

Upazila roundup

BARISAL
TB patients on rise

From Our Correspondent
Apr 27: Tuberculosis (TB) patients are on rise in ten southern districts. The districts are Barisal, Patuakhali, Bhola, Borguna, Jhalakati, Pirojpur, Faridpur, Madaripur, Shariatpur and Gopalganj. It is informed that 15 persons including 8 female TB patients died only in Barisal TB Hospital during last 15 months while 256 patients were admitted to that hospital. It can be mentioned here that this 20-bedded TB Hospital is the only hospital for TB patients.

It is complained that patients are to face manifold problems in treatment due to shortage of doctors and necessary problems. People of this region urged several times to the concerned authority to provide necessary facilities including treatment for the patients. Nothing has been done yet.

SHERPUR
More facilities needed in hospital

From Our Correspondent
Apr 27: The 50-bed sadar hospital of the district has been plunged with manifold problems including lack of emergency medicines, surgical equipment and adequate number of doctors. Patients coming from far flung areas going back without proper treatment due to lack of medicines and other facilities.

Some of them complained that the doctors remain busy with their private practice and are hardly available in the hospital during the office time. The hospital compound is also very dirty with stagnant water and garbage which are not cleaned regularly.

JAMALPUR
Cow lifting rampant

From Our Correspondent
Apr 27: Cow lifting has become rampant in different char areas of the district recently. It is informed that a good number of cattleheads was lifted from different parts of the district. Now the farmers are passing sleepless night in their cow-sheds. In many cases, the cowlifters release cattle in exchange of ransom or slaughter them. It can be pointed out here that the cowlifters use engine boats to carry the cattle. The farmers of different areas of Jamalpur district told this correspondent that cow lifting had been increasing day by day.

Local people urged the concerned authorities to take necessary action to prevent cow lifting.

KUSHITA
Education Week concludes

From Our correspondent
Apr 27: Education Week '92 concluded here through distribution of prizes among the winners recently. Deputy Commissioner, Syed Hafiz Ahmed of Kushita in his speech on concluding day of the function held at Silpakala Academy Hall called upon the conscious people of the country to launch a movement to check erosion of moral values in the society. The function was presided over by Khaliluzzaman and it was addressed by Habibur Rahman, District Education Officer. The function was rounded up with a cultural function participated by Wallina Parveen, Farzana Zilani, Anjumanara, Kazi Kohinor Ferdous, Sumayya Afsan and Hasina Islam.

BOGRA
Procurement of aman falls short of target

Apr 27: Aman paddy procurement has fallen short of the target in the district because prices of rice and paddy fetched higher price in the open market. The procurement drive concluded on March 15 last, reports UNB. The target for the season was fixed at 70,000 metric tons but only 44,000 metric tons had been procured. The district food officials said production had been low as crops were damaged last year by flood and other natural calamities.

JHENIDAH
One slaughtered to death

Apr 27: Armed miscreants slaughtered to death a person at village Ghorsal in sadar upazila recently, reports UNB. The villager was identified as Skawakat Hossain (27). The miscreants numbering about 10 to 12 called Shawkat out of the house on the fateful night at around 11.30 pm and killed him. Previous enmity was one of the cause behind the murder, family sources said.

NAOGAON
Drought hits Irri-boro paddy

From Our Correspondent
Apr 27: The continuous drought has hit the entire Naogaon district which affected Irri-boro paddy and Rabi crops seriously. Most of the ponds, rivers, canals, beels and wells have been dried up. In the worst hit areas, 65 per cent Irri-boro, pulse and onion crops have been damaged. Sowing of jute, aus and aman paddy was also affected by continuous drought. Cracks developed on lands in the absence of moisture in lands as all rivers and canals have been dried up. At many points of the Jamuna river flowing over Naogaon town district is dried up and the people now can cross the river on foot easily.

