

Upazila roundup

**RAJSHAHI**  
Woman commits suicide

May 17: A young woman allegedly committed suicide by taking poison at village Simulkaya in Godagari upazila Wednesday, police here said, reports UNB.

Relatives said Minara Begum (20), daughter of Inzar Ali, allegedly killed herself following a family feud.

The body was sent to local hospital for autopsy and a case has been filed in this connection.

**CHUADANGA**  
Bus terminal needed

From Our Correspondent  
May 17: Absence of a bus terminal in Chuadanga town has created inconveniences to people of the district.

After the upgradation into district, communication network in Chuadanga has been expanded but no bus terminal has yet been built.

A large number of coaches, minibuses and coasters are plying on different routes, but due to absence of a bus terminal different coaches remain standing scattered on both the sides of the road occupying a large space. As a result passengers as well as pedestrians cannot walk conveniently on the roads.

**NETRAKONA**  
Foodgrains worth Tk 20 lakh missing from govt godown

May 17: Huge quantity of foodgrains and salt worth about Taka 20 lakh have been found missing from two government godowns, official sources here said, reports UNB.

The District Controller of Food on enquiry found at least 10,604 metric tons of wheat, 7,270 mts of rice and 4,966 mts of salt short of the total stock in Purbadhala upazila food godown. Another 67 mts of rice, 167 mts of wheat were found missing from Lepsia food godown under Kaliajuri upazila of the district.

He told UNB that the matter should be probed and action should be taken against persons responsible for the pilferage.

According to informed sources, the officials who were in-charge of the godowns are trying to hush up the matter saying the commodities had been supplied short from the central supply depot.

The sources further said that impartial enquiry would reveal similar pilferage in many other godowns of the district.

**Flood situation worsens**

Onrush of water from across the border and incessant rainfall have aggravated the flood situation further in the district.

According to Water Development Board here, fresh areas of Mohanganj and Kaliajuri upazilas are being inundated due to onrush of hilly water. The flood so far claimed three lives and marooned about two and a half lakh people in six upazilas of the district.

Diarrhoeal diseases have also broken out in different affected areas of the district and at least 50 people were attacked by the disease so far.

**BAGERHAT**

One shot dead

From Our Correspondent  
May 17: One Hawladar Ashar Ali (40) of village Gopalpur under Kachua Upazila in the district was shot dead in broad daylight by one Sudhangsu Kumar Das alias Khokon Das at village Balavadrapur under Morrelganj Upazila in the same district on May 10.

It is learnt that on the day of occurrence while the deceased Ashar Ali was at standing position at the place of the occurrence near Balavadrapur, the murdered Khokon Das shot at him from a hidden place. As a result, Ashar Ali sustained grievous bullet injuries on his person. He was immediately sent to Bagerhat Sadar Hospital but on his way to the hospital he succumbed to his injuries.

Being informed of the matter the inhabitants of Gopalpur rushed to the spot and gheroned the murderer. Finding no other alternative the murderer then surrendered to the adjacent Badhal police outpost and took shelter there. In this connection a case was registered with Morrelganj P.S. Police arrested Khokon Das and two others in connection with the murder. Further police investigation is going on.

**NANDAIL**  
Prices of essentials up

From Our Correspondent

May 17: Prices of essentials marked a sharp rise in different markets of Nandail, Kendua and Iswarganj upazilas creating panic among the poor consumers in the name of communication problem, shortage in supply caused by the effect of the devastating cyclone and tidal surge in the coastal belt.

Particularly salt is being sold at exorbitant price in different markets. It is learnt that the retailers are selling salt at Taka 8.00 to 9.00 per kg compared to Taka 4.00 to 5.00 per kg a few days back.

Rice was found to be sold at Taka 12.00 to 14 per kg at Kaliganj, Targhat, Mandail, Purura and Atharo Bari Bazar.

Prices of dry fishes also jumped from Taka 50 to 90 per kg in different markets. The knowledgeable circle, however, say that there is no justifiable reason behind such price hike. The circle alleged that a section of dishonest traders had willingly created this panic to the consumers.

**KUSHITIA**  
Tagore's birth anniversary observed

From A Correspondent

May 17: The 130th birth anniversary of the great poet Rabindra Nath Tagore was observed here recently. In this connection Gorai Khelaghar Asar and Sammilita Sangskritik Jote chalked out separate elaborate programme. Both the foundations observed one minute silence in memory of those killed in cyclonic storm and tidal surge.

Speakers dwelt on life and writings of the great poet and said that the poet was the father of modern Bangla literature and left examples of his love for humanity through his works. In other words Rabindra Nath Tagore was the source of inspiration of our cultural activities, they added.

