

Upazila roundup

KUSHIYA
JCD sweeps in college union polls

Apr 20: The Election of Bheramara College Students' Union was held here recently, reports UNB.
Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal bagged nine seats including VP and GS while Chhatra League (N-S) secured 6 seats with Pro-VP.
Abu Md Nuruddin and Shamimul Hasan have been elected VP and GS respectively.
Another reports adds: Police arrested four youths from Majampur area of the town on April 12 in connection with murder and theft cases.
The arrested were Babul (20), Nazrul (22), Baser (25) and Rafiqul (23).

RANGPUR
CPB member stabbed

Apr 20: A member of the Communist Party district unit committee was stabbed and beaten severely by some miscreants here on Friday, reports UNB.
Witnesses said, on his way home the victim Tajul Kabir Chowdhury was attacked by the assailants near Sheba Tailoring shop at Station road.
Later Tajul was rushed to Rangpur Medical College Hospital in a critical condition.
Awami League, Communist Party, JSD (Inu), BSD and Sammita Sangskritik Jote local units in separate statements held Chhatra Shibir responsible for the assault and demanded exemplary punishment of those involved in the attack.
In another statement Rangpur Press Club condemned the attack on Mahbub Rahman Habu, town correspondent of the Bhorer Kagoj on Friday.
Mahbub was attacked on the same day while performing his professional duties. The statement also blamed Chhatra Shibir for the attack.

JAMALPUR
Attack on newsman condemned

From Our Correspondent
Apr 20: A meeting of Jamalpur Press Club held here on Thursday condemning the attack on Nurul Alam Siddique, District Correspondent of the Dainik Inquilab by a gang of miscreants in Melandahbazar on March 25.
Mosharrif Hossain, President of Bangladesh Journalist Association, Jamalpur unit presided over the meeting.
The meeting was addressed among others by Meherullah, District Correspondent of the Daily Star and Secretary, Jamalpur Unit BJA, Shafiqul Kabir, Akter Kagoj Correspondent, Abu Zafar Chowdhury, BSS Correspondent, Mostafa Babul, Editor of Weekly Purbakatha, Bazur Rahman, Dainik Dinkal Correspondent, M A Jalil, Dainik Samachar Correspondent, Prof Quaduzzaman, Times Nurul Haque Janji, Dainik Meilat Correspondent.
The meeting was also called for immediate arrest of the miscreants and demanded exemplary punishment to them stopping the recurrence of such incident in future.

SYLHET
Couple held with revolver, ammunition

From Our Correspondent.
Apr 20: The police of Companyganj upazila under Sylhet district recovered a revolver and 38 rounds of ammunition and arrested a couple from village Kalibari recently.
According to the reports, on getting secret information, a police party went to the said village and raided the house of one Akram Ali and recovered a revolver, 38 rounds of ammunition, and a dagger.
The police also arrested Akram Ali and his wife for possessing the arms illegally.
A case in this connection had already been registered with the Companyganj PS.

NAOGAON
Erratic power supply

From Our Correspondent
Apr 20: Frequent power failure and fluctuations in voltage have been causing sufferings to the dwellers of Naogaon district.
The erratic power supply in the district is increasing sufferings both to the domestic and commercial consumers.
Hardly a day or night passes without disruption of two to three hours power supply.
Due to the irregularities in power supply, the traders, owners of small business and industries, the patients of the hospitals and the students community have been facing immense difficulties.
The maximum number of light posts have no bulbs for which anti social elements start their operation after sunset.

MADARIPUR
Kabi Jasimuddin's death anniversary observed

From Our Correspondent
Apr 20: The 16th death anniversary of Paili Kabi Jasimuddin was observed here with befitting manner recently.
A discussion meeting was held at weekly Nabo Nirman office organised by Madaripur Shahtiya Sangsad.
Salim Farazi was presided over the meeting. It was addressed among others by Tahmina Hoque, Kowsar Hossain, Shamim and Nurul Islam.
All the speakers said that Kabi Jasimuddin is the heart of our Bangali literature.

