

Upazila roundup

MADARIPUR

12 Jamaat workers injured in clash

From Our Correspondent

Apr 18: At least 12 Jamaat workers were injured in a clash between Jamaat-e-Islami and Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee recently.

Witnesses said, the clash ensued when Jamaat brought out a procession demanding the release of Prof Golam Azam, at that time Dalal Nirmul Committee workers attacked the procession near Main post office in the town.

Critically injured Jamaat workers were admitted in the Madaripur Sadar hospital

BOGRA

Property worth Tk 6 lakh gutted

From Our Correspondent

Apr 18: Property worth about Taka 6 lakh were gutted at Baghopara bazar near Bogra town recently.

It is gathered that the fire originated from a candle light when a shopkeeper put on fire to the candle. At that time, the fire engulfed to kerosine and petrol tank which were kept by the side of the candle.

Local fire brigade and people of this area rushed to the spot and after struggling for an hour they brought the fire under control.

Four persons were injured in this incident, it is learnt.

FARIDPUR

One strangulated to death

From Our Correspondent

Apr 18: A youngman was strangulated to death by some unknown assailants at village Lucktipur in Sadar upazila of the district recently.

Police said, the victim Nuru (19) while returning home from the market, the miscreants forcibly took him to a nearby railway station and strangulated him to death.

The body was sent to the hospital for post-mortem.

A case had been lodged with Faridpur thana in this regard.

RAJSHAHI

Beggars on increase

From Our Correspondent

Apr 18: The influx of beggars has been posing a serious problem in Rajshahi city and suburbs for last few months.

A large number of beggars pouring into the city daily from rural areas of the district creating much inconveniences to the dwellers.

The beggars mostly floating people affected by the natural calamities are coming to the town in large number.

In many cases, most of the beggars have no earning members in their family. As a result, they are compelled to begging.

Town dwellers complained that with their influx, various infectious diseases have broken out in the town. These destitute people regularly respond to call of nature in open drains and roadsides polluting the environment.

Social workers of the city urged the concerned authorities to take early rehabilitation programme for the beggars.

CHUADANGA

Baul confce held

From Our Correspondent

Apr 18: A two-day long Baul conference was held at village Bahalgachi under Alamdanga upazila of the district recently.

Over one thousand Bauls from the different areas of Chuadanga, Meherpur and Kushtia districts took part in the conference.

Tajul Islam, the Deputy Commissioner of Chuadanga was present on the occasion as the chief guest.

The Superintendent of Police, Abdur Rahim, the Assistant Superintendent of Police, Lutfor Rahman and Anwar Hossain of Chuadanga and Editor of Weekly Chuadanga Darpan were present there as special guests.

The eminent Bauls like Abdul Latif, Akhiron, Tajjal, Ali Rahman and Hedayet Shah presented Baul songs and Lalon gitce in the conference.

JHENIDAH

Minor girl drowned

From Our Correspondent

Apr 18: A minor girl was drowned in a pond at village Kamarkundu under Sadar upazila of the district recently.

According to family sources, the victim Sabina Yasmin (4), daughter of Prof Runu of Jhenidah town fell into the pond while jostling with her playmates. It can be mentioned here that the victim came to her relative's house.

A case of unnatural death has been recorded with Jhenidah police.

GAJBANDHA

Mosquito menace

From Our Correspondent

Apr 18: Mosquito menace has increased in the town causing a great disturbance to the citizens.

Stagnant water in the drains, canals, ponds, Irr-Boro fields and heaps of garbage besides roads are the ideal place for breeding of mosquitoes. Most of the katcha and pacca drains are not cleaned regularly.

The school and college students, who are now busy with the preparation for the ensuing SSC and HSC examinations are the worst sufferers. Over 60 per cent of the inhabitants who have no means to procure mosquito nets passes the sleepless night.

Meanwhile, in the face of growing mosquito menace adulterated antimosquito coils have flooded the market. People are being cheated by the manual manufacturers of fake mosquito coils and earned huge money at the cost of public sufferings. All such coils prepared with harmful components creates serious health hazard.

The pourashava authority however seems to have turned a deaf ear to the public demand for immediate anti-mosquito drive.

