Upazila roundup

JESSORE

Help improve economic condition

Apr 8 : Minister for Social Welfare an Women Affairs, Tariqui Islam on Tuesday said, it had become imperative to successfully implement the Canal Digging Programme through concerted efforts of all to help improve the socio-economic condition of the vast rural people, reports BSS.

He was addressing a cross section of people here after visiting the re-excavation work of Dattala Canal at sadar upaztla and Madiar Beel-Chitra River Canal at Bagharpara upazila to see for himself the progress of the re-excavation work of these two canals.

The Minister was apprised by the concerned officials that 75 per enet work of Daitala Canal re-excavation and sent per cent of Madiar Beel-Chitra River Canal re-excavation had already been completed.

Referring to prevailing situation of the country, Tarigul Islam underscored the need for maintaining peace and stability in order to ensure smooth implementation of uplift activities of the govern-

MALJDEE COURT

Railway station needs improvement

Apr 8 : Maijdee Court Railway Station is beset with multifarious problems for want of proper care and maintenance, reports UNB.

The main railway station of Noakhali district with a very narrow entrance obstructs movement of passengers. A large portion of the station has not yet been constructed.

There is no dustbin in the station. The waiting rooms stinks and are in a bad condition. There is no water supply in the station.

Tickets are also sold mostly in black market at higher

COMILLA

One to suffer life-term for murder

Apr 8 : A man has been

awarded life imprisonment for murdering his wife, court sources said here today, reports UNB.

The prosecution story, in brief, was that Sudhir Kumar Ghosh of village Sreekail of Muradnagar upazila of the district killed his wife Subarna Ghosh with a sharp knife on January 23, 1991 following a family feud. He was later arrested and a case had been started against him.

After examining the evidences and records the District and Sessions Judge found him guilty and awarded the punishment recently.

The court also fined him Taka 2,000, in default, to suffer one year imprisonment

BRAHMANBARIA

Teacher dead

Apr 8 : Nurul Huda, former Headmaster of Brahmandbria Annada Government High School died of massive heart attack at his Hawaldarpara residence in the town of Tuesday. reports UNB.

He stood first class first in the Bachelor of Education course and joined the profession in 1952.

Headmaster for about 11 years in different educational institu-He was adjudged as a best

Nurul Huda served as

teacher in the district in 1987. He left behind his wife, seven sons, three daughters and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

He was burted at his family graveyard.

PATUAKHALI

Treatment facilities absent in TB clinic

Apr 8 : The Government TB Clinic of the town has been unable to provide proper treatment to the patients for want of a consultant, reports

It is learnt that at present there is one Medical Officer who is not available all the time. The clinic also is short of technicians for laboratory work causing more problem to the

According to a report, about a hundred patients visit the clinic every month. It is also reported that the clinic also lacks necessary medicine for poor patients. The pathological units and X-ray unit are in a

deplorable condition. Local people have urged the authorities to do the needful without further delay.

DINAJPUR

Property gutted, 8 cows roasted alive in fire

Apr 8 : Property worth about Taka one lakh was gutted and eight cows roasted alive in a devastating fire at village Alokdhuti in Nawabganj upazila recently, reports UNB.

The fire originating from a kitchen soon engulfed the surrounding areas and burnt to ashes 40 houses rendering the affected people destitute.

Fire servicemen from the town rushed to spot and with the cooperation of the villagers brought the fire under control.

The affected families have urged the government to provide them with relief and grants for their early rehabili-

BARISAL

25,400 tons of mustard likely to be produced

Apr 8 : About 25,400 metric tons of msutard is expected to be produced in eleven southern districts under Barisal Agriculture Zone (BAZ) this year, reports BSS.

The districts are: Barisal, Jhalakati, Pirojpur, Bhola, Patuakhali, Barguna, Faridpur, Rajbari, Gopalgonj, Madaripur and Shriatpur.

