

## Upazila roundup

## KISHOREGANJ

## Violation of traffic rules rampant

## From Our Correspondent

May 3: Bus journey has become risky and hazardous on different routes in the district due to rampant violation of traffic rules.

Overloading and reckless driving of buses have become a regular feature on the routes.

Due to absence of proper checking by the concerned department, vehicles are seen running at drivers' own whim causing road accidents and suffering to the travelling passengers.

Excessive fares are realised from the passengers leading to frequent altercations with the conductors.

Moreover, the passengers have been facing great inconveniences due to absence of waiting sheds and toilets at the different bus stands. Female passengers are the worst sufferers. Despite repeated appeal, no action has yet been taken by the law enforcing agencies.

## CHUADANGA

## 79 intellectuals accorded reception

## From Our Correspondent

May 3: Seventy-nine intellectuals and personalities of Chuadanga district were rewarded and accorded reception for their outstanding contributions to the society at the local Sree Monto Town Hall recently.

The function was arranged by four organisations of the town like Tohram-Sarafat Smriti Palli, Rabia-Hamir Palli, Fatima-Shahadat Smriti Palli and Ambia Smriti Library Palli in cooperation with socio-cultural organisation 'Forum'.

Former MP, Dr Ashab-Ul-Haque presided over the function.

Monsafa Begum, District Education Officer, Chuadanga and Zubunnessa Begum, Headmistress of local Adarsha Girls' High School gave away the rewards to the 79 intellectuals and personalities.

## PABNA

## Removal of DC demanded

May 3: A cross-section of people today demonstrated in the town demanding immediate removal of the Deputy Commissioner on corruption charges, reports UNB.

Organised by 'Swachetan Nagorik Committee' a procession came out from court premises and paraded the main thoroughfares. Later, a rally was held in the court premises.

Secretary of the DSA Wajuddin Khan filed on Saturday a case with the Sub-Judge Court, charging the DC with embezzlement of DSA's money.

## AGRI-VARSITY

## Minor girl raped

May 3: A minor girl (7) was raped in Baluka Upazila Health Complex of the district recently.

According to police, Toli Rani (7), daughter of Aumullah Mohan Sarker of Baluka Bazar was raped by one Nazmul Huda Shabuj of village Molikbari.

The victim has been sent to the Mymensingh Medical College Hospital for medical test.

Police arrested two persons in this regard.

A case has been lodged with the police.

Another report adds: Nokhla police rescued one kidnapped housewife, Umma Shaima (21) recently.

Police sources said, she was kidnapped from her father's house of village Shanerchar under Sadar upazila of the district.

## JAMALPUR

## Bidis being sold without bandrolls

May 3: Bidis are being sold here without bandrolls to evade taxes.

It is reported that all the owners of the bidi factories in 12 upazilas of the district, staff of Customs and Excise Department are directly involved in this malpractice.

Bidis are being sold without bandrolls in all the areas of the district town. It is learnt that used bandrolls are collected from some whole sellers and retailers. Moreover, the owners do not show actual account of production to the customs officials.

Local people have urged the concerned authorities to check the tax evasion for the greater interest.

## BRAHMANBARIA

## Body recovered

May 3: Police recovered the body of an old man from a paddy field near his house at Panchong Chandpur in Sadar upazila of the district on Thursday, reports UNB.

Hamidul Haque Hamdu (50) was called out of his house by two persons of the same village on Wednesday night and he did not return home, family sources said.

Police suspected that he was strangled to death.

The post-mortem of the deceased was performed in Sadar hospital.

A case was lodged with local police.

## MAGURA

## Four cows roasted alive, 2 injured

May 3: Four cows were roasted alive and two people received burn injuries in a devastating fire at Gokhal village in Sadar upazila recently, reports UNB.

The fire originated from the cow shed of one Mukul Sen. He was burning straw for smoke inside the cow-shed just to drive out mosquitoes. Suddenly the flame caught the house and soon engulfed the adjacent dwelling houses.

Four houses and property worth about Taka 80,000 were gutted. Local people rushed to the spot and brought the fire under control.

## SHERPUR

## More telephone lines demanded

## From Our correspondent

May 3: The existing telephone lines of the district is quite inadequate to face the growing demand of over 85,000 town dwellers.

According to the official sources, at present there are only 400 telephone connections in the town while a large number of applications for new connections have been pending with the telephone office for a long time.

The demand for new lines has expanded with the upgradation of sub-division to district.

Subscribers have demanded the concerned authorities to take steps for increasing the capacity of the telephone lines immediately.

## KURIGRAM

## One lakh people suffering from Elephantiasis

## From Our Correspondent

May 3: Elephantiasis causes in Kurigram, Nilphamari, Rangpur, Gaibandha, Lalmonirhat, Panchagarh, Thakurgaon, Dinajpur, Chapainawabganj, Naogaon, Bogra and Joypurhat districts of northern region have been swelling day by day.

More than one lakh people in these 12 districts have been suffering from this disease whose Bangla name is 'goad roge' (Phylaria). The facilities for detection and treatment of the disease in the region are very meagre. The number of Phylaria patients is increasing day by day. Mosquitoes spread this disease, it is gathered.

