

## Upazila roundup

## MAGURA

## Smuggled goods worth Tk 2.33 lakh seized

Apr 21: Police in separate drives recovered Indian smuggled goods worth about Tk 2.33 lakh from a number of passenger buses at the town bus stand here during the last month, reports UNB.

The contraband goods included 777 pieces of Indian sarees, 133 packets of jute seed, spices, utensils, bi-cycle spares etc.

The goods were handed over to the local customs official and several cases were lodged with the police.

Local leaders alleged that smuggling on large scale has been going on in the different border areas of the district for the last few months with the collaboration of some dishonest officials.

They urged the authorities to take stringent action against smugglers to check the increasing menace.

## GOPALGANJ

## Rival groups clash leave one dead, 10 injured

From Our Correspondent

Apr 21: One Hannan Sheikh (45) was killed and other 10 persons were injured in a rival groups clash at Khataganj village under Gopalganj sadar upazila of the district recently.

It is learnt that there was a long feud between Hannan Sheikh and Meraj Sheikh of the same village under Gopalganj sadar upazila. All on a sudden, Meraj group was attacked on Hannan group with sharp weapon on April 11. As a result, 10 persons were injured and critically injured Hannan Sheikh died on the way to hospital.

A case had been registered with Gopalganj police station in this connection.

## KISHOREGANJ

## Venereal diseases on rise

From Our Correspondent

Apr 24: Venereal diseases are spreading alarmingly in 13 upazilas of Kishoreganj district.

Doctors reports reveal that more than 200 patients suffering from various venereal diseases were treated in outdoor department last year.

According to the local practitioners, common diseases are found like congenital syphilis, gonococcal conjunctivitis, gonorrhoea etc.

Experts say that syphilitic aertitis may lead to death, gonorrhoea may damage genital organs and gonococcal conjunctivitis may cause serious urinary troubles and diminishes sexual strength and women might face habitual abortion.

Local people urged the govt to save the society from the course of venereal diseases.

## FARIDPUR

## Four burnt to death, 25 houses gutted

From Our Correspondent

Apr 21: Four persons were burnt to death and 25 houses worth about Taka five lakh were gutted in a devastating fire at village Chatar under Boinamari upazila of the district recently.

According to the sources, the fire originated from a kerosene lamp of one Somber Taluadar's house and spread to the nearby houses went out of control within minutes.

Later, the villagers rushed to the spot and brought the fire under control. But four children were burnt to death on the spot and 25 houses of the village with their all belongings were burnt to ashes.

## SIRAJGANJ

## One crushed to death

Apr 24: An old man was crushed under the wheels of a speeding bus at Pipulbaria bazar, 8 km from the town recently, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the Sirajganj bound bus (Pabna-BA-116) from Kazipur killed one Shamu (55) while he was buying rice from a footpath shop. The deceased's grand son Rafiq (11), who was with him, sustained serious injuries in the mishap and was rushed to Sader hospital.

The driver fled away with the vehicle. The agitating villagers blocked the Sirajganj-Kazipur road for some time to protest the killing.

A case has been filed in this connection.

## PIROJPUR

## Muktijoddha Sangsad's unit confce held

Apr 21: The annual conference of Kaukhali unit of Muktijoddha Sangsad was held at Kaukhali upazila here recently, reports UNB.

In the concluding session a seven-member committee of the unit was formed. District Convener of Muktijoddha Sangsad, Samir Kumar Das Bacchu inaugurated the conference.

Another report adds: Poultry diseases have broken out in an alarming form in different village of Kaukhali upazila recently.

Local people alleged that inspite of repeated appeal to the authorities no preventive measures have yet been taken to combat the diseases.

People who mostly live on poultry farming are the worst sufferers and are not getting proper price of their birds. The farmers are selling their poultry birds out of panic of the diseases.

the affected people urge the authorities to introduce vaccination drive against the diseases on emergency basis.

## GAIBANDEHA

## One stabbed to death over land dispute

From Our Correspondent

Apr 21: One Nawab Ali Sarker (65) was stabbed to death and four others of same family received severe injuries when rival group attacked them with deadly weapons over the issue of a disputed plot at village Kanatpara under Shaghatia Upazila of the district recently.

According to report, a long standing disagreement were continuing between the victim and another Naba Akanda of same village over the possession of a disputed land. On the day of incident, three sons of the victim went to the disputed land with a view to taking possession.

