

Upazila roundup

RANGPUR

Lightning kills two

May 22 : Lightning struck to death two SSC candidates in Rowmari upazila, police said here yesterday, reports UNB. Witnesses said thunderbolt killed Farhad (18) and Khokon (17) while they were returning home from Rowmari centre amid heavy shower on Tuesday.

BOGRA

Call to help cyclone-hit people

May 22 : State Minister for Finance Mujibur Rahman yesterday called upon all to come forward in aid of the country's cyclone affected people, reports BSS. The State Minister said that the standing crops in the country's south were destroyed in the cyclone and the farmers of the country's northern region could make up this loss by producing increased food for the overall interest of the country. He was addressing a cross-section of people at the Soy-pukuria High School premises under the district yesterday. The State Minister said that the united efforts of the nation alongwith help and assistance of the friendly countries and agencies would enable the government to tide over the present crisis.

NARAIL

Welding shops cause health hazard

May 22 : Rampant growth of welding shops on roadsides violating the factory rules have been causing inconvenience to the town-dwellers, reports UNB. According to sources, welding shops using oxygen burners have been causing eye and skin diseases to those who live near or passers by. Children are seriously affected, the sources added. Residents have urged the authorities to take action against the illegal welders.

TANGAIL

177 bags blood donated

May 22 : Students of Karatia Sadat University College donated 177 bags of blood Sunday, reports BSS. Sandhani of Mymensingh Medical College branch collected the blood from the students including forty girls besides thirty-five students committed to donate their eyes. Principal Md Asaduzzaman inaugurated the blood donation session where among others Professor Md Wazedali Khan and Professor Sarkar gave motivational speech.

NETRAKONA

Flood situation deteriorates

May 22 : Flood situation aggravated further in Khaliajuri upazila where the rain swollen river Dhano crossed the danger marks. However, the flood situation in Mohongajuri upazila remained unchanged but the situation marked slight improvement in Kalmakanda and Durgapur upazilas where the flood water level started to fall slowly, a Netrakona district administration source told BSS here. The flood so far affected a total of 16 unions under four upazilas of Netrakona district and badly damaged crops on 36477 acres of lands the sources said.

BARISAL

2,23,400 acres brought under jute cultivation

May 22 : About 223,400 acres of land have been brought under intensive jute cultivation in six southern districts of Barisal Agriculture Zone (BAZ) in the current season, reports BSS. The districts are : Barisal, Faridpur, Madaripur, Gopalganj, Rajbari and Saraiapur. According to an official source, about 804,500 bales of jute are expected to be produced in these districts this year. Of the total acreage 12,000 acres have been cultivated in Barisal district, 67,497 acres in Faridpur, 47,000 acres in

Madaripur, 28,000 acres in Gopalganj, 47,000 acres in Rajbari and 22,000 acres in Saraiapur district.

Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) sold 893,988 kilograms of jute seeds to the farmers of these districts. Besides, BADC will supply fertilizer and other inputs to the farmers, the source said.

SATKHIRA

3 injured in clash

May 22 : Three persons were injured in a clash occurred at the residence of Khoda Baksha Gazi, teacher, Satkhira Pallimongal High School of Satkhira Sunday, reports BSS. A group of miscreants numbering 20 and armed with deadly weapons entered the house of Khoda Baksha and demolished his boundary wall and also damaged fruit bearing trees on the campus. They also assaulted his wife and two daughters causing serious injuries on their persons. The loss of property was estimated to be over Taka 50,000. The injured persons were removed to Satkhira hospital. A case has been lodged with Satkhira police in this regard.

MAGURA

Intensive cotton farming plan

May 22 : Bangladesh Cotton Development Board has undertaken a scheme to bring over 31,000 acres of land under intensive cotton cultivation in five districts of Jessore region, reports UNB. According to official sources, the scheme taken up during the current season will cover Magura, Narail, Jessore, Jhendidah and Satkhira districts. Cotton Development Board will disburse Taka 50 lakh as loan and supply high yielding variety seeds among the farmers of the districts to make the programme a success. According to an estimate, a total of 2.48 lakh maunds of cotton seed worth about Taka 17.36 crore is expected to be produced in the districts during this season.

