

Upazila roundup

KISHOREGANJ

Sale of note books unabated

From Our Correspondent

Apr 17: The sale of note books is going on unabated in all the 13 upazilas of the district.

Note books are being sold at the most of bookshops at the district town and upazila markets despite government ban on it.

It may be mentioned here that the government has imposed ban on publishing and selling note books upto class eight. But some unscrupulous traders are publishing sub-standard note books with fake name and addresses. This note books are full of errors and distortion of facts and it misguide the students.

Some guardians complained that these note books are being sold at an exorbitant price in different markets of the district.

It is reported that the owners of bookstalls do not sell text books without notes.

The students and guardians have urged the concerned authorities to take necessary steps regarding the matter.

CHAPAINAWABGANJ

Heroin addiction leaves 30 dead

From Our Correspondent

Apr 17: Heroin addiction has left 30 dead at the local pourashava area during the last three years.

It is informed that more than 50 addicts are on way to death and many have been taken to custody.

Heroin smuggling began in Chapainawabganj around five years back. A group of smugglers began to take heroin first and it gradually increased. Now, the number of heroin addicts will not less than several thousands in the district.

There is no arrangement for curing and rehabilitation of the heroin addicts in the district. From time to time they taken to custody for two to three months. But they again start taking heroin after being released.

The concerned authorities have been urged to stop heroin smuggling and help halt this dangerous addiction.

KUSHIYA

Gay girls on increase

From Our Correspondent

Apr 17: The gay girls are seen moving freely at different places in the town causing concern among the dwellers. It is informed. These girls are engaged in immoral activities and spreading venereal diseases among the youths. The gay girls mostly from poor families are found thronging near cinema halls, bus stand, rail station and road side in search of clients.

Local elite have urged the authorities to take necessary steps in this regard without further delay.

Hundreds of landless people are pouring into the district headquarter and its surroundings in search of employment, food and relief materials. Most of them are facing starvation due to lack of employment opportunity. Some have started begging door to door. Halt of Food for Works Programme due to shortage of wheat in Govt. Ododown have resulted sharp rise of landless people in the district, it is alleged.

SYLHET

1.51 lakh acres of land under aus farming

From Our Correspondent

Apr 17: A total of about 1.51 lakh acres of land will be brought under the aus paddy cultivation under intensive farming programme during the current summer season in 11 upazilas of the district.

According to an official source, the 43,400 acres under the different of High Yielding Varieties aus and the 1,07,880 acres under the different varieties of local aus.

Under the programme, the target of aus paddy production has been fixed at 1.30 thousand tonnes, the source added. It includes, 52 thousand tonnes from the different High Yielding Varieties and 78 thousand 300 metric tonnes from the different local varieties.

Necessary measures were being taken to ensure supply of different inputs to the farmers, the source informed. The sufficient amount of money had already been sanctioned by the government for distribution as loan among the farmers, the source said.

GAIBANDHA

Four cows roasted alive, 3 others injured

From Our Correspondent

Apr 17: Four cows were roasted alive and three others received burn injuries in a devastating fire at village Dublagari under Palashbari upazila recently.

The fire originated from the cowshed of one Engrez Mia, who was making smoke inside the cowshed just to driving out mosquitos. Unfortunately the flame engulfed the adjacent dwelling houses and went out of control.

In which eleven dwelling houses of seven families with all belongings burned to ashes rendering all the families homeless. The fire destroyed properties worth about Taka one lakh.

Later the fire extinguished after the intervention of fire brigade.

SIRAJGANJ

Dacoits loot fishes worth Tk 10 lakh

From Our Correspondent

Apr 17: A group of dacoits looted fishes worth Taka 10 lakh from the Fisheries Department ponds in Tarash upazila and fled away safely.

According to reports, a group of miscreants numbering about 50 armed with fire arms and deadly weapons raided some khas ponds under Fisheries Department and tied the guards of the ponds and caught fish from the ponds.

The looted fish will be worth over Taka 10 lakh, sources informed.

The miscreants came with a truck, caught fish for long four hours and decamped with the fish safely.

A case was registered with the Tarash upazila police in this connection and the Police Super visited the spot.

