

## Upazila roundup

### MAGURA

#### All pourashava areas will be electrified

May 30: A plan is underway to bring all the Pourashava areas under electricity network during the next three years, officials said, reports UNB.

A total of Taka nine crore has been earmarked for the scheme.

According to Power Development Board, the old lines will be replaced by new cover wires and poles.

Of the total lines, 15 km will be brought under 11 kv lines, 10 km under 11.4 kv, 26 km under 440 volt line and 24.5 km under 220 volt line.

The source said the town will bustle with economic activities as soon as business establishments and factories get electricity connection.

### KUSHTIA

#### Road in bad shape

From A Correspondent

May 30: Kushtia-Poradah road is in a very bad shape causing untold sufferings to the transport plying on this route. The nine-mile road was metalled in the year 1962 but for want of proper repair and maintenance the road has become extremely hazardous.

The road has developed innumerable pot holes restraining all kinds of vehicles to ply. Transport workers said that plying of vehicles in this road meant damage to vehicles and risk of accident. Owners of vehicles said that their repeated appeal for repair of the road had gone in vain. They maintained that damage of vehicles not only causes loss to them but also affect the country's foreign exchange because all parts of the vehicles are imported ones.

The Zila Parishad is the authority to maintain this road but the Parishad is yet to take any urgent measure to repair the same and made this worthy of plying vehicles.

### NANDAIL

#### 100 educational institutions damaged

From Our Correspondent

May 30: One hundred educational institutions were damaged in 12 upazilas of Mymensingh district in the recent nor'westers that swept over various places of the district.

The damaged institutions include primary schools, high schools and madrasahs. The upazila wise break up of the damaged institutions as follows: 15 at Gafargawn, 13 at Mymensingh Sadar, 25 at Tirisal, 11 at Fulbaria, eight at Gauripur, seven at Dhobaura, eight at Nandail, seven at Bhaluka, 20 at Fulpur, five at Muktagacha, 10 at Iswarganj and eight at Halaughat.

Of the damaged institutions 60 were totally damaged while the rest 40 were partly.

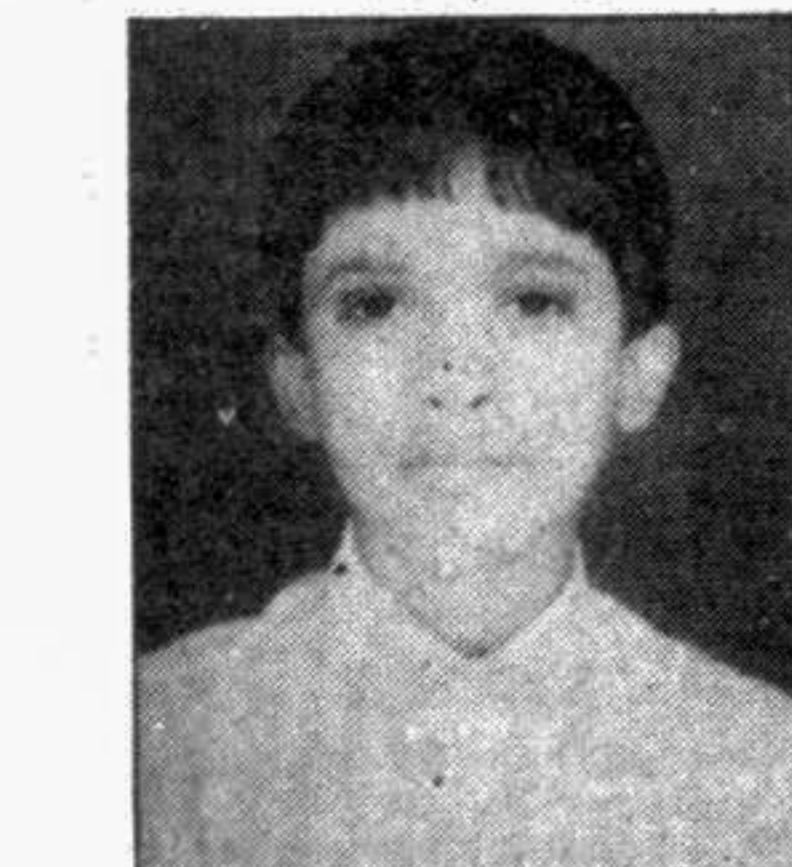
It is gathered from the reports reaching here from different areas that education in 60 damaged institutions are totally hampered as the houses including furniture were destroyed in the calamity.

