

Upazila roundup

NETRAKONA

Bridegroom, three others killed in road mishap

From Our Correspondent
Apr 26: The bridegroom and three others of a bridal party were killed in a road accident Saturday last.

The mishap occurred at Raipur while the bridal party was on its way to Madaupur in Kendau upazila for the wedding ceremony.

The autorickshaw carrying the bridal party was rammed by a speeding truck killing the groom and his sister on the spot.

Two others succumbed to injuries on way to the Mymensingh Medical College Hospital.

The truck was seized but the driver managed to escape.

JHENIDAH

Sharbahara activist killed

From Our Correspondent

Apr 26: One Yunus (25), Sharbahara Partyman was killed at village Sreerampur in sadar upazila of the district on Saturday last.

Police said that the victim of village Putia in the same upazila came out of the house at early night for unknown reason. The body was recovered from the beel of village Sreerampur having bullet and sharp weapons injury. Party fiction may be cause behind the killing, it is learnt. The body was sent to Jhenidah morgue for post-mortem.

A case was lodged with Jhenidah thana.

AGRI-VARSITY

Son kills mother

From BAU Correspondent

Apr 26: One Lal Banu Bawa (65) was killed by her son at village Chanpur of Fulpur upazila of the district recently.

According to the witnesses, Abdus Sattar (35) son of the victim, wanted some money to his mother taking drug. But his mother refused to give him money. As a result, Abdus Sattar got furious and attacked her with dao.

The victim died on the spot. Police arrested Sattar. A case has been registered in this connection.

MADARIPUR

Drought hits Irri-boro paddy

From Our Correspondent

Apr 26: The continuous drought over the last one and a half months has affected irri-boro cultivation seriously on 14,000 acres of land in the district.

The district has been experiencing extreme hot in the day time and cold after mid-night. Most of the rivers, beels, ponds, have dried up. Paucity of drinking water and excessive fall of ground water level have caused intestinal diseases.

Another report adds: A 5-day workshop on afforestation was held here under the auspices of the Forest Department recently.

Forty persons of different villages and workers of Gano Unnayan Prochasta and Proshikha took part in the workshop.

SATKHIRA

Dacoits loot cash, goods

Apr 26: Dacoits looted cash and goods worth Taka one lakh from the local Palli Biddut office at Kalara here Wednesday last, reports UNB.

Police said a gang of about 40 dacoits came to the Pili Biddut office in a truck, tied its guards with rope and decamped with cash, electric wires and other electric goods.

A case was filed with local police in this connection. An elder brother was given life imprisonment for killing his younger brother, court sources said here today, reports UNB.

The cases, in brief, was that Golam Mostaque on a trifle matter axed his younger brother Hafizur Rahman (9) to death on February 5, 1989. During the incident Hafiz was taking his lunch.

A case was filed and police after investigation submitted charge sheet against Mostaque. District and Sessions Judge Abdur Rab Mia after examining the records and witnesses delivered the judgement recently.

MAULVIBAZAR

Best teacher

From Our Correspondent

Apr 26: Education Week '92 concluded here under the auspices of District Education Department recently.

The programmes of the week included selection of the best teachers in the district, literary and cultural competition for the school and college students.

Korunamoy Roy, Associate Professor of Maulvibazar Government College was selected the best college teacher of the district.

The authority also gave away prizes to the students for their best performance on recitation, extempore speech, general knowledge and other events.

The concluding ceremony was presided over by Mrs Latifa Begum, Head Mistress of Hafiza Khatun Municipal Girls High School.

Addressed among others by M A Khlique, Principal, Women's College, Mrs Maya Wahed, Superintendent of Primary Teachers' Training Institute (PTI), Radhika Gow-sami, President, Journalist Association and Jaher Miah, District Education Officer.

SHERPUR

Betel leaf growers facing funds crisis

From Our Correspondent

Apr 26: Betel leaf growers of the district have been facing various problems.

