Upazila roundup

COX'S BAZAR

Elephant kills four villagers

From Our Correspondent Apr 11: An elephant killed four villagers of Dulahazra under Chakaria Upazila in Cox's

Bazar recently. The Forest Department Officials informed that the elephant started the rampage in the locality as its female partner was shot dead by some miscreants two weeks before. Since then, the elephant became hostile and killed the victims.

The killed persons include a woman and a minor boy. The elephant also damaged corps on a vast tract of land and has created panic among the local-

It is learnt the miscreants killed the female elephant to extract its costly tusk.

It is also informed that the elephants used to live in a nearby village, the forest officials informed.

JAMALPUR

Rally against illegal occupation of office

From Our Correspondent

Apr 11 : Over 5,000 rural poor women who are called member of Kalshi Bahini brought out a procession on Wednesday and later gheraoed the office of the Deputy Commissioner against the illegal occupation of their district office by some people recently.

The members of the Kalshi Bahini chanted slogans demanding work and food and later submitted a memoranto the Deputy Commissioner, Jalal Ahmed.

Earlier, a rally was held at local Shahid Minar with Jamila Khatun in the chair.

About 3,000 fishermen brought out a procession at Jamalpur town on the same day and gheraoed the DC's office to press home their demand. They also submitted a memorandum the DC which include lease out of Jalmahals among the professional fish-

SYLEHT

Punishment to corrupt revenue staff demanded

From Our Correspondent

Apr 11: The Greater Sylhet Mass Demands Parishad (Gano Dabi Parishad) has demanded punishment to the corrupt revenue employees engaged in the Attestation of Lands in different upazilas of Sylhet.

It was demanded at a big public meeting held at the Court Point of Sylhet town re cently with Mr Mubashwir Ali in the chair.

The speakers in the meeting said, the people of Balaganj and Biswanath upazi las had lodged a large number of complains with the authorities concerned during the last few months regarding the large-scale corruption of the field staff of the Revenue Department.

Some people were also beaten up by the Attestation employees when they protested the corruption.

Following complaints an enquiry team was also formed in Biswanath Upazila with the Upazila Magistrate for holding equity regarding allegations against some employee.

The allegations were found correct but no action had yet been taken against the responsible employees.

Three killed in incidents

BARISAL

From Our Correspondent

Apr 11: Three persons were killed in two separate incidents just before the Eid day (Saturday).

Abdul Aziz Sharif Alts Zehad alias Pistol Kamal and his accomplice Dulal were shot dead on the spot alledgly by their rivals at the village Barmahal under Uzirpur Upazila.

These two victims were the members of outlawed Sharbahara Party (Kamal Group) and were killed by in an encounter by their rivals (Zia Group), according to po-

It can be mentioned here that these two persons surrendered to the authority with their arms in last January following the government decla-

The bodies of the victims were left near a canal which were later recovered by the

police next day. In another incident, one Sarwar Hossain, a student was stabbed at Hemayetuddin Road

SATKHIRA

One killed in rival groups clash

Apr 11: A man was killed and three others were injured in a clash between two groups of Musullis at Goalchatar of Kalaroa upazila on the holy Eid day recently, reports UNB.

Witnesses said, the clash ensured when one group of Musulits opposed a Moulana for conducting the Eid-ul-Fitr congregation while the other group supported him.

Seriously injured Ershad, Din Ali, Baziur and Yusuf were sent to district hospital where Ershad died.

PABNA

Child marriages increase

From Our Correspondent

Apr 11: Child marriages have increased alarmingly in Faridpur Upazila of the district recently.

According to a source, two child marriages were solemnised here with the interval of one month. The latest marriage was held between Shuvo Rani (6), daughter of Krishna Chandra Das of the village Rishipara and Bablu Das (9) son of Fatik Chandra Das of the village Karamja under Bera Upazila recently.

It may be mentioned here that another such child marriage was held between Kallany Das (7), of the village Rishipara under Faridpur Upazila with Pranab Das (11), son of Montu Das, village Vuianganti under Shahjadpur

KISHOREGANJ

Non-registration of marriages encourages divorce

From Our Correspondent

Apr 11: Non-registration of marriages among the poor has been causing repression on women and promoting di-

According to a survey in some areas of sadar, Karimganj, Hossainpur and Tarail upazilas, most of the marriages are not registered and wives are subjected to physical torture.