The victim however tried to resist his sons from going there. But the rival group led by Naba Akanda attacked them. In one stage one Bakker and another Ayub stabbed the victim with deadly weapons. In which the victim succumbed to his injuries after removing local health complex. Three other sons and one daughter of the victim also received severe injuries.

## KUSHITIA

## JCD-Chhatra Samaj clash, 15 hurt

Apr 21: At least 15 students were injured following a clash between Jatia Chhatra Samaj, student wing of JP and Jatiotabadi Chhatra dal in Daulatpur upazila college recently.

The clash ensued when both the parties brought out processions. Four of the injured were shifted to Kushitia General Hospital.

The injured persons are: Anisur Rahman (25), Emdadul Huq (22), Zafar (23), Ahmed Ali (24), Ferdous (22), Rafiqul Islam (20), Tariqul Huq (22), Rezaul Huq (22), Rafiqul (23), Bipplav (20), Bacchu (22), Fazlul Huq (21) Mithu (23), Rezaul (25), Artful Huq Nanna (28).

On getting information Daulatpur police went to the spot and brought the situation under control.

Meanwhile Daulatpur College Chhatra Dal held a meeting at Daulatpur upazila complex compound in protest against the incident.

## MAULVIBAZAR

## Bidis being sold without bandrolls

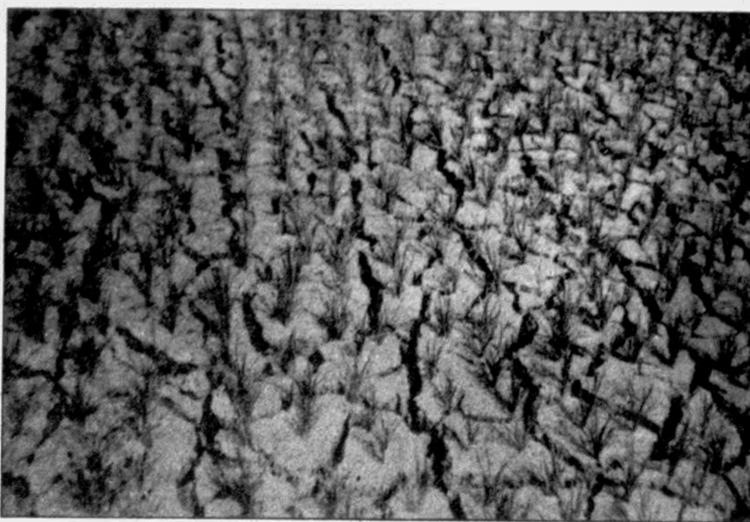
Apr 21: Bidis are mostly being sold here without bandrolls to evade duty causing huge revenue loss to the government, reports UNB.

It is alleged that many bidi factory owners in the district are involved in this malpractice in connection with local customs and excise department officials.

Local people said in many cases bidis are being sold with used bandrolls collected from the retailers to deceive the authorities.

Besides, the actual production of the factories is not shown in the paper submitted to the excise officials.

Local leaders have urged the authorities to check the duty evasion and take punitive actions against the unscrupulous factory owners.



CHANDPUR: Cracks have developed in IRRI field due to continuous drought. — Star photo

## Drought damages standing crops in 3 dists

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, Apr 21: The drought and hot spell have threatened the standing crops including the IRRI-boro paddy of the district.

Cracks have developed in many IRRI-boro fields in seven upazilas of the district. The hot spell blowing over the area has been adding hardships to the residents of the areas.

In the meantime, the production of IRRI-boro and other crops have been badly affected by the on-going drought.

According to some farmers, about 40 per cent of IRRI-boro paddy and 30 per cent of rabi crops have been damaged by the drought. Most of the rabi crops turned yellowish by the effect of the drought.

The water level has fallen in different areas of the district. As a result, many shallow tubewells and pump machines are not working properly. The water level has fallen 50 to 60 feet deep, local people informed.

No remarkable rainfall has been recorded in the district for the last two months. People of few villages informed that a little rainfall was observed but that of no use.

It has been observed this year that hot spell blows during day time and cold wave is felt at night. Hot spell with burning sunshine paralyses the normal life in the district. The situation is grave in char areas where thousands of inhabitants have been facing crisis of drinking water.

## Comilla

UNB reports from Comilla say: Prolonged drought badly hit the aus, aman paddy and

jute cultivation in the district during the current season.