COMILLA

Orientation course on rural development begins

From Our Correspondent

Apr 17: A six-day long orientation course for the journalists on rural development begins in BARD from tomorrow under the auspices of Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development and the Comilla Union of Journalists.

Fifteen journalists from different dailies and news agencies will take part in the course.

The course will be inaugurated by the President of Dhaka Union of Journalists, Md. Shahjahan Mia and Glas Kamal Chowdhury, an eminent journalist of the country will be present on the occasion as chief guest.

The course will be jointly conducted by Dr. Tofail Ahmed, BARD and Principal Delwar Jahid from the Comilla Union of Journalists.

MAULVI BAZAR

Amateur hunters kill leopard

From Our Correspondent

Apr 17: Some amateur hunters has killed a leopard recently at Keramatnagar Tea Estate under Baraikkha upazila.

It was the third leopard in a year hunting in the same upazila. First and second leopard were caught alive and sent to the Dhaka Zoo by the district administration.

It may be mentioned here that hunting of wild-animal is being forbidden by existing laws. But Maulvi Bazar district administration has been patronising the leopard hunters by awards, this had happened in last two cases.

On the other hand, the reserve forests and jungles are being plundered by some unscrupulous people. All the old trees are being felled mercilessly and dense forests are going to be barren. So, wild-animals are not safe in the jungles and they are attacking at the human habitation.

TANGAIL

BMA meet held

Mar 17: The annual general meeting of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA), Tangail branch was held here recently with BMA President Dr M A Mazed in the chair recently, reports BSS.

The meeting was attended by about 150 members. Dr Mohammad Feroz, General Secretary, BMA, Tangail branch placed annual report of the branch.



RANGPUR: A boro paddy field in Mithapukur Upazila under the district. — Star photo

Drought in Pabna, Rangpur

Output of crops threatened

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Apr 17: The continuous drought and hot spell have threatened the standing crops in the district.

Most of the canals, beels, ponds and rivers have dried up. The maximum number of tubewells are not working and some of them have gone out of order.

Irrigation to IRRI-boro fields has become very difficult as the sub-soil water level has gone down abnormally. Navigation has also come to a halt as the waterbodies have become dried up.

At least 10 people died of diarrhoea and hundreds have been attacked by the disease during the last ten days. Diarrhoea has broken out alarmingly as most of the people of the district are to take impure water.

The scarcity of water has been causing hardships to farmers. In the meantime, one person was killed and 12 others were injured in clashes over irrigating the paddy fields.

According to Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) about 10,000 shallow tubewells have become inoperative and 4,000 deep tubewells are not working properly as sub-soil water level has gone down. A total of 6,000 shallow tubewells and 200 deep tubewells have gone out of order. In some areas

people are setting up shallow and other pump machines digging 8 to 10 ditches.

The crisis of fuel is going on in the northern districts including Pabna. As a result, irrigation to the paddy and other crops are greatly hampered.

Most of the machines are not running to the requirement. It is learnt that the total fuel requirement in northern districts is 19 lakh litres. The drought has increased the requirement to 22 lakh litres. But the farmers of the districts are getting only 12 to 13 lakh litre diesel.

Drought hits crops on 1.45 lakh acres

Our Correspondent from Rangpur says: The prolonged drought and acute diesel crisis have shattered the prospects of standing boro, jute, aus and other crops in the district.

There is no rains for the past few months. The crop fields have been dried up and cracks have been developed in most of the crop fields. The boro plants are being withered away while the jute and aus plants are also facing the same fate.

The ponds, canals, tanks, rivers and other source of water have already been dried up affecting irrigation to the crop fields.

Meanwhile, in the face of

rising demand for diesel to keep the irrigation pumps running in meeting sky-high demands of the irrigation waters in the standing boro paddy fields, a foul game is being played by a section of traders creating an artificial crisis of diesel in the market to earn huge profits by selling it in black market.

The oil depots in the district are running short of diesel stocks and as a result hundreds of farmers from far flung areas are moving from one depots to another in search of diesel with empty containers in hand and ultimately they are compelled to procure it from black marketeers paying an abnormal price of Taka 20 to Taka 25 per litre as against Taka 14.32 of government price.

There are allegations that the distributors are supplying diesel to the blackmarketeers without any resistance.

About 1,45,000 acres of boro and over 50,000 acres of jute fields in the district are now badly hit by drought, it is gathered.