### MAULVI BAZAR

#### Academic feat

From Our Correspondent

May 30: Md Masum Hayder a student of Maulvi Bazar Government High School



got junior scholarship at talent pool in the junior scholarship examination of 1990 in Chittagong Division.

Masum is the son of Advocate Abdul Zabbar and Mrs Lutfunnessa Zabbar. His mother is a teacher of Ali Amzad Government Girls High School of Maulvi Bazar.

### COMILLA

#### Car lifting rampant

May 30: Car lifting has become rampant in the town here and three vehicles were stolen during the last fortnight, reports UNB.

A Toyota micro bus (Dhaka Metro-Cha-9806) was stolen Tuesday night while another private car was hijacked on May 22 from Comilla Housing Estate.

Another Toyota car (Comilla Ka-5759) was stolen from Ayat Ali Khan road on May 12.

Police could not yet recover the cars.

At least 40 students were injured in a clash between Shibir and Chhatra League activists following a dispute over admission test at Comilla Victoria College on Monday. College sources said.

Admission test was postponed and the College declared closed for a week from that day due to the turmoil.

Of the injured, 12 were admitted to Comilla General Hospital.

Witnesses said the clash erupted when both the parties differed on holding of admission test.

### KISHOREGANJ

#### Jail escapee arrested

From Our Correspondent

May 30: Bajitpur police arrested an undertrial prisoner from a village Merargon on May 23 morning.

The prisoner Nasir Miah of village Jugur Char in Kulliarchar upazila escaped from police custody by jumping down from a running passenger train near Halimpur railway station on May 22.

According to police sources, Nasir Miah was being taken from Mymensingh district jail to Bajitpur upazila jail by Dhaka bound 202 down train under police escort. He jumped down from the running train at a place about 300 yards away from the Halimpur railway station and fled away.

Two dacoity and one robbery cases had been lying pending against him in Bajitpur police station.

### FENI

#### Dacoits loot valuables

May 30: Armed dacoits looted valuables worth about Taka 64,000 from the residences of upazila health complex in Porshuram upazila Tuesday, police here said, reports UNB.

Witnesses said dacoits numbering 15 to 20 stormed the staff quarters of Dr Jahangir, Dr Mahbubur Rahman and Dr Hatem Ali and looted the valuables at gun point.

In another incident, dacoits decamped with goods worth about Taka 20,000 from a night coach in Feni by-pass road near Devipur in sadar upazila Saturday. The Luxmpur bound bus was coming from the capital.

According to police, the dacoits numbering five to seven boarded the bus in the guise of passengers and at one stage attacked the passengers and looted the valuables.

### CHUADANGA

#### Relief sent to districts

From Our Correspondent

May 30: Relief materials worth about Taka 86 thousand were sent to the affected people of the recent cyclone-hit areas of the country through the Chandanga district administration in the third phase on May 21 last.

A district relief office source told this correspondent today that the following relief goods have been sent to the people of cyclone affected areas of the country on May 21.

Rice-3309 kgs, potato-458 kgs, chira-195 kgs, gur-10 kgs, atta-549 kgs, dal -91/2 kgs, wheat- 570 kgs, paddy- 60 kgs, biscuit-1 carton, 'Badna'-30 pieces, Baiti-6 pieces, plates-149 pieces, glass-63 pieces, old garments-2 bags and 3011 pieces, tooth powder-12 pieces, pan-one piece, jug-3 pieces and match-13 dozens.

Earlier in three phases huge relief materials of above kinds worth about Taka 2,91,000 have also been sent to the affected people of the recent tidal bore areas of the country.



