

Upazila roundup

KUSHIA

Gold bars seized

May 14: Police have seized three gold bars, each weighing 10 tola, from a house of village Hosenbad of Daulatpur upazila here, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip, they raided the house of Khemajan Nesa of the village and recovered the gold biscuits recently.

According to police, the bars, worth about Taka two lakh, were intended to be smuggled out of the country.

A case has been registered in this connection.

BOGRA

Acute crisis of petrol

May 14: Acute crisis of petroleum has been prevailing in the northern regions of the country for the last two weeks, reports UNB.

According to sources, petrol is now being sold between Taka 30 and 35 per litre instead of Taka 14 fixed by the government. The district administration has ordered petrol rationing to avert the crisis.

Taking advantage of the situation some unscrupulous traders are involved in making windfall profit by raising the price of petrol.

The crisis has been persisting as no petroleum cargo could reach Baghabari ghat due to the devastating cyclone that hit the coastal regions of the country on April 29.

The floating petroleum depots at Baghabari ghat and Chilmari now lack petrol stock while kerosene and diesel are available, it is learnt.

Petrol rationing was introduced in Bogra, Rangpur, Gaibandha and Pabna districts in view of short supply.

Jamuna devours 200 houses

Over 200 houses in Sariakandi upazila of the district were devoured by the river Jamuna over the last two weeks.

Meanwhile, the erosion has taken a serious turn and eroded over 200 acres of agricultural land in Uttarbaria and Adbaria villages of the upazila.

Water Development Board officials feared that Brahmaputra flood protection embankment, only 500 feet away from the rampaging river, is also threatened.

People here have demanded construction of a new embankment before the rainy season to save vast croplands from the imminent danger.

SATKHIRA

Students clash with transport workers: 15 hurt

May 14: At least 15 people were injured, eight of them seriously, in a clash between college students and transport workers at Kaliganj bus stand on Monday, police here said, reports UNB.

Seriously injured students of Kaliganj College Abu Baker, Mohiuddin, Chittaranjan, Saider, Baranjan, Enamul, Amjad, Hafiz and Ratan were admitted to Sadar Hospital.

Witnesses said angry students damaged two buses, Satkhira, B-81 and Khulna, B-243, when bus conductors demanded excess fare from them.

After the incident, a group of armed bus workers stormed the campus ransacking the college office and humiliating female students, college authorities alleged.

MAGURA

Police, motor workers clash, 10 injured

From Our Correspondent

May 14: About 10 persons including O.C. Magura thana, and a Customs Inspector were injured and two government transports were damaged in a clash between police party and Motor Sramik Union Sunday night at Magura.

According to the report, an anti-smuggling task force headed by Customs Department officials set up a check post at Alamkhali bridge on Magura-Kamarkhali road Sunday night and while they tried to check a bus a clash ensued between police and Motor Sramik Union. Members of Motor Sramik Union and passengers damaged a police truck and a customs minibus. As a result all kinds of transports and night bus did not ply on Khulna-Dhaka road at night. After the incident with the joint auspices of police high officials and local Motor Sramik leaders the problem was solved.

A case has been registered with the Magura thana in this connection.

AGRI-VARSITY

Sher-e-Bangla's contribution recalled

May 14: In observance of the 29th death anniversary of Sher-e-Bangla A.K. Fazlul Huq a seminar was held here recently under the auspices of F.H. Hall Union of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU), reports BSS.

Held at the F.H. Hall common room, the seminar was presided over by Dr. Monoj Mohan Sen, Acting Provost of the hall and it was attended by prof. Monsurul Amin, Students Affairs Adviser and Dr. M. Rafiqul Haque, former General Secretary of University Teachers' Association Federation as the chief guest and the special guest respectively. Others who spoke on the occasion included Dr. Abdur Rahman, Mr. Naibuddin Ahmed, VP of Fazlul Haque Hall Union Mr. Md. Niazuddin Pasha and messrs. Mamun, Panjaj and Sawkat.