SHARIATPUR

137 posts of pry teacher lying vacant

From Our Correspondent

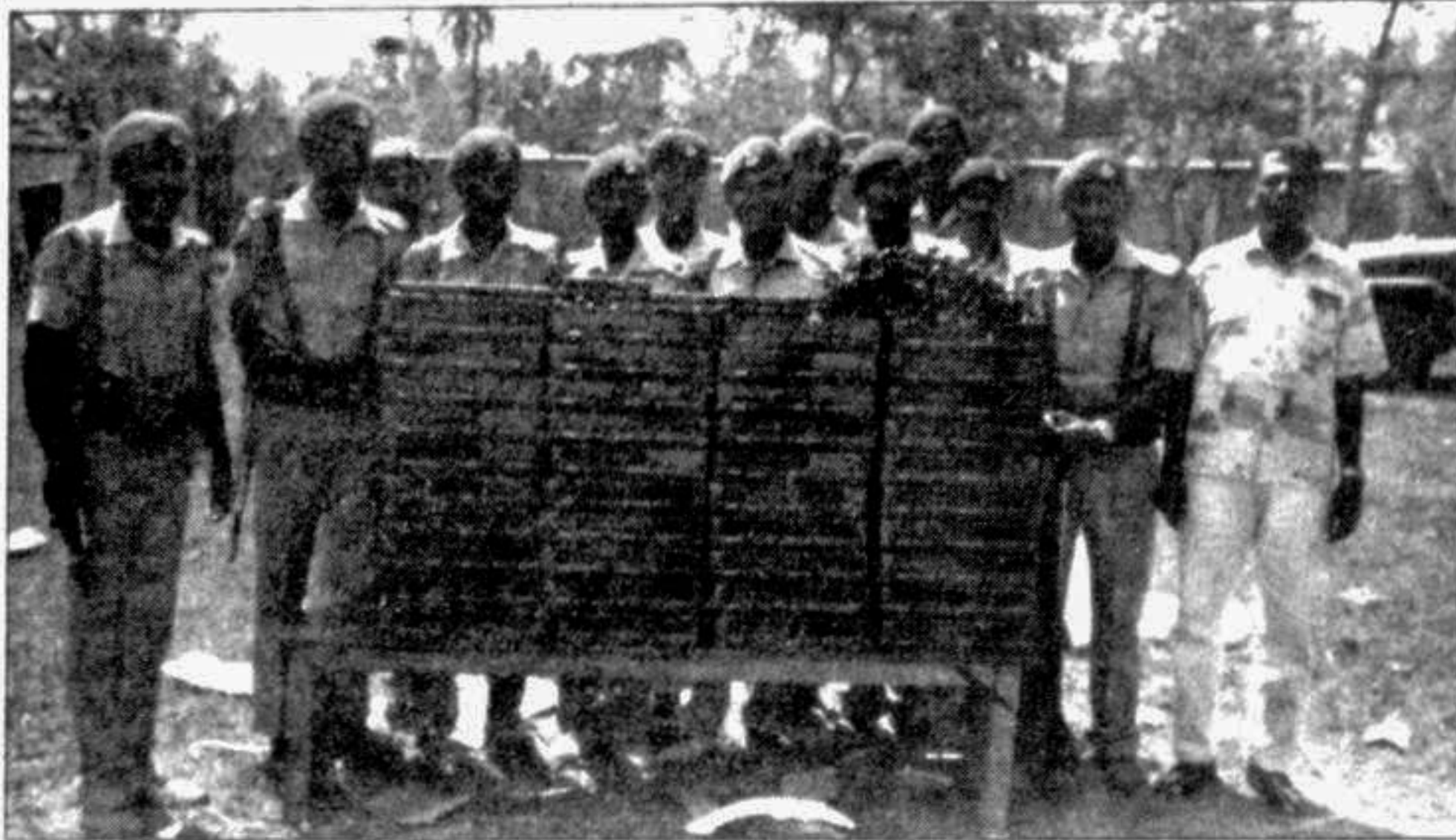
Apr 18: The Primary schools in 6 upazilas of the district are plagued with difficulties for shortage of teaching staff.

According to official sources, a total of 137 posts of teachers in 395 government primary schools of the district are lying vacant for a long time hampering the primary education greatly.

The sources said, 3 posts are lying vacant in Sadar, 27 in Janzira, 40 in Naria, 10 in Damudya, 48 in Bhedarganj and 9 in Goshairhat upazilas.

The sources added that 30 posts of Head Master are also lying vacant for a long time. In absence of these headmasters the primary education in the district is facing setback.