SYLHET
Two commit suicide in separate incidents

From Our Correspondent
Apr 27: Two persons committed suicide in two separate incidents in Golapganj and Jaintapur upazilas of the district recently. According to the report, Khurshida Begum (11) daughter of one Julfikar Miah of village Birakhal under Jaintapur Upazila committed suicide by hanging herself with the roof of their house. The cause of the incident could not be ascertained immediately, she committed suicide over some trifling matter. It is learnt. On getting information police sent the body to the Sylhet M A G Osmani Medical College Hospital for post-mortem. A UD case in this connection had already been registered with the Jaintapur PS.

Another incident took place at village Kalkrishnapur under Golapganj Upazila. The deceased Abdul Hakim (25) who hails from village Ranbhumi under Doarabazar upazila of Sunamganj district came to the house of his brother's father-in-law at village Kalkrishnapur and committed suicide by hanging himself. The cause of this incident also could not be ascertained immediately.

GAIBANDHA
Toll collectors, public clash: 6 hurt

From Our Correspondent
Apr 27: Six persons including two policemen were sustained injuries in a clash between toll collectors and public at Gaibandha bus stand recently. A group of toll collectors with deadly weapons raided a shop of one Farook at Gaibandha Bus Stand and demanded a large amount of donation. But the elder brother of Farook refused the proposal of toll collectors. At this, toll collectors assaulted both the brothers. At one stage, the attackers struck the victim Farook with a Chinese axe who later removed to the hospital in a critical condition. The toll collectors exploded two cocktails at the shop. On hearing the hue and cry local people came to help the victims. They chased the toll collectors and caught two of the collectors red-handed and beat them severely.

NARSINGDIH
Office bearers

Apr 27: The 7-member executive committee of local Pourashava Employees Association was formed here with A B M Ilias Ali and Gias Uddin as its President and General Secretary, reports UNB. The election of the association was held at the Pourashava auditorium recently amid much enthusiasm. Other office bearers are Babul Ahmad — Vice President, Noor Ahmad — Assistant Secretary, Nasruddin — Treasurer, Jalal Ahmed — Sports Secretary and Mattur Rahman — Cultural Secretary.



FARIDPUR: The local Ghatak Nirmul Committee recently organised a public meeting demanding execution of the judgement given by Gana Adalat. — Star photo.

Female labourers seek work with due wage

NAOGAON, Apr 27: The unusual spurt of women labour force in the district in recent days has been causing concern among the social welfare activists, reports UNB. According to social welfare and labour leaders thousands of female day labourers are seen husking paddy, working in the brickfields and taking per in earth digging. Unmarried girls and divorcees constitute the majority of the women labour, they said adding opportunities for their work have been shrinking for various reasons. Recurring floodings, drought and other natural calamities for the last few years have been damaging crops in the district affecting small and marginal farmers adversely. As a result, many families have been rendered destitute, they said. Finding no other way out the distressed women are coming out from their homes in search of their livelihood. The leaders called upon the government to create job opportunities for poor women by extending soft credit facilities for small and cottage industries in order to make them self-reliant. Town dwellers and business community here have been protesting the mismanagement in power distribution by the local electric supply officials. Erratic power supply and voltage fluctuation have been creating difficulties and sufferings to both the domestic and commercial consumers. Hardly a day or night passes without disruption of power supply for over two hours, representatives of the affected communities said. Traders, owners of small business and industries, patients and students are incurring irreparable loss due frequent power breakdown. Anti-social activities have increased to a great extent as many parts of the town remain under darkness at night. Local people have urged the authorities to look into the matter and take immediate measures for smooth and uninterrupted power supply. Our Rajbari Correspondent adds: The female day labourers in the district have been facing problems for want of work. There are about 4,000 female labourers in Sadar, Panga, Baliakandi and Gualundo upazilas of the district.