The survey revealed that due to lack of documents, wives can not go for legal action against their husbands. Taking this advantage, husbands find it easy to abandon their wives whenever they de-

Consequently, many divorcees resort to begging. prostitution and other means to maintain their livelihood, the survey added.

SIRAJGANJ

Businessman robbed of Tk 1.41 lakh

From Our Correspondent

Apr 11: A businessman was robbed of Taka one lakh and 41 thousand on April 4 at broad day light in Belkuchi

Ebadur Rahman, a yarn merchant of Shahzadpur upazila while going home from Enayetpurhat in Chowhali upazila by motor cycle was stopped at village Gopalpur under Belkuchi upazila at about 3 pm by four miscreants armed with contrymade revolver and daggers.

The miscreants snatched away the bag of Ebadur which contained the said money and an account payce cheque amounting to Taka 90 thousand and fleed away from the spot. None came to resist the miscreants.

A case has been registered with the Belkuchi Police Station in this connection and none has yet been arrested.

CHUADANGA

From Our Correspondent

Mojibar Rahman - Vice President, Azizul Haque and Rustom Ali - Vice President, Nurul Islam Khan-GS, Abdul Hannan and Zafarullah Tarafdar Joint Secretary.

Members : Abdus Samad



Drought-hit paddy field: The girls are cutting the paddy plants to use those as fodder. Paddy on acres of land have been drying up in the absence of irrigation which is not possible for abnormal ground water level fall. - Star photo.

Hijack, kidnap, clash, loot rampant in Kushtia

From Our Correspondent earlier against the killing of his

Additional Police Super,

Bikram Kishore with a strong

contingent of police arrived

there and arrested 47 persons

napped Siddique and Habib

and assault of police have been

registered with the Kushtia

tion has been prevailing in the

the Additional Police Super

along with his force rescued

Farukuzzaman John and

Shamsuzzaman Don from a

field of Akherighata under

Mirpur upazila on Monday

They were earlier kid-

napped by the chairman Liakat

and member Shahjahan of

Poradah union with a intention

that there was enmity between

the parties from the time of

student were injured in a clash

where parties used fire arms

and other deadly weapons. The

student was identified as Igbal,

a student of class seven of the

local Muslim High School. All

the five injured persons were

admitted to Kushtia General

Five persons including one

past union parished election.

It can be mentioned here

to kill them.

Hospital

After an another encounter,

Police Station. A tense situa-

Cases of arson, kidnapping

in this connection. The kid-

other two sons.

were also rescued.

KUSHTIA, Apr 11: Loot, arson, hijacking, kidnapping, clash, dacoity and other criminal activities are rampant in the district.

The peace-loving people of the district have been passing their days in fear as they can be victims of terrorism at any

A group of armed miscreants attacked a contingent of police on Tuesday afternoon at village Solgari of Durbarchar Union under Sadar upazila when the police went there to arrest the miscreants engaged in looting and arson.

The police went there to rescue one Siddique and another Habib who were earlier hijacked by a group of miscre-

Three persons including the Sub-Inspector, Adbul Hakim were seriously injured and the baby-taxi by which they went to the spot was damaged by the miscreants.

The police had to blankfire several shots when the miscreants tried to snatch the rifles from the police.

It was reported that Al Amin (28) and Abul Kalam (20) filed a FIR with the Kushtia Police Station on Sunday noon stating that armed miscreants set on fire to six houses and kidnapped Siddique and llabib, the two sons of Mohar Ali threatening to kill them unless Mohar Ali withdraw the murder case which was filed

JAMALPUR, Apr 11: The in-

habitants of Jamalpur

Pourashava have been facing

enormous difficulties due to

absence of urban facilities in

he town are narrow and unfit

for vehicular and pedestrians

movement. For lack of care

and maintenance, innumerable

wide and deep breaches have

developed at different places

of the roads. Even after a slight

rainfall, those roads become

muddy and slippery. The road

side ditches remain filled

with fith and garbages which

have turned into an ideal

breeding centre for mosquitos.