Houses damaged by the recent catastrophic cyclone at Langu upazila in Rangamati

—Star photo by Shahuddin Bitu

## Monu flood control project now a curse

From Our Correspondent

MAULVI BAZAR, May 30: The Monu River Flood Control and Irrigation Project completed in 1982-83 at a cost of Taka 68 crore failed to achieve its goal. About 40 thousand out of 56 thousand acres of paddy land under Rajnagar and Maulvi Bazar Sadar upazilas within the project area are still under flood water since May 9 and the people of low-lying areas are living on the embankment or on bamboo 'machans'.

The 36.78 mile long embankment was constructed around 'Kawadighi Haor' within Maulvi Bazar Sadar and Rajnagar upazilas to protect

crops on 56 thousand acres of land and some villages from flood waters. But the cropland and villages in the Monu project area are flooded every year.

The cause of the inundation of the project area by the flood water of the river Monu is the outcome of cutting of the embankment in several places by the flood affected people living outside the embankment area to save their lives and properties. It may be mentioned here that the embankment is being cut every flood season by the affected people.

About two lakh people living

within the project area are by the flood every year.

The people of the affected area told The Daily Star that the paddy grown every year within the project area is sufficient to feed the entire population of Maulvi Bazar Sadar and Rajnagar upazilas of the district.

The Kashempur pump house at Karadair canal at the mouth of the haor was constructed at an estimated cost of Taka 20 crores to drain out excess water from the project area for the protection of crops but the Kashempur pump house remains inoper-

ative due to high water level. The situation arising out of the cutting of embankment has rendered the pump house inoperative.

An official of the local Water Development Board (WDB) said that the man-made flood caused an extensive damage to the embankment and the pump house which may require over Taka one crore to repair.

But people living in villages at the right bank of the Monu river told The Daily Star that Monu Project blue print was wrong thus causing untold sufferings to the people of 50 vil-

lages from Tengra union of Rajnagar upazila to Akhalkura union of Maulvi Bazar Sadar upazila which are situated outside the Monu Project area. They also told this correspondent that entire people of these areas even people of Maulvi Bazar town have been agitated over the local Water Development Board for such wrong project. To save their lives and properties they are cutting the project embankment in every rainy season.

They urged the authorities concerned to save them from the devastation of Monu river.

## 7 killed in Rangpur road accidents

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, May 30: At least seven persons including father and son were killed and 41 injured on Wednesday in a separate road mishap in northern districts. Three persons including father and son were killed and 20 injured on Saidpur-Nilphamar road when a Saidpur bound minibus skidded off the road into a road side ditch.

Four others were killed and 21 injured in three other road mishaps on Rangpur-Bogra and Bogra-Natore roads.

### Child lifters arrested

Two child lifters were arrested and eight minor girls were recovered from their possession on Wednesday at

Kaunia railway station by the railway police.

The arrested child lifters Asia Khatoun (33) and her daughter Jahanaara (18) hail from Aditmari Upazila under Lalmonirhat district. Both of them while awaiting for Dhaka bound mail train at Kaunia Railway Station along with eight minor girls below ten years whom they collected from remote village under false assurance of employment at Dhaka were arrested by Railway Police all of them were sent to jail. Asia Khatoun confessed that she and her daughter Jahanaara are engaged in female child lifting for the past few years to sell them in brothels at Dhaka and Narayanganj.

## Student killed in train accident

From Our Correspondent

AGRI VARSITY, May 30: Anisur Rahman (25) a third year final examinee of Agri-engineering and Mechanical Faculties of Agri-cultural University was crushed under the wheels of intercity Padma express train near varsity railway station at 11:45 a.m. yesterday. Varsity sources said while Anisur Rahman was returning to his Hossain Shaheed Suhrawardy Hall after his last final examination the train crushed him on the spot.

His body was sent to his village Gangair under Ghatail upazila in Tangail district without autopsy.



BRAHMANBARIA: Members of the local Shilpakala Academy collecting donation for the cyclone victims of coastal areas.

