

Upazila roundup

MADARIPUR

Housewife commits suicide

From Our Correspondent
May 26: A young housewife allegedly committed suicide at Matbarrehar village in Shibchar upazila, police said here recently.
 The deceased Momtaz Begum (35), wife of Tota Mia hanged herself recently from a tree near her house. The reason behind the alleged suicide could not be ascertained.
 A case was filed with local police in this connection.

SIRAJGANJ

Student electrocuted

May 26: A student was electrocuted and a pedestrian crushed under the wheels of a truck yesterday in the town, police said, reports UNB.
 Punam (15), a student of class X of Saleha Ishaq Government Girls High School was electrocuted at her residence at Station road of the town when she stepped on a live wire.
 The body was sent to the Sadar hospital for autopsy and a case was lodged in this connection.

Mismanaged network of electric wiring has been causing frequent accidents in the town, local people alleged.

A pedestrian Korban Ali (45) was killed on the spot when a speeding truck (Comilla TA-6537) ran over him on Bogra road near Sarai Chandri village under Sadar upazila.

Police seized the vehicle and arrested driver Alef Miah. A case was also lodged in this connection.

SHERPUR

Lightning kills two SSC candidates

May 26: Two SSC candidates were killed by lightning at 11.30 pm Friday night at Nayabil village under Nalibari upazila of the district, family sources said.
 The victims were Abdullah (17) son of Akbar Ali and Bakul (16) son of Afazuddin. Both are cousins and hailed from the same village.
 They were returning from Nalibari after appearing in the practical examination.

COX'S BAZAR

Mannan visits Parjatan complex

May 26: State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan visited the Parjatan Complex here yesterday, reports UNB.

He went round different hotels and motels of Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation to see the progress of rehabilitation works after the recent devastating cyclone and tidal bore.

The State Minister was informed that the hotels and motels are functioning normally on completion of the repair and rehabilitation works. Parjatan has earned Taka three lakhs so far, he was further informed.

The State Minister also visited Cox's Bazar and Chittagong airports and expressed his satisfaction at the normal functioning of both the airports.

Civil Aviation and Tourism Secretary Lt. Col (Retd) Hisham Uddin Ahmed and Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation Chairman Shamsul Islam were present on the occasion.

MUNSHIGANJ

Time-honoured curriculum underscored

May 26: The State Minister for Posts and Telecommunications M. Shamsul Islam on Thursday stressed the need for the introduction of a liberal and time-honoured curriculum aimed at producing citizens capable of giving correct and dynamic leadership to the nation, reports BSS.

According to an official hand-out, the State Minister was speaking as chief guest at a students' rally at Haraganja Government College here. State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain Khoka was present as special guest. Local MP Abdul Hye, and Vice President of Rajshahi University Central Students Union Reza Ahmed, among others, spoke on the occasion.

Mr Islam said the present democratic government would

work for the change of the existing colonial-oriented education system which, he said, helped create unemployed educated youths.
 He said a nation could never reach its cherished target keeping the majority population out of its curricula.

KISHOREGANJ

Father, 3 sons drown

May 26: A father and all his three sons were drowned when a boat sank in the river Jamuna on Friday, reports UNB.
 Only the mother, Rezia Khatun (32), could be rescued by river police but in an unconscious state, police said.

The small boat carrying five members of a single family sank Friday afternoon after it was caught by a sudden wind while in the midstream of the river near Indrachula village, about 20 miles south of Karimganj upazila headquarters.

The victims were identified as Sohrab Hossain (40) and his three sons — Zakir Hossain (7), Takir Hossain (4) and Emraz Hossain (2) — of Sindip village under Noad union of Karimganj upazila.
 Sohrab Hossain with members of his family was returning from his father-in-law's house at Indrachula village.

RAJSHAH

80 degree examinees expelled

From Our Correspondent
May 26: A total of 80 examinees were expelled on the first day of Degree examination under Rajshahi University from eight centres of Dinajpur district.