According to Agriculture Extension Department, only 12,000 acres of land have been brought under the crops till April 15 against the target of 2,15,500 acres of land under aus, 1,47,500 acres under broad cast aman and 18,000 acres under jute.

The paddy and jute plants are being dried up due to persisting dry spell in the district. Irrigation works are being hampered due to sudden fall in ground water level. Ponds, canals and beels are being dried up gradually and cracks have developed on croplands hindering cultivation of lands.

It is apprehended that if the dry spell continues for another week, the district may face acute food shortage this year.

A housewife was stabbed to death and another youngman received serious stab injuries in two separate incidents over the last week, police here said.

In one incident, a gang of dacoits armed with lethal weapons entered the house of Rangu Mia of Visharabari village in Kashba upazila by breaking open the door on the night of April 12 and started beating the house owner indiscriminately.

When his wife Jotsna Begum (26) tried to save him, the dacoits stabbed her repeatedly killing her on the spot.

Later, the dacoits decamped with the valuables.

In another incident, the victim Alamgir of village Hajipur while returning home from Kashba Upazila Head

quarters was attacked and stabbed by some unknown assailants on the night of April 10.

Hearing the hue and cry, local people rushed to the spot and rescued him. He was rushed to the Kashba Hospital in a critical condition. The reason behind the attack could not be known.

Two cases were filed with the police.

## Chapainawabganj

Continuous drought over the last one and a half months has affected Irri-Boro cultivation seriously on about 41,000 acres of land in the district.

The irrigation has become difficult as the ground water level dropped abnormally and 300 beels, ponds and haors, the main sources of surface water, are being dried up rapidly.

Local people said about 25 per cent of standing crops in the district has already been damaged due to the drought.

Sources said most of the 489 deep and 1383 shallow tubewells, 601 power pumps, 1100 hand driven tubewells and 11000 dangi used for irrigation purposes have been rendered inoperative due to sudden fall in ground water level.

It was apprehended that 35 to 50 per cent of standing crops might be damaged if the drought persisted for one week more.

The major rivers Moha nanda, Padma and Pagla have almost been silted up due to emergence of shoals and chars,

## Pry schools in bad condition

GAIBANDHA, Apr 21: Kuptola Islamia Government Primary School and Kalitola Government Primary School have been running with multifarious problems since long.

There is none to look after the institutions for its least development. As a result, a good number of children are deprived of proper education.

Kuptola Primary School house in an old dilapidated building. The roof is in a very bad condition and it may collapse at any time. Large scale cracks and holes have developed in walls and on floor. During rainy season, rain water seeps through roof. No renovation work was under taken to make the building use worthy.

There is no furniture in the Kalitola school. Children are to take their lesson sitting on the floor. Moreover, door and window shutters have disappeared from its location due to care-

lessness of local people.

During night time anti-social activities are done inside school. Sometimes, night soils are found on the floor of class rooms that creates health haz-

ard and pollute the environment.

The tubewells of these schools are no more in their positions. The heads of tubewells were taken away by the miscreants. So the children are to move to distant houses for search of drinking water.

The dilapidated condition of two bridges on the main roads in the district have been creating immense trouble to the vehicular traffic as well as pedestrians.

A bridge at Shakoa on Gaibandha-Palashbari Highway was damaged completely the last devastating flood four years back. The construction of a Baily bridge was taken up and it was completed last year. But the bridge is yet to be opened for vehicular traffic.

At present, the transports are passing through a diversion road taking the risk of accident.

A case has been registered in this connection.

JESSORE, Apr 21: Police recovered a body of a Jatjyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leader from river Bhairab at Afraghat of Abhoynagar upazila of the district Sunday last, reports UNB.

The victim was identified as Anower Hossain (25), a top level leader of Noapara. His body had several marks of injury.

A case has been registered in this connection.

## Tk 25 cr electric bill outstanding in Greater Mymensingh

JAMALPUR, Apr 21: Electric bills amounting to over Taka 25 crore are lying outstanding in six districts of Greater Mymensingh area, reports UNB.

According to official sources here, the authorities have disconnected 13,000 supply lines in the area for non-payment of the outstanding bills.

There are about 74,761 consumers in Mymensingh, Tangail, Jamalpur, Sherpur, Netrokona and Kishoreganj.