The female day labourers once used to husk paddy in the houses but the set up of rice mills have left them idle and have been passing hard days. A large number of young women are found working who are either dowry victims or divorced by their husbands. The poor parent can not provide them with food and shelter and that is why they are out to earn livelihood. The number of women labourers is increasing day by day in the district as the economic crisis is becoming acute especially in rural areas due to continuous floods and other calamities which have been damaging crops and dwelling houses extensively. The women labourers are engaged in various works including construction section where they are paid comparatively low remuneration in comparison with the male labourers though they perform the same duty. The concerned authorities have been urged to look into the matter and take appropriate steps to mitigate the sufferings of the women labourers.

Irregularities in BKB branch, farmers suffer

From Our Correspondent
SYLHET, Apr. 27: Corruption and irregularities have been going on in the Khajanchigaon Branch of Bangladesh Krishi Bank in Sylhet for the last few months. A large number of local people have brought the allegations in this regard against the Manager and some other staff of the branch to the higher authorities few weeks ago. It is informed that the poor and marginal farmers of the locality are being deprived of necessary agricultural loans from the bank even after observing all the necessary formalities. But, some of the people are getting the loans within a very short time and observing the minimum formalities with the help of a number of local agents of the bank staff, it is disclosed. The agents seek 15 to 20 per cent, the loan amount without any receipt as bribe. It was stated in the written complaints. It is learnt that due to the irregularities, a good amount of allocated loan money remain with the bank, every year where as a large number of genuine farmers are being deprived of the minimum necessary loans. They are to seek loans from the local money lenders at higher rates. When contacted, an official source informed that an enquiry in to the allegations would be done soon. An Indian pistol and smuggled sares and wine worth about Taka 8,000 were recovered by the BDR personnel recently. According to the reports, on getting secret informations, the BDR personnel of Bichhrakandi Out Post recovered the said pistol alongwith 8 rounds of ammunition and sares and wine. They also arrested two persons named Mosabbir Ali and Atai Miah in this connections. A case in this connection has already been registered with the Gowainghat Police Station and further investigations were going on.

Obscene film shows unabated

PABNA, Apr 27: Obscene films are being shown almost unabated in various parts of the district eroding the morality of the young generation, reports UNB. According to sources, a group of video owners of Ishwardi, Shathia and Vangura upazilas are screening the films in different hats and bazars from early morning to midnight.

Kidnapped girl back home after 10-yr

From BAU Correspondent
MYMENSINGH, Apr 27: One Kalpana (16) returned to her parent after 10 years of her kidnap recently. Kalpana, daughter of one Kashem of village Katoli under Phulpur upazila of the district was kidnapped at the age of six from their home by some miscreants. It is informed that the poor and marginal farmers of the locality are being deprived of necessary agricultural loans from the bank even after observing all the necessary formalities. But, some of the people are getting the loans within a very short time and observing the minimum formalities with the help of a number of local agents of the bank staff, it is disclosed. The agents seek 15 to 20 per cent, the loan amount without any receipt as bribe. It was stated in the written complaints. It is learnt that due to the irregularities, a good amount of allocated loan money remain with the bank, every year where as a large number of genuine farmers are being deprived of the minimum necessary loans. They are to seek loans from the local money lenders at higher rates. When contacted, an official source informed that an enquiry in to the allegations would be done soon. An Indian pistol and smuggled sares and wine worth about Taka 8,000 were recovered by the BDR personnel recently. According to the reports, on getting secret informations, the BDR personnel of Bichhrakandi Out Post recovered the said pistol alongwith 8 rounds of ammunition and sares and wine. They also arrested two persons named Mosabbir Ali and Atai Miah in this connections. A case in this connection has already been registered with the Gowainghat Police Station and further investigations were going on.