Of them, 14 students expelled from Dinajpur Government College, six from Dinajpur Women's College, six from Adarsha College, two from Biringpur College, 13 from Fulbari College, one from Birampur College and four from Daudpur College.

It may be mentioned here that a total of 5266 examinees took part in this year's Degree examination from Dinajpur district.

NETRAKONA

Diarrhoea epidemic

May 26: Diarrhoea has broken out in an epidemic form in different areas of the district for the last few days, reports BSS.

Civil Surgeon, Netrakona said the disease claimed two lives and attacked at least 62 people in Kendua, Atarra, Barhatta upazila during the last one week. One person died at Atarra upazila and another at Barhatta.

A total of 22 medical teams have been working in the epidemic affected upazilas, the Civil Surgeon said.

RANGPUR

Contract growers face hardship

May 26: Hundreds of contract growers of Rangpur and Nilphamari districts are facing acute financial hardships as they are not getting money for seed-wheat sold to BADC during current season, reports BSS.

According to an official source, BADC procured about eight hundred metric tons of seed-wheat from seven hundred contract growers of Rangpur and Nilphamari districts. Procurement started in March and ended on May 14.

But BADC could not pay price for procured seed-wheat worth Taka seventy-five lakh.

GAIBANDHA

Salt wagons sink

From Our Correspondent
May 26: Three salt wagons sank in the river Brahmaputra after fell down from a wagon ferry during transshipment when the ferry was hit by storm on May 24.

According to report, a loaded wagon ferry was coming towards Teestamuk Ghat. When it reached Pattita Pattibari storm hit the ferry in which three salt loaded wagons fell in the river. Although rescue measure was taken but the wagons are yet to be recovered.



Bagalanj Bazar in Sylhet under ankle-deep water.

—Star photo by S. Y. Bakht

Rehabilitation of cyclone victims in progress

CHITTAGONG, May 26: The massive emergency rehabilitation work have been going on in full swing in the cyclone and tidal surge affected areas of Chittagong and Cox's Bazar with the supply of house building materials and reconstruction of coastal embankments being undertaken by the relevant government agencies, reports BSS.

Zonal Relief and Rehabilitation Coordinator Mokammel Hoq said this while briefing local journalists at his office here yesterday evening. He said the first phase of the relief activities under the name survivors relief was over and the second phase under the name Sheba (save humanity on emergency basis) began on May 20.

Mr Mokammel Hoq said 33,000 bundles of CI sheets had already been despatched to Moheshkhali, Kutubdia, Sandwip, Hatiya, Noakhali and Feni while another 24,000 bundles were waiting despatch

to the remote affected areas. He said 4,300 tents were also distributed among the affected people of different areas. A total of four to five lakh families would be provided with house building materials, he added.

The Zonal Relief and Rehabilitation Coordinator said a short-term programme was also being implemented to rehabilitate the farmers for which Taka 16 crore would be spent. Supply of seeds, fertilizers, power tillers, distribution of power pumps were included in the farmers' rehabilitation programme, he said.

Mr Mokammel Hoq said rehabilitation of fishermen, rearing of domestic forestry, community and coastal afforestation, reconstruction of bridges, roads, culverts and dewatering of ponds and dighis, rehabilitation of orphans and distressed women were also among the second phase of rehabilitation programme.

He said reconstruction of over-600 km coastal embankments had been taken up on an emergency basis in Kutubdia, Moheshkhali, Noakhali, Sandwip and other areas so that arable lands could be saved from inundation by tidal surge. A total of 30,000 metric tons of wheat had been earmarked for this purpose and of this 20,000 metric tons had been despatched to different affected areas. Reconstruction of coastal embankments had started in Cox's Bazar and Chittagong, he said.

Labour shortage

In this connection, he pointed out that labourers were not available for reconstruction of embankments and thus emergency reconstruction works were hampered. He called upon the people of the coastal areas to extend their cooperation in reconstruction of embankments on emergency basis in their own interest.