CHANDPUR
World Health Day observed

From our Correspondent
Apr 20: The World Health Day was observed here recently in a befitting manner.
A discussion meeting was held at Chandpur Press Club Dr M A Rashid, Civil Surgeon, Chandpur presided over the meeting. The meeting was addressed among others by Dr A Gafur, Dr G M Farok, Quamruzzaman Chowdhury, Mrs Fazilatun Naher, Md Yakub Ali D C Chandpur was attended the meeting as chief guest.
The speakers said that the selection of "Healthy heart - Healthy life", as World Health Day has been appropriate the theme of this year's in view of increase in heart ailments all over the world.

GAIBANDHA
2 get 10 yrs RI on charge of possessing arms

From Our Correspondent
Apr 20: Eshaque Ali and Mohammed Ali of Gaibandha town were convicted and sentenced to suffer ten years rigorous imprisonment on charge of possessing illegal arms.
The judgement was delivered by Abdul Quddus Mia, Judge of Special Tribunal No 3 recently.
The prosecution story was that on July 21, 1979 early in the morning the accused persons were going out of town with two country made illegal guns by a rickshaw. When they reached at Gaibandha bus stand local people challenged them and recovered two illegal guns from their possession and handed over to police. A case was filed with Gaibandha Thana. Later the case was transferred to Special Tribunal No 3.
On trial the accused persons found guilty of offence and awarded ten years RI. The accused Md Ali still lying absconding. The judgement was however declared in absentia.

DINAJPUR
Housewife commit suicide

Apr 20: A house wife committed suicide by taking poison at Bochagonj upazila of the district recently, reports UNB.
It was learnt that Josna (37), wife of Gobinda Chandra Sheel of village Chotor of the district, took poison to be relieved of a severe stomach pain. She had been suffering from stomach pain for a long time.
Another report adds: Police arrested eleven alleged dacoits in Birol upazila of the district recently.
Police sources said, local people of Birol upazila caught 5 notorious dacoits while they were preparing to commit a dacoity.
They are Osman, Sattar, Tozazzal, Biren and Mojbul.
After getting information from their confessional statement police arrested another six dacoits.
A case has been filed with the Birol police.

COMILLA
Course on rural uplift begins

Apr 20: A six-day orientation course for journalists on rural development began here Saturday last under the joint auspices of Comilla Journalists Union (CJU) and Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD), reports BSS.
President of Dhaka Union of Journalists M Shahjahan Meah inaugurated the course with a call to the participants to equip themselves with professional skills to project correctly the life and living of the rural people in their respective media.
Held at the BARD auditorium the inaugural session was also addressed, among others, by DUJ General Secretary Altaf Mahmud, former CJU President, Azizul Islam Bhuiyan, Fazlul Bari, Director Training, BARD, Dr. Tofiq Ahmed and Principal Debar Zahid, President of CJU while BARD Director General Khandaker Tipu Sultan presided over.
The course is being participated by 15 correspondent of various national and local dailies.



FARIDPUR: People are offering special prayer for immediate rainfall at local Eidgah Maidan.

—Star photo

Paddy on 30,000 acres of land under pest attack

RAJBARI Apr 20: The standing crops on 30,000 acres of land under pest attack. The aman paddy production is likely to be affected by the attack.

From Our Correspondent

will have to suffer a serious hardships.
The concerned authorities have been urged to take immediate steps to combat the pest attack and thus save the crops for the greater interest of the people and the country.

Betal leaf growers

The affected upazilas are: Ballakandi, Goolondo, Panga and Rajbari sadar.
Reliable sources informed that the local branch of Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation has supplied only 10 spray machines and engaged staff to fight the pests in the affected areas. The farmers of the area informed this correspondent that the spray machines supplied by the department is quite inadequate to combat the situation.

The unadulterated pesticides are hardly available in the open market. Most of the farmers who are now economically crippled can afford money to buy pesticides from open market at an exorbitant price.
While visiting some affected areas this correspondent saw that the pest attack has been spreading very fast and some farmers informed that the BADC assistance in this regard is quite inadequate to save the crops on vast tract of land.
The high prices of fertilizers and other agricultural inputs are also likely to decrease the production. Some farmers said that they are unable to use required quantity of fertilizers in the fields as they have got no money in hand.