street lights in poura areas is

another problem causing much

inconveniences to the

dwellers. The town was elec-

trified several years back but

most of its roads are yet to be

provided with electric con-

nections. Some of the electri-

fied areas plunge into darkness

just after sun set due to ab-

sence of bulbs in the street

Lack of adequate number of

Most of the roads, lanes of

the town area

The clash was the result of competition of leadership and a tense situation is prevailing Later, superintendent of Police, Md Anwar Hossain and

in local Housing Estate Area, At least 50 persons were injured including women on Eid day at Talbaria union of Mirpur upazila when there was clash between two groups over the selection of Eid congregation venue. Fire arms were used in the clash, the eyewitnesses said. Looting and ransacking were also happened during the clash.

Two of the injured hausewives, Halima and Karimon were admitted to the Kushtia General Hospital. Another 20 injured persons were released after first aid. High police officials visited the place of occurrence and four persons were arrested in this connection.

Reports of two separate clashes on Eid day at Chouhash and Baradi villages at the outskirts of the town were received in which four persons were injured including two housewives.

A beheaded unidentified body of a young woman was recovered by the local police from Talbaria village near the river bank of Gorai on Eid day. The body was covered by pet tycoat and blouse, the eyewit

People apprehend that the woman was raped and killed later by the assailants.



River Chhoto Jamuna: It flows between the Naogaon district town. Once it was known for its might. People are collecting earth from its bed for domestic purposes. -By Rathin Sanyal

Urban facilities meagre at District Headquarters

roads and lanes, it is informed ity and fluctuation of voltage have become almost regular phenomenon in Jamalpur town. Frequently, the entire pourashava area including its busy shoping centres plunge into complete darkness owing to sudden failure of electricity.

There is no water supply arrangement in the district town. The number of tubewells is also inadequate. Most of the people of the town are to consume impure water due to absence of pure water supply.

nor a public library. Absence of children park at the town has been causing much problems to the children of the town.

factory. The roads and lancs are not cleaned regularly. Absence of dustbins is creating unhealthy situation. Moreover, due to absence of public totlets people are to respond to the call of nature at road side polluting the atmosphere.

Sports facilities are meagre the town. Sports persuits were a regular feature at this persons including a girl were town but now-a-days most of the sports clubs are seen languishing. There is no gymnasium or no organisation to impart physical exercise training to keep the youths fit. As a result, the people especially the students roam about on roads or assemble here and there in the afternoon for want

No new houses has been are also in bad condition. built at the town from private There is neither public hall sector

Drought damages 15 pc paddy of 5.75 lakh acres of land

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Apr 11: The" drought and hot spell have caused extensive damage to the IRRI-Boro paddy on 5,75,233 acres of land in 10 districts of Southern Zone.

Many deep and shallow tubewells have ceased to operate due to abnormal fall in under ground water level. The water level was at eight feet only at the beginning of the season. But at present the water level is at 30 feet below. Many power pumps have become inoperative as most of the ponds, beels, canals and haors have dried up following the water level fall.

Seven thousand shallow tubewells, out of 54,131 and 1,552 power pumps out of 2.352 have become useless. Many deep tubewells, out of 12,914 are not working properly due to non-availability of water laver. Eight thousand hand tube-

wells are also lying idle. As such, the whole irrigation system has become paralysed. In the meantime, 15 per

cent crops have been damaged and another 20 per cent may be damaged if the present sit uation continues. Drought accompanied by

diesel crisis, high prices fertifizers and insecticides have aggravated the situation. It is also learnt that crops on over 50,600 acres of land have been attacked by pest.

At present, diesel is selling between Taka 16 and 20 per litre and it's supply is not adequate.

Hot spell recently swept over Jhikargachha upazila in Jessore damaged all the standing crops.

It is learnt that the Agriculture Department is likely to hold a meeting to asses the extend of damage in 10 districts. The ten districts are : Jessore, Jhenidah. Magura, Narail, Khulna, Bagerhat, Satkhira, Chuadanga, Meherpur and Kushtia.