According to an official source, 31,298 hectares were brought under mustard cultivation in these districts this

Of the total, 1,215 hectares were cultivated in Barisal, 300 hectares in Pirojpur, 630 hectares in Jhalakati. 1,450 hectares in Bhola, 658 hectares in Patuakhali, 506 hectares in Barguna, 3,200 hectares in Rajbari, 7,600 hectares in Faridpur, 5,125 hectares in Gopalgoni, 5,264 hectares in Madaripur and 5,350 hectares in Shariatpur Bangladesh Agriculture

Development Corporation (BADC) sold seeds, fertilizers, insecticides and other necessary inputs to the farmers to achieve the target of production, the source added. SUNAMGANJ

Limestone plant earns profit

Apr 8 : Tekerghat Limestone Mining Project, the only one of its kind in the country, has earned a net profit of Taka 20.63 lakh during the first-half of the current fiscal year after suffering loss for several consecutive years, reports BSS.

The project, owned by Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation, sold 39, 869,005 tons of limestone during the period.

The limestone extracted from the project, situated in Tahirpur Upazila of the district, is used by Chhatak Cement Factory. Limestone is the basic raw material for cement production.

A visiting BSS Correspondent was informed that 3,634.36 tons of limestone were extracted from the mining project during the first six-month of the fiscal 1991-

MAULVIBAZAR

Marriages of minor girls increasing

Apr 8: Number of divorce and marriage of minor girls are gradually increasing in six upazilas of the district, reports

Similarly polygamies are also increasing causing degradation of moral values and giving rise to social crimes.

According to reliable sources, underage housewives are divorced by their husbands, mostly for dowry and poverty.

Unlicensed marriage registrars are performing these marriages, which have no legal basis. The marriage registrars charge Taka 50 as fee for each case and they encourage marriages below 18 years of age for the sake of money only, it is al-

HABIGANJ

Labourers of tea garden kill guard

Apr 8: A security guard of Amu Tea Garden of Chunarughat upagila in the district was allegedly killed by some unknown garden labourers reports UNB.

Police said, the victim Sukur (35), was allegedly killed by some tea garden labourers out of enmity between two groups of labourers. He was attacked with deadly weapons around 3-10 pm on March 25. As a result, he died on the spot.



SYLHET: The river Surma is going to be blocked by the silt day by day.

KUSHTIA, Apr 8 : The

continued drought for the last

five months in Kushtia and its

adjoining areas has caused

widespread damage to the

standing crops including the

water fell on these areas since

November last and it helped

drying up ponds, canals, beels,

ring wells, and other water-

bodies. As a result, the marshy

lands through out the district

have turned so hard that it is

now impossible to plough

crops including IRRI-boro

paddy has been badly affected.

Twenty five per cent of the

standing crops of the district

The drought has also caused

fall of ground water level in the

area bringing scarcity of

drinking water as most of the

hand tubewells have become

inoperative. The abnormal fall

of ground water level has ren-

dered the deep and shallow

per cent of the tubewells are

not working and as a result

the irrigation to those areas

has come to a standstill. Thus,

cultivation of summer and

rainy season is being ham-

pered by the impact of

mango sprouts which appeared

in large number in almost all

the trees of the area. All hopes

and aspirations of the owners

of mango trees have gone with

the drying up of the mango

sprouts for want of rain.

Drought has also damaged

According to sources, 50

tubewells almost inoperative.

have already been damaged by

the persisting drought.

Production target of rabi

Not a single drop of rain

vegetables.

these.

drought.

- Star photo

Ponds, canals and beels dried up

Drought hits standing crops in Kushtia

From Our Correspondent

drought has rendered the internal navigation extremely This correspondent while

visiting some rural areas found the farmers under the trees instead of working in the fields for saving themselves from excessive heat. The characteristic of the

soil of these areas has changed due to excessive use of chemical fertilizers. Some farmers informed that the production has remarkably decreased inspite of using scientific fertilizers. Cowdung was used earlier

as manure but now a days it is used as fuel. Consequently, the contents of different chemical like zink and sulpher are decreasing from the soil day by

The agricultural experts opined that the farmers should use more cowdung as manure to get rid of this adverse affect. The experts further mentioned that new methods should be evolved to face the drought and other natural calamities which the farmers can not face by their age-old cultivation method.

Hence the fate of morethan two lakh farmer families have become uncertain.

Bidis sold without bandrolls

Bidis are being sold here without bandrolls to evade duty causing great revenue loss to the government.