Shapmory, Rowhya, Batmati, Gugarakandi, Tinahni under sadar upazilas of the district are famous for betel leaf. Each village of the upazilas has 30 to 50 betel leaf gardens which provide employment opportunity to the rural people.

The poor and marginal farmers of the district are facing fund crisis. Each grower having 30 lines of betel leaf plants need a capital of Taka 3000 to purchase necessary inputs like jute sticks, bamboo, fixture, straw, oil cake, coir etc. to make fence for the growth of betel leaf.

On the other hand, due to sharp decline in the production of bamboo and price hike of the items, the betel leaf growers have been facing problems to continue their profession.

SYLHET

Theft

From Our Correspondent

Apr 26: A daring theft was committed in the house of one Miabuddin of Agpara area of Sylhet town recently.

The miscreants entered into the house by breaking open the lock of the house at about 5-30 PM on the day of incident. The housemaster was then out of his house.

They took away valuables worth about a total of more than one lakh Taka from the house.

A case in this connection had already been registered with the Kotwali police station.

NARSINGDI

Pry school teachers' confce held

Apr 26: The annual conference of Narsingdi District Primary School Teachers Association was held here at Narsingdi upazila hall recently, reports UNB.

In the inaugural session Ali Akbar Chowdhury, UNO of sadar upazila was present as chief guest while Nurul Islam and Nibarun Roy, President and Secretary of Narsingdi Press Club were present as special guests.

At the election of the executive committee which followed the conference, Nurul Islam Haq and Mostafa Hossain were elected President and General Secretary of Narsingdi District Primary School Teachers Association respectively.

BARISAL

Training course on health, nutrition

Apr 26: A five-day training course on Health and nutrition concluded at the Barisal Sadar Upazila premises recently, reports BSS.

Held under the auspices of Bikalpa Unnayan Karmashuchi (BUK), a non-government organization of the district, a total of 20 group members of BUK participated in the training programme.

Dr A B M Jahangir Alam, Deputy Civil Surgeon, Barisal, and Shikha Rani Majumder, Project Director, CARE, imparted training to the participants.



FARIDPUR: The patients have taken shelter on the floor of the verandah due to shortage of bed in local 100-bed general hospital. — Star photo

35,000 coop farmers not getting loan for five yrs

From Our Correspondent

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Apr 26: About 35,000 farmers of 430 cooperative societies in seven upazilas under Chapainawabganj and Naogaon district, have been facing shortage of capital for want of loan from Central Cooperative Bank Limited since 1988.

The farmers of these cooperative societies have been cultivating their lands in a very poor manner for the last few years due to shortage of fund.

It can be mentioned here that Chapainawabganj is a affected area of different natural calamities. Flood and drought cause huge damage to crops every year. Naturally, the farmers of this area need economic assistance every year.

The newly elected Chairman of the central coop-

erative bank is yet to get the charge of the institution due to some complications in election and audit report though the election was held four months back.

It is informed that the existing situation in the bank is hampering the loan facilities and as a result the farmers have been facing much difficulties.

The concerned authorities have been urged to look into the matter and take immediate step to mitigate the sufferings of the farmers.

The foundation stone of three-storied science building of Nawabganj Government College was formally laid by the Education Secretary, Saiful Alam recently.

A discussion meeting was also held on the occasion at the college compound. Tariqul Islam, Principal of the college presided over the meeting while Md Ashraf Ali, Deputy Commissioner was present as the special guest.

The facilities Department of Ministry of Education will construct the building at an estimated cost of Taka 55 lakh.

The Education Secretary said that the present government is very much interested in female education. The Secretary assured all cooperation regarding the completion of the college building. The Secretary also asked the DC to keep constant touch with the educational institutions of the district.

8,715 power pumps installed

PATUAKHALI, Apr 26: Bangladesh Agriculture Extension Department has fielded eight thousand seven hundred and fifteen power pumps in eleven southern districts under the Barisal Agriculture Zone during the current season, reports BSS.