In small areas, the farmers are providing irrigation water from wells and other means which would be 5% of the total boro field.

The price of kerosene oil has also shot up to Taka 30 per litre causing a great suffering to the common consumers.

Farmer killed, labourer abducted

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Apr 17: One Zahidul Islam (20) of village Krishnanagar in Shaikupa upazila was brutally killed and his companion Abdus Satter, a day labourer of the same village was abducted by unknown assailants on Saturday night.

It is reported that on the night of incident, Zahidul after taking the night food went his onion seed field with Satter to take care of the crop.

At dead of night some unknown assailants hit Zahidul with deadly weapons and he received serious injuries. On hearing hue and cry, the nearby people rescued Zahid in a critical condition. Zahid died after a short time while the whereabouts Satter could not be traced.

The motive of killing Zahidul and abducting Abdus Satter have not yet been ascertained.

A case has been registered with the Shaikupa police in this connection.

Another report says: At least 45 persons were injured, 12 of them seriously in a road accident on Saturday morning at Bashkhali in Harinakundu

upazila on Jhenidah-Harinakundu Road.

According to police and eyewitnesses, a Jhenidah bound bus Jes Ba 298 ramed with a roadside tree after tyre burst which left 45 passengers injured.

Of the injured persons, three were admitted to Jhenidah Sadar Hospital, 9 at Harinakundu health complex and the rest 33 were released after first aid.

A case has been registered with the Shaikupa police in this connection.

Jhenidah unit of Jamaat-Islami organised a meeting held at the local Agrani Bank Square on Saturday demanded the immediate release of Prof Golam Azam.

The meeting was addressed among other by Nur Mohammad, Abul Hossain, and Azizur Rahman. The meeting was presided by Maulana Abdul Kashem, District Amir of the party.

Speakers demanded immediate release of Prof Golam Azam and termed his arrest as illegal. A procession was brought out after the meeting.

No pregnancy but 45-pound tumour

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Apr 17: A tumour weighing about 45 pounds has been removed from the abdomen of a young woman in a private clinic here, reports UNB.

The circumference of the mass called "Ovarian tumour" measured 90 cm. The surgeon who performed the operation on Saturday said the patient was out of danger and now quite well.

He said such a large and heavy-weighted ovarian tumour is a rare case.

The woman Mosammat Beraful, 20, of village Mirkadanga in Nachole Upazila of Chapainawabganj district, is a widow and when she felt a growth in her abdomen a year ago it was suspected by the local people as a case of pregnancy.

The bulge was diagnosed as tumour when she was admitted to a local nursing home on Friday. This not only helped cure her ailment but also spared her a shame.

2 die from hot spell

From Our Correspondent

COMILLA, Apr 17: A rickshawpuller died from hot spell in the town on Monday, police sources said, reports UNB.

The victim identified as Subed Ali, 50, of Bazrapur in the town caught by the hot spell breathed his last when he was taking rest on the pavement of Farida Biddayatan.

It may be mentioned that the present heat wave sweeping the country hit the district severely making public life miserable.

Meanwhile, the prices of rice and other essentials have registered a sharp rise in the town.

A report from Faridpur adds: A man of village Kartikpur in Charbhadrahan Upazila died of excessive heat wave Tuesday.

Family sources said, the victim Azimuddin Mollah (65) while coming to his house at noon through the scorching sun from char area fell seriously ill and died on his way instantly.

According to Met office, the highest temperature here was 39.02 degrees Celsius which was maximum in last 20 years.

Drug addicts on rise

From Our Correspondent

MADARIPUR, Apr 15: The number of young drug addicts is increasing alarmingly throughout the district causing grave concern to the guardians.

It is learnt that most of the addicts are young and students who are addicted to drugs, liquor, opium, tablets, mir-tosonjiboni sudha and other types of alcohol.

It is informed that most of the addicts visit the pharmacies, and medicine shops just after the sunset to procure the intoxicating items.

Some dishonest traders are selling drugs and alcohols and charging higher prices taking the advantage of secrecy.

Local people informed that the district town and its adjoining areas have turned into open market for illegal sale of drugs mainly smuggled from India by an organised gang of miscreants.

The number of female smokers is increasing day by day in the rural areas of district.