It is learnt that many owners of the bidi factories in six upazilas of the district are involved in this malpractice in connivance with some local

Customs and Excise Department staff.

Local people informed that bidis are being sold without bandrolls in some certain areas. It is also informed that used bandrolls are collected from some whole sellers and retailers and those are reused. Moreover, the owners do not show actual account of production to the customs officials.

The people of the district have urged the concerned authorities to check the duty evasion for the greater interest of the country.

Sherpur

UNB from Sherpur adds: irri and Boro cultivation in five upazilas of the district has been seriously affected due to fall in ground water level following a persisting drought.

Almost all the shallow and deep tubewells remained inoperative affecting irrigation in irri Boro cropfields. According to official sources, at least 1,50,000 acres of land have been brought under Irri-Boro cultivation in the district Most of the lands have

dried up due to prevailing drought and cracks have developed resulting in massive croploss in the district. Most of the canals, beels,

ponds and rivers have already dried up and ground water level recorded all time low throughout the district

Meanwhile, most of the tubewells in Sherpur Pourashava have also been rendered inoperative due to sud den fall in ground water level causing acute scarcity of drink-

Tk 14 lakh smuggled goods seized in 5 days

Rivers in Sylhet silted up

Navigation, irrigation

threatened

From Our Correspondent

Government official that for

the last few years, colossal

damage to crops and property

are being caused by this situa-

tion in all the four districts of

formed this correspondent

that, programme for dredging

some parts of these rivers

were taken up by the authori-

tics few years ago. But it has

reportedly been shelved due to

fund stringency, the source

3 beheaded

bodies recovered

Jamalpur police recovered

three beheaded bodies from

different places under Sadar

upazila during the last four

corpses were recovered from

Old Brahmaputra at Daohtola

Tulshirchar union, Hatchandra

in Jamalpur town and

Bamoonjee Bridge on

Jamalpur-Dhaka Road under

with Kotwali thana. Police in-

Property worth

Tk 50 lakh gutted

fifty lakh was gutted in a fire

broken out at Dhakayipatti at

Tamíltala here on Monday

shops were burnt to ashes. The

cause of the fire could not be

the members of the public

controlled the fire.

About fifty rooms of hostery

Fire Service personnel and

vestigation is going on

Separate cases were lodged

Property worth about Taka

Police sources said that the

days, reports BSS.

Titpalla Union.

JAMALPUR. Apr 8:

The source further in-

Greater Sylhet region.

SYLHET, Apr 8: Siltation of

The water level of the rivers

the rivers flowing through the

Greater Sylhet region has been

posing a threat to Irrigation.

Surma, Kushiyara, Manu.

Khowai, Dholoi, Sutang, Juri,

Gowain, Plain, Chengerkhal,

Sart, Chela and Boulat have

fallen to knee-deep in places

bringing a total standstill post-

tion in the riverine communi-

completely in places. Even, the

vast river beds are now being

used as croplands, play-

char lands in different places.

flow of the rivers are being

hindered seriously in places

same in places of all the four

districts of the region. These

are Habiganj, Sunamganj,

the said rivers had been facing

utter difficulties in irrigating

their lands. Vast tract of lands

tn the river sides remain fallow

every year for want of irriga-

tion facilities. It had also

caused unemployment to a

umber of fishermen in the

opine that a comprehensive

plan for dredging the Surma

Kushiyara, Manu, Khowai,

Dholoi, Sutang, Gowain and

Piain rivers should be taken up

immediately for smooth

Navigation in the interest of

Trade and commerce of this

It is also admitted by a

vast region of the country.

Knowledgeable circles

The situation is almost

The people living beside

grounds, in some areas.

during the dry season.

Moulvibazar and Sylhet.

The revers have dried up

Due to the emergence of big

cation throughout the region.

Pisciculture and Navigation.

FENI, Apr 8: Bangladesh Rifles and police seized Indian sarces worth about Taka 11.30 lakh from trains at Feni station and border areas of the district from March 23 to 27, reports

. According to official sources BDR stopped the Mohanagar and Karnafuli Express trains at Feni Station and seized 1200 pieces of Indian sarees along with other goods.