He said distribution of gratuitous relief was stopped from May 23 as prices of foodgrains had come down in the affected areas. Group feeding in the worst affected areas would continue for one month more, he added.

Tele link restored

The Zonal Coordinator said telecommunication services in Chittagong and Cox's Bazar had been restored and that Dhaka-Chittagong direct tele-link would be established in a week's time.

He said Chittagong port had regained its 70 per cent operation capacity and that efforts were made to regain pre-cyclone operation capacity at the shortest possible time.

Mr Mokammel Hoq commended the services of NGOs, voluntary organisations, Bangladesh Army, Navy and

Airforce for their wholehearted cooperation in relief and rehabilitation works in remote affected areas of Chittagong and Cox's Bazar.

He was also all praise for the joint Task Force which participated in relief and rehabilitation works under 'Operation Sea Angel'. Relief and rehabilitation materials and medicines have been carried by the Task Force helicopters, amphibians, ships and planes to different affected areas since May 15 giving a fillip to the overall rehabilitation programmes, he said. The JTF carried three power generators, tubewells and their spare parts, and water purification plants to Sandwip, Kutubdia and Moheshkhali besides huge quantities of relief goods, he added.

He said government officers engaged in relief and rehabilitation works were working with dedication to alleviate the sufferings of the cyclone and tidal surge affected people.

Downpour worsens flood situation in Jamalpur

JAMALPUR, May 26: Incessant rainfall and onrush of waters from the Caro hills across the border have further worsened the flood situation in Jamalpur and Sherpur district. Water from Garo hills has inundated vast areas including 15,000 acres of land with standing crops in Sribordi, Nalitabari, Jhinaighati, Nakhla, Dewanganj and Bakshiganj upazilas of the district. Numerous thatched houses

From Our Correspondent

in the upazilas have collapsed due to onrush of flood waters. Dr. Serajul Haque MP and Abul Kalam Azad visited the affected areas. The sufferings of the flood affected people have multiplied due to this incessant rainfall.

The Chairman of the Upazila distributed Taka 1000 and some relief goods among some affected people in the Dewanganj upazila. Normal life has been completely paralysed in the district hindering rehabilitation activities of the erosion victims.

Erosion has devoured a portion of Madarganj upazila headquarters threatening old business centre Baljuri Bazar.

The Erosion by Jamuna and the Brahmaputra rivers has already rendered numerous people homeless within last two weeks.

Madarganj hospital and Upazila Parishad Bhavan which were previously 1500 feet away from the river is now near the bank of river Jamuna. The panic stricken inhabitants of the locality are shifting their dwelling houses to safer places.

The destitute families who took shelter on the flood con-

trol embankment are passing their days in uncertainty.

According to the local people, if the concerned authorities failed to arrest the erosion, 50,000 families will lose their shelters, belongings and cultivable lands.

Meanwhile hundreds of people in Madarganj brought out a procession demanding early measures to protect the areas from river erosion.

Erosion threatens Betagi Bazar

PATUAKHALI, May 26: Continuous erosion of the river Bishkhali has threatened the existence of Bandar Bazar of Betagi upazila of the district, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, about one fourth portion of the bazar with a number of shops has already been washed away by the river.

Meanwhile, a vast area of cropland has already been engulfed by the rampaging river over the last few months.

Local people urged the authorities to take necessary measures to check further erosion and save the Bazar from extinction.

Sharp rise in prices of baby food

MOULVI BAZAR, May 26: Prices of all brands of powdered milk have shot up abnormally in different markets of the district causing inconvenience to the consumers, reports UNB.

Sources said, a tin of 2 kg Anchor is being sold at Taka 270, a tin of 2 kg Red Cow costs about Taka 265 while Dano is being sold at Taka 270.

Another brand cereal Viva is selling between Taka 100 and 120 while Cerelac and My boy of 400 grams are being sold at Taka 110.

A section of dishonest traders are making windfall profit by creating artificial scarcity of skimmed milk and other brands of baby food.

Meanwhile, prices of essentials have also registered a sharp rise adversely affecting the people over the last few days.