The guardians urged the govt to take step for filling up the vacant posts as early as possible.



CONTRABAND GOODS: The Three Rifle Battalion of BDR recently seized 40 sets of VCR from a truck on Jhenidah-Magura Road. The ambush was conducted by Naye Subader Md. Jahangir Hossain and ordered by Lt Col Mahbubur Rahman PSC, Sector Commander, Kushtia.

Jute farming faces setback

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Apr 18: Jute cultivation in seven upazilas of the district is likely to face serious setback this year due to non-availability of seeds, drought and want of necessary capital.

About 8,500 acres of land were reportedly earmarked as target for jute farming where as 2,500 acres of land have been cultivated due to shortfall of seeds.

The peasants informed that a large quantity of jute seeds was blackmarketed which is selling at an exorbitant price in the open market. Many farmers who could not afford to buy seeds from open market, are yet to sow seeds on their tilled lands.

Meanwhile, the seeds supplied by BADC are not germinating.

When contacted, the Melandah upazila Agriculture Officer confirmed the news.

Hundreds of people of the district have been attacked by chicken pox. The disease has turned into an epidemic form.

It is informed that at least two to three persons of each family have in the meantime been attacked by the disease and it has been spreading very fast.

It is gathered that the Health Department has not yet taken any preventive measure against the disease.

When contacted, a medical officer said that they were aware of the matter and at present they have nothing to do. He informed that there was no vaccine in the store and they have no vaccination plan now.

Another Health Department official informed that chicken pox has broken out like skin diseases and the patients would be cured within 10 to 15 days.

The official suggested that those who were attacked with chicken pox should consult the doctors. The attacked patients have been advised to contact homoeopathic doctors and take preventive measures from them.

When contacted, some chicken pox patients informed that the felt acute pain with fever which is intolerable.

The concerned authorities have been urged to take both curative and preventive measures to redress the sufferings of the people.

Tk 60 lakh wheat misappropriated

SIRAJGANJ, Apr 18: About 1100 metric tons of wheat worth about Taka 60 lakh have been misappropriated, local political leaders alleged here, reports UNB.

According to an official source, government had sanctioned 1127 metric tons of wheat for re-excavation of 10 ponds in three upazilas of the district.

District Fisheries Officer of Sirajganj made 10 fake project committees and drew 1100 metric tons of wheat and sold it in different markets, they alleged.

When contacted the District Fisheries Officer, however, denied the allegation.

Diarrhoeal diseases and chicken pox claimed 11 lives and attacked over 3,000 in

nine upazilas of the district over the last week.

According to an official source, two people died in Ullapara, three in Belkuchi, two in Chowhall, two in Kazipur and one each in Tarash and Shahjadpur upazilas.

Scarcity of drinking water, drought and food crisis were the main causes of the outbreak of the diseases, the sources added.

No medical team has yet been sent to the affected areas. Meanwhile, the day labourers of the district have been suffering badly due to lack of job opportunities.

Local leaders have urged the authorities to start massive development projects under Test Relief and Food for Works

Diarrhoea death toll now 200 in southern districts

From Our Correspondent

BARISAL, Apr 18: Diarrhoea has so far claimed more than 200 lives and attacked 9,000 most of whom are children, women and old agers in six southern districts of Barisal, Bhola, Patuakhali, Jhalokathi, Pirojpur and Boguna.

It is learnt that diarrhoea has not yet been controlled though the official sources claim that it is under control. The disease is still spreading fast and gripping new areas of these districts.

According to different sources, the persisting drought is aggravating the situation that is damaging standing crops and lowering sub-soil water level. Chicken pox and measles are also spreading in some areas of the districts.

Lack of co-ordination among the control rooms in districts and upazilas has been creating confusion regarding the death figure and number of attacked people. When contacted, the control rooms of Patuakhali and Boguna districts could not give the actual figures of death and affected persons.

In this alarming situation, the only consolation is that the Health Department officials more or less is supplying ORS and saline in some of the affected areas. It is informed that a huge quantity of ORS and saline are being sold in blackmarkets in affected areas of the districts.

Till today, some areas like Baulf and Dashmina upazilas of Patuakhali and Bakerganj and Mehendiganj including Uzirpur upazilas of Barisal are said to be the worst affected areas. It is informed that 48 people died of diarrhoea but the official sources confirmed only 16 deaths.