Aus paddy

Agriculture Extension Department (AED) will bring about 80,000 acres of land under Aus paddy cultivation during the current season in four upazilas of the district. Abul Hossain Molla, Assistant Director of AED told UNB that about 14,000 acres of land will be brought under high yielding variety while the rest under local variety. Of the total land, 28,679 acres will be brought under Aus farming in sadar, 14,087 acres in Sreepur, 15,421 acres in Salikha and 21,813 acres in Mohammadpur upazilas. AED will provide agri-inputs and disburse HYV seeds among the farmers.

BOGRA

A cruel father

May 22 : A father killed his minor son for the fault of eating a cooked fish without permission which the father bought for him from a local market, police said here in Saturday, reports UNB. The tragic incident took place on Thursday at Rangamati village of Dhunat upazila. The furious father Abul Hossain after killing his son Asadul (5) secretly threw the body into a nearby pond. But the mother of the ill-fated child noticing his long absence became anxious and asked her husband about his whereabouts. On his mysterious silence she informed the matter to the local police. Police later arrested Abul Hossain and on the basis of his confessional statement recovered the body from the pond.

Erosion by Jamuna

Erosion of the river Jamuna has taken a serious turn devouring a vast area of land in Sariakandi and Dhunat upazilas of the district. According to witnesses, more than 100 families have already been rendered shelterless by the rampaging river. The existence of Chandanbaisha bazar and two educational institutions in the upazilas has been threatened. New areas of Adbaria, Karnibari, Bohali, Deluabari, Kazla and Mathurapara in Sariakandi upazila are being eroded due to rise in water level in the river. Water Development Board here said Jamuna is still flowing below the danger level but if it crosses the danger mark, vast areas of the two upazilas will go under water damaging the standing crops.

Four killed in B'baria road accidents

From Our Correspondent

BRAHMANBARIA, May 22: Four persons were killed and one person was injured seriously in four separate road accidents on Brahmanbaria highway recently.

Witnesses said, Sumi Akter (4) was crushed under the wheels of a speedy bus while she was crossing the Sylhet-Comilla highway near Brahmanbaria. The killer bus was setzed but the driver managed to escape.

A baby-taxi collided head on with a car coming from opposite direction. As a result taxi driver Jibanmia (30) died on the spot. A truck knocked down Abu Abdullah, the teacher of Muzadded Al Fe-

samy Academy at Brahmanbaria Khalpara road in the district town near local P.S. He was admitted to Sadar Hospital.

Besides, Safia Khatun (8) and Shah Alam (6) (sister and brother) were crushed under the wheels of a Comilla bound truck on Brahmanbaria-Comilla highway near Moheuddin Nagar on May 15 while they were crossing the road.

Separate cases were lodged on these connections.

One Suruz Mia (50) of Katakandy under Nachinagar upazila was killed by a lightning when he was returning home from the field during the storm recently. He was buried at local graveyard.

Insanitation dominates rural society

From Our Correspondent

MADARIPUR, May 22 : A large number of inhabitants of Madaripur and Shariatpur districts do not use sanitary latrines due to shortage of fund and also ignorance about health and hygiene.

Due to absence of sanitary latrines rural people attend to the call of nature in the nearby areas polluting the environment.