Diarrhoea claims two lives

Diarrhoea claimed two lives in the district over the last week, officials said.

The victims were identified as Babu (2) and Mongla (7 months) of Sadar upazila.

Sources said about 796 people have been affected by the disease in different parts of the district during the period.

Notes from Meherpur

From Our Correspondent
MEHERPUR, May 26: An emergency meeting on relief operation in cyclone-affected areas was held recently under the chairmanship of Md. Mamtazur Rahman, Deputy Commissioner, Meherpur, high officials, local political leaders, businessmen and elite of the town were present in the meeting.

A 15-member committee headed by ADC (Gen) as Coordinator was formed to collect relief materials. People of all walks of life have been urged to respond generously to mitigate the plight of the survivors.

People of the district expressed their deep sorrows at the biggest ever death toll caused by the cyclonic storm and tidal surge in coastal belts of the country.

Two trucks loaded with relief materials were sent to zonal office, Barisal for distribution to the survivors.

Anti smuggling meeting

An anti-smuggling meeting was held at Tetulbaria Union Parishad office of Gangni UZ of the district at the call of Anwar Hossain, SP Meherpur. It was presided over by AKM Edris, Chairman of Tetulbaria Union Parishad.

Anwar Hossain, SP, Nazmulhuda, Chairman Gangni UZ were present in the meeting as chief guest and special guest.

The meeting was addressed by Nazmulhuda, Ahmad Ali, Rezaul Huq, Md. Abdullah, Shaiful Islam Advocate, Hishabuddin, Mokbul Hossain, Amanullah and Nurulhuda. The speakers expressed their concern over growing smugglings along the border areas.

The SP requested all concerned to play a vital role to check smuggling. He also sought public help to curb crimes of the district.

Smuggled goods seized

Anti smuggling drive has been intensified in Meherpur district. The police raided Mitta store of the town recently and seized Indian electronic goods and spays worth about Taka 20,000.

The police also arrested Fazlur Rahman, proprietor, Jamaluddin and Babul Islam two employees of the shop.

Acting on secret information Meherpur police also recovered tyres, tubes, spares of automobiles and aluminium bar worth about Taka 56,000 from a bus bound for Meherpur from Mujibnagar.

The police arrested Nazrul Islam, driver of the vehicle, Shamsuddin and Jamiruddin two smugglers involved in the smuggling and they have been sent to Meherpur sub-jail.

Two separate cases have been registered under Customs and 25(B) Special Power Act.

Obituary

Biswanath, a meritorious student and an examinee of the ensuing HSC examination of Meherpur Government College died of massive heart attack in the hospital recently. The teachers and students of the college were deeply shocked at the sad demise of the student.

A condolence meeting was held and it was presided over by Dr. Anwarul Karim, Principal of Meherpur Government College.

Rabindra Jayanti observed

From Our Correspondent
RAJSHAH, May 26: In observance of Rabindro Jayanti the Agnifina Sanggect Biddalaya of Rajshahi arranged a discussion meeting and cultural function at Katakhal recently.

Presided over by Mr. Anwar Hossain, the meeting was addressed by Abdur Razzak and Sanowar Hossain.

Speakers at the meeting said Tagore's message gave us inspiration in many critical junctures and political crisis in the past and provided us with courage to overcome them. They also recalled the Tagore's great role in developing our literature and culture.

The function was followed by a musical soiree 'Hey Khaniker Atithi' participate by Afzal, Rana, Jaboni, Renu and others.

Bar Assoc executives

Zillur-Rafikul panel swept Rajshahi Bar Association election held here on Thursday.

They bagged 12 posts out of 15 posts, while the rival Kashem-Azad panel got only 3 posts.

Mr. Zillur Rahman and Rafikul Hasem were elected President and General secretary respectively. Idris Amin and Kazemuddin were elected vice-presidents.



Railway Secretary Nurul Momen Khan inspecting the repair work of a rail bridge between Bharatkhal and Bonarpara Railway stations which went down following heavy downpour recently.