

Upazila roundup

COMILLA

Police constable beaten to death

Apr 1: A police constable in plain clothes, apparently mistaken as a dacoit, was beaten to death by irate public after a bus was looted at Nowtala in Chandina upazila early hours Tuesday, reports UNB.

Witnesses said a group of eight dacoits in the guise of passengers overpowered fellow travellers of the Chittagong-bound night coach, looted valuables worth about Taka two lakh at gun point and escaped amidst cry for help by those robbed.

As it was sheri time, hundreds of people responded to the call of the distressed passengers and came out of their house to chase the dacoits who fired several rounds of shot while escaping.

But the people managed to caught hold of one young man and beaten him to death taking him to be a dacoit. Later, the victim was identified as Sabbir, a police constable of Chittagong range. Sabbir who was in plain cloths was going to Rajshahi on transfer.

MANIKGANJ

Diseases leave 500 cows dead

Apr 1: Cattle diseases that broke out in an alarming proportion killed 500 cows and attacked 2000 others in the last fortnight in the district, reports UNB.

Local people said cattlehead with various diseases are being smuggled into the country from across the border causing spread of the disease.

When contacted the district livestock officer said a few days back a truck load of Indian cows were seized of which 50 per cent cows were found diseased.

He feared that if the authorities do not stop smuggling of Indian cows it would be very tough for livestock department to check the diseases.

MAGURA

Housewife kidnapped, violated

Apr 1: A young housewife of village Durgapur in Sreepur upazila of the district was kidnapped and violated by five youngmen of the area last week, reports UNB.

According to family sources, the victim Saicha Khatun (25), wife of Asmot Mollah of the same village was kidnapped from her room at dead of night. They took her in a field and violated her forcibly.

Police said Saicha was recovered with severe injuries and rushed to the Sadar hospital.

A case has been registered with the Sreepur police station in this connection but none was arrested so far.

RAJSHAHI

Contraband goods worth Tk 35.35 lakh seized, 19 held

Apr 1: A BDR battalion here seized contrabands worth about Taka 35.35 lakh and arrested 19 smugglers from the border areas of the district during the period from March 13 to 20, reports UNB.

The smugglers and the contrabands were handed over to the police and the customs of-ficials.

The incoming contrabands included Indian saree, yarn, cloth, medicines and cows and the outgoing goods included copper, brass, VCP and spare parts of watches.

On March 24, the BDR battalion seized 100 grams of heroin and held one smuggler following a raid on a boat at Godaguri Rail Market Ghat.

PATUAKHALI

Tk 4.50 lakh for road construction

Apr 1: About Taka 4.50 lakh has been sanctioned for construction of interior roads of Manpara Upazila Health Complex in the current financial year.

It is learnt that Bhola PWD is taking necessary action for construction of the roads.

According to another report, Mirzaganj upazila administration has taken up a programme to repair the Kalaganasa Government Primary School.

Official sources said, Taka 60,000 has been allocated for the purpose.

It is reported that the upazila authorities will also undertake the repair work of four more primary schools in the current financial year at a cost of Taka 15.60 lakh.

With the completion of the schools primary education will get further boost in the upazila.

BOGRA

3 killed, 4 injured in clash over land dispute

From Our Correspondent

Apr 1: Three persons were killed and 4 other injured in a clash over property dispute in Shibganj of the district.

The persons were Saiful Islam Manik (28), Anwar Hossain (25) and Shakir (50) of village Chatuadompara Talola of Shibganj upazila.

Four injured persons had admitted to the Shibganj Upazila Health Complex.

A case had been lodged with Shibganj police station in this regard.

BRAHMANBARIA

Sangbadik Sangstha executives

Apr 1: A nine-member executive committee of Jatya Sangbadik Sangstha, Brahmanbaria unit was formed at a meeting held here recently with Rabul Islam in the chair.

According to a press release, M A Mannan and Md Emdadul Hoque have been elected president and general secretary respectively of the unit.

KUSHITIA

Twelve houses gutted

Apr 1: Twelve houses were gutted in a fire at the village Arshinagar near Kushtia town on Friday night, reports BSS.

Four cows died in the fire. The fire was originated from a cow-shed. The fire-brigade from Kushtia town brought the fire under control.

SATKHIRA

Newly married housewife beaten to death

Apr 1: A newly married housewife was allegedly beaten to death by her husband at Dhulanda in Tala upazila recently, reports UNB.

According to family sources, the victim Shima Rani (21), married to Pankaj Das of the same village just a week before was passing her new life in her husband's house.

But on the fateful day Shima was entangled in a family feud following which she was beaten mercilessly causing her instantaneous death.

The body was sent to hospital for postmortem. A case has been filed with local police.

GAZIPUR

Dacoits kill businessman

Apr 1: Police recovered a body of a local businessman from Baropara forest near here Tuesday last, reports UNB.