The districts are: Barisal, Shariatpur, Gopalganj, Pirojpur, Jhalakathi, Rajbari, Barguna, Madaripur, Patu-akhali, Bhola and Faridpur.

According to an official source, the power pumps were supplied by Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation under Agriculture Rehabilitation Programme.

Of the total, one thousand one hundred and eightyseven

power pumps were installed in Shariatpur, one thousand two hundred and ninetyeight in Gopalganj, three hundred and fifty in Pirojpur, two hundred and twentyseven in Jhalakathi, twentyfour in Rajbari, Eighteen in Barguna, one thousand two hundred and fifteen in Madaripur, one hundred and eighty in Patuakhali, one thousand four hundred and thirty-four in Bhola, two thousand four hundred and ninetyone in Barisal and two hundred and ninety one in Faridpur districts.

Another report says: State Minister for Education Principal Eunus Khan laid emphasis on increasing production for

boosting the volume of export.

The State Minister was speaking as chief guest at a seminar on development of export jointly organised by USAID and Bangladesh bank here. Among others, Mosharaf Hossain, MP and USAID Representatives, Dr Kabir U Ahmed and Abdur Rashid Khan spoke on the occasion.

The State Minister said the country's economic development largely depends on increasing exports both traditional and non-traditional. He urged the local entrepreneurs and industrialists to increase production for export through utilisation of the export development fund.

Bullock shortage leaves 60 pc lands fallow

NETRAKONA, Apr 26: Acute shortage of bullock has been hindering cultivation in the district for a long time, reports UNB.

According to informed sources, 60 to 70 per cent farmers of the district have no bullock to till their lands. About 60 per cent land in the 10 upazilas of the district remains fallow. Most of the farmers till their land on share basis as they cannot afford to buy bullock.

Farmers in rural areas hire bullock, use spades and harrows or harness milch cows to cultivate their land.

A survey reveals that every year various diseases take a heavy toll of cattle while some alleged that greedy cobblers were poisoning the cows to

death to have skins. On the other hand, slaughtering of bullocks has also been rampant for marketing beef following scarcity of fish.

The condition of veterinary hospitals in the upazilas and acute scarcity of necessary medicines have made disease prevention and cure difficult.

Floods during the last few years claimed a heavy toll of cattlehead in the district, which also contributed to the shortage of draught animals.

Call to remain alert against evil forces
BSS adds: Communications Minister Oli Ahmad urged the people to remain alert about some identified political parties which were hatching con-

spiracies against the democratic government for grabbing power in an illegal way.

"We took part in the Liberation War in 1971 in response to the call of valiant Freedom Fighter Ziaur Rahman who had raised his voice against the then occupation army with a view to liberating the country's people from repression", the Minister said added, if necessary we as followers of Shaheed Zia would wage another war for foiling the evil designs of the vested quarters.

The Communications Minister was addressing a public meeting held under the auspices of BNP, Netrakona District Unit at Shaheed Minar here.

Doctor, medicine, bed inadequate in hospital

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, Apr 26: The Faridpur General Hospital has been facing shortage of bed, doctor and medicine.

The 100-bed hospital is running without life-saving drugs and other requisite equipment.

There is a blood bank in the hospital but the patients are to procure blood from outside frequently. Shortage of X-ray films and technicians hamper the proper treatment of the patients in the hospital.

The doctors instead of taking proper care suggests the patients to consult them at their private chambers, it is informed.

The hospital authority has arranged some beds in the verandas for want of bed. A large number of patients are to return back for want of seats

and proper treatment.

The hospital has no requisite staff and supply of medicine is quite inadequate. The patients especially the indoor patients are to buy medicines from outside at an exorbitant price. The poor patients are the worst hit. The number of fans and lights in the hospital is also inadequate to meet the demand.

The doctors of the hospital engaged in pathological test ask patients to get their test from outside though there is pathological facility with modern equipment.