They also arrested two smugglers Md Balal and Md Shajahan in this connection. Indian sarees worth about

Three political activists killed

JHENIDAH, Apr 8: Three political activists including one Sharbahara man were killed in the district in separate incidents, reports UNB. According to police and vil-

lagers. Azizul alias Zulhaj (27). of village Jairampur in Kotchandpur upazila, an activist of Bangladesher Biplobi Communist Party (Hoque) was slaughtered to death allegedly by the armed cadre of Purba Bangla Communist Party on the night following Etd-ul-Fitr. His body was recovered from a paddy field at village Dora in the same upazila at about 8 pm. In another incident Azizur

Rahman alfas Azibar (35), a worker of the same Communist Party of village Boxipur in Shailakupa upazila was killed by the armed activists of Sharbohara Party on April 3, at about 7 pm. He was shot dead in a tea stall at Baipur Bazar.

Earlier at 8 pm on 1st April, Shwkat Hossain Mona (25), a Sharabohara Party activists who was released on bail recently was slaughetered to

Taka 60,000 were also recovered from the Feni Railway Station building In another operation at

Modugram border, BDR setzed Indian sarces worth about Taka 1.09 lakh on Sunday from a house at Chhagalniya upazila.

Seized goods were handed over to Customs authorities and cases were lodged with the local police.

A report from Satkhira says: Bangladesh Rifles arrested two alleged smugglers and recovered smuggled Indian goods worth about Taka 2.50 lakh from their possession from

Kalaroa Bazar on Tuesday. While the smugglers were carrying the goods to the bazar BDR personnel chased them and managed to nab Montrul

Islam and Fakir Ahmed. Later, the seized goods were deposited with local Customs godown and the arrested smugglers were sent to jail hajat.

A case was filed with the police station.

BSS from Jhenidah adds: Anti-smuggling drive has been intensified in the border areas of Khulna, Jessore, Jhenidah and Satkhira border belts.

During the last two months atleast one hundred and seven smugglers were nabbed by law enforcing agency personnel from these border areas. According to an official

source, the drive began from January 1 as per government decision. Since then at least 1335 smuggling cases have been filed with different police stations of the districts. The source disclosed that

law enforcing agency has seized smuggled goods worth two crore and fifty one lakh Taka during this period. This includes in-coming

smuggled goods worth two crore and forty lakh taka and out-going goods worth eleven lakh taka. The source said that

smuggling have, however recorded sharp fall due to intensified drive.

Notes from Brahmanbaria

BRAHMANBARIA, Apr 8 : A five-day training programme on afforestation, nursery and gardening was concluded at sadar upazila here recently, reports UNB.

A total of 55 BRDB and VDP members of sadar upazila of the district took part in the programme.

Divisional Forest Officer Zunaid Kabir Choudhury distributed certificates among the

Gas field earns profit

Bangladesh Gas Field Ltd earned a net profit of Taka 11.13 crore during the last financial year.

This was disclosed by Petro Bangla Chairman, MA Latful Matin at the 36th annual general meeting held here recently.

The meeting was informed that it was the highest net profit carned during the last 36 years. The corporation deposited Taka 504.92 crore as Customs Duty and 1.17 erore in the government revenue fund. Cold storage needed

Potato farmers of the

district are facing great difficulties for want of storage facilities of their produce.

Informed sources said. there is no cold storage in the district. During the current season huge quantity of potatoes has been produced in the district exceeding all previous records, but most of them were being sold at Take 100 per maund much below the production cost, for want of cold storage. The growers have urged the

authorities to take initiative to set up a cold storage to help solve their problems

Dist uplift body review projects

BSS adds : A meeting of the District Development Coordination Committee was held at the local Circuit House recently.

Presided over by the Deputy Commissioner, Mr Khabiruddin Ahmed, the meeting was attended by district level officers and Upazila Nirbahi Officers (UNO) of seven upazilas

The meeting reviewed the progress of various development activities taken up in different sectors including agriculture, health, family planning, EPI programme, compulsory primary education, cooperatives and animal

husbandry. Canal re-excavation in progress

The re-excavation work of six canals in six upazilas of the district is in full swing.

According to an official source, the canals which have been brought under the re-excavation programme are Bogang, Lalunia, Zia, Airal Kha, Adal Mantk and Bomalia canals.