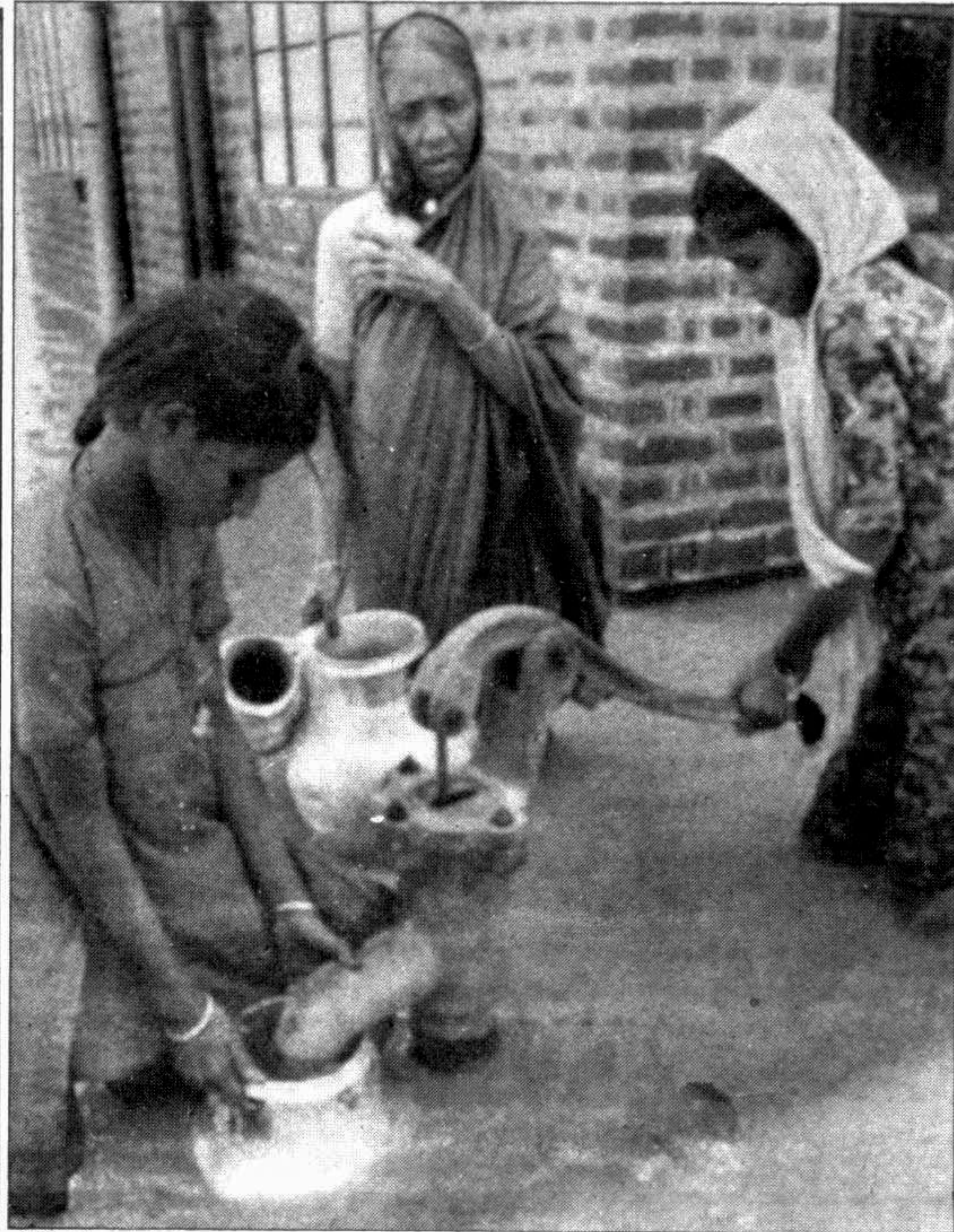
According to the UNICEF survey reports, about 50 per cent of diseases are caused due to insanitation. Almost all rural people attend to the call of nature in the nearby bushes, canals, beels, rivers and roadside places. Diseases like typhoid, paratyphoid, cholera, bacillary

dysentery, worm infections spread very fast in the areas.

Another reason for the spread of infectious diseases is accumulation of waste products which is very frequent in rural areas.

About 40 per cent of the sufferers are mainly infants up to the age of five years, due to unhygienic habits followed by the mothers while cooking and serving the foodstuffs. As a result infants get attacked by diarrhoea.

According to the survey, only seven per cent of people use sanitary latrines and rest 93 per cent do not use sanitary latrines because of financial constraints.



Collecting drinking water from a submerged tubewell at Beanibazar

—Star photo.