The water supply is so irregular that most of the times the patients and staff of the hospital are to drink tubewell water. The cows, goats and rams are moving inside the hospital

Deaths from diarrhoea still continue

From Our Correspondent

BARISAL, Apr 26: Diarrhoea is still claiming lives in five southern districts including Barisal and affecting hundreds of people almost everyday.

Diarrhoea, the water borne disease broke out due to non-availability of pure drinking water in village areas of the districts. Pure drinking water can be supplied through installation of more tubewells in the rural areas of the district, doctors opined.

According to Public Health Engineering Department (PHED), there are 20,695 tubewells in the districts of which 4,383 are deep tubewells and the rest are shallow.

According to PHED, 50 to 60 per cent people of the rural areas use to drink tubewell water but this calculation is not accurate in many places of the district.

A programme has recently been taken up to instal 1069 tubewells in the district, of which 355 are deep tubewells and the rest are shallow.

Meanwhile, installation of 804 tubewells have been completed. It is learnt that at least 500 tubewells are lying out of order in the absence of repair which could not be done for want of fund.

According to informed sources, to halt further attack of diarrhoea more tubewells are needed to supply of pure drinking water to thousand of people in rural areas.

A ten-day training course on disaster management under Cyclone Preparedness Programme began at Barisal Development Society office recently.

Jointly organised by Bangladesh Red Crescent Society and the Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation, the training programme was inaugurated by the Deputy Commissioner, Nurul Alam Khan.

College beset with problems

NAOGAON, Apr 26: Naogaon Government College, one of the oldest institutions of the district, has been beset with multifarious problems, reports UNB.

Accommodation problem, shortage of teaching staff, lack of civic amenities and transport facilities are causing serious inconveniences and sufferings to the students.

The residential students also suffer from accommodation problems. Girl students of the college has been facing serious problem in the absence of girls' hostel and many of them have already left the college.

The college runs without honours courses inspite of repeated appeal by guardians and students.

Acute scarcity of drinking water

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Apr 26: Shortage of pure drinking water has been prevailing in 109 villages of Sunderganj upazila under Gaibandha district.

As a result, thousands of villagers have been suffering from various intestinal diseases using contaminated water from available sources.

The shortage of drinking water has become more acute due to prolonged drought in the district during the current season. Most of the canals, ponds and other water bodies of the areas have become dried up due to continued drought. Moreover, ground water level has fallen below the reach of tubewells.

The maximum number of tubewells supplied by the Public Health Engineering Department do not work properly due to lack of maintenance since long time. Unplanned sinking of tubewells without requisite pipes is not serving the purposes especially during summer.

Public Health Engineering Department allotted single tubewell for every 300 people in different remote areas. Maximum of those tubewells went out of order due to lack of proper maintenance and missing of tubewell heads.

The government sanctioned huge fund for the sinking and repairing of tubewells in remote areas with a view to overcoming drinking water problem but a section of employees of Public Health Department did not perform their duties properly.

While visiting some areas, local people told this correspondent that they did not see any official or field worker in the areas during the period.

Local people informed that the tubewells supplied by the Public Health Engineering Department is not adequate to the requirement. They also demanded enhancement of the programme for supplying pure drinking water to the remote areas.

Fodder scarcity acute

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, Apr 26: Acute scarcity of fodder is prevailing in the district for the last few months.

The last floods and the current drought have caused massive damages to the grass other things meant for the cattle food.

There is no grazing fields since those have almost completely been either damaged by floods or withered away by the drought. As a result, the cattle are starving for want of fodder all over the district throwing those on the verge of extinction.

At present, there are about 13 lakh domestic animal including cattle in the district. Of them, 3 lakh 75 thousand are bullock, 2 lakh 40 thousand cows, one lakh calves, 10 thousand buffaloes, 5 lakh 60 thousand goats and the rest 15 thousand are rams.

The total number of poultry is around 24 lakh. Of them, 20 lakh are hens and the rest 4 lakh are ducks.

The number of both cattle and poultry is declining day by day in the district, for want of food and outbreak of diseases.