A total of 401.16 metric tons of wheat have been sanctioned for the programme taken up under voluntary and Food for Works Programme.

On completion of the work, about 6,000 acres of land will be get irrigation facilities in the area, it is learnt.

Rly sleepers worth Tk one lakh recovered

Akhaura Railway Police recovered a good number of railway sleepers worth about Taka one lakh.

Acting on secret informa-

Maudhabagh Rail Station and recovered the sleepers. A case was filed with Akhaura Railway Police in this connection but none has been

tion, police

taken against them.

arrested so far. Local people complained that pilferage of railway sleepers is going on for a long time. They also alleged a section of unscrupulous employees are engaged in this heinous act. But no action has yet been

They demanded of the higher authorities to stop pilferage of railway sleepers and brought the miscreants to

1.80 lakh sets of book distributed

A total of 1.80 lakh sets of books have been distributed free of cost among the primary students of the Maulvibazar district.

According to an official source these books were distributed among the students of different classes in 911 primary schools of six upazilas under the district.

New weekly published

MAUDEE COURT, Apr 8 : A new weekly "Hitaishi" has been published from here recently, reports UNB. Weekly Hetaishi was first published in the year 1922.

Akbar Hossain, a renowned social worker of the district is the Editor of the new weekly. It has been alleged that due

to non-availability of local advertisement the owners were facing difficulty in publishing their newspaper.

Drying up of rivers due to 8 lakh children suffering from malnutrition in N-dists

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Apr 8: About eight lakh children of 16 northern districts have been suffering from malnutrition for want of proper diet and affected by various diseases.

About three lakh children of these areas have died of various diseases during the last three years, it is learnt. It is gathered from a report of survey conducted by a nongovernment organisation

(NGO) working in northern

region of the country in this Due to shortage of todine in soil and water of Bogra, Lalmonirhat, Kurigram. Gafbandha and Jaipurhat distriets 'Gottre' has been increasing alarmingly. In maxi-

mum cases, the women are the victims of the diseases. In Rangpur, Rajshahi, Kurigram, Gaibandha, Naogaon, Nilphamari and Panchagarh districts 'Godh' disease is found in almost all the families of the low income group.

Morethan, 50 per cent of the leprosy patients of the country belong to the northern region. Twentyone per cent of leprosy patients come from Greater Rangpur district and seven per cent live in Kurigram district.

Besides, malnutrition-borne diseases have been spreading widely in different districts of Northern Bengal. Due to malnutrition, children die mostly without any treatment. When contacted, a source of the Healthy Department told

this correspondent that fami-

lies living below poverty line

can not afford minimum bal-

anced diet which cause malnu-

trition in the region.

Our Kishoreganj Corres pondent adds: Nearly 80,000 children of 13 upazilas of the

district have been suffering from malnutrition and other relevant diseases. A non-government survey reveals that the attack of the diseases like diarrhoea, dysentery, pneumonia, malaria, hopping cough and blindness fol-

the consecutive droughts, floods and other natural calamities in most of the upazilas of the district during the last few years. In addition to the diseases, the ill-health of mothers and unhealthy atmosphere are equally responsible for the

sufferings of the children of the poor parent. Acute scarcity of balanced diet is another factor leading to premature death of the poor

children. A large number of children die every year of the above diseases. Those who survive have to lead a miserable life during their life time.

Adulterated pesticides on sale

BRAHMANBARIA, Apr 8: Sale of adulterated pesticides has become rampant in the district hampering pest management and causing a setback to food production, reports UNB. Pesticides sprayed on the

trri-boro fields included liquid

dymicron, ripcord, sympose,

bethret, furadon granules, ku-

rator and diaginin 14G but all

these proved ineffective

The ill-fed and half-fed mothers find it difficult to give sufficient breast feeding which is the only available balanced diet for the children of the

have-nots. Extension of E.P.I Programme to the remote village level, proper treatment facilities for the attacked ones and supply of nutritious food to the poverty-stricken people through government and nongovernment organisations can alleviate the problem of child diseases, expressed some ex-

BOGRA: Bhawanipur Temple of the district was built by Nawab Mir Zumbla, the then Subadar of Bengal in 16th century. The temple needs care to preserve the ancient heritage.

The Baily Star 9