Notes from Kushtia

From A Correspondent

KUSHTIA, May 22 : Cow lifting has become rampant in several villages of Daulatpur upazila during the last few months.

It is reported that two bullocks have been stolen from the house of Md. Ator Ali of village Farakpur on May 8. It may be mentioned that son of Ator Ali Saiful Islam, a college student was killed by miscreants on April 25. And after 13 days this incident of cow lifting by an organised gang has put Ator Ali in a precarious condition.

On May 5 two bullocks were stolen from the house of Md. Fazil Mahaldar of village Kaya-mari, a neighbouring village. On April 12 one milch cow and two bullocks have been lifted from the house of Dr. Abdul Jabbar of the same village. On the same night Ahmed Ali of village Charchatirpara lost his two bullocks. On April 13 landless farmer Meherali of village Mathurapur lost two bullocks.

In this way persons whose cows were stolen are Mohammad Ali of village Mohiskundi, Wahabali of village Chardiar, Kutubuddin of village Dangmarka.

Besides 30 more bullocks have been stolen from different villages of Daulatpur upazila during the last one month according to sources.

It may be mentioned that no effective measures have yet been taken by the law enforcing agencies to contain the theft.

Training course

A three-day programme to impart training to 50 volunteers and 20 youth leaders on Family Planning and allied subjects concluded here at the office premises of Family Planning Association of Bangladesh, Kushtia Branch recently.

The training programme was inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner, Kushtia Syed Hafiz Ahmed as chief guest on May 14. The inaugural function was presided over by Upazila Chairman Sadar Mr. Azfarullah Khan Choudhury and attended by Dr. Mazharul Hannan, Civil Surgeon, Kushtia as special guest.

The training includes primary health care, health education, tree plantation, awareness of women's rights and responsibilities to participate in the family decision making, knowledge of putting signature instead of thumb impression and recreational activities and sports.

The training programme was also attended by Deputy Director, Family Planning, Kushtia district Babu Dev Chandra Das and senior programme officer (youth) of FPAB Md. Shobeb Jalil.

It may be mentioned that activities of FPAB, Kushtia branch are being hampered to a great extent as the Executive Committee has been superseded by the NEC owing to court cases on election of Kushtia branch still pending in the court of District and Sessions Judge Kushtia for decision.

Proctor resigns

Dr. Abdul Mannan, Assistant Professor of Accounts of Islamic University has resigned from the post of Proctor in protest against misbehaviour of the registrar of the University recently, according to a press release of the Teachers Association signed by its President Dr. Hayat Mahmood.

Kidnapped girl yet to be rescued

From Our Correspondent

BAGERHAT, May 22 : One Rakhi Deb Nath who was kidnapped three months ago by miscreants could not be rescued.

It is stated that Rakhi Deb Nath (13), daughter of one Kumud Ranjan of village Churamani under Rakkhalgachi Union Parishad in Bagerhat Sadar Upazila was kidnapped by some identified miscreants from the village when she was going to pay a visit to a nearby residence. The matter was brought to the notice of the Chairman of Rakkhalgachi Union. The Chairman asked the guardians of the kidnapers to bring back the girl but in vain. Then finding no other alternative the father registered a case with Bagerhat P.S. in connection with the kidnapping.

Office-bearers

The annual general meeting of the executive body of the local branch of Institute of Diploma Engineers was held here recently.

ASM Majedul Haq, Khondakar Abdus Salam and Ruhul Amin Hawlader have been unanimously elected President, General Secretary and Organising Secretary respectively of the executive body for the year 1991-92.

Relief goods worth Tk 50 lakh embezzled

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, May 22: Relief materials worth Taka 50 lakhs were misappropriated by the former Melandah Upazila Chairman in connivance with 10 Union Parishad Chairmen in '88-90 financial year.

The ex-Upazila Chairman a leader of the district Jatiya Party misappropriated the amount in terms of rice, wheat, fertilizers and other relief goods and also cash allocated under various heads.