In Jhalokathi and Pirojpur

districts, diarrhoea is spreading gradually. According to local sources, scarcity of pure drinking water as well as drought are aggravating the situation.

In Barisal, co-ordination among district control room, Medical college and other hospital authorities are yet to be regularised. The death and affected figures are still confusing.

Jute cultivation plan taken up

MAGURA, Apr 18: A scheme has been taken up to bring 40,261 acres of land under jute cultivation in four upazilas of the district in this season, reports UNB.

According to Agriculture Extension Department, 15,090 acres will be cultivated in Sadar, 7,110 acres in Sreepur, 5,971 acres in Salukha and the rest 12,090 acres in Mohammadpur upazilas.

The production target has been fixed at 1.58 lakh bales raw jute during the season.

Boat capsizes, 7 missing

SIRAJGANJ, Apr 18: Seven people were reported missing after an engine boat capsized on Thursday in the river Jamuna near village Tekani in Kazipur upazila of the district, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the boat capsized in the midstream of the river facing a sandstorm that struck Charginish, Khasrajbari and Tekani unions of Kazipur upazila and Mesra union of Sadar upazila at about 1 pm.

The causes of the outbreak of diarrhoea are yet to be detected by the concerned authorities. It is informed that it could not be done in the laboratory of the Sher-E-Bangla Hospital, Barisal.

The ICDDR,B has already set up a 20-bed modern field hospital at Bakerganj upazila in Barisal. Dr Zaman, the specialist of the centre has already started collection of 'Swab' of diarrhoea patients of the affected areas which will be sent to Dhaka for test. In all four districts have been working at the field hospital of the centre.

Dr Nazrul Islam, Civil Surgeon, Barisal informed that the people of these areas taking polluted water of the canals and ponds without knowing the affect. In some areas, pure drinking water is not available as most of the hand tubewells have become inoperative due to drought.

According to official sources, 168 persons died of diarrhoea and 8,620 persons were attacked by the disease till April 15 in six southern districts of the country.

The district-wise break up of the death and affected figures are: Barisal-74 dead and 4,204 attacked, Patuakhali-43 and 1,282, Bhola-32 and 1,386, Pirojpur-7 and 283, Jhalokathi-8 and 876 and Boguna-4 and 589.

The Health Department has set up 20 diarrhoea control camps in Bakerganj, 6 in Mehendiganj, 4 in Sadar upazila of the district. Besides, 96 medical teams are working in Barisal where 69 doctors are available.

Meanwhile, Dr M A T Siddique, Director General, Health Directorate visited the worst affected areas of Barisal, Patuakhali and Bhola.

Installation of 814 tubewells on

RANGPUR, Apr 18: Work on installation of 814 tubewells to ensure drinking water supply in rural areas of the district is underway, reports UNB.

The Public Health Engineering Department (PHE) is implementing the scheme with the financial assistance of UNICEF.

The tubewells include 270 hand driven, 214 Tara pump set and 330 shallow tubewells. Besides, the PHE is also reworking 528 disordered tubewells in the district during the current fiscal year.

With the implementation of the scheme, the total number of installed tubewells will stand at 16,837.

Drought continues in Chapainawabganj

From Our Correspondent

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Apr 18: Drought has been prevailing in the district for the last one month affecting standing crops including boro paddy seriously.

All the canals, ponds, beels and streams of the district have been dried up owing to absence of rainfall and fall of subsoil water level fall.

About 25 per cent boro paddy and other crops have already been damaged. If the drought continues for 15 days more, 50 per cent of boro paddy will be damaged completely. It is apprehended.

The continuous drought and water level fall in the area bringing scarcity of drinking water as most of the hand tubewells are not working.

Meanwhile, about 40 per cent of the shallow tubewells have become inoperative. Cracks have been developed on the lands in the absence of moisture in the soil.

The deep tubewells now need much fuel to make wet the paddy fields due to continuous drought. The high price and excessive use of fuel have become extra burden on the

farmers. Drought has also damaged small mangoes which appeared in large numbers in almost all the trees of the district.

Cultivation of summer crops has also been affected due to persisting drought in the district.

Feni

UNB from Feni adds: Irr and Boro cultivation in five upazilas of the district has been affected seriously due to sudden fall of ground water level.

