

Upazila roundup

HABIGANJ
Labourer slaughtered

Apr 19: A tea garden labourer was slaughtered by unknown miscreants recently, reports UNB.

Police said, the victim Bashudev went out for duty and did not come back. Later his dead body was recovered from a nursery plantation of a tea garden.

The dead body was sent to hospital for autopsy.

A case has been filed with the police in this connection.

Another report adds: The district bar association election was held on April 10.

Taus Mia Mahalder and Saidur Rahman advocate were elected President and Secretary respectively of 21 member committee.

BRAHMANBARIA
One to die, another gets life-term for murder

Apr 19: A man was awarded death penalty and another life-term recently for killing an advocate during a daring dacoity, court sources here said, reports UNB.

The court sentenced Kamal Ahmad to death and Harun Miah to life imprisonment. Harun was also fined Taka 5,000, in default, to suffer one year more.

According to the persecution story, both the accused entered the house of Advocate AKM Belal at Karipara in the town for committing dacoity on July 17 last year.

Being resisted by the inmates of the house the dacoits stabbed Advocate Belal. Later, he succumbed at Sadar hospital.

A case was lodged and police managed to arrest both the accused. After investigation police submitted charge sheet against them.

After examining the witnesses and records, the District and Sessions Judge Nazmun Ara Sultana delivered the judgement.



BOGRA: Some local people are building houses by the bricks produced during 3rd century which have been unearthed by the Archaeological Department from Mahasthan Garh. — Star photo

Fruit-bearing trees on the verge of extinction

From Our Correspondent

KURIGRAM, Apr 19: Fruit-bearing trees in all the nine upazilas of the district are on the verge of extinction, due to large-scale cutting.

According to a report, Kurigram sadar, Rowmari, Rajibpur, Chilmari, Bhurun gamari, Nageswari, Fulbari, Ulipur and Rajarhat upazilas of the district were famous for different kinds of fruits such as jack fruit, lichi, mango, palm, guava, amloki and pineapple.

These fruits grew abundantly. The people of the district did never face the scarcity of various kinds of fruits which were available in all the hats and bazars.

People used to eat huge fruits which were the main source of nutrients needed for health. But those days are gone. Now fruits are not available. There are reasons for their non-availability.

From Our Correspondent

where.

Besides, the ecological balance is being damaged day by day.

The people of the district cannot enjoy the taste of various fruit as before. They are being deprived of necessary nutrition which comes from fruit. For this reason, their health is being affected to a great extent. The number of malnutrition is increasing. Malnutrition is badly hitting the school-going children.

The scarcity of amloki has hit the old people who need it most because they generally eat rice and other food after mixing it with them when they lose taste for food.

It is learnt that if the present trend of felling of fruit bearing trees continues, no fruit will be available in the district in the near future.

The authority concerned should take necessary steps to save the fruit bearing trees of Kurigram from total destruction for the greater interest of public health as well as the country.

From Our Correspondent

ern districts. Some oil companies of the country at the request of the government had engaged their barges to carry and supply the diesel and kerosene oil to the northern districts from floating oil depot at Chilmari.

Due to fall in the water level in the river Brahmaputra, erosion at the Chilmari Ghat, absence of requisite staff, barges plying in the river to carry fuel to the distribution point at Chilmari, are facing many hurdles.

About 15 to 20 lakh litres of fuel on an average are being distributed every month to the consumers of the northern districts from the depot since its inception. But recently its distribution capacity has been decreased for various reasons and scarcity of fuel in the region has been prevailing hampering the irrigation facilities greatly.

JESSORE
Diarrhoea claims 3, attacks 500

From Our Correspondent

Apr 19: Three people died of diarrhoea and about 500 others have been attacked by the diseases in Sharsa upazila of the district in last few days.

Three persons of a family including a newly born baby of village Basundi under the Sharsa upazila died within 12 hours after attack.

Many people of this village and its adjoining areas Isapur, Krishnapur and Mohishakura have been affected by the disease. Diarrhoea broke out in this strag area in an epidemic form since last week.

Cases were also reported from other parts of the district.