According to the allegation, the ex-Chairman in collaboration with 10 other Union Parishad chairmen embezzled 6081 maunds of wheat worth Taka 13.5 lakh allotted for the destitute women of 10 unions under Melandah Upazila under the special VGD programme in 1988-89. VGFP wheat worth Taka 15 lakh sanctioned by the Directorate of Relief and Rehabilitation Ministry for VGD card holders, fertilizers worth Taka 11 lakh allotted for 1988

flood affected farmers were blackmarketed by the said Chairman Thirty-four metric tons of soyabean oil worth over Taka 10 lakh allotted for '88' flood affected families in 10 unions of the upazila, Taka one lakh sanctioned for supplying fodder in the flood affected areas was also misappropriated.

According to another complaint, Taka 6.99 lakh was earned as tax from the Melandah bazar but only Taka 2.88 lakh was deposited with the upazila revenue fund, and Taka 15 lakh collected as tax from Melandah, Mahmudpur.

Acting Secretary General, Rabul Islam Talukdar Montu misappropriated a large quantity of wheat worth Taka 3.5 lakhs allotted for the destitute women under the VGD programme in 1987-89, 600 maunds of wheat of Taka one lakh allotted under FWP and CARE projects, Taka 3.5,000 allocated from the ADP fund

for the renovation of UP building. He also misappropriated foodgrains and fertilizers given under flood rehabilitation schemes worth about 1.5 lakh Taka, 35 tons of rice worth Taka 4.5 lakhs allotted for the development schemes under FWP programmes for improvement of roads, earthwork in schools, madrasa and mosque premises and for re-excavation of ponds, sanctioned by the Directorate of Relief and Rehabilitation Ministry.

Many written complaints were earlier lodged with the offices of Deputy Commissioner, District Anti-Corruption Bureau, UNO of Melandah and LGRD ministry in this connection. The Project Implementation Officer, Melandah, Alok Kumar Ray after proper investigation submitted report to the Deputy Commissioner confirming the misap-

propriation but no action has yet been taken against the chairman.

The people of the Mhmud-pur Union have urged the competent authorities to take immediate necessary steps at an earliest in this regard.

Hazrabari, Bailtoli, Tanki and Ghaugora hats in 1989 was also defalcated.

Former MP's Shafiqul Islam Khuka and Abdul Hai Bachchu lodged a written complaint with Jamalpur District authorities, President Secretariat, LGRD Ministry, Dhaka Divisional Anti-Corruption Bureau and District Anti-Corruption Department against the chairman demanding departmental enquiry and punishment but no necessary action was taken against the misappropriators.

Mr. Amzad Hossain, Deputy Director of President's Secre-

tarial investigated in to the matter but in vain.

The present UNO of Melandah upazila Mr. Motiur Rahman and Project Implementation Officer had sent separate investigation reports to the Deputy Commissioner, Jamalpur confirming the misappropriation but no action has yet been taken.

The people of Melandah Upazila urged the present democratic government to investigate into the matter immediately.

In another incident food grains worth Taka 10 lakh allocated under VGD and other programmes was allegedly misappropriated by Acting Secretary General of Jamalpur district Jatiya Party who was also the Chairman of Mahmudpur Union Parishad under Melandah upazila, during the Ershad regime.



Members of Maitri Samaj Kalayan Sangha, Dhaka distributing relief materials among the cyclone affected people at village Chhanua under Banshkhalhi Upazila. —Star photo

Relief operation geared up

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, May 22 : Different socio-cultural and political organisations and students community have been engaged in collecting relief materials for the cyclone-hit people of the offshore islands and coastal areas.

The Rajshahi University teachers, officers and employees have donated their one day's salary to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. About 22 thousand students of RU will donate Taka ten each to the cyclone affected people. This decision was taken at a meeting held at the university recently.

The officers and employees of Rajshahi Krishi Unnyan Bank (RAKUB), and Railway, westerns zone have also decided to donate their one day's salary to PM's Relief Fund.

Meanwhile, a 22-member Public Health Engineering (PHE) team and a five-member medical team of Rajshahi have already moved for Chittagong to work in the affected areas.