According to informed sources, at least 1,407 power pumps and shallow tubewells in the district went inoperative due to unprecedented fall of surface and ground water level. Only 76 deep tubewells are working somehow.

Most of the canals, beels, ponds and rivers in the district have dried up hampering the irrigation system seriously due to prevailing drought.

About 70,000 acres of land have been brought under Irr-Boro cultivation in the district during this season, official sources said.

Pahela Baishakh celebrated in dists

From Our Correspondent

MAULVIBAZAR, Apr 18: Pahela Baishakh, the first day of the new Bengali year-1399 was celebrated in the district with traditional fervour and enthusiasm.

In connection with the observance of the day, separate programmes were chalked out by different socio-cultural organisations. The programmes of the day included discussion meeting and cultural function.

Barsho Baron festival, jointly organised by Rabindra Sangket Sammelan Parishad and Krishit was the main attraction of the programme held at local Public Library premises.

Pantabhat and Sutkibharta (cooked rice and sauce of dry fish), a traditional food of rural area were sold in the stalls which drew large gathering.

Special prayers were offered in mosques and temples seeking blessings for peace, progress and welfare of the mankind of the world.

Three-day-long 'Nama Kirtan' was also held where Hindu community of the town attended at Sri Madan Mohan Jewar Akhra premises on the

occasion of Bengali new year day.

Kurigram

Our Correspondent from Kurigram says: Pahela Baishakh, the Bengali new year day was celebrated in Kurigram with the traditional gaiety and fervour.

The highlights of the programmes were milad mahfil, opening of new account khata, serving of sweet meats to all the guests of commercial establishments and holding of Baishakhi mela.

Different kinds of locally made handicrafts, fancy items including sweet meats and fried grains were sold in the mela.

Satkhira

Our Satkhira Correspondent reports: The Pahela Baishakh, the first day of the Bengali new year was celebrated here with much enthusiasm.

To mark the occasion, different socio-cultural organisations of the district chalked out programmes. The programmes include discussion meeting, cultural function and

fair.

A cultural function jointly organised by local Sangskritik Parishad, Theatre and Ekhan Sngskritik Sangstha was held at the Satkhira Auditorium.

A seven-day-long book fair jointly organised by Book Fair Ujjapan Committee and local Public Library was arranged which was inaugurated by Ershad Khan, Additional District Commissioner, Satkhira at the premises of the local Public Library Hall.

Chuadanga

Our Chuadanga Correspondent reports: The day was celebrated through out the district in a befitting manner.

The local pourashava authority and different socio-cultural organisations chalked out programmes to observe the day which include discussion meeting, cultural function and mela.

In this connection, a five-day-long mela was opened here at the local football maidan. Different kinds of stalls were opened there. A colourful cultural functions was

held on the opening day.

Local Mukul Fouj arranged a 3-day mela at Jhinuk Primary School premises.

Besides, Shahitya Parishad and Arindam Sangskritik Gosthi arranged discussion meeting and cultural function on this occasion.

Our Gopalganj Correspondent informs: The Bengali New Year's day was celebrated here.

Different Organisation celebrated the day through discussion meeting and cultural functions.

A five-day long Baishakhi mela was arranged here which was inaugurated by the DC, Akramuzzaman.

Khulna

BSS from Khulna says: Pahela Baishakh, the Bengali new year's day was celebrated here by different socio-cultural organisations with a renewed pledge to work untidely for the continued peace prosperity and progress of the country.

The programme of the day included musical soiree, recitation and discussion meetings at various places.

The city Sammitita Sangskritik Jote, Khulna Sahitya Parishad, Surhanker and various other organisations chalked out separate programmes to mark the day. Khulna Centre of Radio Bangladesh put up special programmes while local news papers brought out special supplement on this occasion.

Kushtia

Another reports from Kushtia adds: Bengali new year's day was celebrated here in a befitting manner.

All the socio-cultural organisations and educational institutions chalked out various programmes to mark the day.

Udichi Shilpa Gosthi organised a day long cultural programme within the premises of Kushtia Public Library.

Kushtia Shishu Academy organised cultural function and an art exhibition. Kushtia Shilpakala Academy organised cultural function at their auditorium in the evening.

Bangabandhu Parishad organised a seminar and a rally.



AGRI-VARSITY: The artistes of Geeti Arghya Music School rendering songs on BAU campus on the occasion of Pahela Baishakh recently.