Another function was held on the occasion at Shelaidah Kuthibari, one time home of Tagore. Cultural minded people of Kumarkhali upazila headed by Abul Hossain Tarun, Chairman, Kumarkhali Upazila Parishad, attended the function. All the functions were participated by local artists who rendered Tagore's songs and recited poems of Tagore.

**NARAYANGANJ**  
Blood donation campaign

From Our Correspondent

May 17: Two separate blood donation programmes for the cyclone and tornado affected people of the country were organised by Lions and Lioness Clubs of Narayanganj and Leo Club of Narayanganj Central at Narayanganj Government Mahila College premises and Narayanganj Ali Ahmed Chunka Paura Auditorium recently. In all 99 bags of blood were collected.

Ayub, Additional District Magistrate of Narayanganj gave away the certificates and donor cards among the donors.

**NATORE**  
Lalpur UZ Samity executives

From A Correspondent

May 17: A nine-member ad hoc committee of Natore based Lalpur Upazila Samity, was formed at a meeting at Islamic Foundation Bangladesh, Natore district unit auditorium, on May 1 last presided over by A. K. M. Nazrul Islam.

The office bearers are: President—Advocate Md. Mohsin-Ul-Hoque, Vice President—Mr. S. M. Abdur Rahman, General Secretary—A. K. M. Nazrul Islam, Treasurer—Advocate Md. Yousuf Ali, Office Secretary—Raghu Nath Sarker, Organizing Secretary Md. Sirku Amin, Publicity Secretary—Mawlana Md. Atikur Rahman (Punjab).

**Natore Co-op Bank poll held**

The election of Natore Central Co-operative Bank Ltd was held recently.

The newly elected Board of Directors are: Chairman—Md. Nazrul Islam, Vice Chairman—Begum Fazila Nazrul and Director—Md. Ashrafal Islam.

It may be mentioned here that Begum Fazila Nazrul is the first woman Vice Chairman of the Bank after 70 years. She is the wife of A. K. M. Nazrul Islam, Director, Bangladesh National Co-operative Union and Chairman Natore District Co-operative Land Mortgage Bank Ltd.



Victims of catastrophic cyclone and tidal bore waiting for relief and rehabilitation at Patenga.

—Star photo

Cox's Bazar pulsating with hopes for new life

COX'S BAZAR, May 17: Cox's Bazar, battered by the severe cyclonic storm and tidal surge on April 29 is gradually pulsating with hopes for a new life, reports BSS.

The April 29 nightmare still fresh in the mind to the brave people of the resort town and elsewhere in the district they have again engaged themselves in rehabilitation activities.

The survivors, rich and poor, are now busy working for self-rehabilitation than depending on others. But succor from official, non-government and socio-cultural and political organisations has added new impetus to their struggle for rehabilitation.

The arrival and departure of a large number of representatives of multinational social service agencies, movement of big carrier vehicles with relief goods, roar of the helicopters have changed the post-disaster atmosphere of this tourist town.

Hectic activities of official agencies, public servants, businessmen, public representatives right from Union Parishad level to Jatiya Sangsad has injected a war like spirit among those who are engaged in recovering from the wounds that had been inflicted by the cyclone. The rare unanimity among the people belonging to different shades of opinion and the spirit being exhibited by them to work together to serve the distressed humanity at this critical juncture is a feature noticeable after the great deluge and cyclone.

State Minister for Fisheries, Livestocks and Environment, Abdullah Al-Noman has been acting as coordinator of relief and rehabilitation programmes of Cox's Bazar. He has been able to bring together people of different shades of opinion for gearing up relief and rehabilitation activities.

The tourist town is gradually becoming normal with each day passing. No carcasses can be found in and around the town, nor one can get the stench of decomposed bodies. The diarrhoea is almost contained.

**Rehabilitation**

The survivors now crave more for permanent rehabilitation with reconstruction of coastal embankments in Kutubdia, Chakaria and Moheshkhali on emergency basis, rehabilitation of salt manufacturers, shrimp culturists, betel leaf producers and farmers.

It may be mentioned here that without immediate reconstruction of coastal embankments in those areas salt manufacture, shrimp culture and betel leaf production and farming can not be resumed as tidal waters inundate the areas almost daily.

The State Minister, Mr. Abdullah Al-Noman while talking to some public representatives at the local Circuit House on Thursday morning assured them that no one found neglecting his responsibilities in relief and rehabilitation work on bungling with relief goods would be spared.