After any calamity, the government machineries are found very much active in agriculture rehabilitation programmes to recoup the crop loss, but nobody thinks for a moment that a large number of cattle are starving for want of fodder, some people complained.

According to the farmers, cattle are yet playing a vital role in booming agriculture production in the country; as the mechanised method of cultivation frequently facing hindrance due to fuel crisis, machinery trouble and other reasons.

Diarrhoea claims 2 in Narail

NARAIL, Apr 26: Two people died of diarrhoea and 10 others were attacked by the disease at Saimanarchar in Lohagara Upazila over the last one week, reports UNB.

Scarcity of drinking water, poverty, consumption of adulterated foodstuff and the persisting dry spell were said to be the main reasons for the outbreak of the disease.

Lack of oral saline and high prices of medicines aggravated the situation further. Patients alleged that they are to go back from the health complex without proper medicare due to scarcity of oral saline packets and other essential medicines.

Local elite have urged the authorities to take immediate measures to check the menace.

Work on 67 roads in progress

GAIBANDHA, Apr 26: The work on construction and reconstruction of 87 roads in 16 northern districts of Rajshahi Division is progressing fast, reports UNB.

About Taka 8 crore was sanctioned for the project which is expected to be completed by June next. The project is being implemented by Roads and Highways (R&H) Department.

The districts covered by the programme are Gaibandha, Panchagar, Dinajpur, Joypurhat, Bogra, Sirajganj, Pabna, Natore, Naogaon, Chapainawabganj and Rajshahi.

Of the total, 23 roads were taken up in Greater Rangpur district at a cost of Taka 1.58 crore, six roads in Dinajpur at a cost of Taka 42 lakh, 16 roads in Bogra costing Taka 97 lakh, 27 roads in Pabna at a cost of Taka 3.68 crore and 20 roads in Greater Rajshahi district at a cost of Taka 1.85 crore.

Besides, Public Health Engineering Department has taken up a programme to ensure supply of drinking water in five districts of Greater Rangpur during the current fiscal year.

BNP-JP activists clash, 15 hurt

FENI, Apr 26: At least 15 people were injured, four of them seriously, in a clash between two rival political groups at Fulgazi bazar under Porshuram upazila of the district, reports UNB.

Police said the clash occurred on April 19 when the activists of Jatiya Party and the workers of ruling BNP tried to bring out processions from the same venue at the same time.

The JP procession demanding release of Arshad Imam, confronted the BNP group, chased each other with sticks and lobbed stones during the clash.

The seriously injured were Jahid Hossain, Siddique, Yousof Miah and Jakir Hossain, all JP activities were admitted to Porshuram Health Complex.

A case was lodged with Fulgazi police station in this connection.

BKB disburses Tk 30.42cr in 11 S Dists

PATUAKHALI, Apr 26: Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) distributed Taka 30.42 crore as agricultural loan among the farmers of 11 southern districts of Barisal Zone during the first eight months of the current fiscal year (1991-92), reports UNB.

The districts are Patuakhali, Barguna, Barisal, Pirojpur, Jhalakathi, Madaripur, Bhola, Rajbari, Faridpur, Shariatpur and Gopalganj.

Bank sources said a total of Taka 72.20 crore was sanctioned for distribution as agricultural credit in the districts during the fiscal year.