The doctors and other staff of Sharsa health complex have not yet visited the affected areas after repeated reminders to combat the situation.

FENI
One held with forged currency notes

Apr 19: BDR arrested a man with 143 forged one hundred Taka currency notes from Daragramath border area of Chhagalnaya upazila recently, reports UNB.

Acting on tip, the BDR caught Jashimuddin of Subphar in Mirsharai upazila of Chittagong district red handed with the notes.

BDR suspected that the arrested man might be a member of an organised gang engaged in racketeering currency notes.

Another report adds: Police recovered the hijacked truck loaded with 23 metric tons of wheat meant for canal digging programme from the Academy area of the town.

From Our Correspondent

The economic conditions of the people of Kurigram district is rapidly deteriorating due to inflation, natural disasters, withdrawal of subsidies on many agricultural inputs and high birth rate.

Many poverty stricken people are compelled to sell their fruit bearing trees to a sections of traders. These trees are being used as fire-wood and house building materials.

Due to the indiscriminate felling of the fruit bearing trees, an acute crisis of fruit has been prevailing every

From Our Correspondent

Oil supply hampered

The floating oil supply depot in the river Brahmaputra at Chilmari in Kurigram district has been facing numerous hurdles in the smooth supply of fuel to the northern districts.

The depot was established in May, 1989 to provide with emergency supply of fuel to the irrigation pumps and general consumers of the north-

World Health Day observed

World Health Day was observed at Kurigram on April 9.

The day was observed to mark the launching of the World Health Organisations Constitution in 1948.

In observance of the day, a function was held at pourashava hall room. Mr Shaiful Islam, DC, Kurigram was present as chief guest while Dr Mattur Rahman, Civil Surgeon, Kurigram presided over the function.

RANGPUR
Minor girl roasted alive

From Our Correspondent

Apr 19: A minor girl named Mohsena (3) was roasted alive in a devastating fire at Dohigonj in the outskirts of Rangpur town recently.

At least 20 dwelling houses were gutted along with most of the household belongings including cloths, paddy, wheat and other valuables. The loss of the properties would be several lakh.

Six families were rendered homeless due to fire. According to the eyewitnesses, the fire was originated from an oven and it immediately engulfed the entire area.

Fire brigade rushed to the spot and brought the fire under control.

CHAPAINAWABGANJ
Food for Works Programme hampered

From Our Correspondent

Apr 19: The Food for Works Programme in the district is being seriously hampered due to short supply of wheat.

It is gathered that the day labourers are passing their days in economic hardship for want of wages.

It may be mentioned here that 4421.5 tons of wheat were sanctioned for 70 schemes under this programme. But only 1059 tons of wheat have been supplied so far.

According to the concerned authority, due to non-availability of wheat, only 28.5 per cent work of the schemes have been completed so far.

It also learnt from the District Food Office that there is no stock of wheat in Chapainawabganj food godown. So, knowledgeable circle thinks that if this condition prevails further, the works of the projects would remain incomplete.

From Our Correspondent

to primary education. Apart from that there are reasons like ignorance of the guardians, want of motivation step, shortage of teachers, accommodation and educational appliances.

There are 1749 sanctioned posts of teacher in 370 government primary schools in the district of which 38 posts have been lying vacant for a long.

The schools have always been facing shortage of teacher for a considerable period time.

Most of the primary schools have been facing accommodation problem and at least 40 schools need more two to three rooms for their attending students.

The maximum number of the school buildings are in dilapidated condition and these schools either need repair or reconstruction.

The buildings of Barogheriam Mollatola, Jagannathpur government primary schools are in dilapidated condition that those may collapse at any time. Some schools have no house and as a result, the students are to attend classes under open sky.

Many flood affected schools are yet to be repaired and 80 per cent of the schools have no tubewells and latrines.

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Poverty does not permit 30,000 children to have education

From Our Correspondent

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Apr 19: Poverty does not permit 30,000 children of the district to have primary education.

According to a survey on primary education, there are 1,58,878 children between the age of six and 10 in five upazilas of the district.

Of the total, 1,29,319 children attend school and the rest 29,559 children are deprived of the education facilities. Most of these children are engaged in works to support their families in earning bread.