Anti-smoking movement

has been launched in the district town and publicity is going on in this regard but there is no drive in the rural areas to halt the smoking which is very harmful for health.

A survey reveals that the tendency of smoking is increasing mostly among the day labourers. Out of the total smokers, 80 per cent take bidis and hukka and the rest are taking cigarettes which are available at cheap rate.

This class of smokers has been taking bidis and cigarettes without knowing its bad affects, doctors expressed. Anti-smoking drive should also be launched in rural areas to make them aware the bad affect of smoking on their health, they expressed.

For want of patronisation and requisite fund, the cultural activities are very few in number at the town area. Almost all the cultural organisations facing fund crisis.



SATKHIRA: The local Press Club recently accorded a reception to the intellectuals and personalities of the district where Nuruddin Al Masud, Information Secretary, Dr M R Khan, Child Specialist, Dilip Kumar Biswas, Divisional Commissioner, Col K M Anwar Hossain, BDR Sector Commander attended as guests. The Press Club President Abdul Motalib presided over the function. — Star photo

Personalities accorded reception

SATKHIRA, Apr 17: Sixteen intellectuals and personalities of the district were accorded a reception by the local Press Club for the second time for their outstanding services to the society at the local auditorium recently.

Nuruddin Al-Masud, Secretary, Ministry of Information was present on the occasion as chief guest while Dr M R Khan, a renowned Child Specialist of the country, Dilip Kumar Biswas, Divisional Commissioner, Khulna Division, Col K M Anwar, BDR Sector Commander, Khulna, Kabeerur Rahman, DC, Satkhira and Hasan Farid Ahmed, Police Super, Satkhira were present as special guests.

Abdul Motalib, President, Satkhira Press Club presided over the function.

In this speech, the Information Secretary underscored the need for this sort of reception to the intellectuals of the society to uphold the real talent. He expressed concern over the erosion of the moral values in our society, has now taken a serious turn. We

must try to get rid of this erosion and thus save the nation from ruination, he added. He lauded the role of Satkhira Press Club in evaluating the services of the intellectuals who were left behind.

The personalities who were accorded reception were: Abul Morshed Khan Chowdhury (Planning and Administration), Dr Momen Chowdhury (Folklore), Shahjahan Master (Education), A M Muhiuddin Islam (Sports) Mir Ashraf Ali (Acting), Alhaj Abdul Goffar (Education), Abu Ahmed Manjur Hasan (Engineering), Anwara Khan (Social Service), Shahid Khandoker Abu Taleb (Journalism Posthumous), Late Maulana Moizuddin Hamidi (Islamic Research, Posthumous), Late Alhaj Khan Bahadur Mobarak Ali (Social Service, Posthumous), Syed Mash-Hud-Ali (Social Service, Posthumous), Late Professor Md Shamsur Rahman (Education, Posthumous), Late A K Magfur Uddin (Education, Posthumous) and Alhaj Rabiul Islam (Social Service).

Rise in water level inundates crops

BOGRA, Apr 17: Crops on about 2,000 acres of land at char areas in Sariakandi upazila have been inundated due to sudden rise in water level of the river Jamuna, reports UNB.

According to local people, the rise in water level in the river takes place in the Bengali month of Chaitra every year which the local people termed as 'high tide'. But this year the tide is more than that of previous years.

Rival groups clash, 22 injured

MAGURA, Apr 17: At least 22 people were injured, seven seriously, in a clash between two rival groups at village Baidadanga in Sadar upazila on Tuesday, reports UNB.

The seriously injured Rahman Mridha (35), Alauddin (25), Ali Hossain (30), Chand Ali (32), Nuru Mia (15), Anzad Biswas (45), and Ekias Ali (22) were admitted to Magura General Hospital in a critical condition.

Jamaat men gherao DC for Azam's release

RAJSHAHI, Apr 17: Hundreds of Jamaat activists gheraoed the Deputy Commissioner (DC) office here Saturday to press home the demand for unconditional release of their leader Professor Golam Azam, reports UNB.

The Jamaat men also held a rally at the office premises of the DC which was also addressed by City Ameer, Ataur Rahman, Secretary Taanin Alam and eminent eye specialist Dr Nurunnabi Chowdhury.