Highlighting the life and contributions of Sher-e-Bangla, the chief guest stated that in him we had found the most genuine friend of the farming community of Bangladesh. He fought for their deliverance from the clutches of poverty and it was he, who had laid the foundation of higher agricultural education and research in our country, he said.

SIRAJGANJ

Two bodies recovered

May 14: Kaziupur police recovered two bodies from Dhekuria char near WAPDA embankment here yesterday, reports UNB.

At least four people were missing after a boat sank in the river Jamuna Sunday. The boat carrying 11 labourers was on way to the char in an inclement weather. Seven passengers swam ashore.

The bodies were identified as Shukur (28) and Roset Ali (24) of Balshakhi village of Dhunat upazila in Bogra district.

MANIKGANJ

Valuables looted

May 14: Valuables worth about Taka 50,000 were looted from houses of two doctors of Singair upazila health complex here, police said here today, reports UNB.

Witnesses said a gang of armed dacoits numbering 15 to 20 Friday raided the houses of Dr. Raihanuddin and Dr. Farooq Hossain and looted gold ornaments, cash and other belongings.

The miscreants also beat up four inmates of the houses when they tried to resist the looters.

Case was filed in this connection.

BRAHMANBARIA

Vast area of Sarail inundated

May 14: A vast area in Sarail upazila of the district was inundated overnight as onrush of hilly water coupled with rains continued, reports UNB.

Officials said about 300 acres of cropland was inundated Sunday night in Guduni, Shabagpur and Sahajadpur unions. About 5,000 acres of land in the district has been inundated in the last five days.

Puratan bazar of Ashuganj and two ferry ghats at Ashuganj and Bhatrab have been threatened with erosion by onrush of water from across the border and flood water pouring through the river Meghna from flood-hit Sylhet. All wood pontoons from the ghats have been removed.

Water is gushing through 10 breaches in Haora river embankment in Dhaturpaila, Khalapara, Jamachatala and Masura areas of Akhaura upazila.

RANGPUR

Lightning kills 4

From Our Correspondent

May 14: Four persons were killed and two others injured in Kishoreganj and Dimia upazilas following lightning on Saturday last. The victims are Helal (15), Pulal (12), Maya (13) and Morujia (16) of Kishoreganj upazila while the injured are Bledu (35) and Bhenda Mia (34) of Dimia upazila.

The tragedy occurred at around 10 a.m. on Saturday when storm lashed the upazilas. The injured were admitted in local hospital.



MAULVI BAZAR: A flood affected house at village Matarkapon under Chandnighat Union of Sadar upazila. —Star photo

Trail of devastation still visible

From Our Correspondent

PATUAKHALI, May 14: The trail of devastation wrought by cyclone and tidal bore April 29 is still visible in many places of the district with collapsed houses, uprooted trees, demolished educational institutions and inundation of thousands of acres of land.

According to a preliminary estimate, the loss in six upazilas of the district is about 10.70 crore Taka. The latest death figure is 21 and according to the Livestock Department, 1133 cattle, 6664 fowl perished alone in Galachipa upazila.

District Administration in cooperation with local people and political parties are taking effective measures to mitigate the sufferings of the distressed people.

Government has sanctioned Taka 10 lakh and 195 metric tons of wheat, 145 metric tons of rice, 380 pieces of saris, 380 pieces of lungies and 140 tons of biscuits. Upazila Administration in presence of local representatives and the armed forces personnel are distributing money, food, water purification tablets and oral saline while 14 medical teams and one army medical team

are working round the clock to serve the wounded and the sick.

As most of the tubewells were left inoperative, cyclone victims are compelled to drink contaminated water from the canals and rivers, due to which diarrhoeal deaths are on the rise. Moreover, people are unable to rebuild their ruined huts and cottages due to lack of tins in the relief godowns.