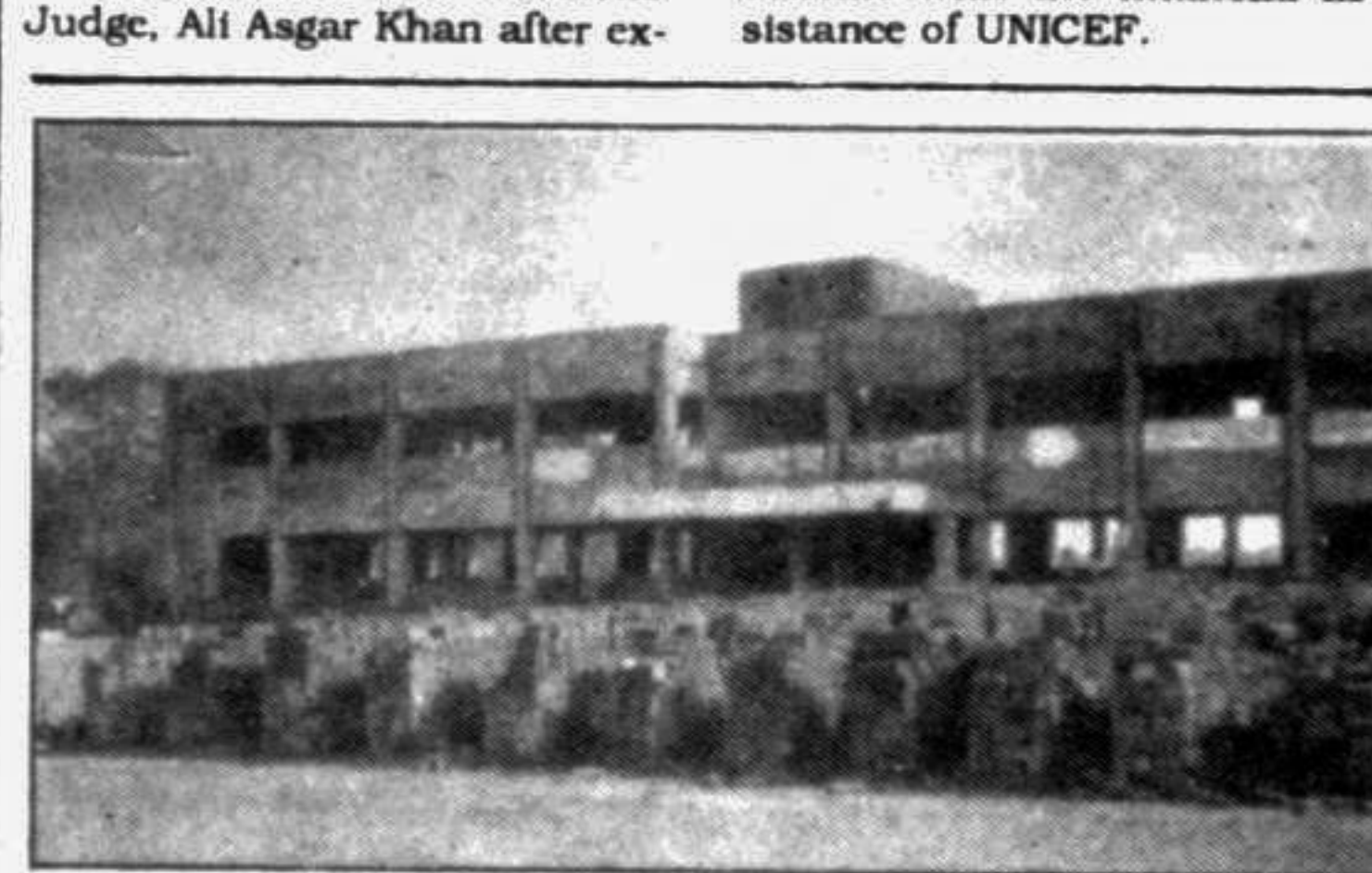
SATKHIRA: Kalaroa police led by S I Abu Baker recently arrested four dacoits and recovered four fire arms and 22 rounds of cartridges from their possession. — Star Photo.