Later, in the evening Noman presided over a meeting of officers engaged in relief and rehabilitation activities and reviewed the total programme. M Umar Faruq, Joint Secretary was also present at the meeting.

**Students to get text books**

Mr. Noman said the CARE would supply text books to 1578 candidates of HSC from the affected areas while En-fants Du Monde would supply all required medicines to Kutubdia in the next 15 days.

Other NGO representatives also assured the State Minister that they would supply various necessary materials for rehabilitation of the affected people of Cox's Bazar, besides carrying on their own relief works.

Diarrhoea situation worsens in dists

SATKHIRA, May 17: Diarrhoea claimed two more lives yesterday raising the death toll to 27 in the district, official sources said, reports UNB.

About 3,500 others have been attacked by the disease in different upazilas of the district since the disease broke out in an epidemic form on April 20.

But unofficial sources said that at least 60 people were killed and more than 4,000 were attacked in the district over the last three weeks.

The worst affected upazilas are: Ashshungr, Debhatta, Tala and Shammangar.

The Civil Surgeon's office said 40 medical teams are working in the affected areas. But local people complained that the situation was worsening and no measures have yet been taken to check further spread of the diseases.

Scarcity of pure drinking water is learnt to be the main cause of the disease.

**Jamalpur**  
Our Jamalpur Correspondent adds: Five more persons died of diarrhoea and 500

other's were attacked in Bakshiganj upazila during the last one week under Jamalpur district.

The victims are Asma Khatun, wife of Nurul Islam of village Kalkihara under Meruchar union, Sajeda Begum, wife of Abdul Basar of village Kalkihara, Raoushanara Begum, daughter of Lokman Ali of village Tupkarchar, Momena Begum, wife of Misul Ali of village Ghauwarchar and one minor boy of Shaher Ali of the same village, in Bakshiganj upazila.

According to official sources, more than 5 died and 300 other's attacked by the water borne disease in three village of Bakshiganj upazila during the last two weeks.

The District Civil Surgeon, however, said that five persons died and 300 were affected since the outbreak of the disease but unofficial sources said that the number of affected people might cross more than 500.

The Civil Surgeon informed that nine medical teams were already working in the district to combat the disease.

Northern dists need more storage facilities

From Our Correspondent

DINAJPUR, May 17: A huge quantity of vegetables like tomato, brinjal, pumpkin, cauliflower, cabbage, cucumber etc. Get rotten for want of adequate cold storage facilities in 16 northern districts of the country every year. Consequently the vegetable growers

**Illegal key books on sale**

NETRAKONA, May 17: Defying government prohibition note-books are being sold with impunity in almost all the bookstalls in the town here, reports UNB.

Government has banned publication of note-books up to class eight to discourage the dependency of the students on prepared answers. But nothing has yet been done to execute the order by the concerned authorities of the district.

A section of unscrupulous book traders are publishing substandard note-books with fictitious names of authors and publishers.

sustain heavy loss.

Vegetable production has increased in the districts of Panchagarh, Thakurgaon, Dinajpur, Nilphamari, Rangpur, Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, Gaibandha, Joypurhat, Bogra, Strajaj, Pabna, Natore, Naogaon, Chapainawabganj and Rajshahi during the last few years but for want of preservation facility, a huge quantity of vegetables is damaged.

There are only 17 cold storages in these districts. But these cold storages could not meet the demand of farmers.

Moreover the management of cold storages charge high rent for the space generally booked in a normal price in the off season.

Mr. Jamir Ali, a vegetable grower of Ranirbandar in Chirribandar upazila in Dinajpur district told this correspondent that he had to sell his 84 metric tons of potatoes below production cost for want of storage facilities. The middlemen are taking the advantage and earning windfall profit by selling these vegetables three to four times higher than the purchased price in the districts, he added.

The agriculture department can save the farmers by constructing more cold storages in this part of the country and help the farmers in getting fair price of their vegetables.

Price of babyfood goes up

Price of all brands of baby-food has risen sharply in the markets of Dinajpur district. Market sources said, a tin of 2 kg Anchor is being sold at Taka 270, a tin of 2 kg Red Cow at Taka 265, Dano Taka 270, Viva 1 kg at Taka 100 to 120 and Cerelac and My Boy of 400 gm at Taka 110.

Dishonest traders are making windfall profit by creating artificial scarcity of the milk for the babies. Meanwhile, prices of essential commodities recorded a sharp rise adversely affecting the low income group of people.

Only to escape UNO's wrath

From A Correspondent

SHIBPUR (Narsingdi), May 17: Believe it or not, a upazila engineer has gone into hiding to escape the wrath of the Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO).

