

Upazila roundup

COX'S BAZAR

Golam Azam's release demanded

From Our Correspondent
Apr 12: Leaders of Jamaat-e-Islami of district unit demanded unconditional release of Jamaat Ameer Prof. Golam Azam recently.
Local Jamaat-e-Islami organised a protest meeting at Laidighirpar demanding the release of their Ameer.
The meeting was presided over by Advocate Nurul Huda. Addressed among others by Abu Saber, AKM Mahfuzul Haque, Advocate Salamotullah, and GM Rahim.
Jamaat leaders described the arrest of Prof Golam Azam as illegal.
Later, Jamaat workers paraded the main thoroughfares of the town.

MADARIPUR

Three commit suicide

Apr 12: Three persons including an old man in Rajor upazila of the district have allegedly committed suicide for different reasons, reports UNB.
The persons were identified as Nore Mazumder (58) of Arnakandi village, Rajor Moral (24) of village Amgram Dakhinpara and Mrinal Kanti Mazumder (19) of village Ullabari.
According to sources, both Rajor and Mrinal committed suicide disgusted from family feud while Nore take his life unable to bear the severe pain from piles. All of them are said to have hanged themselves.
Three separate UD cases have been filed with Rajor police station in this connection.

JAMALPUR

Chhatra Dal committee formed

From Our Correspondent
Apr 12: The biannual conference of Bangladesh Jatyatabadi Chhatra Dal of Jamalpur Sadar thana unit was held at local Singhani High School auditorium recently.
Deputy Minister for Ministry of Health and Family Planning Strajul Haque was attended in the conference as a chief guest.
Mahbubur Rahman Ansary, Central Executive Member of BNP and Advocate Abdul Khaleque, Vice-President of Red Crescent Society of the district unit were attended as special guest.
Shahidul Haque Khan Dulal, Convener of district unit of Jatyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) inaugurated the conference.
The conference was presided over by Shaifur Rahman Saif. Addressed among others by Faizur Rahman, Asraf Ahmed, Mujibur Rahman, Khandokar Ilias, Anwar Hossain, Shajul, Amdadul Haque, Tapash Pathan, Lukman Ahmed Lutan, Abdur Rahman, Akramul Haque, Azad Siddique Maina, Mosharraf Hossain Mita.
Later, a 31-member executive committee was formed with Shaifur Rahman Saif and Shaiful Alam Shaif as President and General Secretary respectively.

MAGURA

Dalal Nirmul Committee meet held

Apr 12: A public meeting organised by district "Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee" was held at the press club premises recently, reports UNB.
Presided over by Freedom Fighter Khandaker Abul Majed, Convener of the committee. The meeting was addressed among others by Md Yeakub Ali Mia, Khan Ali Reza and Assaduzzaman, MP.
The speakers urged the government for implementing the judgement pronounced by the "Gono Adalat" against Golam Azam immediately.
They also called upon all pro-liberation forces to be united to call for a ban on Jamaat Shibir politics in the country.
A big procession was brought out and paraded the main streets following the meeting.

PATUAKHALI

Launch fares up

Apr 12: Launch fares of Patuakhali-Barisal-Dhaka routes have been increased by the owners causing great inconvenience to the passengers, reports UNB.
The fare has been increased by about 200 per cent and in some cases it is more than that. Local people complained that the fare from Patuakhali to Dhaka has been increased to Taka 70 from Taka 30.
The sufferings of the passengers have increased manifold due to sudden increase of the fare in Patuakhali-Dhaka route.
Meanwhile, launch owners said due to price hike of raw materials and other necessary inputs they were compelled to increase the fare.
Local people urged the authorities to take steps to bring the fare within the capacity of the passengers.

KUSHIA

BDR men asked to discharge duties with sincerity

Apr 12: Director General of Bangladesh Rifles has called upon the BDR personnel to discharge their duties with sincerity, dedication and determination for consolidating the country's economy, reports UNB.
Maj Gen Abdul Latif, PSC, said this while he was addressing the BDR officers and jawans at a foundation laying ceremony of the newly built Bheramara BDR sector headquarters Thursday last.
Bheramara Sector Commander Lt Col Md Mahbubur Rahman, PSC, Lt Col SM Faizul Anwar of BDR Headquarters and Commander of the third battalion Major Md Wahiduzzaman were present on the occasion.
Later Gen Latif inspected the third Rifle battalion, said a press release.