Nirmul body-Jamaat clash, 24 injured

GAIBANDHA, Apr 27: Twenty-four people including 9 police personnel were injured in sporadic clashes between supporters of Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee and Jamaat-e-Islami in and around the town this afternoon, police said, reports UNB. Clashes occurred at Fulbandi bridge, bus stand, DC ground, public library ground, David Company para and railway station in the town. Agitators exploded about 60 cocktails and used sticks and rods during the clashes. All injured were given first aid, hospital sources said. Police lobbed 7 round tear shells to disperse the agitators. Jamaat activists ransacked MuktiJodha Sangsad office while Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee activists ransacked Shibir office. They also allegedly burnt a jeep (Dhaka-GH-7912) belonging to a local Jamaat leader. The clash spread when the Committee and Jamaat called public meetings at the same ground, adjacent to the Deputy Commissioners' office at 3 pm. Later, DC intervened and advised them to hold their meetings at separate places. Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee called a half day hartal tomorrow (Monday) in the town protesting, what they termed, Jamaat atrocities.

Five get life term for killing rickshawpuller

RANGPUR, Apr 27: Five people were sentenced to life term on Thursday for killing a rickshawpuller of Shalbon Mistry Para in the town, reports UNB. According to the prosecution story, the accused Badsha, Jamal, Alam, Khalek and Jahangir strangled the victim Fullu to death in a jute field at Hajipur in Taragonj upazila on January 28, 1989 due to previous enmity. Police recovered the body and following investigation submitted charge sheet against them. The District and Sessions Judge, Ali Asgar Khan after examining the records and witnesses awarded the punishment. Public Prosecutor, Advocate Abdur Rashid Chowdhury conducted the case on behalf of the state while Advocate Sufi Motabber and Advocate Kamruzzaman defended the accused. Work on installation of 814 tubewells to ensure drinking water supply in rural areas of the district is underway. The Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) is implementing the scheme with the financial assistance of UNICEF.



CHANDPUR: The local Circuit House has been lying incomplete for a long time for shortage of fund. — Star photo.

Re-excavation of 30 canals in progress

BARISAL, Apr 27: Re-excavation of 18 canals in Barisal and Jhalakathi districts is going on the full swing and is expected to be completed soon, reports BSS. According to an official source, the government undertook these projects against an allocation of 788 metric tons of wheat in Bakergonj upazila of Barisal district and Rajapur upazila of Jhalakathi district. Of the total, nine projects for re-excavation of 26.05 kilometers of canals have been taken up in Bakergonj upazila and nine projects for re-excavation of 20.86 kilometers of canals in Rajapur upazila. When completed, 6,740 hectares would be brought under irrigation facilities in these districts. A UNB report from Magura adds: The excavation work on 12 canals in four upazilas of the district is going on in full swing. According to official sources, 625 metric tons of wheat were allocated for the purpose and about 50 per cent of the work has been completed so far. Of the total, three canals each were taken up under the programme in Sadar, Salikha, Sreepur and Mohammadpur upazilas. Eight canals are being excavated under Food for Works Programme and the rest are on voluntary basis. The source further added that a total of 8-mile canal will be re-excavated in four upazilas.

Prices of rice increase

From Our Correspondent
JHENIDAH, Apr 27: The prices of different varieties rice have registered a sharp rise in the markets of the district during the last two weeks. The inferior quality of rice is selling at Taka 14 per Kg while the medium quality at Taka 15 and fine quality of rice is selling at Taka 16 per Kg. Atta is selling at Taka 11 per Kg in the local markets. The prices of inferior, medium and fine qualities of rice were Taka 11.12 and 14 only few days back. While visiting Jhenidah, Kaliganj and Hatgopalpur markets, some middle class customers informed this correspondent that the prices of rice have risen since the second week of this month and they were being badly affected by the price rise. Meanwhile, the District Food Department has sanctioned 130 metric tons of rice for open market sale (OMS) in Jhenidah of which five metric tons have already been lifted by the dealers concerned for the purpose. Some people informed that the lifted rice had already been sold in black market, by the dishonest dealers in collaboration with the food officials. When contacted, Acting District Controller of Food, Jhenidah declined to comment on the matter. It can be mentioned here that the abnormal rise in rice prices has lift the poor and low income group of people in utter distress. Fifteen maunds of fish including brood fish worth Taka 25,000 were poisoned to death in a pond at Beparpara of Jhenidah town recently by unknown miscreants. The Jhenidah Matsa Khamar Samabaya Samity took lease of the pond for fish cultivation. The dead fish were taken to Jhenidah for poison test and a case has been lodged with the police in this connection. GAIBANDHA Our Correspondent adds: Prices of rice and fuel have increased alarmingly in the district. At present coarse rice is being sold at Taka 13 per kg and fine rice at Taka 15 per kg. Local Food Department opened few fair price centres which are not adequate to the requirement. Moreover, rice supplied by the department is inferior in quality. On the other hand, diesel and kerosene oil are being sold at Taka 80-per gallon and occasionally went out of market. It has become much difficult for the poor farmers to procure fuel at an exorbitant price that badly affected Irri and boro cultivation in the district. Meanwhile, a section of corrupt fuel dealers are making much profit through selling fuel in black market.

