Health programme 300 family received tubewells, vegetable seeds and health advice.

In this connection a reception meeting was held at Kamarpur. It was presided over by Abdur Rahim, DC of Faridpur.

JCD-Moitree clash at Rajbari: Four hurt

RAJBARI, May 10: At least four people were seriously injured following a series of clashes between Jattiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and Chhatra Moitree activists at sadar upazila during last 48 hours, police said today, reports UNB.

The injured persons were admitted to the Sadar Hospital with serious wounds. They are Jahir (50), Jadu (40), Babu (25), Nazim Uddin (25), all BNP activists.

Witnesses said the clash erupted when Chhatra Moitree attacked the house of the JCD supporters Ataur Rahman and Wakil Ahmed at Durgapur village.

Supporters of the student organisations brought out separate processions brandishing weapons causing panic in the area.

Local police arrested four youths in this connection. They are Sheikh Mofazzal Hossain, Tahajel, Didarul and Gopal Chandra Mojumdar.

Separate cases by both the groups have been filed with the Sadar police.



Newly sunken tubewell at cyclone-hit Patenga in Chittagong

Meagre medicare in Satkhira hospital

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, May 10: The 50-bed modernised hospital in Satkhira has been facing various problems.

The number of beds is inadequate to cope with the increasing number of patients. Sometimes the patients are compelled to stay on the floor of the hospital.

Lifesaving drugs like dextrose saline, oral saline, ATS, penicillin tablets, antibiotics and ampicillin injections are not available in the hospital. Even most ordinary medicines for the treatment of the out door patients are not available in the hospital. The poor patients suffer seriously for want of essential drugs. The admit-

ted patients are forced to buy the medicines from outside at high rates.

The diet supplied to the patients is not up to the standard. Though X-Ray machines and surgical equipment are available in the hospital, the patients suffer much due to absence of technicians. Absence of gynecologist is also creating problems to the female patients. There are no ENT department and blood bank in the hospital. Patients are unable to purchase blood from outside due to exorbitant prices. Critical patients are compelled to go to Jessore, Khulna, and Dhaka for treatment for want of blood. Many

patients meet miserable death due to scarcity of blood.

On the other hand harassment and misbehaviour by doctors and nurses with the patients and their attendants are also alleged. The only ambulance in the hospital remains out of order very often for want of proper maintenance.

8 die of diarrhoea

Diarrhoea has claimed eight lives and attacked 500 others in two upazilas of Satkhira district within two weeks.

Of the victims five died in Tala and three in Debhata upazilas. Thirty-five medical teams from Health Department have been working round-the-

clock in the affected areas. Consumption of adulterated foodstuffs and scarcity of pure drinking water are learnt to be the main reasons behind the outbreak of the disease.

Moreover, acute scarcity of oral and intravenous saline is prevailing in all the markets of the district adding to the misery of the patients.

Katebur Rahman, Deputy Commissioner, Satkhira has called for urgent steps to increase the supply of oral and IV salines to meet the growing demand of the patients.

A housewife was beaten to death by her husband recently. It is reported that Jahanara Khatoun (16) wife of Anisur

Rahman of village Ghowa under Tala upazila was mercilessly beaten to death following family feud. The husband of the victim later poured poison into her mouth to suppress the killing as a suicidal case.

A case has been filed with the Tala police station and the body was sent to the Satkhira hospital for autopsy.

Contraband seized

UNB adds: Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) seized a boat and recovered Indian Sarees and other contraband worth about Taka 46 lakh and arrested five people from Betna river near Damarpota in Sadar upazila here.