SATKHIRA

Dacoits loot booty worth Tk 2 lakh

Apr 12: A daring dacoity was committed at houses of Matur Rahman and Tapan Sarmaker of village Kadamtala of Kailiganj upazila of the district on the night of April 5, reports UNB.
Police said, a gang of dacoits with lethal weapons attacked the houses at dead hours of night and fled with booty worth about Taka 2 lakhs.
A case was filed with the police.



BOGRA: The farmers of the district setting up shallow tubewells digging earth up to 8 to 10 feet deep. —Star photo

Drought, water level fall cause extensive damage to crops

From Our Correspondent

BOGRA, Apr 12: The continuous drought and the abnormal fall of ground water level have caused widespread damage to the standing crops including the irri-boro paddy.
Cracks have developed in the crop fields and hot spell is blowing all over the district. The present condition reminds the people of the desert-like situation.
The production of irri-boro paddy and rabi crops has been badly affected by the on-going drought. About 50 per cent of the irri paddy and 40 per cent of boro paddy have already been damaged. The tiny jute plants are going to be yellowish.
The water level has fallen abnormally and consequently 3500 shallow, 300 deep tubewells and 400 power pumps are not working properly.
People are digging six to seven feet deep ditches to set up their shallow and deep tubewells. Normally, the water was available within 20 to 25 feet but now water level has fallen down between 30 and 40 feet.

Power failure frequent

Besides, power failure and loadshedding have become a regular feature. Sometimes, the power failure and loadshedding occurs 15 to 20 times daily. As a result, irrigation to crop fields is greatly hampered.
The owners of the pump machines are charging higher rate for irrigation on the plea that the prices of diesel had increased. The requirement of water has also increased due to drought.
The hand tubewells are not working for which the rural women are to bring water from distant places where water is available.
Ponds, canals, beels of the area have dried up causing decrease in fish production. Scarcity of water especially drinking water is prevailing all over the district.
Drought situation worsens in Sirajganj
Our Sirajganj Correspondent reports: Drought situation has turned into worse in different parts of the district.
No rainfall has been recorded since the second week of February last. A little rain followed by hailstorm that

lashed over the district in mid March rather damaged the standing crops under Tarash Upazila.

Peculiar weather

It is observed this year that temperature rises during day time and cold air blows at night. Hot spell with burning sunshine paralyses the normal activities in northern region of the country.
In Sirajganj district, the situation has worsened in the upazilas of Kazipur, Sadar, Belkuchi, Tarash, Chonhali and Shahjadpur. The situation is grave in the char areas where thousands of inhabitants have been facing crisis of drinking water.
Meanwhile, water level in the river Jamuna and its tributaries have risen slightly yet the situation remained unchanged.
Due to long lasting drought of this year, cracks have developed in the crop fields affecting the irri-boro paddy on vast tract of lands. About 20 per cent of the standing crops

have already been damaged by the drought.

Irrigation hampered

The irrigation to the paddy fields are greatly hampered due to frequent power failure and loadshedding. The scarcity and price rise of fuel have also aggravated the situation.
It is learnt from the officials of the Agriculture Department that the cultivation of irri-boro has exceeded the target this year. But due to various problems including the drought, target of paddy production may not be achieved.

Drought continues in Satkhira

Our Satkhira Correspondent says: Continuous drought has been prevailing in the district for the last few days affecting the crops including the irri-boro paddy.
The irri-boro paddy were cultivated on over 50,000 acres of land in the district and its adjoining areas during the season.
Irrigation to crop fields by

shallow and deep tubewells are hampered for the erratic power supply in the area.
Most of the shallow, deep tubewells and power pumps are not working properly due to abnormal fall in ground water level.
Most of the canals, ponds, beels, haors and rivers of the district have already been dried up owing to water level fall and absence of rainfall.

40 pc paddy damaged

About 40 per cent of the paddy and other crops have already been damaged by the calamity. The maximum number of mango sprouts have dried up and those are dropping from the trees.
The farmers apprehend that further damage is likely if drought continues.
Local farmers informed that cracks have developed in the crop fields in the absence of moisture in the soil.
About 90 per cent hand tubewells are not working and as such the scarcity of water is prevailing all over the district.