There are 486 primary schools including 116 non-government primary schools for 1.30 lakh students. The present ratio of teachers and students is 1:50. The requirement of teachers will be 3,117 if all the students attend classes.

According to informed sources, the teachers are not willing stay in villages. Immediately after the appointment, they make efforts to be transferred to urban areas. As a result, most of the primary schools in rural areas face shortage of teachers.

According to an information, 8,777 children out of 54,855 children of the sadar upazila do not attend any school.

Teachers specified that poverty is the main hindrance

From Our Correspondent

The concerned authorities have been urged to take steps to make the Universal Primary Education Programme success and hence remove the curse of illiteracy.

Kushtia

Our Kushtia Correspondent adds: Primary education in the district has been seriously hampered due to lack of facilities in the institutions. Moreover, negligence of duty on the part of the teachers creates, obstacle on the way of Universal Primary Education.

Sources said, shortage of furniture, teaching materials like black board, chalk, dusters and accommodation have impeded the academic pursuit in all the primary schools of six upazilas of the district.

Besides dearth of trained and dedicated teachers has aggravated the problem. Sources further said that 50 per cent of the existing teachers in most of the schools remain on unauthorised leave while others who remain present continue their job as well as the job of proxy of the absentees and vice-versa as per their mutual routine prepared for their mutual benefit.

From Our Correspondent

Some passengers informed that the authority do not supply water in the toilets for most of the times and for that bad odour emits always from the toilets violating the atmosphere.

The hawkers create much inconveniences to the travelling passengers. A large number passengers are found travelling without tickets. It is learnt that these passengers pay a nominal payment to the ticket collectors and thus the railway authority is deprived of huge amount of revenue.

The facilities at different stations are quite inadequate. The platforms are kept dirty. Most of the platforms have become the residents of floating people and centre for corruption. Gaygirls are moving here and there to collect customers.

Notes from Maulvi Bazar

From Our Correspondent

MAULVIBAZAR, Apr 19: A young man was crushed under the wheels of a speeding truck and another person injured at Chomuhana Square of the district recently.

The victim Utpol Dev Kanungo (22) of Maulvibazar town was on a motor-bike along with his co-passenger Sadhan Kar(29), then a speeding truck (No-3985) hit them. Utpol died on the spot and Sadhan was sent to the Maulvibazar Hospital in a critical condition.

The driver of truck managed to escape after the accident. However, the truck was detained by police and a case was filed in this connection with Maulvibazar police station.

Erratic power supply

Frequent power failure and voltage fluctuation have become a regular feature in Maulvibazar causing much inconvenience to power consumers.

Factories and workshops which are run with electricity are in great financial loss as production has declined.

Illegal and unauthorised consumption of electricity has also been rampant in most of the upazilas, it was alleged by some local officials.

In most cases, consumers are said to have made underhand deals with dishonest and unscrupulous PDB employees.

World Health Day observed

The World Health Day was observed in Maulvibazar recently.

District Health Department organised the programme to observe the day.

A discussion meeting was held on the occasion at the Conference Room of Deputy Commissioner. It was presided over by Dr Nurul Anwar, Civil Surgeon and Arif Hussain, Deputy Commissioner, Maulvi bazar was the chief guest.

Aminur Rasul ADC (General), Azizul Haque D D, Family Planning, Dr Shaifque Uddin and Dr Strajul Islam among others discussed various aspects of the significance of the observance of the World Health Day.

Beggars on rise

Beggars are on the rise here creating much inconveniences to the dwellers.

The beggars mostly floating people affected by the natural calamities are coming to the town in large number, specially from the districts of Noakhali, Feni, Kishoreganj, Barisal, Comilla and Laximpur with the hope of better earnings as they seemed. Maulvibazar district is the most solvent area of the country.

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

It is alleged that some women beggars have allegedly resorted to prostitution.

The district administration has been urged to take a scheme for their rehabilitation at the outskirts of the town and save the dwellers from inconveniences.

Imams meet held

A meeting of Imams was held at local Islamic Foundation office recently.