Of the total amount, Taka 12 crore remain unpaid by various government offices.

The districtwise breakup of the arrears is, Mymensingh-Taka 4.11 crore, Jamalpur-Taka 2.22 crore, Sherpur-Taka 2.8 crore, Netrokona-Taka 2.6

crore and Tangail—about Taka 4.76 crore.

There are about 20,000 unauthorised connections in the six districts, a competent source said.

Post offices in the rural areas are unable to render desired service for lack of development and maintenance, sources in the district headquarters said.

There are about 83 branch post offices in the district mostly in the rural areas and accommodated in rented houses, which are kutcha and in dilapidated conditions.

Rain water leaks into many of the offices through the roofs damaging valuable records and papers.

## Early crushing of sugarcane needed

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, Apr 21: The standing sugarcane on acres of land under the Darsana Sugar Mills Zone area are going to be dried up for non-procurement by the mill authority.

The sugarcane cultivators are now frustrated with their production.

It is informed that the mill authority has been adopting malpractice in issuing 'Purjis' in some cases of the mill zone area.

When contacted the General Manager, Darsana Sugar Mills informed this correspondent that the standing sugarcane might be dried up to some extent due to extreme heat and want of rain but he did not confirm the report of malpractice in distribution of 'Purjis'.

In the meantime, the period of molasses production is over and as such the standing sugarcane would be dried up very rapidly for non-procurement by the mill authority.

The Darsana Sugar Mills under Chuadanga district has produced 12,987 metric tons

of sugar by crushing 1,56,935 metric tons of sugarcane till April 7.

Earlier, the mill fixed a target to produce 14,500 metric tons of sugar by crushing 1,70,000 metric tons of sugarcane during the current crushing season.

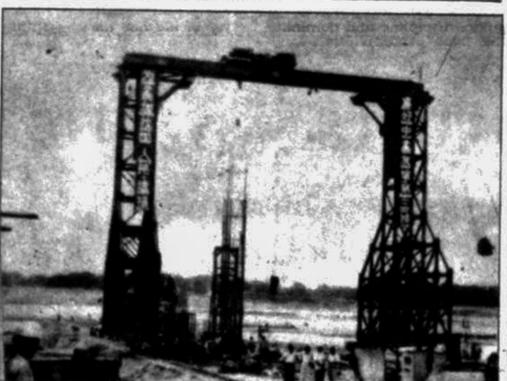
The production of the mill is going on in full swing and expected to be continued up to the first week of next month.

The sugarcane cultivators of Darsana have demanded alternative arrangements for lifting the sugarcane either through Kushitia Sugar Mills or Mobarakganj Sugar Mills immediately.

The World Health Day was observed here with due enthusiasm.

The local Health Department took up programmes to observe the day which include procession, baby show, poster, discussion meeting and prize distribution.

Large number of people attended different functions arranged on this occasion.



CHAPAINAWABGANJ: The construction work of China-Bangladesh Friendship Bridge on river Mahananda is in progress. — Star photo

## Normal facilities in hospital absent

From Our Correspondent

KUSHITIA, Apr 21: The patients at the local general hospital are not getting proper treatment due to absence of facilities.

The 100-bed hospital is running without necessary medicines and other requisite equipment.

The lone X-ray machine has been lying out of order for a long time and there is no ambulance in the hospital. The doctors and patients have been suffering much for want of an air-conditioned operation room. The old atreoler machine has become inoperative few years back.

## Season's first rainfall experienced

NETROKONA, Apr 21: Netrakona district town and its adjoining areas experienced the season's first rainfall Sunday night after a prolonged drought and hot spell, reports BSS.

People particularly the farmers heaved a sigh of relief.

The one hour rains was accompanied with hail and thunders which caused damage to standing crops and kutcha houses.

The storm disrupted electric supply in Netrakona town. The telecommunication between Netrakona district headquarters and some places like Atpara, Madan, Purba, Dhalam, Durgapur and Kamalakanda upazilas remained cut off for 12 hours.

The water supply is so irregular that most of the times the patients and staff of the hospital are to drink hand tubewell water. The drains, hospital floor, and other necessary things of the hospital are not kept clean for which bad odour emits always.

The visitors and outsiders enter into the hospital every now and then for which the patients feel disturbed. The cows, goats and rams are seen moving inside the hospital compound.