Farmers selling paddy in advance for money crisis

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Apr 12: The poor peasants of the villages in seven upazilas of the district are selling their standing irri-boro paddy in the field in advance at a lower price due to economic hardships.
A group of well-to-do people of the area is taking the advantage of the situation.
It is apprehended that the farmers have to sell their lands to survive in the coming days. This class of people would ultimately become destitutes in the near future.
The poor peasants are selling their paddy between Taka 100 and 120 per maund where as the paddy is now selling at Taka 350 to 400.
The peasants of this area have lost their idea of getting loan from the Krishi Bank as some dishonest bank staff use to harass them on various grounds, it is learnt.
It can be mentioned here that the prices of daily necessities

have risen in the markets of all the upazilas of the district. As a result, the poor and low income group have been passing their days in hardships.

Quacks increasing

The number of quacks is increasing in the villages of the district day by day.
Over 80 per cent people of the area live below the poverty line as the problem of unemployment has become acute.
The youths have been suffering from frustration for not getting jobs. A large number of unemployed youths of the area have taken the profession of quackery to earn their livelihood.
A large number of graduates, HSC and SSC pass persons are found in this profession. Many boys who are to earn bread are also found in this profession.
The local hats and bazars

are the main places of the business of the quacks. Some quacks, of course, sail for towns to earn livelihood. A class of officials of the Health Department are seen in this line as the poor people prefer it as it cost less.
The quacks earn a satisfactory amount from the poor people who can not arrange the cost of treatment of a qualified doctor.
The Health Complexes set up at upazila headquarters are beset with problems. Being refused proper treatment from there, the poor patients come to these quacks who are also less expensive.
Many people informed that the quacks use to exploit them. Due to wrong diagnosis, the patients are often found suffering for a long time. It is informed. Many patients die because of the improper treatment.

42 killed, 28 hurt in 51 road mishaps

JHENIDAH, Apr 12: At least 42 people were killed and 28 others injured in 51 road mishaps in six upazilas of the district during the last year, police said, reports UNB.
The upazilas are: Shailakupa, Kaliganj, Kotchandour, Moheshpur, Hartnakunda and Sadar.
According to local people, the number of casualties and accidents will be much more than the official figure as many of the accidents were not recorded with police.
The official records revealed that most of the accidents took place on Jhenidah-Magura, Jhenidah-Jessore, Jhenidah-Kushitia and Jhenidah-Chudanga highways.
Reckless driving, bad condition of roads and highways, hazardous growth of roadside hats and bazars, dilapidated condition of vehicles, overloading of buses and the ignorance about traffic rules are learnt to be the main causes of the accidents.

Kushiara erodes 1000 homesteads

SYLHET, Apr 12: More than 1000 homesteads were eroded by the river Kushiara in six villages of Fenchuganj upazila rendering thousands homeless over the last few weeks, reports UNB.
The worst affected villages are Nanikkuna, Sultanpur, Velkune, Gangapur, Chandpur and Moycepur.
The unabated erosion of the river threatens the very existence of the Manikhuna Union Health Complex, high school, Sunnia madrasa, mosque, post office and even the Manikkuna market.
If steps to check the erosion are not taken immediately, the erosion might destroy the locality, local people said.

They alleged that despite repeated appeals to the authorities nothing tangible has yet been done to contain the menace.

Maintenance needed to upkeep navigability

KHULNA, Apr 12: Jhao Sung Seng, Chairman of Messes Chaitra Harbours and Engineering Company said here Thursday that routine maintenance is necessary to upkeep the navigability of Mongla Port even after completion of capital dredging, reports BSS.
The Chairman of M/S Chaitra Harbour and Engineering Company which is now doing capital dredging of Mongla Port held talks with the Chairman of Mongla Port Authority, Nazrul Hossain at the Mongla Port office.
During the discussion, the Chairman of M/S Chaitra Harbours and Engineering Company informed the port Chairman of the progress of work.
He said that the capital dredging work at the confluence of Mongla and Passur rivers and southern anchorage area had been completed as per the agreement the dredging work of the port jetty will begin before may this year.
During the discussion, the Chairman of Mongla Port mentioned about technical problems of siltation at Passur river and various other technical problems.