## NGOs apprised of rehabilitation plan

### 12 projects implemented

BARISAL, May 30: Twelve projects have been completed in Barisal Paurashava area under test relief programme during the current dry season, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the projects included re-excavation of canals and drains of Paurashava areas.

The government sanctioned 80 metric tons of rice for implementation of the projects.

### Aman farming

A total of 6,06,788 acres have been brought under intensive transplanted Aman cultivation in eight southern districts under Barisal agriculture zone in current season.

According to an official source, production target has been fixed at 2,85,190 metric tons in terms of rice this year.

CHITTAGONG, May 30: The bi-weekly meeting of the representatives of NGOs was held Tuesday at Chittagong Zila Parishad Hall with zonal relief coordinator M. Mokammel Huq in the chair, reports UNB.

The NGO representatives were told that the time of survival relief had passed and from now on they should come up with rehabilitation proposals for building houses and tertiary embankments in the affected coastal areas.

They were also urged to keep close liaison with local administration for proper implementation of rehabilitation programmes, according to an official handout.

Huq called upon NGOs to help rehabilitate fishermen with boats and fishing nets.

He also told them to consider steps for rebuilding cyclone-centers at the coastal areas. NGO forum representatives informed the meeting that they had de-watered and de-contaminated, 1093 ponds in the affected areas.

The meeting was also apprised that 7100 families would be provided with further aid and 22,044 families with rehabilitation assistance.

EEC Ambassador Jacuis Bally lauded the relief operation of NGOs. He urged the NGO-representatives to help domestic afforestation and sinking of tubewells, the press release added.

### Relief distributed

TANGAIL, May 30: State Minister for Relief Lutfur Rahman Khan on Tuesday distributed some relief materials among the tornado affected people of Gopalpur upazila in Tangail, reports BSS.

The relief materials include 10 metric tons of rice, chira and gur, 500 pieces of saree 500 pieces of lungi 100 tins of biscuit and 50 pieces of tent.

The tornado lashed three villages of Gopalpur upazila on May 26.

The district and upazila administrations so far have distributed 365 kg of chira, 30 kg gur 4.6 metric tons rice, 600 pieces of old garment and Taka 10 thousand in cash among the affected people.

Earlier, the State Minister visited the tornado-hit villages. He talked to the affected people and heard their problems. Mr. Khan assured them of all possible help for their rehabilitation.

## Notes from Kushtia

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, May 30: Thirty five persons were injured in three separate clashes in Lahant near Kushtia town.

On May 23 a clash took place between two neighbours due to damage of paddy by the ducks in which one Jamela Khatoun (40) was seriously injured. On the following day one Ishak was also injured. Some hired miscreants attacked the Mollapara of Lahant upazila village with sharp weapons and looted many houses injuring 33 persons.

Seriously injured persons were admitted to Kushtia General Hospital. Heavy tension is prevailing in the locality. None has been arrested and no case has been filed in this connection.

A student Kutubuddin (12) of Sreerampur under Saikupa upazila claimed on the electric tower to fetch a kite and got electric shock.

He was admitted to Kushtia General Hospital but his condition is stated to be critical.

### Baby drowns

Urmi a two-year-old baby drowned in the pond last week. Rustom Ali, father of the victim of Tahini Para near Kushtia town rescued the baby from the pond with the help of some neighbours and took her to Kushtia General Hospital where she was declared dead.

### Bid to kill fiance

Mr. Sudeb Kumar Bhaduri attempted to kill Bano Rani and took away her necklace and 3000 Taka.

Bano Rani, daughter of Shatu Ram Pramanik had a love affair with Sudeb Kumar Bhaduri, son of Debendranath Bhaduri both of Satpakhia village under Khoksa upazila.

It is reported that Sudeb started avoiding Bano Rani after settlement of their marriage. On the day of the incident Sudeb took her to Rajbari and while returning to Khoksa he attempted to kill her and took away her necklace and 3000 Taka. Then he left her in an unconscious state beside the road.