When contacted, some doctors of the hospital informed this correspondent that there is no sufficient medicine in the hospital. Both the indoor and outdoor patients are provided with only prescription. The poor indoor patients have been suffering much as they are to purchase medicine from outside. Even the patients of operation are to buy requisite materials from outside.

There is no blood-bank in the hospital and the patients are to arrange blood from outside which may be impure.

The existing 100-bed can hardly accommodate the increasing patients coming every to the hospital. Every day, a god number patients, go back without treatment for want of seats.

Meanwhile, some patients have been given seats on the floor and verandahs.

The concerned authorities have urged to extend facilities of the hospital.

## Notes from Patuakhali

PATUAKHALI, Apr 21: The work on 37 uplift projects are in progress in Kalapara upazila of the district, official sources here said, reports UNB.

An amount of Taka 18.50 lakh has been sanctioned for the implementation of the projects during the current fiscal year.

According to sources, 50 per cent work on the projects has already been completed. The remaining work is expected to be finished by June next.

The projects will cover various sectors like agriculture, irrigation, transport, communication, house building, education, culture, health and social welfare.

A large number of distressed people have been engaged for the implementation of the projects.

## WDB projects in southern dists

Water Development Board (WDB) has been implementing 26 projects in five southern districts during the current fiscal year.

The districts are: Patuakhali, Barisal, Jhalakati, Barguna and Pirojpur.

Official sources said, 9000 tons of wheat under Food for Works Programme had been allocated for the projects, which include construction and reconstruction of dams, excavation and re-excavation of canals.

Meanwhile, construction work of 201 primary school-cyclone shelter will start soon in five coastal districts with Saudi financial assistance.

It is reported that each of the cyclone shelters will cost Taka 50,000 lakh. The Facilities Department of the Ministry of Education will construct the cyclone shelters, which at normal times, will function as schools.

## Work on cyclone shelter in progress

Work is in progress on the construction of two cyclone shelter (kellas) in the coastal belt of the district.

Official sources said, one cyclone shelter is being constructed at Genger Char n Galachipa upazila and the other at Nilgiri in Kalapara upazila of the district. They said, 65 per cent work of the shelters has already been completed.

Meanwhile, 50 kellas, constructed in 1972-73 along the coastal belt of the district, are on the verge of destruction.

Of these, 23 kellas, are located in Kalapara, 21 in Galachipa and 6 in the coastal belt of Dasmia upazilas.

Local people alleged that about 15000 metric tons of wheat were allocated for repair and maintenance of the kellas in 1981-82 and 1084-83. But actually on work was done and the wheat was allegedly misappropriated.

The authorities have been urged to rebuild the cyclone shelters to accommodate more people in time of calamities.

## 3 dacoits held

Kotwali police have arrested three notorious dacoits from the "Shashan Ghat" area of the town.

The arrested dacoits were identified as Abdur Rahman (35), Md Yunus (22) and Md Hafizur Rahman (35).

Acting on secret information, police picked up the dacoits from a trawler recently which they boarded allegedly for committing dacoity.

Police also recovered two pipe guns and eight rounds of ammunition from their possession.

## Wheat production

A massive scheme was taken up to bring 4500 hectares of land under wheat cultivation in 11 southern districts of the country during this season.

According to official sources, the districts are Patuakhali, Barisal, Madaripur, Pirojpur, Jhalakati, Bhola, Bogura, Rajbari, Faridpur, Gopalganj and Shariatpur.

Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) has already supplied 875 tons of High Yielding Variety seeds among the growers at fair prices.

## Sculpture on Liberation War installed

FARIDPUR, Apr 21: A big bronze sculpture of a Freedom Fighter commemorating Liberation War was inaugurated in front of Faridpur Bar Library Hall recently, reports BSS.

The sculpture was installed under the auspices of Faridpur Saitya and Sanskriti Unnayan Sangstha, a local socio cultural and literary organization.

Eminent sculptor Hami duzzaman Khan carved the sculpture "Sawdhinata" and donated it to Faridpur Sahitya-Sangstha.

Mosammat Muktdunnessa, mother of late Lance Naik Munsfi Abdur Rouf, Btr. Sreshtha (BS) unveiled the plaque of the sculpture. Sculptor Hamiduzzaman Khan was present on the occasion.



SYLHET: Property worth Taka 50 lakh was gutted in a fire at local Zindabazar Area recently. — Star photo