Dacoity in bus: 20 injured, Tk 2 lakh looted

MAGURA, Apr 12: At least 20 people were injured, five seriously, when a gang of dacoits stormed a passenger bus and looted valuables worth about Taka 2 lakh at Madhukhali on Dhaka-Jessore Highway Friday, reports UNB.
The dacoits who boarded the night coach "Suman Paribahan" in disguise attacked the passengers when the coach bound for Jessore reached near Madhukhali.
When the passengers tried to resist, the dacoits beat and stabbed the passengers indiscriminately and decamped with the booty.
The seriously injured Amirul Islam (18), Tolazzal Hossain (22), Abdul Jabbar (60), Akkas Ali (24), and Pulak Kumar (25) were rushed to the Sadar hospital while others were released after first aid.
A case has been filed in this connection.

Child drowned

JHENIDAH, Apr 12: A child drowned in a pond at village Kamarkunda of Sadar upazila of the district on Wednesday, reports UNB.
According to family sources, the victim Sabina Yeasmin (4), daughter of Prof Runu of Jhenidah, fell into a pond while playing with her playmates.

Notes from Gaibandha

From Our Correspondent
GAIBANDHA, Apr 12: Gaibandha Zila Parishad has undertaken 15 development plans in the district during this current fiscal year.
The programmes included renovation and supplying of furniture to six Dak-Banglows, construction of boundary wall, culvert and approach road of zila parishad building and tree plantation.
Parishad will spend Taka 25 lakh for the implementation of the plans. Meanwhile, about 40 per cent of the total work has been completed. The remaining work will be finished by June next.
The parishad undertook 15 uplift plans last year in which 15 union parishad buildings have been completed spending Taka 25 lakh.
One gets 10 yrs RI on charge of rape
One Mayzal Fakir of village Ramnathpur under Gobindaganj upazila was sentenced to suffer ten years RI and fined Taka 1,000 in default to suffer RI for three months on charge of kidnap and rapping a school girl.
The judgement was delivered by MA Shahidur Rahman, Judge, Special Tribunal No 2, Gaibandha, recently.
The prosecution case in brief, was that the victim Amena Khatoun a SSC candidate of village Dhanawal under Gobindaganj upazila was kidnapped by the accused on January 3, 1990 while she was attending a coaching centre. The accused rapped her detaining for long time.
A case was filed accusing four persons with Gobindaganj thana. Police in a drive rescued the victim from village Malgram of Bogra district on 6.4.90.
On trial, principal accused Mozal alias Mayzal was found guilty of kidnap and rape. Three other persons were acquitted of the charge.
Minor boy burned to death
A child was burnt to death and another received severe injuries in a devastating fire at village Uttar Ghagoua under Sadar upazila recently.
At dead of night, the fire originated from the cow-shed of one Abdul Aziz. Soon the fire engulfed the surrounding houses, in which about 35 dwelling houses with all the belongings were burnt to ashes rendering 19 families homeless.
During the incident two minor children received severe burn injuries. Later, one of them succumbed to his injuries.
Embankment needs repair
A 15-kilometre flood control embankment at Shaghata upazila constructed spending huge fund is facing extinction due to lack of proper repairing and maintenance.
About 15-kilometre flood control embankment from Bhangamora to Jumarbari was constructed last year. But the embankment yet to be completed as per specification. During the period, a considerable portion of embankment has already washed away in rain water. So cracks and potholes has developed at different points.
If the embankment is not renovated about ten unions of Shaghata upazila will be affected by flood water in the ensuing rainy season damaging huge crops.
9 hurt in clash
Nine persons sustained injuries and at least eleven cocktails were exploded in a clash between two rival groups of processionists at Gobindaganj upazila recently.
Supporters of Collaborators Elimination Committee brought out a procession at midnight on March 25 after placing wreaths at local Shaheed Miner. When the procession reached near Sonali Bank it met another counter procession led by JCD. At that time two cocktails were exploded. The processionists became scattered and a clash was ensued there. During the clash 9 persons received injuries and at least 9 cocktails were exploded.
Huge sand damage land fertility
About 500 acres of cultivable land under Gobindaganj upazila become infertile due to deposition of huge sands during the last flood.
Earlier, an embankment was constructed from Beradaha to Trimohini along the unions of Harirampur and Rakkhal Buruj for resisting flood water on about 25 thousand acres of land.
During the past time, the then local union parishad chairman of Beradaha deserted portion of the embankment on the plea of drain out stagnant water against the opinion of local people. But during the last flood, huge sands were deposited on about 500 acres of land through the breach of embankment which could not be repaired as yet.



MUSHMELON: It is now available plenty in local markets and people also buy these as it is cheaper in comparison with other fruits. —Star photo