The body was identified as Salim Uddin Mridha of Kaliakar upazila, a cattlehead businessman, reportedly killed by dacoits while returning home from Fulbaria bazar Monday night.

The dacoits robbed him of Taka 2,500 and family sources said.

Salim was killed when he resisted but his nephew Abdul Khaled and friend, who were also accompanying him, managed to escape.

The body was sent to the Sadar hospital morgue for autopsy.

Five people were arrested in this connection.

RANGPUR

Demolition of sculpture 'Projonmo' protested

Apr 1: Sammitto Sangkritik Jote, Sarbodoliya Chhatra Ojya and Ghatak Dalai Nirmul Committee jointly brought out a procession in the town Monday to protest the demolition of the sculpture 'Projonmo' at the Carmichael College premises, reports UNB.

The processionists paraded the main streets of the town demanding immediate arrest of the persons responsible for it.

They also demanded ban on the politics of Jamaat-Shibir in the country and to execute death sentence of Golan Azam pronounced by the peoples' court.

Later Chhatra Ojya processionists went to the Deputy Commissioner's office to submit a memorandum but on his refusal to accept the same they chanted slogans against him.



Sylhet: Police recently detected a spurious medicine factory and arrested three persons in this connection with some medicine making material and equipment. — Star photo

Spurious drug factory detected, four held

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Apr 1: A spurious medicine factory was detected by the police in Sylhet town on recently.

According to a police source, on getting secret information, a police party from the Kotwali police station went to a house of Subidbazar area of the town and detected the factory. They recovered spurious medicines of different brands worth about Taka 1.50 lakh from the factory. Some equipment used in manufacturing the medicines were also found there.

The police during the raid, arrested Md. Alamgir, Director (Owner) of the factory and two of his accomplices named Jalal Ahmed and Shamsul Alam. The Owner, Alamgir hails from Jessore and the rest are from Kishoreganj, the police source informed.

It is further learnt that the said persons used to manufac-

ture different kinds of spurious medicines and supply those to a section of medicine traders of the remote areas of Sylhet for long at cheaper rates.

A case in this connection had already been registered with the Sylhet Kotawali police station. Further investigations had also been going on, the source added.

Housewife beaten to death

A housewife succumbed to her injuries in the hospital on March 21 last.

According to the reports, one Makhan Miah and his family members of village Lalkha Tangi under Sylhet Sadar upazila were pressing on Khairunnessa, wife of Makhan Miah for bringing money from her father for business purposes for long.

In this connection, a few days back Khairunnessa was given a good beating.

Two killed in separate accidents

KUSHITIA, Apr 1: Two people were killed and another one sustained serious injuries in separate incidents in the town Monday, police said, reports UNB.

Strajul Islam (55), a truck driver, was run over by a tractor at Rajarhat road near rail gate at 2 pm. Police seized the tractor but its driver fled.

The body was sent to Kushtia General Hospital for autopsy.

Fuljhara Khatun (70), was run over by a speedy truck in front of Sonali Bank branch at Bherganura.

She was rushed to the hospital where she succumbed.

In yet another incident, Asad Ali (23) a motor worker, injured seriously in a road accident at Majampur on the same day.

Separate cases have been filed with the local police.

Drought hits farm output

From Our Correspondent

KURIGRAM, Apr 1: The agricultural production of entire Kurigram district has been affected by prolonged drought since November last and other problems.

As a result, the fate of more than 1,50,000 agricultural families of the district has become uncertain.

Following the last year flood, the farmers of the district sowed Rabi-crops, IRRI, Boro, and jute out all their hopes have been ripped in the bud due to prolonged drought.

While visiting some villages of Kurigram Sadar upazila Ulipur and Nageswari upazilas of the district this correspondent found that about 40 per cent IRRI, 45 per cent Boro, 60 per cent Rabi-crops were damaged and tiny jute plants dried up and become reddish.

The water level has also gone down. Consequently, deep tubewells and power pumps are not functioning satisfactorily. Ordinary tubewells are also not functioning. This correspondent found that the village women fetching drinking water from the distant places, from wells and tubewells. Ponds, canals, beels, haors of the area have dried up causing cracks in the fields and also hampering fish cultivation. The agricultural day labourers and fishermen have become unemployed.

This correspondent also found the farmers sitting under the trees instead of working in the fields for saving themselves from excessive heat. Whereas, in the past years they were found engaged in the fields and the sound of full-throated "vattialy songs" was heard.

The other problem of agriculture in this area is that characteristics of soil have changed due to excessive use of scientific manures instead of organic and green manures. The farmers told that production had decreased inspite of using scientific manures. Cow-dung used as manure from the ancient time, is being used as fuel. Consequently, out of the contents of different chemical elements of soil, zinc and sulphur are going to decrease rendering adverse effect on the agricultural products.