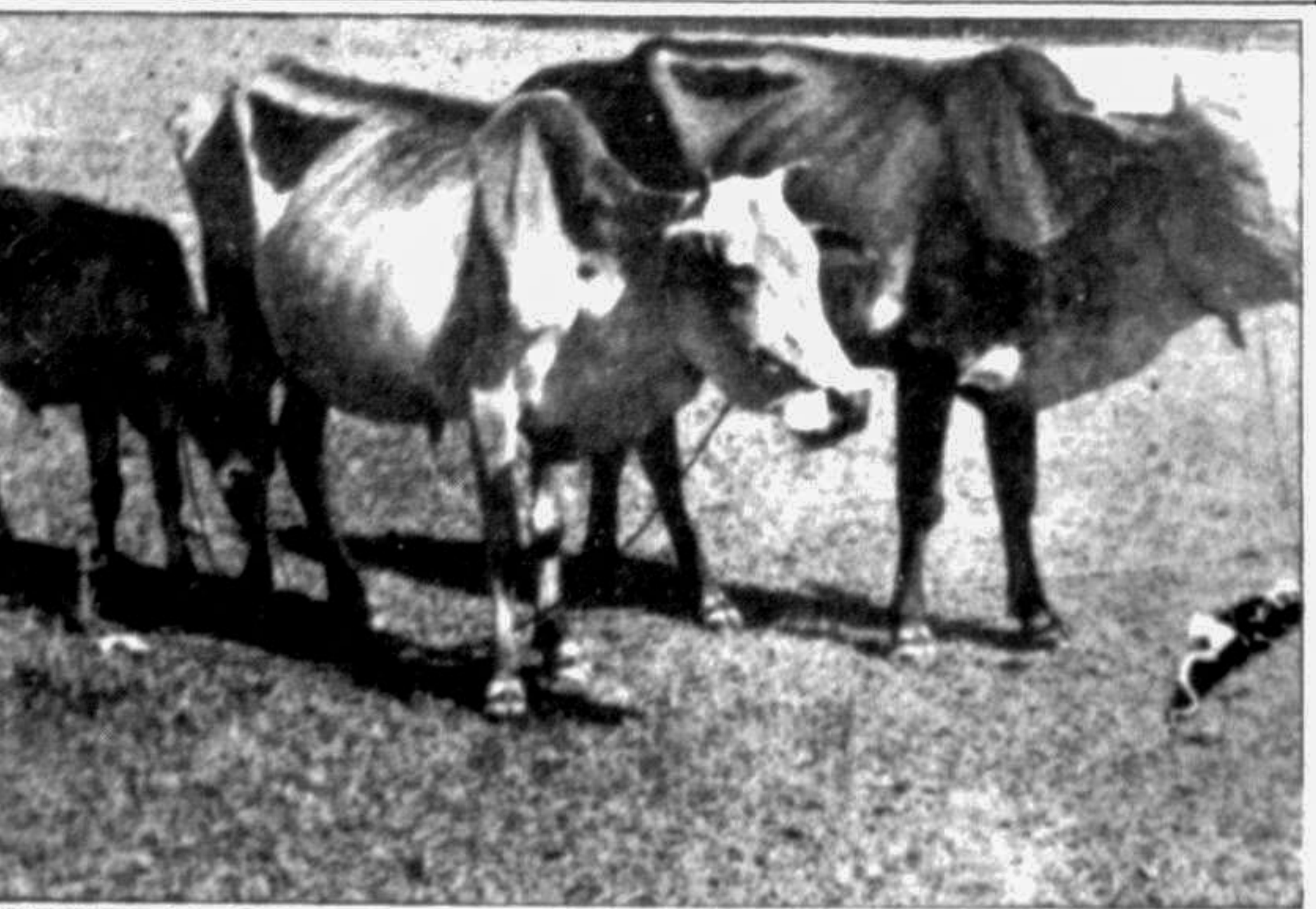
Moderate rain fall in Faridpur, Sirajganj

FARIDPUR, Apr 26: There was after prolonged dry spell, moderate rain at some places of Faridpur and Sirajganj districts on today evening, reports UNB.

Met office said Faridpur experienced 5 mm of rain and thundershower at places in Modhukhali, Nagarkanda and Charbhadrashan upazilas between 4.25 pm and 6.20 pm.

Day temperature dropped to 26 degree Celsius from 38 degree.

The town had the first fall in early February. In Sirajganj, rain accompanied with moderate hail occurred in Kamerkhanda Ullapara upazilas early Friday morning.



RANGPUR: The hungry cattle are standing in a grassless field. — Star photo