The meeting was presided over by Maulana Nurul Islam, Maulana Abdus Sattar, Maulana Ataur Rahman, Maulana Sulaiman Hussain and Maulana Faruqur Rashid were addressed in the meeting.

A nine-member executive committee was also formed in the meeting for the Maulvibazar district branch of Imam Samity with Maulana Faruqur Rashid and Maulana Nurul Islam as president and secretary respectively.

Female students need hostel facilities

Female education is being seriously hampered in the town due to absence of hostel facilities for the girls students.

The district town which has two colleges — one for co-education and another for female students for higher education, two girls high school and one high school for co-education with about 2500 girl students.

There are one hostel for female students of local Primary Training Institute (PTI). But there are no residential facilities for the female students of schools or colleges. There was a girls hostel attached to the Ali Amzad Government Girls High School is being used as class rooms of the said school as the old school building has become unfit for use and been abandoned for a quite a long time.

The guardians send their wards to the town for higher and better education in these institutions. But they are facing difficulties due to absence of hostel facilities.

Kushtia Sugar Mills stops production

KUSHTIA, Apr 19: Kushtia Sugar Mills has closed its crushing season without achieving its production target of 18000 metric tons of sugar, it was officially learnt, reports UNB.

The mills, however, crushed 1,88,969 metric tons of sugarcane and produced 15,458 metric tons of sugar in the 154 days of operation until April 9.

The mills had a target to crush 2,09,300 metric tons of sugarcane but the growers did not supply full quantity as the mill authority failed to make payment duly.

The mill has a stock of 16,351 metric tons of sugar including 3480 metric tons carried over from last year's production. A total of 12,871 metric tons of new sugar is lying unsold.

Sources said the growers sold their sugarcane to the manufacturers of gur (molasses) and as a result the mills could not fulfil its crushing target.

Meanwhile, Indian sugar has flooded the market and in border areas it is being sold at a lower price than the domestic sugar.

Exceeds output target

A report from Faridpur says: Faridpur Sugar Mills exceeded its production target this year.

The mills produced 13,652 metric tons of sugar up to April 14, Production target was set at 13,612 metric tons in this season.

General Manager, Abul Guashem said another 1348 metric tons of sugar is expected to be produced in this season. The mills crushed 1112 metric tons of sugarcane as against the capacity of 1000 metric tons per day, he added.

A sum of Taka 2.92 crore has been distributed among the farmers for cultivation of sugarcane during the season. About 99.63 per cent loan has also been recovered from the farmers, official sources said.

Special prayer for immediate rainfall

TANGAIL, Apr 19: The special namaj was offered recently at Tangail Eidgah Maidan for immediate rainfall. Alhaz Maolana Azimuddin, Pesh Imam, Tangail Jame Masque offered the monajat for rains on the occasion, reports BSS.

Heat wave is being experienced here for the last few days.

Digging, re-excavation works on

The digging and re-excavation works of 11 canals in Tangail district are going on in full swing.

Three hundred sixty five tons of wheat have been allocated for this purpose and about 40 per cent of total work have been completed.

This was disclosed at a review meeting on canal digging and re-excavation of Tangail district held here Saturday last.

Presided over by the State Minister for Relief Lutfur Rahman Khan. The meeting was also attended by local MP Abdus Salam Pintu and government officials.

It was also disclosed in the meeting that 50 per cent of the total work would be done on voluntary basis and the rest under Food for Work Programme.

Houses, shops gutted

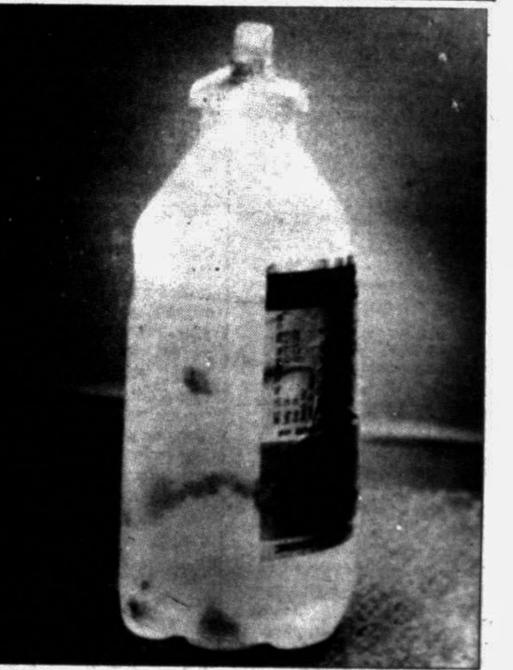
Thirty houses in village Makarcoil and fifteen shops in Karimganj bazar under Sadar upazila were gutted in a fire that broke out recently.