The agricultural experts opined that, to get rid of this problem excessive use of cow-dung should be used. Besides this, the farmers with their outdated ideas of cultivation cannot face the challenge of drought and uncertain climate. In this regard the agricultural officials of the area are not playing noticeable role in gearing up their activities.

Hence, the fate of more than 1,50,000 farmer families

of Kurigram district have become uncertain confronting multifarious problems of agriculture.

The neem trees in Kurigram, Rangpur, Gaibandha, Lalmonirhat and Nilphamari districts of Greater Rangpur are being destroyed due chiefly to lack of proper orientation, plantation programme and maintenance.

The region was once rich in neem tree. There were countless neem trees in the vast fallow land of the region. But most of these trees are decaying.

In the villages the use of twigs of the neem tree as effective tooth brushes was in vogue and the leaves were removal of blemishes on the skin. Neem tree may be effective in combating malaria that has resistance to the most widely used anti-malarial drug "chloroquine". It may also be used as pesticides.

Traditional use of the leaves of the neem tree, or the fruit, has all but died and we have all fallen victims to the "hard sell" approach of companies.

The experienced circle, opined that the people should be given advice to grow neem trees methodically. The government should take initiative to expand neem trees under expert guidance without delay.

Ghost!

JHENIDAH, Apr 1: A mysterious fire and brickbating believed to be the act of ghosts damaged properties worth about Taka 20,000 at Paikpara in Kaliganj upazila Friday, reports UNB.

According to villagers, bricks were started dropping from unknown directions in different areas on Friday night which could not be traced out immediately.

Later fire was seen on rooftops of several thatched houses and heaps of straws. The fire soon took a devastating turn causing extensive destruction to households and other valuables.

Fire Brigade from the local station rushed to the spot and brought the fire under control.

On hearing the news, thousands of people from neighbouring villages rushed to the spot to see for themselves the extent of devastation caused by the ghostly affairs.

After investigation, it was revealed that the bricks were thrown by a little girl Nikiti (12), daughter of Rustam Ali allegedly under the influence of a ghost.

Family sources said the girl was behaving abnormally since the so called influence for a long time.

But the origin of the fire could not be ascertained yet.

Educationist dead

RAJSHAHI, Apr 1: Fazlur Rahman, an educationist and father of Rajshahi City Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu, died of old age ailment on Tuesday. He was 85, reports UNB.

Late Rahman did his matriculation from Rajshahi Collegiate High School in 1928, BA in 1932 from Rajshahi College and double MA from Calcutta University in English Literature and Philosophy in 1934 and 1936 respectively.

He also joined the World War II as an official of the Civil Defence Department of the then British Government.

Late Rahman left behind his wife, three sons, a daughter and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

Public graveyard inaugurated

JHENIDAH, Apr 1: Deputy Commissioner M M Al-Faruk inaugurated a public graveyard at Harinakundu upazila headquarters on Monday, reports UNB.

Paddy under pest attack Farmers unable to buy pesticides

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, Apr 1: The IRRI-Boro paddy on about thirty thousand acres of land have been attacked by pests in seven upazilas of Chandpur district.

The pests locally known as "lada poka" and "pamri poka" — a kind of brown grass hopper attacked the paddy fields in different parts of the districts.

According to farmers, after the attack the green paddy plants become yellowish and subsequently become straw. The badly affected areas are Shekdi, Sokdi Rampur, Lohagar, Chandra, Tangi, Charbasanta, Haimchar, Hanor char, Haziganj, Matlab, Kachua.

It is informed that many spray machines of Agriculture Department are lying inoperative for want of spare-parts. The farmers of the affected areas cannot afford to buy the required quantity of pesticides which are being sold in the local markets at a higher rate. The farmers further alleged that after information, no staff of the Agriculture Department visited the affected areas. The farmers informed that pesti-

cides sold in the open markets are not pure for which does not act properly.

The Purnan Bazar College here has decided to introduce graduate courses as earlier as possible.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the governing body with Prof Md Abdullah MP in the chair.

The meeting felt that in view of the increasing demand of the students of the locality particularly of Haimchar upazila, northern part of Faridganj and eastern part of Bherganj upazila of the district. The need for opening degree course had become unavoidable.

A committee for implementing degree course has been formed with educationist and philanthropist Al-haj AWM Toaha Mia (Ex-Principal of Chandpur Government College) as convener.

It may be mentioned that the Purnan Bazar College was established in 1981 at local initiative and has been running as an intermediate college since then.

Rectified spirit openly used as alcohol

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Mar 31: Rectified spirit is being freely consumed as alcohol by the youths in the district town causing moral degradation.

Residents complained that addicted young people buy the spirit from homeopathic doctors and take it as alcohol by mixing water.