Rajshahi Chamber of Commerce and Industry has formed a relief coordination committee. The Chamber in an emergency board meeting held with the RCCEI chief, Mustafizur Rahman called upon the industrialists and members of the business community to stand by the side of the affected people in their hour of distress and provide them succour.

ADAB, Rajshahi branch has also opened a relief centre in the city to receive donation for the cyclone victims. Besides, different sports club and Rajshahi District Sports Association have geared up relief activities in this time.

Meanwhile, a 22-member Public Health Engineering (PHE) team and a five-member medical team of Rajshahi have already moved for Chittagong to work in the affected areas.

Railway earns Tk20cr
Bangladesh Railway Lalmonirhat Division earned Taka

19 crore 99 lakh 72 thousand during the last nine months of the current fiscal years. This earning is 42 per cent higher than that of the corresponding period of the previous year.

During this period Bangladesh Railway Lalmonirhat Division carried 39 lakh 51 thousand passengers and earned Taka 5 crore 92 lakh 91 thousand while Taka 68 lakh 17 thousand were earned from parcels. The Railway carried 28 crore 93 lakh 10 thousand kg of goods and earned Taka 13 crore 22 lakh 59 thousand.

The Railway also earned Taka 16 lakh 5 thousand from others sector.

Exam date shifted

The BA, BSc, BSS, and B. Com honours part-one examination of 1990 under Rajshahi University has been shifted from scheduled 27th May to June 11 due to unavoidable circumstances, university sources said.

13 unnatural deaths recorded in 24 days

From Our Correspondent

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, May 22 : In all 13 unnatural deaths occurred in different parts of the district within 24 days.

Garibullah (20), a rice mill operator of Gomostapur village was brutally killed on April 12. The police recovered the body from the open filed from near Anarpur village.

Josnara Khatun (18), housewife of Bhogabanpur village of Moharajpur union under Sadar upazila was throttled to death by her husband Lyakat Ali for nonpayment of dowry amounting to Taka 5000.

Faruque (32) an inhabitant of Jhilim union under Sadar upazila was electrocuted on April 14 while trying to steal electric wires.

Majeda Khatun (18), of Pirgacha village of Dhainagar under Sadar upazila committed suicide by pouring kerosene on her body on April 14.

The reason behind the suicide was repeated torturing by her husband, since their marriage for the payment of dowry amount.

Mahtabuddin (55) a high school teacher of Moharajpur union under Sadar upazila was killed in a clash which was broke out between two groups

on seizure of smuggling goods. Lalbanu (65) of Shiala village under municipality area was roasted alive on April 18 when she entered her burning house to fetch her 7,000 Taka.

Sufia Begum (25), mother of two children of Bahutongi village under Shibganj upazila was throttled to death by her husband Saifuddin. After killing Saifuddin poured kerosene into her mouth to make it a suicidal case. Several marks of physical assault was found on her body.

Parul (8) only daughter of Anwar Hossain of Moharajpur village drowned when she went to take bath in Mahananda canal on April 26. A body of unknown person was found in the field adjacent

to Kharia village under Shibganj upazila on April 27.

Md Gajlur Rahman of Rasunchak under Shibganj upazila committed suicide by taking poison when he learnt that he was attacked with tuberculosis on April 29.

Halima Khaton (15) a student of Katinagar village died by taking poison on April 30 when a teacher refused her to marry.

Woes of cyclone-hit families in Jamalpur

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, May 22 : At least 226 cyclone hit families are confronting hard times for want of food, pure drinking water and shelter in Melandah and Sharihabari upazilas.

According to official sources recent cyclone has ravaged 123 villages in Ghaugora union under Melandah upazila and 103 in Sharihabari upazila injuring at least 300 people, 50 of them were admitted to dif-

ferent hospitals while 200 others were released after first aid.

They urged the government to provide emergency relief goods and building materials to the affected families.

The Annual Conference of Bangladesh BNP Ghugora union was held at Ghugora Girls' High School auditorium under Jamalpur district on May 10.