On the other hand, various NGO bodies are also working side by side with the district administration and distributing chira, gur, candles, match

boxes and many other items to the affected people. Government has further sanctioned five lakh Taka to operate gruel kitchens in the district.

The Deputy Commissioner of Patuakhali Sheikh Salauddin conveyed the matter of scarcity of tins to the Relief Ministry and asked to handover 563 bundles of tin and Taka two lakh in cash and other relief materials to district administration.

It is felt that the miseries will multiply if the crash programmes are not taken immediately.

Kishoreganj needs more fire stations

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, May 14: Property worth crores of Taka is being damaged in absence of fire stations in 11 out of 13 upazilas of the district every year. Every year fire incidents cause heavy damage to life and properties in these upazilas. Last year fire incidents caused heavy damage to property in Hossainpur, Pakundia, Tarail, Itna Katiadi and Karimganj upazilas.

At present there are fire stations only in Kishoreganj and Bhatrab. When the firebrigade personnel from Kishoreganj and Bhatrab reach the places of occurrences after long drive nothing remain to be extinguished by the firemen.

With the establishment of upazilas many government offices and private establishments have been set up in the

upazilas. Moreover there are internal roads in the upazilas and as such movement of fire vehicles will not be affected.

People hope that the government would set up fire stations in upazilas to save the life and property from the hazards of fire.

Alcoholism

Rectified spirit is being freely consumed as a substitute for alcohol by the youths in the town causing moral degradation, eyewitnesses here said. Residents complained that addicted young people buy the spirit from homeopaths and take it as alcohol by mixing water. An informed source said, ganja and locally made liquor are also used by the youths.

It is alleged that some dishonest homeopaths in spite of having licences to practise and

manufacture medicines are selling the spirit to the addicts at exorbitant prices.

As per government rule, licences for rectified spirit are only issued to the bonafide homeopath practitioners and homeo-medicine manufacturers. But it is openly sold in the town.

Meanwhile, drug addiction among the youth has increased here causing concern among the parents and guardians. School and college students constitute the largest group of addicts, it is learnt.

With the alarming increase in the addiction, crimes like theft, looting, dacoity and robbery etc have become rampant in every locality of the town. In many cases the crimes are not reported to the police for fear of dire consequences.

Dacoit shot dead

FARIDPUR, May 14: One alleged dacoit was shot dead by police and two others were arrested with arms Monday night near Parikkhitpur on Dhaka-Khulna highway under Madhukhali upazila.

According to a police source, in view of increasing highway robbery incidents particularly on passenger buses, a contingent of police force led by Khairul Bashar, Assistant Superintendent of Police, Faridpur ambushed a group of armed dacoits in a roadside brickfield. Police had a secret information about the movements of the dacoits.

Knowing the presence of police the dacoits first opened fire at them. Police chased them and opened fire.

As a result one young dacoit was wounded. He succumbed to his injuries after a few minutes.

Jute farming in Sherpur faces crisis

SHERPUR, May 14: In an attempt to boost jute farming Agriculture Extension Department has taken up a scheme to cultivate the natural fibre on 27,500 acres of land in five upazilas of the district this year, reports UNB.

But acute shortage of jute seeds will threaten the production target, according to growers.

Only 75 kgs of local variety jute seeds against the requirement of 15,500 kgs and 5,795 kgs of Tossa variety against the requirement of 17,300 kgs of seeds were distributed among the cultivators.

Taking advantage of the short supply, unscrupulous traders have abnormally raised the price of jute seeds.

Tagore's birth anniversary observed

AGRI-VARSITY (Mymensingh), May 14: An attractive musical soiree was arranged here on May 9 in observance of the 130th birth anniversary of the Rabindra Nath Tagore under the auspices of GITI Arghya (the offering of songs), a musical seminary at the Bangladesh Agricultural University residential area.