The fire originated from the house of one Nanda Ghosh of the village at noon and spread in the area quickly causing damage to property worth lakhs of Taka.

Teachers confce held

Bangladesh Teachers Association, Tangail district branch held its third annual conference at Bhasanti hall here recently.

Md Kamruzzaman, President, Bangladesh Teachers Association was the main speaker in the conference. The problems of the teachers were discussed in the conference.



PABNA: A fungus was found in a life-saving Heartmans' injection solution packet recently. — Star photo

Lack of amenities in rail routes

From Our Correspondent

RAJBARI, Apr 19: The passengers on Rajbair-Khulna, Rajbari-Vatipara and Rajbari-Faridpur rail routes have been suffering much due to lack of minimum amenities.

The passengers especially the local train passengers are deprived of due facilities. The benches in most of the third class compartments are in a deplorable condition.

The passengers buy second class tickets for better facilities but the same condition is prevailing there also.

The passengers are to travel standing and even in some cases on foot boards and in engine room for want of bogies. The women, children and sick passengers are the worst sufferers.

The toilets in the bogies of all classes are kept so unclean that those are unworthy of use.

KURIGRAM
Chicken pox

From Our Correspondent

Apr 19: Chicken pox and common cold have apparently broken out in an epidemic form in different areas of Kurigram district.

Many are reportedly downed with these two diseases.

Local physicians opened that both the diseases are caused by virus at a high temperature of the environment.

Those who have caught sudden cold after a long stay in high temperature were affected by the virus.

The disease last five to seven days only if there are no secondary infection.

These viruses themselves are not fatal but they may cause inversion of the germs of other disease, opined by the local physicians.

MAGURA
Diarrhoea claims 11, attacks 500

Apr 19: Diarrhoea claimed 11 lives and attacked 500 others in the district over the last one week, reports UNB.

Of the total, seven people died in Mohammadpur, three in Sadar and one in Shalikhia upazilas.

The district Civil Surgeon Office, however, admitted three deaths and said only 130 people were attacked by the disease.

Scarcity of drinking water, malnutrition, persisting drought and poverty were said to be the main reasons for the outbreak of the disease.

COMILLA
Smuggler injured in BDR fire

Apr 19: An alleged smuggler was seriously injured when BDR opened fire near Shashidal railway station to disperse some unruly elements recently, reports UNB.

BDR sources said, a patrol party from Mayanpur border outpost recovered Indian sares and other contrabands worth about Taka 30,000 from Dhaka bound Noakhali Express train at Shashidal railway station at about 4 pm.

The patrol party when returning with the seized goods was attacked by a gang of alleged smugglers. BDR personnel fired three shots on self-defence in which one Haroon (30), an alleged smuggler, was seriously injured.

The 29th battalion commander rushed to the spot and sent the injured man to Comilla General Hospital.

KUSHTIA
Contraband goods worth Tk 11 lakh seized

Apr 19: The BDR personnel of 3 Rifle Battalion of Kushtia have seized 40 VCR sets worth about Taka 11 lakh recently, a press release said.

Acting on secret information, BDR personnel stopped a truck on Magura-Jhenidah road and seized 40 VCR sets and remote control. The raid was conducted by Nayeb Subedar Md. Jahangir Hossain.

Later, these goods were handed over to the local customs officials.



BAISAKHI MELA: Prof M Ashraf Ali Khan, VC, BAU visiting the stalls at a mela held on varsity campus on Pahela Baisakh. — Star photo