In the first stage, this disease could not be detected. Some days after, some parts of the body of the patients started swelling like tumour and creates hindrances in movement. Sometimes Phylaria attacked patients become disabled and could not even move from one place to another.

## RANGPUR

## Cobblers kill cattle, take skin

May 3: The miscreants are slaughtering the cattle and taking skin in Pirgonj and Mithapukur upazilas for the past few months.

According to the allegations, an organised gang of miscreants have created a havoc in the rural areas in stealing skin of the cattle by slaughtering them at lonely places.

The affected farmers informed that the miscreants taking away their cattle from the cowsheds at night and slaughtering them at lonely places. After fraying of skin, the miscreants disappear with the skin leaving behind the bodies of the slaughtered cattle on the spot.

This has resulted a grave panic among the farmers of the areas who are now started to sleep in the cowshed at night in fear of skin lifters. But yet the miscreants continuing their brutalities unabated taking out the cattle from the sheds at an unguarded moment of their masters.

Local people have urged the concerned authorities to check the tax evasion for the greater interest.



RAJBARI: The deep tubewell, like others, remains idle for erratic power supply most of the times affecting the irrigation to crop fields. — Star photo

## Inadequate, irregular power supply

# Production in fields, factories threatened

## From Our Correspondent

RAJBARI, May 3: Shortage of power supply and erratic distribution have posed serious threat to agricultural and industrial production in the southern and western regions of the country.

The 110 MW Goalpara Power Station in Khulna recently faced a serious breakdown and as a result power supply was snapped for over 12 hours in the region.

According to informants, the Goalpara Power Station is not in a position to produce required electricity due to continuous mechanical trouble.

Rajbari needs 15 MG power

on an average but the supply stands between 5 and 10 MG on an average daily. As a result, there is continuous loadshedding in the area.

The Ganges-Kobadakh Project in Kushtia has been badly affected due to shortage of power supply. A project source told this correspondent that the project requires at least 9 MG power supply for irrigation in the project area which cover one lakh acres of land.

The project area include Kushtia, Meherpur, Chuadanga, Jhenidah, Jessore, Magura, Faridpur and Rajbari regions. But the project gets only four MG power supply on an average and this is also irregular.

The shortage of power supply and alarming fall in ground water level have affected the crops in the project seriously.

The project derives water from the Ganges through an intake channel at Bheramara and irrigate the lands with the help of three main pumps. But the erratic power supply has left the irrigation to the project almost uncertain.

The entire southern and western districts experienced severe drought and most of the rivers of the regions went dry. Consequently, the total irrigation to the areas had faced a serious setback.

## Old roads mount sufferings

## From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, May 3: The problem of communications at the district headquarters has been acute because of bad condition of roads and lanes.

The local pourashava authority did nothing since 1971 to increase the number of roads or to improve the existing ones. As a result, traffic jam has become a regular feature at this town.

The few old roads and lanes had been serving the purpose of the increasing population and business of the town for more than a century.

The population of the town was few hundreds in the sixties when the it was constructed as the sub-divisional head quarters. Now, the population has risen to about fifty thousands. But not a single new road or lane has been constructed for the convenience of the people.

The present roads are very narrow and two rickshaws even cannot cross each other at same point. For want of adequate roads, there is a heavy pressure on each road. The Station Road, Dak Banglow Road and Bridge Road are virtually closed very often for hours together when traffic jam occurs.

After the upgradation of this sub-division town into a district head quarters, traffic police has been posted to some important points.

The existing roads were renovated several times. But after the construction, innumerable potholes and cracks developed throughout the roads.

Moreover, the road communication of the district with its upazilas is pitiable. Out of seven upazilas, communication with only Palashbari and Gobindaganj upazilas are somewhat better as both the upazila headquarters are situated on the national highways.

Rickshaw is the main transport in the town area. But in most cases the rickshaw pullers are threats to the passersby due to their reckless driving. As a result, accidents occur frequently.

The concerned authorities have been urged to take steps to make these roads wider to avoid rush of vehicular traffic as well as pedestrians.

The construction work of a bridge on river Alai could not be completed due to fund shortage.

The work of said bridge was inaugurated three years back but the work is yet to be implemented.

Betel leaf production on decrease

MAULVIBAZAR, May 3: Betel leaf production in the district has decreased to a great extent due to increase in bamboo, fertilizers, oilcake and pesticides prices, reports UNB.

Betel leaf is being cultivated on large scale in Rajnagar, Kulaura, Barlekha and Kamaganj upazilas.

The growers have been deprived of bank loans which are badly needed to continue their occupation. They are compelled to borrow money from the village money lenders at an exorbitant rate of interest.

The growers urged the authorities to extend financial assistance to help continue their age-old profession.

Teenaged girl rescued from brothel

MAGURA, May 3: A woman was arrested and a teenaged girl rescued from a brothel in the town, police said here on Thursday, reports UNB.

Acting on a secret information, a police party raided the brothel and recovered Ashma Khatun (16) daughter of Tujam Sheikh of village Dajapur in Narail district and arrested Shapna (34) in this connection.

Shapna confessed to the police that she allured Asma for a good job and later forced her to stay in the brothel against her will. She admitted that she was trying to sell Asma in the brothel.

A case has been filed with the police.

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