The speakers at the rally claimed that Prof Azam was the citizen of the country by birth and his arrest was in violation of civic and human rights. A memorandum was also submitted to the Deputy Commissioner.

Earlier, a large procession of the Jamaat activists paraded the main thoroughfares of the town chanting various slogans in favour of their demand.

isiamt held a rally in protest of killing one of its activist Abu Zahid of Shaikupa on Saturday.

Presided over by Abdullah Anwar, Ameer of city unit, it was addressed, among others, by Maulana Abul Kashem and Noor Mohammad.

The speakers demanded immediate arrest and punishment of the killers of Zahid.

After the rally a procession was brought out parading the main thoroughfares of the town. They also chanted slogans in favour of their demand.

Another report from Shaikupa adds: Police arrested one infamous terrorist from Dhaura Bazar area and recovered one revolver and four rounds of bullets from his possession on Tuesday.

The arrested Liaquat, one of the four infamous terrorists of the upazila, was wanted by police in connection with several criminal cases, police said.

Notes from Satkhira

From Our Correspondent

Apr: The blacksmiths of seven upazilas of the district have been facing manifold problems to continue their ancestral occupation.

It is informed that the prices of essential items for their profession like firewood, coal, iron and chemicals have shot up abnormally in the markets while the prices of their products have sharply decreased. As a result, they are facing untold problems to continue their age-old profession.

It may be mentioned here that the blacksmiths produce different kinds of agricultural inputs like daos, nails, sickle axes etc. which are essential for the agricultural purposes.

Due to lack of necessary fund, they are facing numerous problems to continue their occupation and many of them have already left their profession.

Sale of adulterated pesticides rampant

Sale of adulterated pesticides has become rampant in the district town and different rural markets causing great crop losses affecting the farmers.

The adulterated pesticides, liquid padan, furadan, ripcord, marshal, ekalux and elsan which yield no result spraying in the pest invaded fields.

Meanwhile, Agriculture Extension Department of the district recovered huge quantities of adulterated pesticides from a shop owned by one Abdur Rashid of Sultanpur Bazar of the town recently.

Child recovered

Debhata thana police recovered one unidentified child from the possession of Bhola Nath of village Azzipur under Debhata upazila recently.

The arrested person after interrogation confessed that he stole away the child from village Ramerdanga under Kalaroa upazila.

A case had been lodged with Debhata police station.

House rent up

House rent has increased manifold at Satkhira town over the last few years due to acute shortage of accommodation.

At present, a single unit residential quarter is being let out at a monthly rent of Taka 1600. In many cases, the house owners take advance rent from the tenants. As a result, tenants especially fixed income groups find it difficult to pay the rent.

Due to accommodation problems a large number of professionals have been living in the town left their families at village home.

The professionals urged the government to take drastic initiatives to solve the accommodation crisis both for residential and commercial purposes.

Cattlelifting on rise

Recent spurt in cattlelifting in different villages under Kalaroa upazila has been creating panic among the poor farmers.

At least 5 buffaloes and cows had been stolen from different villages in the upazila during the last week.

According to sources, group of organised cowlifters entered into the cowshed of one Ershed Ali of village Ratanpur of the upazila and stole away three buffaloes at dead of night.

The cowlifters also stole away the cows owned by one Wazed Ali and Nowsher Ali both of village Bikhkali of the upazila a few days back.

498 murdered in Khulna Div last yr

From Our Correspondent

BARISAL, Apr 17: Over 498 people was murdered in separate incidents in the 15 districts of Khulna Division last year.

According to the figures available from the police, murders were committed for various reasons including disputes over land, business transaction, social and political unrest and personal enmity.

The highest number of 71 murders were recorded in Jessore.

Barisal recorded 52 murders, Bagerhat 51, Khulna 23, Satkhira 17, Jhenidah 45, Magura 25, Narail 23, Kushtia 49, Chuadanga 26, Meherpur 22, Perajpur 33, Jhalakathi 16, Bhola 22 and Borguna 23, during the period.

The unofficial figure would be higher as many incidents of killing could not be recorded in the rural areas due to various reasons, local elite said.

Another report says: Betel leaf production has been facing serious setback in six southern districts due to shortage of capital and other necessary inputs.

About 60,000 growers of Barisal, are now thinking of shifting to other vocations for survival.