Diarrhoea kills 3 in Dinajpur

DINAJPUR, Apr 27: Diarrhoea that broke alarmingly in the district killed three babies in the town on April 20, reports UNB. Scores of people have been attacked by the disease over the last few weeks. Scarcity of drinking water, adulterated foodstuff and persisting drought were attributed to the outbreak of the disease. Patients alleged that scarcity of oral saline packets and emergency medicines has been hampering treatment in health complexes of the district. Another report adds: The body of a young housewife was recovered from her husband's residence at Manmatpur in Parbatipur upazila on April 20. The body was identified as Mahfuza Khatun (21) wife of Hamidul Islam. The body bore marks of injuries. It is suspected that she was tortured to death. A case was filed with the local police.

Problems hamper postal activities

BORUNA, Apr 27: The district head post office has been facing multifarious problems due to shortage of staff and lack of amenities for a long time, reports UNB. The post office is housed in an old and dilapidated building. Several cracks have developed on its roof as walls threatening the lives of the staff. Water oozes through the roofs of the building even after a slight rainfall and it becomes very difficult to protect valuable records and stamps from the rainwater. No scheme has yet been taken to renovate the building. In comparison with the volume of works the number of employees is quite inadequate. The office is now run by only 14 staff members. The office runs without any mail clerk and account assistant. Shortage of peon and furniture and lack of accommodation facilities have been creating great impediments to discharge the work smoothly. Absence of any separate room for the Post Master hampers his day to day work. The room constructed for Post Master is now being used other purposes. In the absence of a night section of the post office, business and commercial transactions are being hampered greatly.

9 smugglers held with 55 cattle

FENI, Apr 27: The BDR arrested nine alleged smugglers and recovered 55 cattlehead worth about Taka 2.11 lakh from their possession from Kazirbagh border area in Sadar upazila on Saturday, reports UNB. Acting on secret information, BDR rushed to the spot and caught them redhanded with the cattlehead. The arrested smugglers were identified as Amin Hossain, and Basumiah of Dabipur village and Abdur Rashed of village Panchagasi in Sadar upazila. Fakir Ahmed and Abul Kashem of Mongalkandi, Abul Gafur of Rajapur village, Joyral Abedin, Solaiman and Mokhiesur Rahman of village Parba Dakra in Chaudhagram upazila of Comilla district. The seized cattlehead were handed over to the local customs officials and the alleged smugglers were taken to police custody. Besides, BDR also seized Indian timber, sugar, sares, bicycles and medicine worth about Taka 2 lakh from different border areas of the district this month.

Son kills father

JAMALPUR, Apr 27: A brutal son killed his old father when he tried to resist his son from manhandling his wife, police said here today, reports UNB. According to family sources, Julhas of village Bishnupur in Sarisabari upazila was torturing his wife mercilessly following a quarrel recently. On hearing alarm, his father Measer Ali, 60, rushed to the spot and tried to prevent his. At this, Julhas became furious and started beating his father severely. The seriously injured father succumbed within two hours time. A case has been registered with the local police.