It can be mentioned here that IRR-Boro paddy have become the main crop of the farmers as they have chosen these to ensure return. If this crop is damaged, the farmers animals at nominal prices to maintain their families. On the other hand, they are to pay more when they go to buy bullock or milch cows.
The unregulated rates of interest are taka 20 to 25 per hundred and it also varies with the type of business and transactions. The method of lending is so tactful that the borrowers have no way out to escape from the clutches of these money lenders.
It can be mentioned here that though the procedure of loan has been made easier yet the farmers are not getting loans for some bottlenecks. The illegal business of money tenders has rendered hundreds of peasants and small traders homeless.
The sale of bidis without bandrolls in rural hats and

Corruption and irregularities have gone to the extreme in the attestation of land records now being done in Sadar upazila of the district.
Field level as well as the upazila level staff of concerned department directly or indirectly are involve in malpractice. It is informed.
The innocent public of the upazila are compelled to oblige to the officials due to the absence of cooperation of registrar office, revenue office and other department.
Informed sources disclosed that the officials are realising huge amount of money for regularising the land records. Those who do not pay money are being harassed by the officials.
The local people including different political parties and social organisations brought out processions against the irregularities and submitted memorandum to the higher authorities but those are of no affect.

Irregularities in land records

The continuous floods, drought, price hike of agricultural inputs and shortage of capital have pushed 200 betal leaf growers in difficulties. As a result, they are losing interest in cultivation.
The growers earlier could earn taka about two lakh from one acre of land but the rise in prices of different inputs has decreased the amount of return.
Besides, the growers had been deprived of the bank loans which is now badly needed to continue the cultivation of betel leaf.

Housewife beaten to death in Dinajpur

DINAJPUR, Apr 20: A young housewife of Sultanpur village in Parbatipur upazila of the district was allegedly beaten to death by her husband for dowry recently, reports UNB.
The victim was identified as Nabijan (24) wife of Yasin Ali of the same village. The couple got married one and a half years ago.
According to the sources, Ali asked his wife Nabijan to bring Taka 10,000 from her father as dowry money. But Nabijan said her poor father would not be able to pay the money.
At this Ali became furious and started beating her mercilessly. As a result, she died instantly.
The body was sent to Dinajpur morgue for autopsy.

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Work on TV station in progress

BOGRA, Apr 20: Work is in progress to set up a TV station in the district headquarters, reports UNB.
The site for the proposed station has been selected at the Bogra Housing estate. A high official of the BTV recently visited the proposed site, sources said.
A plan is being worked out and is expected to be submitted soon for consideration of the government.

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Fate of FWP plans uncertain

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Apr 20: The on-going projects under the Food for Works Programme have been facing serious setback due to shortage of wheat in the government godowns.
The development works have been going on in Satkhira sadar, Kalaroa, Tala, Debhata, Assasuni, Kaliganj and Shymnagar upazilas.

According to official sources, 11,900 metric tons of wheat was sanctioned for the implementation of the projects. It is informed that only 4,000 metric tons of wheat were in stock of the government godowns of the district.
Of the total project, 45 were under FWP, 40 under CARE and the rest were general projects.
It is learnt that the labourers engaged in various projects have now become unemployed and have been passing hard days.
It can be mentioned here that the works on the projects were scheduled to be completed before the monsoon. Most of the projects would remain incomplete if requisite

quantity of wheat is not supplied immediately, it is apprehended.
The people of this district hope that the concerned authorities would take immediate steps to supply wheat for the district for completion of the projects within stipulated time.
Property worth several lakhs Taka are being burnt every year in the Tala upazila in the absence of a fire service station.

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Road needs repair
Satkhira-Assasuni road left unrepaired causing untold inconveniences both the vehicular traffic and pedestrians.
This is the connecting road with district headquarters of the upazila is about 24 km long on which everyday hundreds of buses, trucks, rickshaws and other vehicles ply.
Due to absence of proper care and maintenance, numerous cracks and potholes have developed on many points.
Local people urged the concerned authorities to repair the road on urgent basis.