Held at the residence of Prof Fahmda Khatoon, a noted vocalist of Tagore song, the function was preceded by a lively discussion on the life and works of the poet and it was participated by Abdur Razzaque, Associate Professor and head of the department of Bengali of BAU as the keynote speaker.

Dwelling on the working mission of the poet, Mr. Razzaque stated that the poet had an implicit confidence and faith on the inner qualities and strengths of each of the individuals and had directed all his wills and energies toward the awakening of human possibilities through education and culture of reasonings.

The speaker urged upon all concerned to have acquisition of the inner message of the poet laureate, who, through his innumerable activities and literary endeavours, had voiced for the recognition of axiomatic value of the individuals, and had, thus, steered the process of human liberation.

The discussion was followed by a colourful presentation of Tagore songs, participated by Prof. Fahmda Khatoon, Esha, Muna, Kankon, Shetu, Mallika, Laboni, Jubi, Swagata, Noel, Tuli, Shirly, Mimi and Shanta.

Role of NGO's in relief operation lauded

RANGPUR, May 14: Shipping Minister M.K. Anwar yesterday lauded the role of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) for their relief efforts and urged them to extend their helping hand to mitigate the sufferings of the distressed humanity of the coastal belt ravaged by the cyclonic storm.

The Minister was exchanging views with the representatives of local and foreign NGOs at the Circuit House here yesterday.

Dwelling upon the country-wide NGO network, Mr. Anwar said, "the NGOs along with the government should work in the nook and corner of the country, even in the inaccessible regions."

Earlier, the Shipping Minister addressed a review meeting on overall development and law and order of the district at the conference room of Deputy Commissioner's office.

The Minister was informed that Rangpur district had a foodgrains surplus of 182,167 metric tons annually.

He stressed the need for continuation of the present trend of food production at any cost.

Relief operation geared up

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, May 14: Various political parties, government, non-government and social welfare organisations and student bodies have geared up relief activities in cyclone-hit areas throughout the district.

Representatives of these organisations are making house to house approach for collecting cash, foodstuffs, clothings, and empty water cans.

Mr. Abdul Kashem, Deputy Commissioner, Chandpur donated a cash of Taka 50,000 to the Chandpur Rotary Club for

Notes from Madaripur

From Our Correspondent

MADARIPUR, May 14: Frequent power failure and fluctuation of voltage in Madaripur town and its adjoining areas have been causing financial loss to the businessmen and inconvenience to the town dwellers.

The power disruption has suspended operation of deep and shallow tubewells, power pumps and husking mills. As a result production in agricultural and cottage industries are being hampered in the district.

Night post office

Trade and commercial activities are being hampered greatly in the district due to absence of a night post office in the town.

With the upgradation of Madaripur subdivision to a district, the volumes of postal activities have increased to a great extent. But due to shortage of post office most works are to be performed till late hours.

May Day observed

May Day was observed in Madaripur town with due solemnity. In this regard different socio-political organisations called out separate day-long programmes like seminar, meeting at A.R. Hawlader Jute Mills ground.

Jatiya Shangbadik Sangstha also organised a discussion meeting to observe the day.

Sufferings of potato growers

Potato growers of the district have been deprived of fair price of their produce.

The farmers have achieved a bumper production of potato this season. They are coming to hats, bazars and markets of the district with sackful of potatoes. Due to the plenty supply the prices have come down. Potatoes are being sold in the market at Taka 3 per kg. Sweet potatoes sell at Taka 3 per kg. Where as production cost is Taka 4 and 3 respectively.

There is no cold storage in Madaripur. The farmers are bound to sell potatoes at a lower price.

BNP workers meet

A workers meeting was organised by Madaripur district unit of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) its office premises recently.

The meeting was presided over by the BNP convenor A. Mannan Shikder of Madaripur district unit. Among others Kazi Humayon Kabir, Kazi Enamul Hossain, A. Samad, M. Salim, and Muzibur Rahman spoke in the meeting.