Bano Rani was admitted to Khoksa upazila health complex. She lodged a case with Khoksa police station but local police has not yet taken any step though Sudeb is forcing Bano Rani to withdraw the case.

### Tornado kills one

One person was killed and 35 others were injured when a tornado hit Durbachara union under Kushtia Sadar upazila recently.

A large number of trees, houses and crops were damaged in the storm. Salma (3) was killed when a wall fell on her while Reshma (2) lost her two legs and one injured Sad Ali (60) was taken to Kushtia General Hospital.

### Two bodies exhumed

SIRAJGANJ, May 30: Police Tuesday exhumed two bodies suspecting they were murdered by their step-mother at Deovaga village in Raigonj upazila, reports UNB.

The bodies identified as Mitu (3) and Samina (4) were buried without post mortem, family sources said adding that they died after taking poisonous food given by the step-mother on Sunday.

Police said the bodies were buried to hush up the murder. On complaints, police exhumed the bodies and intensified their hunt to arrest the step-mother who went into hiding immediately after the incident.

### Two killed

RANGPUR, May 30: Two people died of suffocation in a ring well at Sattarpara village in Bodarganj upazila, police said here today, reports UNB.

The deceased were identified as Hashemul (12) and Khademul Islam (22) of the village.

The victims got down into the ring well to lift a knife but got suffocated by poisonous gas of the well on Friday.

Later the bodies were recovered by the villagers and sent to the Sadar hospital for autopsy.

## 13 business establishments gutted

BHOLA, May 30: Thirteen business establishments of Mirzakhali Bazar were gutted by a devastating fire recently, reports BSS.

The fire originated from an electric short circuit from a shop and engulfed the neighbouring areas.

The fire brigade from Bhola rushed to the place of occurrence about 35 miles from here and extinguished the fire.

The business establishments include rice and cloth shops, bakery, and hotels and restaurants.

## One lakh leprosy patients in 4 N. dists

From Our Correspondent

DINAJPUR, May 30: At least one lakh people of four northern districts of Nilphamar, Panchagarh, Thakurgaon and Dinajpur are suffering from leprosy, according to a competent source of Mobile Leprosy Treatment Unit. Besides, there are several thousand undetected cases in the districts, it is learnt.

The worst affected areas are Parbatipur, Chiribandar, Khansama, Kaharol, Birganj, Birol and Sadar upazilas under Dinajpur district, Pirganj, Ranisankail and Baliadangi upazilas under Thakurgaon district, Boda and Debiganj

upazilas under Panchagarh district, and Saidpur, Jaldhaka, Domar and Sadar upazilas under Nilphamar district.

There is a leprosy hospital in Nilphamar with only 20 beds. At Parbatipur and Saidpur, two voluntary organisations are carrying the treatment of the local leprosy patients. It is further learnt that few years ago, a plan was undertaken to establish a leprosy hospital at Saidpur. Buildings and quarters were constructed for the purpose, but for unknown reason the hospital was

not opened.

The government should take immediate steps to open the proposed hospital at Saidpur, it is widely felt. The people also demanded of the government to set up three more hospitals in Panchagarh, Thakurgaon and Dinajpur district headquarters.

### 5000 marriages terminated

More than 5,000 marriages have been terminated during the last three years in 23 upazilas under three northern districts of Dinajpur, Thaku-

rgaon and Panchagarh for non-payment of dowry, it is learnt from a reliable source here today.

Unregistered marriages are reportedly rampant in the districts. More than 70,000 marriages took place unregistered in these districts during the last three years. On the other hand, second, third and fourth time marriages without the permission of first, second and third wives are also on the increase in these districts.

It is learnt that about 10,000 marriages for second, third or fourth times were solemnised in these districts

during the period without any permission from the first, second or third wives.

Out of 70,000 unregistered marriages, about 5,000 have been dissolved during the period due to non-payment of dowry.

The brides could not appear before the court for establishing their rights for want of necessary documents, it is alleged by a number of divorcees and their guardians.

The government has also been deprived of Taka 70,00,000 for non-registration of marriages, it is also learnt.