The incident occurred when Jamal Hossain, Upazila Engineer, Shibpur Upazila of Narsingdi district filed a defamation suit against UNO, Shibpur for calling him as insane. The UNO, in a letter addressed to the Deputy Commissioner, Narsingdi, brought charges of gross negligence in duty and misbehaviour against the Upazila Engineer. The letter was distributed also to the Engineering Adviser, LGEB and Executive Engineer, Narsingdi.

In a counter letter, the Shibpur Upazila Chairman contested the remark of the UNO against the upazila Engineer and said the charges brought against the Upazila Engineer were not based on facts. He said the UNO should have first intimated him about the complaint and should not have by passed him.

The Upazila Engineer, being aggrieved, filed a defamation suit in the court of Sub-assistant Judge, Shibpur for an amount of Taka 50,000 against the UNO, Shibpur.

The learned judge directed the UNO to show cause as to why he should not be summoned to deposit the whole money within three days. The judge also directed the Upazila Finance Office and Upazila Revenue officer to confiscate UNO's last pay certificate as because the UNO has already been transferred elsewhere.

According to latest reports, UNO and his associates have been asking the Upazila Engineer to withdraw the case. If the case is not withdrawn, criminal charges will be brought against the upazila engineer and physical punishment will also be made, he threatened. The Upazila Engineer now finds his life at risk and is now hiding.

The UNO, Shibpur was not immediately available for comment. In an earlier incident, Upazila Engineer, Belabo of the same district was allegedly assaulted by some musclemen hired by UNO. The accused were arrested but were bailed out soon. A false case was also instituted against Upazila Engineer without proper investigation. But afterwards, the accused were again detained as per instruction of the higher authority.

When contacted SP, Narsingdi told this Correspondent that he had heard about the incident but no formal complaint was brought against the Upazila Engineer by the UNO so far. He upheld the view that this should be amicably settled inside administration. He, however, admitted the Belabo incident and said he had ordered further detention of the accused after investigation. DC, Narsingdi was not available for his comment.

Trucks, tank lorry go off roads in Rangpur

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, May 17: Four hundred trucks and tank lorry went off the street following a sudden strike by its Sramik Union from Wednesday morning the striking Truck and Tank Lorry Sramik Union alleged that armed members of Motor Sramik Union assaulted and injured some of their leaders and members during last few days for which they started strike. They demanded immediate arrest of accused persons failing which they threaten to launch a greater truck and tank lorry strike in the country.

Due to sudden strike goods carrying is greatly being hampered all over the district causing soaring prices of essentials.

Hartal against toll collection

From Our Correspondent

NETRAKONA, May 17: A half-day hartal was observed in the commercial area of Netrakona town Friday in protest against the extortion of tolls from the traders by hoodlums.

About one thousand labourers, shop-keepers and vegetable-sellers of the market brought out a procession at Netrakona town and raised slogans against the extortion and demanded necessary action in this regard.

All shops and other business establishments in the commercial area remained closed during the hartal hour.

Relief operation geared up

From Our Correspondent

ordination Committee headed by the Deputy Commissioner was formed at a meeting here with DC Jalal Ahmed in the chair to collect relief materials for the cyclone victims.

Mr. Alamgir Hossain, vice president of Jamalpur Government A.M. College Student Union urged the people to give a helping hand to alleviate the sufferings of the distressed people.

Melindah Upazila Parishad has taken up measures to collect more relief materials including foodstuffs and clothes for the affected people.

**Kushtia**

A correspondent from Kushtia adds: Kushtia Syed Hafiz Ahmed has appreciated the generous help extended in cash and kind by different organisations for the relief of the cyclone affected people of the southern Bangladesh. He expressed his thanks and gratitude to those who lent support to the relief fund created by

him. Those who donated to the relief fund are Agrani Bank members of Nabin Sangha of the Sugar Mills officers colony, youth forum of Cheehua village of Jagati Union of sadar upazila employees and officers of Kushtia Pourashava, officers and employees of Deputy Commissioner's office, Purba Majampur Voluntary Association and Sammilita Sangskritik Jote.

Relief materials include rice, pulses, utensils old garments, water containers, and cash money. Bheramara upazila Parishad has contributed a considerable quantity of relief materials to the relief fund created by the Deputy Commissioner. Similar relief materials are expected from Kumarkhali Upazila Parishad which is engaged in collecting relief materials in its area.

**Kishoreganj**

Our Kishoreganj correspondent adds: A 21 member Kishoreganj district relief Co-ordination Committee was