Tk 5.9 cr cotton seeds produced in Magura

MAGURA, Apr 20: Over 2400 metric tons of cotton seeds worth about Taka 5.9 crore were produced in the district during this season, reports UNB.
According to a Cotton Development Officer, a total of 5434 acres of land was brought under cotton cultivation in Sreepur and Sadar upazilas.
Four cotton purchasing centres have been opened at Ichakhada, Sreepur, Satrujitpur and Sadar for purchasing seeds from the growers directly, the source added.
The CARE, a non-government organisation, has sanctioned an amount of Taka 45.81 lakh for construction of 29 bridges and culverts in four upazilas of the district during the current fiscal year.
According to District Relief and Rehabilitation Officer, 9 bridges and culverts will be built in Sadar, 8 in Mohammadpur, 6 in Salikha and 6 in Sreepur upazilas.
The construction work is going on in full swing and is expected to be completed by June this year.

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The dacoits who board 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.
The seriously injured Amrul Islam (18), Tozazzal 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.
Farmers get Tk 241 cr BKB loan
Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Magura Regional Office has disbursed an amount of Taka 2.41 crore as agriculture loan among 3871 farmers.
The loan was distributed among the farmers through 16 branches in four upazilas of the district till March, 1992.
According to sources, the bank will disburse a total of Taka 3 crore as loan among the farmers of the district during the current fiscal year.
The loan provides for cultivation of crops, dairy and poultry farming and purchase of irrigation and agricultural accessories.
Meanwhile, the bank recovered an amount of Taka 2.2 crore of outstanding loan from the defaulter farmers during the same period.

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Poor farmers in money lenders clutches

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Apr 20: The farmers of nine upazilas of the district are being exploited by the local money lenders taking the advantage of the crisis of peasants.
The local money lenders are charging exorbitant interests from the small cultivators and traders as they are denied loans by the Bangladesh Krishi Bank branches.
According to sources, the farmers are compelled to sell their crops to repay the loan amount with interest at a nominal price. Some farmers are seen selling their utensils and domestic animals to pay off the loan money. This class of farmers have been passing very hard days and some times they pass days in half-dead condition.
The farmers in the meantime have sold their domestic

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Three nabbed with contraband goods

COMILLA, Apr 20: Bangladesh Rifles arrested three smugglers and recovered contraband goods worth about Taka 6.20 lakh from various parts of the district last month, reports UNB.
The goods seized while being smuggled into the country included Indian saree, lungi, blouse piece, spices, sugar, medicine, cycle rickshaw, motor parts and other luxurious items worth about Taka 5.70 lakh.
And the items seized while being smuggled into included fish, dry fish and powder milk worth about Taka 49,990.

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Uplift plan for orphanage

PATUAKHALI, Apr 20: The Government has taken up a programme for the development of local child orphanage at a cost of Taka 68.63 lakh during the current year, reports UNB.
Official sources said tender call for placing work-order of the construction of the orphanage has already been made by the Executive Engineer of PWD.
According to another report, six cyclone shelters are being constructed in the coastal areas of Bhola district in the current year.
Official sources said the shelters made of clay will be 20 feet high under Food for Works Programme to provide shelters for the livestock and poultry birds during the flash flood and cyclone.

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BARISAL: The children are busy in painting at an art competition organised by the local Press Club on the occasion of Pehela Baisakh.

—Star photo

Sports facilities meagre

BORGUNA, Apr 20: Sports facilities are lacking in most of the educational institutions and sports clubs in the district, reports UNB.
Lack of fund, initiative and cooperation of social and community leaders as well as indifference of the local administration have changed the situation in the field of sports which, a few years ago, had been prolific.
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The district gymnasium has no physical training arrangement and body-building instruments for lack of patronisation.
With the influx of floating people the number of beggars is increasing day by day in the town as well as upazila headquarters.
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