Ansar-VDP rally ends

TANGAIL, May 14: A three-day long Ansar-VDP district level rally concluded on Wednesday at local Bhasani Hall, reports BSS.

A total of 850 Ansar-VDP members including women members took part in the rally. The rally reviewed the progress of the ongoing programme of the forces.

Among others, Kabir Ahmed, District Adjutant of Ansar-VDP spoke on the occasion. Lt. Col. A.H. Tafsir Ahmed, the Deputy Director General of the Sangstha attended the function as chief guest and distributed televisions and sewing machines as prizes among the best samities of the organisation.

Netrakona flood situation worsens

NETRAKONA, May 14: Flood situation in Hattijajuri and Mohanganj upazilas deteriorated yesterday following a heavy rainfall during the last 12 hours and the on-rush of waters from the upstream of greater Sylhet district.

The water level in Kaliyaganj rose by one foot on Sunday. According to upazila administration in Mohanganj upazila, at least five sluice gates have been submerged and several cracks appeared in the 18-km flood protection embankment following entry of flood waters into Dingaputa haor.

Nor'wester

UNB adds: A nor'wester at a speed of 80 km per hour lashed the district injuring at least 30 people in the early hours of Saturday.

The storm damaged about 500 kutcha houses and standing crops of IRRI and Boro on a vast tract of low lying areas.

Acute crisis of drinking water in N. dists

From Our Correspondent

a result rural people are forced to procure water from rivers and canals.

Suicide cases on rise

Meanwhile, suicide cases have increased alarmingly in Pabna. Margina (17), daughter of Osman Ali of village Bill-Vaduria and another Zilla Sarder (28), son of late Jalil Sarder of village Bhaudanga under Pabna Sadar upazila committed suicide by taking poison. The cause of the suicides is not yet known.

Heroin seized

Pabna Sadar thana police seized 50 gms of Heroin worth about Taka 50,000 and arrested two addicted persons recently.

According to the reports, police raided the house of Mr. Raoshan at Govinda and arrested Rezaul (32) of the vil-

lage Krishnapur and Israel (28) of village Govinda.

Besides, police also seized 50 gms of Heroin with some necessary accessories like aluminium foil tiny packets of heroin etc.

2 get life-term

Mr. Sudhendu Kumar Biswas, the Additional Sessions Judge, sentenced two persons to life imprisonment and a fine of Taka 10,000 each in default one year's imprisonment more to Moslem Mondol and Ummat Mondol of village Chorghospur for murdering Abdul Latif of the same village.

According to the reports, Abdul Latif on September 12, 1984 was shot dead by Moslem Mondol and Ummat Mondol when he was walking on the embankment of WAPDA. The Judge after examining the records and evidences

awarded the aforesaid imprisonment.

1500 families homeless

UNB adds: At least 1500 families were rendered homeless after the rampaging river Jamuna eroded eight villages of Bera upazila during the last week.

About 1000 dwelling houses and 18 educational institutions have already been lost into the river over the period. Standing crops on vast acres of land were also devoured.

Upazila chairman Rowshan Ali told UNB that about 500 people took shelter in different local schools while 1000 others were living beneath the open sky.

Besides, the 41-mile long flood control embankment is threatened. The worst-affected villages in the upazila are: Madhupur, Nakalia, Singhasan, Varena, Raghunathpur, Dalarehar, Kazirhat and Natipur.

Our Chudanga Correspondent adds: Huge quantities of relief materials for the people of cyclone affected areas have been collected and have also been sent to the affected people by the various socio-cultural organisation of Chudanga district.

Old man run over by train

From Our Correspondent

May 14: A 55-year-old man named Nabi Hossain of village Boyla in Sadar upazila was killed when the Mymensingh bound 45-up passenger train ran over him near the starter signal of the Kishoreganj Railway Station on Sunday.

The accident occurred while the victim was crossing the rail line. An UDC was lodged with Bhatrab railway police in this connection.