15 rivers being dried up

UNB from Panchagarh reports: At least 15 rivers in northern districts are being dried up following continued fall in the water levels during this dry season hampering navigation and irrigation.

Innumerable chars and shoals have also emerged on the river beds threatening the ecological balance. Beels, haors, ponds and

other waterbodies are being dried up gradually in the region resulting in acute scarcity

The process of desertification has already been started since long in the region due to adverse effect of Farakka and several other barrages in the

upper riperion by India.

According to informed sources, Mohananda and Korotoa rivers in Panchagarh, Kanchan and Punarbhaba in Dinajpur, Teesta and Jamuneswari in Rangpur, Korotoa and Bangali in Bogra, Atrai and Nagor in Natore. Fuljhore in Sirajganj. Ichhamoti and Baral in Pabna, Dharala and Dudhumar in Kurigram, Ghagot in Gaibandha and Mohananda in Rajshahi are being dried up due to unilateral withdrawal of waters in the upper streams by India.

Irrigational facilities in the region has been facing a setback as a large number of pumps were rendered inoper ative due abnormal fall in the surface and ground water level.

Navigation in these rivers has almost come to a standstill At present, small boats and shallow engine driven boats are only means of river transportation.

Govt womens' college faces accommodation problem

From Our Correspondent

DINAJPUR, Apr 11 Dinajpur Government Womens College has been facing acute accommodation crisis hampering its academic atmosphere to a great extent.

The college, established in 1961 was nationalised in 1986 has now over 1,000 students. But the accommodation facility was not expanded up to the requirement. The main college building

and a C I sheet boarding house on 3.3 decimal of land and it can not accommodate the existing number of students properly. The hostel can not accommodate more than 60 students where as the other students are to arrange accommodation elsewhere. There is no separate build-

The college authority could not extend any common room for the students. There is also no play ground in the college.

ing for science laboratory, library and office in the college. It was expected that the

concerned authority would take up measures to provide with more accommodation la-

cility for the students after the

nationalisation. But nothing has so far been done in this regard.

Power supply erratic Power disruption has become a regular feature at Dinajpur town for some time past causing great trouble to the domestic as well as to the

commercial consumers. Hardly a day or night passes without failure of power supply, plunging the whole town and its suburbs into darkness for hours together. Some times, supply remains suspended for days together in the outskirt of the town and its adjoining areas causing untold sufferings to the consumers. Fluctuations of voltage is yet

another problem. Hundreds of small industries have been facing intermittent closures due to power disruption. Cereal grinding machines also remain closed most of time for the same reason and villagers were seen awaiting resumption of power supply for cereal grinding at different markets of Dinajpur town. But local authorities

concerned is quite indifferent

Slow progress of 18-town power distribution plan

From Our Correspondent

BOGRA, Apr 11: The im- Bogra town. The project is be-Town Power Distribution Project has been extended by one year to June '93 as the progress of the project is unsatisfactory.

The Power Development Board (PDB) took up the plan to improve the power distribution system. A high level meeting re-

cently suggested mobilisation

ready been constructed at

of was estimated at Taka 350 crore under the Third Five-Year Plan. Under the scheme, two power sub-stations have al

plementation period of the 18- ing financed by the Asian Development Bank. The project includes the

improvement of power distributton system in Bogra, Pabna, Sirajganj, Dinajpur, Rangpur, Jessore, Kushtia, Mymensingh, Jamalpur, Tangail, Sylhet, Maulvibazar. Comilla and

The project also aims at reducing system loss, frequent power failure, rehabilitation of power supply system, provision for power supply to suit the future demand in both industrial and domestic sectors and increase revenue.

Prices of bricks up in Satkhira

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Apr 11: The prices of all categories of bricks have recorded a fresh rise adversely affecting the construction sector

The buyers informed that the stock of different varieties of bricks is quite satisfactory and there is no apparent reason for such price rise.

The price of one thousand bricks is Taka 1800 where as the price of the same was Taka 1500 last year. One thousand second class bricks are now selling at Taka 1600 where as it was available at Taka 1300 last year. The third class bricks are selling at Taka 900 per thousand last year and now it is selling at Taka 1200.