It is alleged that some dishonest homeopathic doctors inspite of having licences to practise and manufacture 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.

It may be mentioned that there is no liquor shop in the district 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 make the largest group of ad-

dicts, it is learnt. House rent has increased manifold at Kishoreganj town due to acute shortage of accommodation over the last few years.

The middle class people as well as the small traders are being affected badly because of house rent rise.

At present a single unit of residential quarter is being let out at a monthly rent of Taka 1200. In many cases the house-owners realise advance rent from the tenants. As a result many tenants especially the fixed income groups find it difficult to manage their accommodation here.

Due to accommodation crisis, a large number of professionals, both in private and public organisation are to live in this town leaving behind their families at village homes. Consequently their children are being deprived of proper care and educational facilities.

The crisis of accommodation both for residential and commercial purposes

Fresh pledge to consolidate country's sovereignty

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Apr 1: The Independence and National Day was celebrated here with a fresh pledge to consolidate sovereignty of the country.

The day's programme was heralded with 21 gun salute in the morning. National Flag was hoisted atop all public and private buildings in the morning.

Katebur Rahman, Deputy Commissioner, Satkhira took the salute at the march past and parade held at the local stadium which was participated by the police, ansars, VDP, school boys and girls.

A discussion meeting on the significance of Independence Day was held at the local stadium. Speakers at the meeting paid rich tributes to the heroes of the Liberation War of 1971. The meeting was also presided over by the DC, Katebur Rahman.

Improved diet was served to the inmates of local jail, hospital and orphanage. Special prayers was also offered in

the mosques, temples and churches for the prosperity of the country.

Pabna

Our Correspondent from Pabna reports: Independence Day was celebrated at the district town and elsewhere of the district with befitting manner.

In observance of the day, a day-long programme was chalked out earlier by the district administration, students organisations and different socio-cultural organisations of the district.

The programme began with the herald of 31 gun shots at the MuktiJoddah Office and local police line as well. National Flag was also hoisted atop all government and non-government buildings of the town.

The people from all walks of life including the members of different socio-cultural organisations, political parties, local Press Club, Sammitto

Sangkritik Okkyo Jote and other organisations placed floral wreaths at the Shaheed Minar in the morning.

A colourful parade and march past were held at the local stadium. The police, ansars, VDP, boys scout, girl guides and students of local schools participated in the march past.

Special prayers were offered for the salvation of the martyred Freedom Fighters of the Liberation War of 1971.

Pabna Press Club arranged a discussion meeting on the significance of the day. Anwarul Huj, Abdul Matin Khan, Samajit Pal, Krishna Bhowmik, Abul Hossain Khokon, Matnuul Hassan Matin and others spoke on the occasion. Another discussion meeting was also arranged by the local Pioneer Club at the club premises which attended by a large number of people.

The speakers at the meeting paid rich tributes to the memory of the martyrs for their supreme sacrifices in the Liberation War. The speakers also prayed for the salvation of the departed souls.

Narayanganj Our Narayanganj correspondent says: The people of the port town celebrated the day with a befitting manner.

The day's programme began with 31 gun fire in the morning. National Flag was hoisted atop all the buildings of the town.

Various students, political, and socio-cultural organisations chalked out celebrate programme to mark the day.

The programme included a combined march past and parade of the police, ansars, VDP, Fire Brigade, scouts, girl guides and other juvenile organisations of the port town.

The other programmes include discussion meeting, musical soiree, exhibition of football match, documentary

film show and special prayers.

The Leo Club arranged a discussion on meeting at the local Welfare Centre. The founder president of Leo Club, Abdu Salam was present on the occasion as chief guest. The discussion meeting was largely attended by the local people.

KURIGRAM

Our Correspondent from Kurigram reports: The Independence and National Day was observed in the district in a befitting manner.

The day was begun with booming of 21-gun salute, placing of wreaths at the Shaheed Minar, and Shaheed Smriti Sandha and hoisting of National Flag atop all public and private buildings.

The day's main attraction was a ceremonial parade by the ansars, VDP personnel boys scout, girl guides and school children.

Besides, discussion meetings, seminar, cultural show,

sports competition, food distribution and special prayer were also held to mark the day.

Gaibandha

Our Correspondent from Gaibandha adds: Independence and National Day was celebrated here at Gaibandha with great enthusiasm.

Different socio-cultural, political and juvenile organisations took up various programme to mark the day.

A rally of boys scout, girl guides was held at local stadium ground where Deputy Commissioner, Mr. Abul Basheer Ahmed Chowdhury took salute after hoisting ceremonial flag.

A discussion meeting on Independence was held at MuktiJoddah Sansad office that was followed by a mital march.

Islamic Foundation, Gaibandha also arranged a discussion meeting on different aspect of independence.