There are about 26 brick fields in the locality and most of which are located in and around Satkhira district town. It is informed that the own-

ers of these brickfields are using firewood and coal to burn the bricks. The government has strictly banned the use of firewood in brickfields but the owners are

not following the ban. It is

learnt that the price of fire-

wood burnt bricks and coal burnt bricks varies.

A brickfield expert said the about 23 metric tons of coal is required to burn one lakh bricks where as 100 metric tons of firewood are needed to burn the same number of

The cost of one thousand coal burnt bricks stands at Taka 1079 where as the fire-

wood burnt bricks at Taka 189. To get the maximum profit, the brickfield owners are using the firewood largely ignoring the government ban.

According to brick manufacturers, price increase of inputs, cost of labour and imposition of government duty have greatly contributed to the high price of bricks.

Price rise unreasonable Some brick customers in-

formed that the manufacturers are increasing the price without any genuine reason. The government is supply

ing the coal for burning the bricks at Taka 3000 per metrie tons. The price during last year was the same.

ration of general amnesty.

of the town. Sarwar died on way to hospital.

Employees union executives

Apr 11: The biennial election of the executive commit tee of the Workers and Employees Union of Darsana Carew and Co was held here

The elected persons are

Ramjan Ali, Sayed Ahmed, Hazrat Alt Mandal, Sree Samir Kumar Sarkar, Abdul Rahman, Abdur Razzak, Jamaluddin, Abul Quasem, Hossain Ali, Reazuddin, Masudur Rahman, Shahidur Rahman, Katumandal, Solaiman, Soiruddin, Faruk Ahamed, Mizanur Rahman, and Ajft Kumar Datta.

From Our Correspondent There is no rickshaw stand

in the poura area resulting in constant traffic jam. The narrow roads and lanes of the poura area remain all along blocked by rickshaws postng a problem for the pedestrians. The school going children and the aged people are the worst sufferers. About 5,000 rickshaws ply on these narrow

Frequent failure of electric-

Recreational facilities at the town are absent. There are only two cinema halls which

The conservancy service at the town area is not at all satis

killed in a road accident yesterday at Mangalpur on Tangail-Jamaipur road, reports A Jamalpur-bound truck skidded in to a roadside ditch. Fazal (14) and Shah Alam 14 of Rahmatpur under Fulsari upazila in Rangpur district and an unknown girl (12) were of sports facilities. killed on the spot.

> Truck driver and his assistant managed to escape. Police visited the spot and seized the truck.

JAMALPUR, Nurul Alam

Correspondent at Jamalpur

was assaulted by some mis-

creants recently. He is under

treatment at local general

Blacksmiths

in crisis

BARGUNA, Apr 11

Economic hardship and inade

quate credit facilities are forc-

ing the blacksmiths of the dis-

trict to leave their age-old oc

cupation and opt for other

The industry is facing sc-

vere crisis at Sadar, Amtali,

Bamna, Betagi and Patharghata

where a large number of black-

smiths were reportedly leaving

Prices of firewood, coal,

iron and chemicals, the raw

materials of the industry have shot up. But the products were

selling below the production

cost causing the extinction of

agricultural appliances, axes.

and absence of credit facilities

have deteriorated the already

Concerned people of the

area have urged the authorities

to take steps to protect the

Obscene film

shows going on

unabated

SHERPUR, Apr 11

Screening of obscene films is

going on almost unabated in

different cinema halls and

video centres in the town

croding the moral values of

hall owners are allegedly show

ing the vulgar films with the

help of a section dishonest of-

ficials of the local administra

Information empowered the

Deputy Commissioner to take

steps to stop the obscene

films, nothing tangible was

done in this regard, local elite

from local people, violent films

including blue ones are

screening under the very nose

Three killed

in road

mishap

JAMALPUR, Apr 11: Three

of law enforcing agencies.

Despite repeated appeal

Although the Ministry of

A section of video shop and

youths, reports UNB.

vanishing rural industry.

Their products include

Moreover, shortage of fund

the profession and some even

turned to begging.

the profession.

doors, nails etc.

industry.

menial jobs, reports UNB.

Inqilab

— Star photo.

Siddiqui,

hospital.